

TAL-OK DEC #2

"Department Commander - Shirley May" The meeting will come to order. Please rise for the colors. I would like to remind everyone to please address the chair.

With the colors of our nation in place. Hand salute and two. All members and guests shall remain standing with their hands place them over their heart for the Pledge of Allegiance and the prayer and through the MIA/POW ceremony.

Please join me in reciting the pledge of allegiance. I pledge allegiance to the flag of the United States of America and to the republic for which it stands, one nation, under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all. I'm going to ask our Senior Vice Commander to please say the prayer.

"SVC - Patricia Mathes-Kerr" Please bow. Thank you for this day.

For a day that we're fighting together. For a day for us to come together for OU to win. For our brothers and sisters, help them reintegrate successfully.

For these are those who be conducted with what glorifies you in everything we say and do. And in your name I pray.

"Commander" Resolution 288, adopted at the 67th American Legion National Convention, calls for designating a POW/MIA Empty Chair at all official meetings of The American Legion as a physical symbol of the thousands of American POW/MIAs still unaccounted for from all wars and conflicts involving the United States.

Accordingly, at this time, the POWs and MIA flag will be placed on the chair as a reminder for all of us who are now at work to secure the release of any American prisoners from captivity. Let us pause and observe a moment of silence as we rededicate ourselves to this vital endeavour. Everyone, please recover.

FOR GOD AND COUNTRY WE ASSOCIATE OURSELVES TOGETHER FOR THE FOLLOWING PURPOSES:

To uphold and defend the Constitution of the United States of America;

To maintain law and order;

To foster and perpetuate a one hundred percent Americanism;

To preserve the memories and incidents of our associations in all wars;

To inculcate a sense of individual obligation to the community, state and nation;

To combat the autocracy of both the classes and the masses;

To make right the master of might;

To promote peace and goodwill on earth;

To safeguard and transmit to posterity the principles of justice, freedom and democracy;

To consecrate and sanctify our comradeship by our devotion to mutual helpfulness.

Do we have any newly elected officers that need to be installed? Step forward please.

Please raise your right hand and repeat after me, giving your name where I give mine.

'I, (here give your name) / do solemnly pledge myself / to perform faithfully and impartially / the duties of the office in The American Legion / I am about to assume / and I further pledge / I am not a member of / and do not subscribe to / the principles of any groups / opposed to our form of government.'"

When I call the roll, please answer with Present or here. Commander, Shirley May. Present.

Senior Vice Commander, Patricia Mathes-Kerr, Present.

Vice Commander East, Present. Vice Commander West, Present

Sgt-At-Arms, Excused.

Okay, first, 1A District Commander Rich Kahn. Present.

First, DEC Rep, Billy Gordon. Present. 1B District Commander Andrew Fisher.

Present. 1B DEC Rep, Ron Bunch. Present.

2A District Commander Taylor Rector. Present. 2A DEC Rep, Raul Rizzo.

Present. 2B District Commander is also T.J. Turing. Mr. Commander's here.

And Curtis Weir, DEC Rep. Are you ready, Curtis? Here. Thank you.

3A District Commander Scott Hildeberg. Here. And 3A DEC Rep, David Taylor.

Present. All right, 3B District Commander is Ashton, I believe. But Hayden Woods is in this place as vice.

Here. And 3B DEC Rep, okay, help me out with that. Is that, was the elected rep James Aiken? No, Charles Mann.

Charles Mann. And Phil Vang. Here.

And 4B District Commander, Vance Bell. Here. Or Vang.

Vane, Vane Bell, sorry, Vane. That's all right.

DEC Rep, John Bloxom. Present. 5A District Commander, Zeke Jenkins.

Here. And 5A DEC Rep, Melvin Hopkins. 5B District Commander, David Shackard.

Present. And 5B DEC Rep, Ian Thomas. District Commander for 6A, Michael Dellich.

Mike told me he was not going to be able to make it today. DEC Rep for 6A, John Kinsey. Present.

He's not here. He was called in. OK.

6B District Commander, Bobby Marshall. Present. 6B DEC Rep, Larry Watson.

Present. 7B District Commander at OMA. Present.

7B DEC Rep, Doug Hale. Present. 8A District Commander, Barry Benson.

Present. And 8A DEC Rep, Tina Kilburn. Present.

8B District Commander, Phillip Holland. Present. And 8B DEC Rep, Jack Daniels.

Not this morning. So we have a 26 present. That's above the 20 required for the forum.

So thanks for having me. Commander May, I had a call on the roll.

I'm here for your 26 voting members. DEC President, I'm the only one with 20 members provided at the forum. And now declare the forum present.

And now the following personnel are non-voting members of the DEC and still have the right to voice. Detachment Commander and Sons of the American Legion, Chris Cook. Present.

The Director of the American Legion Riders, Brett Martin. Present. Department of Adjutant, present.

Department of Historian, Holly Grubbs. Is there a story? I guess not. I guess not.

All right. Very good. Department Chaplain, Bobby Stewart.

Hughes Alternate DEC, Michael Taylor. Present.

Department Surgeon, John Luce. Present. Thank you.

And Department Rep to the Oklahoma Veterans Commission, Brett Martin. Present. Thank you.

All Department Commanders, if you could stand and identify yourselves. All prior Department of Oklahoma Commanders. Staff Department Commander, Brett Martin.

John Blossom. Post 126. Hayden Woods. Post 39. Brett Martin Post 12

Michael Taylor Post 12.

We also have the past National Sons Commander, Rick Cook. Rick. Welcome, everyone.

Thank you. The Adjutant will now read the transcript of DEC-5, which has not yet been approved until July 10, unless there is a motion to accept and approve the minutes without further delay. Elmo May, I make a motion to approve the minutes.

Thank you. Bobby Marshall, 6B, second. We have a motion and a second to accept and approve the minutes of the DEC-5 without the requirement of the reading.

Is there any discussion? Hearing none, all in favor of the motion, say aye. Aye. All opposed, say nay.

The motion for the minutes of the DEC-5 are accepted and approved. The adjutant will now read the transcript of the last DEC meeting, DEC-1 of July 12, 2026, unless there is a motion to accept and approve the minutes without the requirement of the reading. Elmo May, I will make a motion.

Is there a second? Bobby Marshall, 6B, DEC-5, second. Thank you. We have a motion and a second to accept and approve the minutes of DEC-1 without the requirement of the reading.

Is there any discussion? Hearing none, all in favor of the motion, say aye. Aye. All opposed, say nay.

The minutes of the DEC-1 are accepted and approved. At this time, we will have individual reports from the department officers. And I will start with Senior Vice-Commander Patrice Mathes-Kerr.

Good morning. Good morning. I was just told to go 10 minutes.

I'm not going to take that long. So as you can tell, I just got back from Greece. And I've been drinking espresso for two weeks straight.

And I decided today not to drink coffee. So if I look really weird, that's why. I'm on a lack of caffeine right now.

As far as Senior Vice goes in memberships, I will be providing you a membership report update as well as a fundraising committee report update later on when we do committee updates. As you

can tell, in the very back of the room, we have a presentation board, which shows the competition we have going on for membership right now. So I think we have four days left for our 55% mark.

And we are really close. So we've been doing fairly well with this all year long. We continue to run.

If you want to take a look at the back of the board, it will give you what the competition looks like. It's set up a lot like a football game. And considering it is college football season and NFL is coming, we are right in line, right? So you guys are doing a great job.

We're getting the new recruits. We still are going to identify those that are not staying and why they're not staying. That will be forthcoming.

Pending any questions for me, that's going to be my report for the day. Hearing no questions, thank you very much. Next will be Vice Commander East Karen Cruice.

"Karen Cruice" Good morning. So many of you know I've been trying to send out emails to the entire state. We've really worked this year of not making an east and a west, but an entire team to support.

We took the state and we divided them up into elite, heavyweight. There's nine posts that are over 200 members already from last year. There's people that have goals of over 200 that haven't been there yet.

Our number one post in the state is post one. Shirley has that post on their team. Post 12 is our number two post.

Come on, post 12. We're on my team today. And then the third largest post, 308.

Then we go to post 17, which is Wayne's. And then we work back. And we took the next one.

I took the next. We work back. And since there's nine, Shirley got three of the heavyweight teams.

Then we went to varsity league, JV. And we worked our way down into size. And we just spread them out throughout the state.

And we contact those posts. We communicate with those posts. And they can be throughout.

That leaves the district commanders to talk to their districts. And we're not following our district commanders necessarily. We're talking throughout the state.

And we're communicating. And we're getting to know them. And it's working really well.

So I've talked to a lot of posts that I had no idea what was going on in their posts. We've also started doing reports where we have highlighted posts. We started with heavyweight.

So we haven't got to exactly. We've done an article about post one. We've done an article about post 308.

We've done an article about post 111. I know that 178 is working on their article. Brett had not sent his email.

So I've just resend it today. Hopefully, he got the second email. If not, him and I will talk today about sending it to him.

So we're working with those nine. Shortly, we'll then work with the varsity teams and get their articles. We want posts and pictures.

We want the state to know what's going on. Because I know that last year, traveling the states, it was amazing. You get blinders.

You think that your post is the best post. And you're doing these amazing things. But there's actually a lot of really good stuff that you don't even think about going on in other states and other posts throughout the states that are affecting veterans.

And we need to highlight those. Because we each touch people in different ways. And we have a lot of things to be proud of.

And so that's what this year is about. And we want to continue doing that. We also have a little contest.

And it's not just about membership. Because we get tired of just talking about, hey, why haven't you gotten your numbers up? Why haven't you done this? Well, there's all kinds of other things. And we always talk about our end-of-year reports.

But I have a very strong adjustment last year saying, well, we need to be learning that throughout the year. Because nobody remembers what you did at the beginning in July and August. So what are we doing to making sure that we're helping our leadership teams at the post keep track of that? So with our membership numbers, we're also helping them track what they do if they want to.

They can send in their report each month. So are they doing fundraisers? Are they holding dances? Are they going out and bringing color guards in front of the teams? Are they doing honor guards? And so Patricia and I are holding those records. And so at the end of the year, they can reach back to us and ask, hey, can I get those reports and fill out those at the end of the year? Did I have blood drives on my first report? So those will also amount to different prizes at summer convention.

Because a lot of times you sit there and the same teams are getting the awards and the recognition. And you're like, you know, I do a lot of things throughout the year, and I'm never

getting recognition. So we're trying to do a lot more recognizing everyone throughout.

So we got a lot of reports turned in. And we still haven't been to all the districts to have our conferences. So don't worry.

If you haven't heard about reporting, we'll take your back numbers and help you out with that. So we're trying to do a lot more things to make it a lot more fun. And there's folks that we've never heard from before that are submitting their stuff and saying, hey, I am doing things.

And I'm out here. And we really want that. So hopefully that will help out a lot.

Thank you. Thank you, Sharon. Next, I'll ask Vice Commander West when you got it.

OK. I've been on a commission that made a replacement service. And I've been behind the curve.

I've had several folks in the West that have had an issue. I've been working on those. One of those scheduled to be closed.

I think we're going to have a revival. I've also got another member, I have a voice. I think we're going to get married with two animal agents at least.

He's helpful. I've had a few other folks from the West that have had some issues. I've worked with three of those.

They've demonstrated to that. All in all, we're doing really good. I'll call that my conclusion.

Thank you, Mike. I'm going to skip over to Mike for just a moment. Veterans Commission Representative, ALR Director Brett Martin.

"Brett Martin" Morning, everybody. As most of you know, I'm in my fourth year of being on the commission. And in July, I stepped down.

And we elected a new commissioner, Daniel Orr. But funny as it goes, I've chaired the last two meetings after stepping down. But what I want to bring up this morning, I want you to think about, my term ends in July of 2027.

And I am not seeking to be reappointed. And I encourage anyone interested in running to think about it and work on your resume. But before you put your resume in, there's a couple of things you need to know.

It's very political. If you were a Drummond supporter and you gave to the Drummond campaign, and if Macie wins, they will find that out. They just do.

And so I encourage anybody who was a Drummond supporter, again, Don't waste a pick for the Department of Oklahoma. And you say, well, how do you know that? I've been on the

commission for four years. And I don't know if Macie's going to win the governorship, but there's a good chance.

But anyhow, think about that. Because at DEC3, we will probably have to get our picks formulated and get them ready to be sent in. Because there's some specific format that it has to go in.

And I think that's a great thing. And I think that's a great thing. And it's a great job, but let me share this with you.

The board before this commission. To the ODVA. Into a \$22 million deficit.

Every home has been in the red since 2019. They thought the director of ODVA worked for them. That is not the case.

The director, who just happens to be a retired two-star admiral, works for the commission that our new member will be on. So what does that mean? It would help if you had some business acronym. It would help if you had dealt with big budgets, line item budgets.

We have roughly 1,800 employees, seven homes, and \$248 million worth of returns. I'm happy to say in 2026, as we stand here today, we're at almost 92% capacity across all seven homes, with the exception of Sallisaw, which is our newest home, but we're getting there. And that was an interesting story, how Sallisaw got picked to be the new location of the home. The problem we're having is South Carolina, and people don't want to kill people in there.

So other things to think about, our veteran population in Oklahoma is changing just as it is across the whole United States. Very shortly, we're going to be running out of wartime veterans who are senior, and we're going to be going into peacetime veterans. So what does that mean? Well, they don't have the 100% VA disability.

So we came up with a strategic plan. If you've never had a strategic plan, that's something you need to think about, too, before you throw your hat in the ring. Looking at our strategic vision for 2047, what would it look like if the state of Oklahoma would let spouses join their spouse in the VA home? And other departments across the country do that.

So we're looking at every option possible. And for our good friends in Ardmore, I know three years ago we acquired 200,000 acres of land, had well-reasoned, and we set up to build a new home in Ardmore. Well, things happened, and we went from number 9 to 99 on the list.

But being in a strategic vision, we're looking at working with big VA and other private companies. What if they built it? And we're intent. It brings a lot of merit to the fact right now, because the old commission didn't do any repairs, never had a home scheduled, we had over \$280 million worth of repairs that were made across the seven months.

I'll say that again. You didn't misunderstand me. There's over \$280 million worth of repairs over seven months.

Okay? Now you start to see the gravity of what we do each and every day. So I'll go back to my original thing, and I'll get off the stage. I encourage each and every one of you who want to be a commissioner to run.

It's probably one of the best jobs we have in the American Legion of Oklahoma. But all I ask is have some tools. If you don't have tools, this commission will teach you.

Thank you. That's all I have. I hope there's no questions.

Thank you. "Shirley May" All right. I'm going to step back.

"Michael Taylor" One thing about going through prostate cancer treatment, you have to go to the bathroom to make sure there's no postpartum. Good thing I didn't hear that.

Okay. Greetings from our current National Commander, Jay Bowen. Of course, he came from the Department of Public Health.

And some highlights. Of course, he is working with the fundraising project, Veterans and Children's Foundation, known as VCF. Many of you are aware, VCF began in 1925, American Legion Endowment Fund, and now have been transformed to the Veterans and Children Foundation.

This great charity has helped millions of veterans and their families in need throughout the organization through temporary financial assistance. This foundation relies solely on charitable donations, and the foundation also funds training and accreditation for veteran service officers. Commander Bowen is a paid-up-to-life member of Post 209 Colorado Springs, retired U.S. Army Warrant Officer, staunch supporter of Be The One.

The past four National Commanders has pushed for Be The One, and they have done a great job of its mission. The American Legion needs to stay that way because of the 17 suicides today. There's way too many.

So we've got to continue that conversation. Note, our National Vice Commander covering our state is Hugh Holmes. He is out of my post-18 South Dakota.

Personal note, we're on the other block of getting covered by Midwest folks. Once we figure that out. That's been going on ever since I was climbing the ranks in the early 2000s.

But every other year, we'd have someone from the South Block, now it seems to be everyone is from the Midwest. At that time, I will return. Thank you.

"Commander" Thank you. Finance Officer Sam McPherson. Thank you, Commander.

"Sam McPherson" Good morning. Good morning. First of all, I want to wrap this up by saying I want to apologize.

Sometimes I think I've covered things several times, and I realize, well, never. I probably talked to the Finance Commission. And I probably didn't even brought it up in a senior leadership meeting.

But I have brought it up at the DEC. So one thing that I was asked about before, and I wanted to make sure you're aware of is we had a donation last year. \$80,000.

\$80,232.47. Rick Redond said, oh, that money's gone. We had a shortfall. Well, that's not exactly.

We did have a deficit last year. But we don't, from year to year, any surplus we have, we don't put that in any kind of account. It just stays in the operational account as this.

There's no account. So we have additional funds usually in there, in the operating account, and we basically burn through those funds. So if we started like zero on day one in July, we have in excess of that \$80,000.

So we started zero every year, which we've never been done. But this year, I think there's about \$1,200, \$1,200 in there. But we have that \$80,000.

Now, having said that, because of the change in some of our fundraising and a couple of our assets were changed in the way we do them this year, we're not sure how those are going to prosper. We don't know if those are going to exceed what we've done before. And also, there'd be a very fine line if we didn't have some kind of a cushion in our bank account.

So that \$80,000, what I would recommend is I would recommend we put half of that is in basically the CD. I'd like to change the name of the building fund CD to call it a restricted fund CD. And then we could have different line items in there for building fund and for I would call this a capital reserve fund.

Keep half of that \$80,000 in our operational account to give us some cushion in case we have a... Because during the year, we had some, for lack of a better term, you've got some months that we run surpluses. You've got some months you run a little bit of deficit. Typically, that happens like the first few months out of the gate.

You use a little deficit before the membership comes in. And then usually, say February, March, you have another roll before we get some of our payments in in the spring to cover those. So you need to have a little cushion in your account.

We had a cushion before because we had those extra funds that we never allocated to anything. And plus, we also used to have the SAL money in there. We also used to have more state money

in there.

We moved those into our own accounts. So we don't have that cushion. So that's what I would recommend on that.

I know there was concern that we had spent that money. We have not spent that money, as of yet. I think we'll get to the budget later.

I did provide you with the current profit and loss. Like I said, the first two months we worked with a little bit of a deficit. And as of 30 September, our net income was \$72,686.

So we had a total income of \$113,424. And so far, we have total expenses of \$85,738. Just a quick mention for that.

I would also recommend, which I'll probably ask for a motion on this, unless you feel like you want to make a motion. I would also like to move into that CD restricting funds. I would like to move our oratorical scholarship money.

And I would also like to move our retirement fund set aside money. Because we're not going to write checks out of that typically, day to day. In the last couple of years, our scholarships have probably written three checks.

So our scholarships for oratorical have come up about once a year or maybe twice a year. Because they carry them two or three years when they request their scholarship funds. And on the retirement account, we don't know what national is going to require us to pay on our retirement account.

So since we're not doing that day to day, our CD is currently a recurring 30 million CD. So every 30 days, in fact, we just got the notice today for the 17th. Basically, the middle of the month is when our CD rolls over.

And so we've got a window there where you can add funds or withdraw funds. So we can easily pull out the money we need for the scholarships or for the account. And on that, I would like to see if you have any questions over the profit loss or the voucher.

Yes, sir. I have a question. I have a question for the CD.

I'm not sure if you know about the cost of the \$80,000 CD last year. \$80,000 that was lost about one month ago. When you look at CD's, I don't know if you know that there's a lot of differences.

What we do at our post and what we do on the non-discretionary document, we've got cash there that we don't like to use. We look at what our professional cost is going to be. And anything above that, we put it in the CD.

We also make sure we involve the CD. For example, we've got one organization that we split it

from six months to three days. And so every six months, we've got a CD cover.

We talked about how there's differences in the interest. We can go from 30 days to six months, something like that. Our ability fund, we've been spending on this now for two or three years.

And we're spending on products above \$5,000. And we're making 30 days CD. No one, we don't even have a building in mind to lose money on.

So we need to go back and revisit our CD and see how we're doing. We've got a lot of operational expenses we're going to have. And then we check it on out.

We spend more than one CD. Like I said, it's going to go all over. So if you've had money coming late, you don't need it.

It's going to go all over. That's the market. On the policy, I just mentioned that a while ago.

We don't know is that count payable. Rhetorical is in, go to the top of the balance sheet. There should be page three.

You go to the top of it, that 1100 Chase or rhetorical, that's where our scholarship money is. And then we also asked about the accounts, the accounts payable. Typically, we don't have much for accounts payable.

We usually, when we get a bill, we pay it. And whether that's the best way they did it or not, what Rick was doing was, if we got money back from National for membership, okay? So say somebody went online and paid for post-dues, so it was \$40. \$40, well, National and state per diem is \$37.

So that extra \$3 should go back to the post. Well, Rick said, if it's not \$20 or more, it's not worth cutting the check. We'll hold it.

And instead of, I know that in the past, what they did is they accounted for it separately in an Excel spreadsheet. But what Rick was doing was he was just entering it as a, I believe he was entering it as accounts payable. So that \$2,000, all that is is \$3 here, \$3 here for different posts.

So out of 100 and what, 60 some posts, we've got about \$2,000, but it's all in like three, six, nine, \$12 increments. He was waiting until it hit the \$20, Chris will pay it out. Anyone that's got a, if it's real, \$20 or more of a post, we just cut off the check and it goes out.

So that's the money he was put in as an accounts payable. I hope I answered the first question. Any other questions? All right, we'll put you on the line, thank you.

Detachment commander, Chris Cook. Thank you, commander. The detachment's doing well.

Membership, we can be improving on. As we all know, membership numbers can come and go. Right now we're way behind on our 26 membership goals.

We are over 500 members short from last year. And we're at 27 goals. We are about 60 members short of our next goal, which is October 14th in Birmingham, Franklin.

So when you go back, talk to your squadrons, make sure that we're talking about retention. Those are already members that we've had in the past. We need to figure out whether they're going out the back.

Some of them may have moved, some of them might have lost contact, but we need to retain some of our members, as we all understand, being part of this organization for more than two years. Retention is very important in our membership. Creating new members is very important, but I believe retention is of greater importance.

They're good volunteers, they're good members, and we need to figure out why they're here. The health of the detachment is doing well. I've been working well with the senior leadership.

We've got a few goals in mind. I know that we'll have a report on national conventions, but we are looking forward to our national convention being housed here in Oakland City. We're working well to make plans to have a great convention.

If y'all have any questions for us, please contact myself or my adjutant, Mr. Kerr, and we'll get you your answers of what we're looking for for the future. And as far as the national aspect of the organization, we're fitting well. We've had some new questions about the auxiliary change of the membership, but at this point in time, it doesn't affect us.

As a program of the American Legion, our membership is going strong. The auxiliary membership will increase with these changes of eligibility, and we are here to support the entire family. Does anyone have any questions for myself or the detachment? Hearing none, thank you for your time.

"Commander" Okay, thank you, Chris. Director of the Oklahoma American Legion Riders, Brett Martin.

Good morning again. To be a rider is an exciting time. We took a chapter out of the son's playbook last year and the year before, broke the 22 chapters, but wait.

There's more. There is more. Hayden told me he's halfway through his paperwork for a chapter down there.

The 24th of this month, we're gonna present a charter to the village that's supposed to take us up to 23. So the chapters are active. And why is that? Communication.

I communicate with the writers each and every week. I send emails each and every week. I talk to

them each and every week.

On the Rider's side of the house, the silence is not dead. There's information overload. And that's why we're growing.

That's why we're moving forward. Something to think about. Our 2026 state legacy fund raised almost \$21,000 thanks to everybody in this room and post and squadrons and units across the full department of Oklahoma.

The challenge is again for every unit, squadron and post to donate \$100 each. And we'll see how that works out. We did it last weekend.

We were in Tulsa and we did a honor flight poker room. And at the end of that day, we thought we only had raised a little over 9,000. But when all the checks finally came in and they recounted the money on Sunday morning, it was over \$17,000 was raised.

So right now up in Bristow, we have the inaugural, they're doing their inaugural poker run today. And I know there's Riders from all over the state going there. And the reason they're going there is because we've communicated.

If you haven't noticed, there's a thing to this caucus moment, it's communication. I encourage everybody in a leadership role to communicate. On a sad note, we lost a Rider of the national legacy from Kansas.

A lot of us have read many times with the Kansas in-state rider, Mr. Michael Haas lost his life. It's the only hobby in the American Legion that's inherently to put your hands in your life when you go out for a ride. The outpouring to his family and his wife has been amazing.

And his memory will not be forgotten. But unfortunately, this is the second writer of Kansas has lost in 105 years. So something to think about.

On closing this out, I'd like to thank each and everybody. Thank you for all the folks to reach out to me via social media or email me asking me how to start a chapter. It's easy.

Haydan, is it easy? Yeah, it's very easy. We've got a representative from Clayton has a chapter. How many people you got in your chapter? Two? Good.

Hopefully. Hopefully three. Where were you last weekend? Oakland.

Yeah. We put over 50 bikes on the street once. Okay.

Once again, this isn't done in a vacuum. It's done by greater communication. The top down.

If you're interested in joining, send me an email. Are there any questions? Thank you. Yeah.

"Vane Bell" Yeah. I just want to say I want to put a thank you for getting that started with my colleagues. So, it has brought in hundreds of veterans that we've been looking for.

It has increased our veterans to 256 and 20 people. And every week, once they arrive, we check on them. Guys that haven't been showing any concerns, because of their fathers or whatever, and then during the driving.

So, stay in the game for the record. We did it in dining, bail, transfers, close to 256 first. Thank you.

Yeah. I'll see you in the process. Thank you.

Thank you. Thank you for everything. And do I have anyone that wants to speak on behalf of Coach Hillary? Voicing, is there anybody here? I know that voicing will be held the last weekend of May.

That is correct. It will be held the last weekend of May, going through June. Legion 90 is again on Tuesday night.

We encourage everybody to attend. That can. It's always a great time being over there.

And I enjoy seeing the transformation in the young gentlemen while they're there. American League of Baseball, everybody care about? All right. We turn this over to the adjutant, Stark Davis.

"Stark Davis" All right. Yeah, it's great to be with you all. Quick updates.

I think you all know that we did get a new administrative assistant in the house, Crystal Spruce is helping us out and she's going to bring in a lot of good accounting experience. And I know there's a lot of questions sometimes on the budget reports. We're trying to get those line items figured out.

I've seen some working closely with her and hopefully we'll see some improvements in that with their help. So Crystal Spruce is the voice you'll hear a lot when you call them out. So hopefully you'll meet her.

She's doing a great job. I want to mention our lunch plan today at 12 o'clock. A couple of this is Mike Harris and some other family members.

They were bringing some pieces for us for the lunch. So I'd ask her to contribute in and work on a few pieces. I think it'll be good for Mike and his family.

It was a good piece. But we'll have something. We'd like to make that, I think the commander wants to make that a pretty quick break.

There's a lot going on. And maybe just 10, 15 minutes, get our pieces come back and a working lunch, keep things going rather than making two hours and be here late. That's okay.

But that's kind of what's going on today. So I'm just sure you're aware of that. Otherwise, I'd just like to encourage us to just continue to be excited about the Storm, American League.

We have a lot of great programs. We'll hear about some of those today. We do a great job taking care of our senior members.

We've got a lot of senior members through the years, our VA. They bring out programs from strong, exciting work. But as we're bringing in new members and celebrating the things we have going on, remember we've got really active opportunities in national security, which is why most of us join the military.

Team mission is to secure and keep our nation free. And so we have an active element to that for those that are interested in serving in that world. And we hear about that every time we get together.

We also have the Americanism. We hear about those great programs from Boys State, Girls State, where to Oracle, the American League of Baseball, all the great youth programs. We have a really good family pillar.

So I just want to encourage us to, stuff you know, but let's be excited about these programs and especially realize that not everybody that might be a student at American Legion has the same interest. So there's a lot of great stuff to celebrate. I'm excited about working in the department.

It's a great scene. I'm enjoying meeting people throughout the state. So any questions for me? Okay, thank you.

"Commander" So at this time, we're going to go into committee reports of any additional reports, election reports, or any description that you'll have in the longer than a two minute time frame. Any officers and or chairperson regarding any of your reports that you want to identify yourself at this time? That's the budget and membership. Go ahead.

"Sam McPherson" Budget and membership. You want me to go ahead? Okay, thanks. Now we turn to the budget.

Fun stuff. I don't know if there's a particular line you were going to check through. We did have, we did once again, go through every line again and try to make some best guesses on some of this stuff.

There will be, you will see, well, it's probably better to skim around from the top. Really we used kind of last year's budget to be able to try and come up with this one. Looking at where the range was last year and trying to determine if that was gonna be pretty close.

There are some small changes. Anytime I made a change, I tried to highlight that and also tried to put an explanation out to the side. So hopefully that'll make it easier.

The one that's just a wild guess at the top is that \$10,000 for mass mailing. That used to be Patriot Fundraising and then Rick switched over to Victory 360. They made a lot of promises.

They didn't deliver on any of them. So we got frustrated with that, switched it over again. I believe we might be going with the Premier of Nationals billing.

So really that \$10,000, I mean, we brought it down from 15. That's just a wild guess. So that's not really, I hate to just have a crazy number in there but we had to come up with something and we used to generate quite a bit of money.

So we were hoping that it would meet that goal. But I'm not sure. That's one of the things, it's a big question mark.

Going down from there, the next big thing is the AGIA insurance royalty. That usually is pretty steady on that number. In fact, I believe this year coming up, usually it's two low years and then a high year.

I believe this next year coming up is a high year but we don't try to budget for that. We just pick the low ball number and keep going. We did combine all our oil royalties because the maintenance change all the time.

So instead of unit or wind or one of the other energy companies, we're just any oil royalties, we're just going to put the oil royalty, just one line. And last year we had \$100 billion. So the year before that, I believe it was really a hundred.

And I believe the oil was up in 430 was also oil royalties. But the reason why at that time it was labeled unit energy and that other wasn't unit. So that's why we had to go to a different one.

Going on, we did kind of bring down our expected income from Legion College because it has been had a little bit lesser attainments. So we tried to set a goal of 500 but we did lower it from the goal of a thousand. So that's on the income side.

Going over to page two at the top, salaries. We did increase the salary of the adjunct to \$50,000 a year. If you look there at what we spent the year before, you'll see that number is 55.

The reason why that number is greater than 50 is because for a couple of months there, we paid Rick and we also paid Star. So there was a little overlap there. And so that's what caused that number to go up.

But for this entire year, it should be a 50,000. The taxes, all those numbers should be less than those amounts. We based those amounts up a year before, but since we eliminated two

employees last year, going through this year, all those numbers should be less.

At the time we worked up the budget, I didn't have anything to go by. Now I've got some data, probably put some numbers in there that would be close to that accurate. But I just went with those because that way, if we're looking for a testament, stick on those numbers, at least the actuals would be less than that.

Banking surcharges, we used to have Square, PayPal, all that. Most of that should be eliminated. I left a hundred in there just in case, but we moved to Zeppy.

So for us, that shouldn't be any cost to us on the moving side, but I left a hundred dollars in there. Moving down to 50, 52, that item had never been budgeted for, but with all the money we get in, it goes to national. If people registered direct to national, like I said, that was where those little \$3 increments come down.

That's what we budgeted that for because we have to pay that money back out to post. And that number has been declining because every year, more and more posts start doing their own transmittals. And there's less of that money that comes back to us.

So that money, it's been sliding down. Like I said, two years ago, it was 27,169. Last year it was 18,229.

I just budgeted, I was kind of a guess, but looking at the down slope, I just budgeted 13,000 for that. Office lease, that's basically due to increasing utilities. It was a little more, so I went ahead and bumped that number up.

It could be less than that, but we wanted to make sure we had enough in there to cover the increase in utilities that gets us there. Also, there was a slight increase on the amount of our office lease equipment, which is, it's two printers, copiers, whatever you want to call them, document centers. One at the department, and the other one used to be at the Muskogee office, but they needed a place so it wouldn't disappear.

So they asked around, and the only one that said they could use it was post one. And so that got sent to post one. So that's, that amount is actually for two machines.

We knew we were going to do away with the Muskogee office. We would have done away with that other one, but we did, that's already a contract. Rick checked with them, and it was going to cost us just as much to cancel the contract as to fulfill it.

And it would have been one lump sum instead of a month to month. So they said it was better to keep it and move that printer somewhere where someone could use it. Came down on the amounts for office supplies and postage because we don't have the Muskogee office anymore.

We're also using more electronic means to transport stuff. So hopefully those numbers are based

off of the reduction we had last year. Market expense, we kind of eliminated that because we haven't used that in a number of years.

And I don't know why it's not high level. Right below that, we did increase our membership program expense to \$3,000. That was basically \$1,500 for the Tulsa State Fair and \$1,500 for the Oklahoma State Fair.

I know what someone wanted to bring up is why are we paying for the Tulsa State Fair? When we discussed it in the... Because I guess there's usually only half a dozen or so posts that benefit from that. But when I talked to the Budget and Finance Commission, basically they were saying, well, the main reason is to get our name out there, to be a visible presence. We do get money if they sell memberships.

We do get some money if they sell drawings. So we do recoup money back from that. But we weren't thinking of this as that we're giving certain posts an advantage.

We're thankful that they will work a booth for us and promote the Legion. And it's mainly to get our name out there. Like I said, I doubt we may or may not cover that \$1,500 in direct compensation through dues for membership sold or for the number of raffle tickets sold.

But we feel the intrinsic value of having our name out there and being in front of the public is worthwhile. We also believe that we should endeavor to get into the Oklahoma State Fair. When we checked several years ago, at one point we couldn't get into the Oklahoma State Fair.

That's pretty much changed. We can get into the Oklahoma State Fair. The only thing is they do not allow any type of raffle or drawing for money.

So you can have a drawing, but you can't charge for it. So I know when that was brought up several years ago, it seemed like there was no interest to do it because they couldn't sell drawing tickets. It's like I said, it's the opinion of the commission that that's not the main purpose.

The main purpose is to be in front of the community and be in front of the public and to show the Legion and what we offer. So we were looking at other ways that we might be able to get them to purchase items. So one idea that was brought up was what if we sold them a coin? Because we have a bunch of coins.

What if we sold them a coin for say \$20 or \$15 and oh, since you bought a coin, here's a free raffle ticket or drawing ticket, I'm sorry. But that was just an idea. So basically they believe we should be in both the Oklahoma State Fair and the Oklahoma State Fair.

And the reason we should put up that cost was we wanna be well-rehearsed and get a wide deal of law school as far as the public. So that was on the line. Moving on, stenographer expense.

We switched to an AI recording that gives us a transcript and can also give us a synopsis. That's

gonna be a greatly reduced cost. So instead of, like I said, we're spending about 11 or close to \$11,000 on stenographer.

So we kind of guessed what the cost was gonna run and we came up with that \$360 number. And from what I've seen so far, I think it'll be less than that number but we wanted to make sure we covered that cost. Moving down, there's the leadership expense that really hasn't changed from the year before as far as why the overages in the actual book Rick was booking stuff wherever he wanted to book stuff.

And so some stuff should have probably been booked to something else, primarily gas. He didn't, and some of the vehicle costs, he didn't book that. Under the vehicle expense, he booked it to commander and ads in it.

And I don't think he ever went to the budget when he booked stuff and never said, oh yeah, you spent all your money. He decided that he was the bookkeeper and he was taking that over. So it kind of depended on my hands, but he never said, hey, we're exceeding your numbers on it.

We did add, initially it was, I added 500 then we went back to about a thousand for the senior vice commander expense because they do incur some expenses roaming around the state. And then they also had to go to the membership conferences so that involves some expense. Moving on down, oh, the biggest change is under vehicle expense, auto expense.

Since we no longer have an automobile, like last year, I believe they authorized certain funds for the commander to, I think he got a standard warranty for his vehicle, got some additional insurance and I think it was tires maybe. So when we were in the meeting, they said we'll still have it down there in auto expense. So it's kind of separate from the other expenses, but instead of having the different breakdowns for gas repair registration and parking tolls at wash, we would break it down by position.

So if you see on the notes there to the side, we want to change the nomenclature to auto expense commander, auto expense adjutant, and auto expense senior vice. And then we'll leave the last one there. The numbers are going to be similar to, projected to what it was the previous year with a little bit of a reduced cost.

Going down, if you look at 5502, website maintenance and software. Last year we budgeted 400 instead of 4,000. I don't know.

I think when we did the budget and I don't know who's to blame. It was either me or Rick when we entered in the numbers. We bumbled it and lost some digits.

So it should have been 4,000 last year. Looking at the numbers, we raised it \$4,500,000. And what else is about the same? Because they were booking things in different, I didn't know exactly what the insurance were.

So I was really more concerned with the overall total. And so adding up all our insurances minus the auto insurance, we came up with a budget of \$7,300,000, which would be similar to what we spent and what the year before was, just taking out the auto insurance cost. Midwinter, we've eliminated most of those costs because of the change in format.

There is a little bit of costs. And so we changed the budget of that to about \$300. I think last year we budgeted zero.

We spent like \$270 and we just budgeted \$300 for this year. Moving down, okay, down to the National Convention, the expenses for National Convention. There were a couple of items that they brought up that may wanna be discussed by the DEC as far as the travel expense and for National Convention housing, as far as who gets paid what.

I don't know if you wanna do that in this budget or if you wanna do it separately. They were saying, well, who do we pay for? And I know in the past, there's been five people we've paid for because it's in the Constitution of Bylaws that says that these five people will be delegates in the National Convention. It doesn't anywhere in there say necessarily that we will pay for these individuals.

So that was kind of like the question mark they had is do we have to pay for these five individuals or should we pay for these five individuals? And I said, that's something we can't answer. That would be a DEC question. But that was just an item that was brought up for discussion.

I don't know if you guys want to discuss that a lot or would we change anything on that? Is there any discussion on that item? I said it. Michael Taylor on that particular item, he conceived that we pay for those five. I don't know if that's five or four years ago now, but some of us said, well, we'll pay our own way.

Some previous agents have said, well, I've got the farm here. I'm going to pay for these lands, for these five. I say this is my opinion, not anybody's political, but it's a back and forth.

So at the end of the day, it's a DEC change is what they said four or five years ago. Any other discussion on that? All right, Sam, go ahead. All right, when we're going down the department convention, it seems like they never do book.

It seems like reading some of those are like stereo instructions as far as the bills. Sometimes it just gets all lumped into one because I doubt the banquet was the cost that was entered for the banquet. But a lot of times trying to read that bill and figure out what parts of banquet and what parts aren't.

And I don't know, like I said, Rick kind of put stuff where he wanted to put it. Our current agent, Stark, he thought that we should break that down to facilities expense, banquet expense and housing expense. And that way it gives you a clearer idea of how much we spend on each item.

And we'll just have to make sure between me and Crystal and Stark, that we put those items to the correct one. But he wanted that to be a little clearer. I understand it's not that clear.

And the reason why there's an increased cost there and a couple of items, first of all, we've eliminated the Department of Convention Printing with the outside source. And for whatever reason, I think maybe it had to do with the time factor or something else. Rick decided that he was gonna send the programs out to our printer.

So that caused us additional costs. And also some of that cost was from the previous year. I think about \$2,000 of that, \$2,100 of that was from the previous year.

And so it was just on the bill that we got from the Grand Casino and Motel that had some leftover from the previous year and the current year. So that was a little higher than what we budgeted. Commanders visit, oh, before that, it was Legion College.

I did reduce Legion College down to close to what the actual cost was. Let's move right over here. Getting into the visits, the only question they had, one of the members or a couple of members had a question on the national commanders visits is does this include gifts? It's like, I have no idea.

I don't know if it matters. I don't know if we carried on that, but we had budgeted \$2,800. I was thinking if there was gifts that might be a separate item that people would collect that money to come up with a gift for the national commander.

I wouldn't have that, it'd be something that would be budgeted from the department. I don't know, it's whatever you guys think. Oh, yeah.

So to give you, Steve Thomas, past department commander, the reason that that budget is 2,800 is it did not include the gifts on that. But what it does include is the national commander did not go anywhere without his national commander's aid. So that is actually hotel rooms for two people for five nights at the embassy.

And it did include a couple of meals because the department took out the national commander and his aid on those. That is why the \$2,800 came up. Thank you.

Thank you. For the vice commander visit, it ended up somehow we had three visits last year. I think kind of one was like at the end of the year before.

So it ended up, but I guess they're supposed to come twice in a year. So instead of \$500, we went up to a thousand visits. And then there was a request for the next item, leading and trailing candidates.

There was a request by the NEC, Charlie O'Leary, to put \$1,500 in the budget for leading and trailing candidate visits. The question that was brought up by the commission was, I thought that's

why they had to have more funding. They had to build, I thought that until they became an officer, that they had to fund their own traveling and housing.

We don't know. And so we kind of like funded that to the DEC. If we do have to come up with extra \$1,500, we'll figure out a way to put it in there.

But we weren't sure if that was something that you guys wanted to add to the budget, or we may need additional information. The middle line right below that, \$800. Every year we have to pay for our attendees to the National American Legion College.

It could be \$800, it could be double that, two people, \$1,600. Originally we were gonna budget 1,600, but we found out that for whatever reason, we don't have one candidate that was gonna be eligible to go. And so we changed that there to \$1,000.

Because we had, originally we had them both in there, and we would have had a small deficit, but we pulled that out of there, so we didn't see that as much of a place. Moving to the last page, accounting fees. Yeah, this is our big expense that we've got left.

Whatever it was. For our accounting fees, we basically have two different things. We have our 990, complete our 990 for our tax and gift status against the IRS.

We budgeted about \$1,500 for that. The last time we sent it out, the accounting department used it, it cost us, say, \$2,500 for two years. So we cut that in half, it was like 12, we're actually getting down to 10, or 12.30. But we thought, well, it may have a slight increase, so we budgeted 1,500.

On the external audits, that number there on the left is pretty big, because that was for two years. Stark Benson's for three, I believe it's two. But the reason why there was some additional cost there is because we had a new accounting firm that's doing our audit.

So they came down and spent, they sent two people down and spent the day basically learning about our process, how we do business. And so there was some additional costs with them, basically starting from scratch and getting us caught up. We haven't got the final report for fiscal year ending June of 25, but it's about 99% complete.

For now, we talked to the accounting firm, they're just tying up a few little things and then that audit should be done. And then they'll need an engagement letter so they can start on our audit for June 2026, ending June 2026. I believe from what Rick was telling me is that they estimated the cost was gonna be between 9,000 and \$9,500 going forward.

And so that's why we looked at the high numbers and budgeted the 9,500. Moving down for legal, we kept the same number, or we kept the same numbers a year before, it would be almost quite a bit more. But this year, we shouldn't have any expense for the four pillars because of some conflict of interest.

Our legal person couldn't actually execute it because it would have been complex and he had to send it out to external firms and that created some additional costs. And we had to do that, set up our 501C3. Also, we had the pending litigation with "Redacted".

So without those two main items, we decided to keep the budget the same as the previous year. For the fundraising, originally we kind of had 7,500 for each of the drawings. We did change up because we had reduced costs with the weapons we chose and for the printing, but we changed up and went to a prize money deal.

So instead of spending 7,500 for guns and printing, the prizes actually add up to \$10,000 plus the printing on top of that. So that's the actual number that it costs us or is gonna cost us for the current money raffles at 11,200. We left 7,500 for the next drawing because it's pending and we don't know what the cost would be so far.

Moving down, four terminals, a pretty fixed cost. It's about \$230 for all the medals and medal kits. The money that goes into the scholarship fund is \$2,250.

So that's pretty much set. And everything else is basically donated. So that's the total cost for that program.

And then that brings us to the end for the budget. Our total income is projected to be just shy of \$280,000 and our total expense is also just shy of \$280,000. And we projected a surplus of \$340 a month.

All right, questions, Scott? Scott Hilbert, District 3A Commander. I have a couple of questions on line items 5815 to 5816 as far as the National Commanders and Vice Command Dependents. For my clarification, I know the National Commanders... What? Those are the microphones.

I know the National Commanders are budgeted by National to pay for their travel for both themselves and their aid for their state business. When we're looking at a total surplus of less than \$400, adding gifts, adding payments for gifts or increasing our expenditures for their visits to me seems a little counterintuitive as well as adding an additional \$1,500 potential expense for leading and trailing candidates. So for clarification, do they in fact receive the national funds then for their travel? And do we in fact need to budget our own funds with limited and add additional expenses for candidates when they're gonna be here anyways on their own dime? Steve Thomas, past Department Commander.

So take those questions if I may, Commander, one at a time. So as I said on the National Commanders visit, so National Organization obviously takes care of their flights and everything. As far as their accommodations go, if we don't pay it, National pays it, they're gonna send us an invoice.

So we're gonna pay it one way or another as far as our room and board goes. None of that

money on my 915 National Commander visit, none of that was due to gifts. That was his visit, his hotels, taking him and his aide to the National Oklahoma City War Memorial, Bombing Memorial and down to the Cavalry Museum.

That was the extent of his travel. As far as that went, and as Sam has identified multiple times, we're kind of through things in certain places. I don't know if he booked the fuel because the Commander and his aide and our Department NEC were right around asking him to be for five days.

So I'm not sure if the fuel during that particular visit went in the fuel budget or to this budget, but that's kind of the answer to your question. Does that address that one? Sure. I mean, Commander, does that address this? Yes.

And I'm sorry, can you repeat the second part of your question? Because we can identify for you there. It was in reference to the leading and trailing candidate. As far as that goes, as a leading and trailing candidate goes, there should be no expenses incurred within the department short of possibly during their visit because that's what their campaign fund is for, is their travel and their hotel accommodations.

I would like to see possibly a small line item in there to take them out to a dinner by their ear and show the graciousness of the department. But as far as \$1,500, I think that might be a little bit, but I don't know when he put that, is a lot of departments on these trailing and leading candidate visits, they do contribute donations to their campaigns. I don't know if that's where Charlie was going and he is obviously not here to answer that question.

But as far as getting clarification on that, if he is looking at trying to get approval for a donation to their campaign, which the majority of the 55 departments do, that would be maybe a different thing that we could discuss at another time. But as far as paying their travel or room and board, I would wholeheartedly disagree. Thank you.

So that answers a lot of my questions when we start talking about the leading and trailing candidates. I think if we start talking about donations to their funds or to their campaigns, that needs to be a separate vote, not budgeted and looking at where we're at with Sam's profit loss statement. Do we have, is it available? Because that may change based upon membership numbers and Puffel numbers and other unknown expenses that may come in.

So I would request that that get pushed to a separate item and then also address that in addition to DEC. Thank you. Michael Taylor.

Michael Taylor, in reference to the donations for the years, outside of the spring and fall meetings where they have receptions and members of various committees are up there, the group that usually goes to the DC conference usually writes checks and amends those personally. So if there's four of us, we all sit there and have 20 bucks each, or if there's 14 of us, they'll have a

\$100 check. But usually it's dispersed as an Oklahoma delegation at the DC conference to those families.

That's the way it's been done in the past. Yeah, my name is Joe. I thought I might get real quick.

Yeah, yeah. I think most of you want to get on, but I'll make it quick. On the state fairs, and I'll just point out one thing on that.

I don't think we get a whole lot of membership out of it, but it does give us an excellent opportunity to talk about our program. There's a lot of good community to do on that. It's to go in and talk about the Oracle, talk about baseball, talk about competing shoes, talk about the boys' day, and make sure that y'all get registered on the label.

I find it a little embarrassing that in the state of Oklahoma, we only had 36 people show up for the Oracle when I was on the state. And I think we could get another government to publicize that, but I'll have to at the state fair. My second thing, going back to the budget itself.

Now, I understand what you said and put the stuff in different places, and I find it a little bit frustrating to think that we still have time to do the budget and then just put the money where the heck we want to put it and not pay attention to the budget. My real question is, when I look at our proposed extensive budget, and I say that on the expenses, we've got to override about \$10,000 on that. My question is, when we're doing our monthly or weekly, what are we going to do with expenditures? How are we tying that back to the budget and make sure that the person who's spending the money is not exceeding the budget? I'm not much of a budget person, but I would think if I set up a budget for \$100 and somebody gets monthly \$100, and they'll do what? If I'm the approving authority, I have to be approving.

If we approve a certain amount of money, and we're going over that budget, I don't see what good it's doing for the CDC to approve the budget and then we just proceed it, and people don't move it. I don't think we have to come back to the approving authority, which is the CDC, to approve that budget override. I'll let you address that.

Okay, a couple of things. I agree, and I hate to, I want to give an explanation, but not necessarily an excuse. I kind of beat my head against the wall with Rick on that, and then after probably about three months, I just, and I was trying to go in there every month and move things to where it should be to make sure that we were in the budget and stuff, that he would not change, but he was determined that he was the bookkeeper, and that was his lane, and I was to stay out of it.

I got tired of beating my head against the wall, but I think, the current adjunct and Crystal, Crystal's wonderful. I think Crystal's gonna hold us with our feet to the fire, because there's already been several items. It's like, no, you've got to have a receipt.

I don't want a bill that, oh, that's gonna show up on the bank statement at the end of the month.

She goes, I need to have a receipt to check that expense against, so I think the new headquarter staff is gonna be more of an agent in our favor on that, to hold things more to line items, and whether they're to the budget. And I don't know.

Rick changed over the time he was in there. I told a joke, who was it? Ricky Henderson, the baseball player. He's always talking to the third person.

Toward the end there, even though he was there, Ricky was gone. Are there any other questions for Cindy? Seeing as there are no questions, do I have a question to the finance report? I'm gonna get us started, since I am a member. I will move that we approve the finance report and the budget.

Hopefully I can get a second. We have one more to go. Richard Cohn, District 1A commander.

I'll make a motion that we approve the finance. Second. First year of keeping with the DEC.

That's all. Thank you. Now that we have a motion in this, I think there is a second.

Commander Scott, I'm with District 3A. I don't agree with the \$1,000 on the line either for the \$500 increase to \$1,000 for the national vice commander visit. Is there any other discussion? Karen Cruice, Vice Commander East.

I just wanna point out, Sam, that it's your job to tell us, not after the fact, but immediately when it's happening. It's your job to tell the DEC if the adjutant isn't doing their job. Hearing it after if he's no longer with us isn't appropriate.

Any other discussion? John? When I looked at the budget, John Bloxom from DEC, District 4, I looked at his budget and I listened to Sam's explanation. I have serious reservations about the integrity of my budget policy. How they're handling finance without going back to this body to get it approved.

I recommend that you not approve the proposed budget so you can sit down and tell us what it really is. Scott, thank you for your time. Thank you all for watching.

Thank you, John. Any other discussion? At this time, I will ask all in favor, say aye. All opposed, say nay.

Nay. Nay. The nays have it.

We do not have a budget. I will entertain a motion for a continuing budget until the Finance Committee meets again and clarifies some of the issues that have been brought forward. Commander Scott Hilberg District 3A Vice, District 3A Commander, I make such a motion for continuing.

Thank you. Do I have a second? Debbie Gordon, DEC 1A, I second the motion. I have a first and

a second to continue, to continue our resolution until we can get the issues resolved that have been brought up.

Is there any discussion? Is there a time limit on the date? Yeah, so I just remembered here. I think we need a date on this and I've dragged it out for six months or another quarter. If we don't have a budget that we're operating by, how in the heck are we doing business? I request a date be put on it.

Scott, are you willing to amend that? So I'm in on a motion for the next to schedule DEC. I can't hear you. One month.

What's your question? One month. One month. One and my second.

Thank you. So I have a first and a second to continue it for one month. Is there any other discussion? Can we do the finance meeting by Zoom also? And also do the budget approval by email? Any other discussion? Say all in favor of this continuing resolution.

Say aye. Aye. Opposed, say nay.

Okay, then that's it. There it is. We will continue with the resolution once that becomes.

We're going to have Mike Taylor talk real quick as the NEC committee, convention committee, whatever. And then we're going to take a break. "Mike Taylor" Well, I'm the chairman of whatever.

I'm the chairman. We actually under Don Reynolds here, they created a department national committee, convention committee. And that year we tried for 2028.

Then we revised the committee and tried for 2032. Exciting news from the fall meetings. It was confirmed on Thursday and emails came out Friday.

Because national had concerns about Salt Lake's convention hall not being ready in time for 2030. They had moved Oklahoma City from 2032 to 2030. So the national convention will be in Oklahoma City, August 24th through the 29th of 2030.

That's great news for us. I know some sons were really like to have celebrated the 100th anniversary of 2032, but we will do that. We'll just do that somewhere else.

But exciting news. They were so impressed with Oklahoma City to be able to cover for Salt Lake and we'll be honored to the most. And we'll just have to clear up.

They will request a lot of volunteers of Oklahoma's and we'll be ready to serve. I thank you. Any questions for me? Thank you.

Hey, it was 39. Mike, do you have a committee put together? If you have a list of that, we can look at it. As far as those working with the... So Bridget from the National Committee Commission

for conventions, she went on vacation immediately after the 20C meetings, but we'll be back on the 20th and she'll reach out to the state and get things started.

What this really does, when they reached out to Oklahoma City Tourism Bureau, they confirmed that all the hotels were favorable. All those hotels came back and said yes. Convention hall was available.

They said yes. Historically, what happens is National will come down, give them after two years prior and create contracts with all those entities. So about this time next year, they'll come down to Oklahoma City, create contracts with all those hotels and kitchen site and then get things going there.

My understanding on that also is we just need lots of volunteers. "Commander" So we'll be looking out, reaching out to everybody. At this time, I wanna take a quick break.

It's been going on for a couple of hours, so everybody must be standing. How much time do we have in place? Are we in an hour? Absolutely. 32.

Break for 10 minutes. I'm just surprised. I had to reconvene so we can just miss for lunch.

It will be a working lunch. So please let the head table go back there and grab a piece of pizza so we can start eating. We will forego removal of the hats while we're eating so we can continue to conduct business.

Ms. Patricia Kerr is going to bless our food. Heavenly Father, Lord, thank you for this meal. Thank you for the opportunity to work together. Be with us as we move forward in the meeting

Yes, sir. Thank you. Hopefully everybody can get a piece of pizza and sit down in 15 minutes.

At this time, I'm gonna go ahead and turn it over to the committees and their reports. Jack Sykes would you like to give the end of the report? Thank you, Madam Chair.

VSO has been brought to our attention for months, I know. Hello, I'm Jack Sykes, Department of VSO and member of the National Committee for VSOs. What we've done at the start of September is every five years, National, VA specifically, updates VSOs.

So every five years, supposedly it's been going on for a while, you have to justify all your VSOs in the state. And I think it took us like two months to finally get our heads wrapped around what we thought we were doing. To submit that, even though it was late, they acknowledged the fact that they have received it.

And we have numerous people on the accreditation list at National that are no longer with us. So as we work to get the list to where we're up to date and current, you'll hear some changes going on. I just need to mention to everybody that the VSOs are not Oklahoma specific.

Once you're accredited with the Office of General Counsel, your name goes on a list that goes out to Asia, Europe, all continents. So the accredited VSOs count claims from around the world. That's the reason it's so important to have that information up to date.

Suicide being one of the biggest things that our veterans are involving themselves in permanently is when they call a VSO and that VSO can't respond to the phone because they're no longer a VSO, we've just flipped around on the chain, okay? It is critical for us as representatives to our veterans to give them a bona fide list of people they can call and where they can get help at. This is not just an Oklahoma problem. This is a nationwide, worldwide problem.

We're working the issue as a discreet. The idea is to have two VSOs in every post so that one can go on vacation or get married or have a baby or whatever and another one still be there for the veterans. We need your help.

We need all the VSOs that we can get. It doesn't cost you anything but time and equipment, okay? It's non-paid, it's voluntary and if we can't help our veterans, then we don't need to be. Questions of me, the phone is 24-7.

Don't hesitate to call me. Don't give it to the drunk vet who wants to call our VSOs at 30 hours in the morning and complain to them. That doesn't help any of us.

So headquarters phone number is now on this national list. I call it national but it goes out worldwide and the stocks want to know why we're getting all these phone calls in the department because there's an answering machine on that line. It can be reached 24-7.

He and his crew then disseminates the information out to us so it may sound a little bit like lag time but when you're dealing with the world, it's a world operation number. Questions. Thank you, Commander.

"Commander" Thank you, Jack. Next will be the Oklahoma Legion College, Hayden Woods. Actually, Commander, Hayden Woods, post-39 past department commander.

"Hayden Woods' Legion College, it's coming up pretty quick, 16th, 17th and 18th of this month. I've currently got two in hand. I've got two in the bush.

What I mean by that, I've got two reports and two people that's promising. Get your people into the college. If you look up here on your front table, out of your front table, there's only one person that has not been to the Legion College.

If you're a post commander, you should have already been to the Legion College. If you're a

district officer, you should be in a Legion College. Get there, learn what's happening in your legion.

Second thing, building. Currently, we have four sites that we have that we're looking at. One's at an airport, one's an old armory, slash whatever you wanna call it.

It's got multiple buildings on it. We're trying to get points of contacts. We're gonna be trying to use our four pillars of hope to help with that.

Two that we have been looking at is back on the block again, that is post-13, whether we decide we wanna use the building, the property or whatever they want to do, and then there's also one possibly in Lexington. So we are actively pursuing and continuing. If you have a post here in Oklahoma City, Metroplex area, understand that goes from Guthrie down to Lexington, out to Reno, back over to just the other side of Midwest City.

If you know of a property or somewhere that a vacant lot, couple of lots actually, that we might be able to get, don't hesitate to call to the department or call me directly. My phone number is still on the master call list. So please, if you find something, if you're thinking about it, send it my way so we can investigate and see what we can do to get it down.

Thank you, Commander. Thank you very much. Any questions? "Commander" is there anybody from the Legislative Committee? Internal Affairs? No report there.

Legion Riders, do you have anything additional? "Brett Martin" No additional, I don't have anything. "Commander" Thank you. Members of the committee.

Thank you. I'll close the call. We'll do some announcements first.

"Patricia Mathes-Kerr" If you'd like to come in, there's still one chair in the future. So we'd be happy to know that the Department of Membership Committee has been identified and has our first meeting, September 16th, 2026, at 5 p.m. Central daylight time. I am the chair.

Karen Cruice is the co-chair. Membership includes the entire family for the first time ever. We have Elmo May, Brian DeGraves, who is representing the The Sons in Boys State, Carol LeMay from Post 64 in Chandler, Karen Ritter, who is here today, Taylor Rector, who is here today, Kim McGinnis from the Auxiliary, Kim Vincent, Mike Harris representing the ALR as well, Shirley May, and Stark Davis.

That is not the end all. If you know somebody who wants to be on the Membership Committee who has a heart for membership, please send them my way. So what we met with, we discussed having specialty teams, kind of like the specialists for certain things like recruitment and outreach, retention and maintenance, awards and acclimations, health and revitalization, and then the other things that we want to build for specialties, basically become the scheme under the membership umbrella.

We discussed membership drives for competition, the health and compiling and regulating points. We're beginning the future plan for sustainability of this committee into the future as leadership changes, so that we don't have to rebuild and redo everything every year. And we are also looking for membership additions.

So as, for example, maybe Donna Snodgrass as the president of our Silver on the other side, and Steve Thomas, I've spoken to him and others. And how to best connect with each other to keep each other with membership. We're going to be looking at that as well, kind of becoming alongside.

And then a different part of the different activities around the state, like dates and times for us to have an outreach table and send activities to the future for compiling. Those are all things we discussed and we will continue to discuss. Our next meeting is going to be this coming Wednesday.

And if you want to attend or become a member, do not hesitate to reach out to me. I'll take anybody that's interested and has a heart for membership. On that, my co-chair, Karen Cruice actually has something to say and add to this.

"Karen Cruice" All right, so I'm usually the raw raw person. So I just want to come with some realistic numbers so that we don't keep falling. So we have, our goal is 10, 14, four days away.

We have six districts in the state right now that haven't met that 55%. We've been trailing about 300, 331 people down from Steve's numbers last year. We're now at 449 that we're down from where we were last year.

We're at 57.41, so we've met our 55, but a very smart guy, me, Vice Commander Landhammer from last year's, our senior vice last year, said that October 1st, you should be at 60%. Well, we're only at 57%. We've got a ways to go, Oklahoma.

We've been in the 20th percentile in the nation. We've now dropped to 31. You can't sit on where you're at.

You've got to keep pushing. I'm a numbers person. I'm a math teacher.

I run them like daily, pretty much. If you're looking at the district commander, if you're talking to your people, you should probably already know these numbers, but I'm just going to go through them. Posts in your district that are stagnant.

1A, there's two posts that don't move on a daily, on a weekly trial. They don't move. They haven't moved since the puffles went through, at the beginning of the year.

1B, there's four posts that just don't move. There's something wrong. Aren't you checking on

them? 2A has nine posts that don't move.

So when we're looking at our emerging posts, are we closing posts? Nine posts aren't moving at all. 2B, there's three posts that aren't moving. 3A, six posts aren't moving.

3B, four posts aren't moving. Week after week, day after day, they're not moving. There's nobody putting new members in.

4A, seven posts. 4B, four posts aren't moving. 5A, there's four posts that aren't moving.

5B, six posts. 6A, two posts aren't moving. 6B, three posts.

7, four posts. 8A, there are 14 posts that since July aren't moving. They aren't putting memberships in at all.

And 8B, there's seven posts that aren't moving. And maybe they're already on your radar, but I just wanna make sure that they are. If you're looking at your numbers, that you know these facts.

I know John Bloxom is. John and me talk all the time, and he knows, he can tell you exactly what's going on in them. He knows which ones probably need to close, which ones probably need to merge.

I know Kayla is too. She was number one last year, and we talked about just like the football, baseball, it's hard to be number one two years in a row. Same with Elmo, it's killing him.

He was number one last year. It was absolutely killing him that we're having a district contest right now when he was number one last year. So there's sometimes, I know 308, he, a couple years ago, he could not win for losing.

He just had so many deaths in his post. And that can happen. There are times when you just have a bad year.

And as you as district commander, you might know that, that this is just an off year for that one post. But is that the problem, or is that post just not moving, and it's time that we have that hard conversation, and we say, does that post need to be closed? Does that post need to be merged? I know Scott's another one. He's working with them.

He doesn't like it, but it's time that some of them merge or close. Know your post, get out there and talk to them. If the adjutant's just needing training, Rich, 3A, Scott or, yeah, Scott or Tom, yeah, Scott Thompson, whoever, who is Tom, anyway, Kansas, call him up, and they are on fire.

That was a post that we thought were gonna close, and they've already met their goal. But just know what's going on in your district and make those phone calls, and make sure that you're reaching out to your post, because your post will tell us that they're not hearing from you. Thank you.

"a Mathes-Kerr" So the re. So if there's any questions for our membership committee, that is the committee report. All right, next on the table is fundraising committee.

So, Patricia Mathes-Kerr, you're vice-committee, or I'm your chair for your fundraising committee. We have our Zoom meeting on 9-16-2026 at 6 p.m. Central Daylight Time. Members are myself as chair, Elmo May, co-chair, Shirley May, Carol LeMay from Post 64, Chris Sherborne, Karen Ritter, Kayla Rector, Sam Pearson, who, by the way, is on fire for fundraising.

Excuse me. So we talked about our current fundraising activities. We want to integrate more of the Legion family into this committee.

There was a question, there was a universal yes. So, for those of you know that our ALR, ALA, SAL, and even more TAL members, reach out to me for those of you who don't have a fundraising part and would like to do more fundraising for the department. It works great for your American Legion resume as you move up.

Current fundraising campaign, we have the 50-50 ticket drawing, hard copy tickets and selfies, so we are doing an online portion for this. We do have future fundraising ideas on which Sam is in the video ads, and I'm collecting all of those. One thing we'll be visiting in new business is we would like to get your support for doing a bingo night at the Midwinter Conference coming this January, and having maybe a bake sale for snacks, something like that.

We'll speak more as we get to new business. We did find 700 Oklahoma coins in the office, which could be utilized as aid for a fundraiser or need for a marketing. So we're limited to the fundraising, amounts of fundraising we can do as far as activities.

However, marketing is not limited. So what we cannot do on fundraising, we may be able to combine courses with marketing. We're talking about future fundraisers.

We're collecting all of those now. We will have a roster and a list later on. And then beginning the future plan for sustainability of this committee as well.

We would like to keep this as a paperwork for future leadership. So we don't start over every time we elect a new committee. At this time, I'm gonna have my co-chair speak more to the fundraiser we are going on now.

That's policy. I can hear more from you than that. I'm on my co-chair for the fundraiser.

"Elmo May" I've got the record 250 drawing, five from 10 on the ticket, post he's five, marketing is five. This is a good fundraiser. This will work if we work it.

If we just throw it over here to the side, it's not gonna do nothing. We've gotta work this thing to

make it for the department and for your post. So I asked, I got tickets over here.

I asked everyone, please come up, come by, pick up some tickets. Let's get them sold. Let's make this work.

There's another department we got the idea from, but they take all the money, the whole \$10 per department. We're giving away 10 prizes. They give away 10.

They're giving away \$33,000. We're giving away 10. We can make this work if we work at it.

Like I said, come get some tickets. Thank you. Absolutely, thank you.

If you have any questions, that is the paid report from fundraising day. I will, and remind me, Debbie, and I will get you the policy on that. It's not the funds, like it's not money that's limited.

It's how many events we can have for fundraising day. Yeah, that's what I'm asking you. We'll read your question please to the record.

My apologies. So the question was, what's the funding, or what's the limitation for the fundraising committee? Or it was two of them that said. The answer is national, I can give you the information.

Can you hold on to the question for me? Debbie Gordon. Thank you. Debbie.

You're 1 plus 195, right? So Debbie Gordon has 195, so I'll send you a question. What or who limits fundraising activities? John Bloxman, sir, ask the department commander if you have a question. I have a comment.

Yes, sir. "John Bloxom" This fundraiser, okay, you say you're making money. My experience, only in my post and in my business, and at the Tulsa Fair and the Creek County Fair, it's soft.

And then you do it, four days at the Creek County Fair. We have all the postings we created, same as yours, and blew them up a little larger. First person I talked to looked at it and said, why would I waste my money for pen and paper? I can't answer that question.

Four days at the Creek County Fair, I'm gonna give this to myself, even though we were trying, zero. A two-gun raffle, same time, and Chief Lynch said, at that fair, well, when Lynch said, we're selling it for \$5,000, and we got a special pocket to come up with that one later. But for the two-gun raffle, they couldn't move on.

There's a big disparity there. People are interested in this. I go to the Tulsa Fair, and I want to say somebody else will know this as well as me.

My sons were there, they sold the little things. Since we're operating at the Tulsa Fair on a contract that the witness was standing to interview. So we had this fundraiser, and it didn't work,

people weren't interested.

You couldn't even talk about it. The next day, we sold two things. What's the reason? That's the reason.

Every other folk that I've talked to that have basically the same experience, two, three, four, five things. If we're gonna earn money, we have to do something that the people are willing to look at first. If we don't do that, we're wasting our time.

We're wasting our time. We tried this once before, and I'm sorry that we lost time on the last time we fought the tribal. Let's not do it again in the future.

And if you know a whole bunch of people here, maybe some of them will stand up and tell you, there are a lot, I hope some of it's good, with this route. Thank you for your feedback. So what I hear you say is that you believe people are more interested in an item as opposed to just like a cash pot.

You know, like weapons or whatever the case may be. Other comments? Doug. My name's Van Bell, Post Commander 126 and Dispatch Commander 4. Thank you.

I just wanted to say the same thing. I was a total spectator from 10 minutes after nine, Friday morning till 10 o'clock Friday night. Did not move one ticket.

And I mean, I was up and down. I went everywhere trying to sell tickets in here. And had two people in the booth trying to sell tickets.

We could not sell whatever route I want. Only thing I can tell you that we did, and then I had talked with Karen Cruice, is I picked up three members. She had given me a couple of names and phone numbers so I could reach out to them and let them know that I was turning in some members.

Well, kudos on the membership. But that's all I can give. And do know that the comments may not be discussed in our committee meetings.

So they're not going unheard. I just wanted to put that out there. But I do know when we do the gun raffle, I don't know what it is, but they just clock through.

I mean, it would end up for us, we go out to at least three times a month, you know, and we do a gun raffle. We're out there four or five hours, and we're picking up \$500 or \$600 for the state. You know what I'm saying? Yep, yeah, that's right.

I mean, we turn in a lot of money to the state on a gun raffle, you know? That's all I have to say. Thank you. Thank you, Dave.

Other comments, questions, concerns? Richard One, District 1A commander. This kind of joins

between the membership and the raffle that we got going on. Our tickets were running real stiff.

I'd sell five or six. Then it hit me. Walked into Bingo one night.

Of course, I have to work Bingo. A lot of you who work Bingo. All right, our membership, that is real stiff at this time, okay? We gotta do something.

We got 55 people in our Bingo Hall. I stood up there and I said, all right, I got these tickets. If you like these people working here in Bingo, help us keep them here.

Their dues, we gotta help pay their dues. Can y'all do that? I've got raffle tickets. You buy a ticket, you buy a raffle ticket, and we'll pay their dues if they sell \$100 per each one of them.

Got me 17 members lined up right there. And if you look on the card, there's a spot in there somewhere that says host on the bottom. You also put your favorite member in there.

And those Bingo players in there, \$300, whatnot. Bingo, Rich. Other comments, questions, concerns? That concludes the report for the Finance Committee, or for the Fundraising Committee.

Thank you so much. All right, we're just gonna have this chair, Senior Vice-Chair. We are also the chair of the National Guard and Reserve Liaison Committee.

Co-chair is our Staff Department Commander and current NEC, Charlie O'Leary. We are still working on building that committee. While Charlie and I have met as the only two members of this current committee, I do need to vote.

I'm interested in finding folks, okay, come to me after this. Excuse me, I'm interested in finding folks, Vincent Berry, that might be interested in this committee and helping on this committee. I would like to really get a relationship with the National Guard and Reserve.

I know it's needed. We've just had some history in the past where it's needed. I think the time is now, but we need to build a committee and be able to move forward.

Oh, excuse me. Our comments is just ours, it's not nobody's. So are there any questions, concerns, or comments for this committee? First, Mayor, I just want to be brief.

Yes, sir. Commander, I want to let you know that we've already outlooked it out to our National Guard in this building. Post 64, Senator, this is what? Post 50 and 153, we raised funds to get our National Guard company banker.

Maybe I got the wrong name. I'm not an Army guy, I'm an Air Force background. You look pretty good in this one.

But yeah, we bought their NEP T-shirts for that room. But in exchange, in February, we're going

to get to talk to those people and let them know that the American Legion is here again. They're eligible today.

And hopefully, the First Sergeant Daniel Commander will say that they would propagate this to the other commanders who were serving in other. So hopefully, if this works well, we're going to try to set up a slasher that maybe they could do it all. My goal is every room with the Guard member should go see this.

And that's what this committee would do. And I'm all on board to help them. Thank you, Captain Douglas.

This is what that committee would do. So if you guys are interested, please get with me. The whole goal is to connect and have that central point for connection as well, for guidance, for subject matter expert, for whatever we need.

That's all things National Guard and Reserve. If you have any further questions, comments, concerns, that will prove my report. Thank you, guys.

I thought that's my final one. I need to report for national security. No, of course, it's not, Commander.

Okay, John Bishop is not here today. And this sort of is going to cover a couple of different points in the program. He's been busy putting together blood donor packets that have been taken to each of the district conferences so far.

He plans to continue that. Each post is given a packet so that hopefully we can engage and get more folks involved with the blood donor program. And that's going to CPR at the end of the year.

If you have any questions, please contact John Bishop, Stark Davis, or myself regarding that. And we can get you additional information if need be. Are there any other committees that have reports that I didn't follow? Steve Thomas.

Steve Thomas, past department commander. I don't as much as necessarily have a committee report, but in relation to a missing committee. So what I wanted to let the department know, or this body, as you guys know, when you guys put me forward at our summer convention with a resolution, last week I had an interview, earlier this week I had an interview with some national headquarters leadership.

And so two days ago, as a result of kind of the work that carried through from summer convention, I will now be representing Oklahoma at the national level for VA and our national mission as an ex-officio member and executive committee member, as well as being a national chairman over the Health Administration Committee. So going forward, if you have any relation, basically what the program that I'll be turning at the national level will do is to review and make

recommendations on the VA Voluntary Service, VAVS program, and all volunteer programs at these facilities, as well as reviewing and recommending policy as to veterans' state homes, and to ensure that the VHS research is fully funded and the VHS, the VHA affiliation with medical universities remains robust. So if you have any passion in those areas, or you have ideas that can help in those areas, please communicate them to me.

I got an email yesterday that I was named as the national chairman over this committee. So I've got a lot of work ahead of me researching and figuring out how to get ahead of this. But I am all ears for any suggestions that any of you may have as we move forward and try to move Oklahoma and work with Houston and the care that our veterans get in a better direction.

Thank you. They're right before you, Ms. Hayden-Woods. Hayden-Woods, post 39 commander, past department commander.

With that being said, over the years, we have had some issues in the state of Oklahoma supporting our candidates for higher office in our national level. Well, let's start this thing off right. Steve was given the resolution we voted upon.

We supported the resolution and went to national. Now it's there. Now we, as a department, need to step up to match our game with that.

But what I'm going to do is I'm going to walk around here in just a second with a hat, put some money in. Because now that you've been nominated and elected for this, that means you can now start fundraising in this state. We need to support the candidates that were going up there.

Whether you agree with the policy, if you're not, it's a decisive point in reality. The thing is, do we want to have Oklahoma, not necessarily individual, but do we want to have Oklahoma represented? I would say yes to that. I said yes to that once in the past.

So I'm going to walk around. I'm going to look you in the eye and determine how much you want to put in there. Now understand I could do the old Navy Chief stare or I could look at you as a friend.

So we're going to look at you as a friend today. But we're going to start this thing off right. You already heard that being on the level that he's at, he's trying to go for national command.

The money he raises is what he has to use to go around to occupy a candidacy throughout this nation. So he's going to need that money. He's going to be at the ones where we're going to be.

The room to get food and drink and hopefully some good drinks. Not like the last one, the last time. But we have to start here.

We have to support our candidates. All right. Not there yet.

I think that's great. Jimmy Gordon asked, who's the committee. There is no real committee this year unless he comes up with the volunteer.

This is just on a volunteer basis. There's no one. There's not, or Steve Thomas, past department commander, there has not been a full committee established, but there is a finance committee set up than it is as an entity post-178, and the memo would be future National Commander in Canada receipt, or a campaign project, excuse me.

Therefore, I'm done. Thank you. I'll get more quiet.

Thank you. All right, thank you. Media & communications.

"Mike Kerr" As many of you know, the American Legion Magazine is the number one red magazine when age is 18 and 35 for all males, number nine for females in the same age category. It's also one of the number one revenue generators for the American Legion. February of 2027, the format will change.

It will be more compact. It will not be smaller. It will be more compact.

The difference, the current Legion Magazine versus the new Legion Magazine is the size. The size will save us over \$2 million. In addition, going from a periodical to a marketing piece, currently we are limited on page numbers.

The new magazine will not be limited to pages, so it will be a lot thicker. The content will be the same. The jokes on the back page will be the same.

They have not decreased that at all. So a little improvement on that. So in February, you will see a change in the size.

It is more compact, but all the information will be there. Additionally, on the website for the American Legion, under the events tab, National has changed the formatting. Hope it's a little bit more intuitive.

On the department website, under events, you will also see a DEC tab. You will see district meeting tabs and leadership tabs. If you wanna know when meetings are taking place, go to the events tab and it will be listed on there.

Marketing and public affairs, we have done a much better job as a department on maintaining each of our individual Facebook pages and not tearing each other down. That is being noticed by National. It should remain positive because that is a public face of the American Legion for the members we wanna keep and those we wanna try and get in.

So please keep that positive. If you have negatives, that's fine if you listen to them, but there are three important buttons if you maintain a social media site. One is hide, one is delete, and one is

block.

The department has a policy on that. It's on our website. If you have a personal attack against an individual, your comment will be hidden.

You're given three chances and you will be deleted the fourth time you are blocked. It's not that we do not want dissenting opinions. We do not need or want personal attacks.

If you wanna personally attack somebody, speak to them personally face-to-face. Have that much integrity for yourself and for them. Legacy for the Legion.

As part of the marketing and public affairs, for this department to grow and keep going, if you wanna keep a legacy and you wanna secure your legacy in the American Legion, consider adding us to your will. LIT, the Legion Life Insurance Policy. It's free for you as a leader.

If you go on and sign up for it, there's no cost, but if you're on Legion Business, you get \$5,000 if there's an accident or your family has, I should say. So consider that. Also, when you sign up, the department gets a small stipend for everyone that you sign up for.

So if you sign up and get your free \$5,000 policy, the department actually gets a little percentage of that. So it costs you nothing and the department makes money. And it only helps you and your family if you're on Legion Business.

So consider that as well. Also, again, it doesn't cost anything to leave a legacy for the Legion. With our four pillars of hope, write us into your will.

It can be as small as 500 or it could be as expensive as 5 billion. And you can earmark what you want it for, scholarships, you want a general revenue fund. So consider leaving a legacy for the Legion.

The last thing I will go over is working with the Be The One. We're gonna add a new thing on our website on the Be The One and it's You Matter. If you have a National Guard post in your community, they used to have something called a family readiness group.

Now it's called a community support outreach group. Contact them, coordinate with them. You should be calling all of your members to check on them for Be The One.

Coordinate with those community support groups to reach out to those National Guard veterans because most of them are coming off of deployment. Since 9-11, Oklahoma National Guard has been deploying every month of every year without a break. Those National Guard veterans, when they get home, they have no one.

They don't have to support the active duty guys, do they? They go home to their local house that may or may not have an armory and they're normally by themselves. Reach out to them, work

with those people. And when you call them and they ask, why are you calling? Two simple words, You Matter.

Everybody in this room matters. Everybody in this room has value. And when you say that, look them in the eye and tell them because they matter, you matter.

When they get that phone call and they know that somebody actually gives a darn and that they matter, that can save a life. That can be the difference between a state of total depression and hope. What keeps someone from committing suicide is a grain of hope because somebody thinks they matter.

So when you go out and you're looking at a veteran, look them in the eye and hopefully with sincerity tell them they matter because they do what you do. So you'll see that on ours as well. National is gonna actually do an article on this.

At Post 64, we go to our armory that we have. We have a former family relations group but now it's a community support. We're working with them to contact our veterans because they deploy all the time.

Again, the two words, you matter. Okay, so you'll see that on there. I'm gonna be, lastly, I'm sitting on a survey to see what other social media the department wishes to have whether it's LinkedIn, is it Discord, is it Instagram, is it TikTok, is it YouTube? So you'll be seeing that on our website.

It'll be sent out via Zeffy and give us your input on what other type of social media you'd like to see. That is all I have for the media communications and marketing and public affairs. Any questions with me? Hearing none, thank you, Committee.

"Commander" Thank you, I appreciate that. Are there any other reports? So real quickly, I would like to go over a couple of slides that I can consider all business. I've already mentioned the blood donor package that will be taken to all the district conferences.

I have submitted a finalized list of committee chairs, vice chairs, co-chairs and I've already had one individual essay. So there are, I believe, three blanks on there that I'm still looking to fill. The detachment will have their separate convention away from the department as they help with their review.

We are going to reactivate the Constitution and By-Laws Committee with multiple terms set up similar to the finance committee. We will continue to pay the bills until the October DEC and the adoption of the final budget that again has been continuing for 30 days. And with the help of Stark, we're going to design and implement a two-step email process for DEC voters when we have to do a vote in between meetings.

I have held two monthly senior leadership meetings so far and I feel like they have been

productive with some great ideas coming out of it and some things that we plan on looking at working too. Do I need a motion that the old reports be accepted? Is there any discussion on the committee assignments? Do we want to take a vote on that and then we find the additional individuals and send it out to the DEC for another vote? Do we need a motion if that's what you set to use? What's the name of it? Right there. So let me rephrase it and maybe you can type it.

Can I get a motion to accept the committee report as is and I will fill in the three additional positions at a later vote. Commander Scott Hilderberg, District 3A. Commander, I move to accept the committee reports and present it with the option for you to fill in additional as needed.

Thank you. Do I have a second? First here at DEC, second. Now that I have a motion and a second, is there any discussion? Seeing as now there's no discussion, all in favor say aye.

Aye. All opposed, say nay. And the motion will pass.

So moving on to new business, we've already heard about the Oklahoma City's on-person application in 2030. Chris, would you like to address the proposal regarding top family leader members? Would you like to address the proposal for top family leader members having a voice in their vote? Oh, yes. So I believe that since we are a program of the American Legion, as the SAL, that our presence at your DEC meeting is vital for our organization and our betterment through our operating.

We do have a member that is a Legionnaire, our liaison will be a member, but having a representative from the detachment to speak on my behalf when I'm unavailable to speak on behalf of the detachment is pertinent to the information that you're being provided because at times we either conflict with your meetings or we have separate meetings that you might not be privy to or have the ability to be on our meetings. So I believe that having a representation with voice on this body would be very pertinent. And I believe moving forward, if we can establish it a permanent position would be vital to continue this relationship that has been built over the past few years and would strive to meet that gap that we've had for so many years.

So I wish that this body approves and looks into the future to make an established position to have a voice without a vote on this DEC. Thank you, Matt. Thank you.

Thank you. Well, I ain't, well, I ain't good at it. I need to clarify what the request has actually been made.

If you're talking about voicing the DEC, the sons and daughters and children of guests are allowed to have a voice. If you talk about making them a member of the DEC, you have to realize that the sons are not members of the American League because that's what they have to do. That's the report that's out in the comments.

The rest of them is not their focus. If you want to be a member of the DEC, that's the DEC that's

gonna be against the DEC and they're not speaking to the DEC. So if we're talking about going back and changing our constituency and making them a member of the DEC, that's not their focus.

Past Director of the Department of Commander, Steve Thomas. Steve Thomas, Past Department of Commander. So as the agenda lists, they're not asking to be declared members of the DEC.

They're looking to have the programs of the American Legion, which would include the sons, ALR, baseball, all of the leaders of each one of those programs to have a voice. Since everything that this body decides on going forward, 110% has an effect on everything that each one of those programs do. So it would make sense for these programs to have a voice to be able to answer the questions of this body moving forward for the betterment of the family.

Thank you so much. Is there any other discussion? So we will allow, Debbie, sorry, Debbie Gordon, DEC 1A. Forgive me if I'm wrong, but didn't we have this discussion a year or two ago and we agreed to do it then? So why aren't we doing it again? It was brought up and somebody said that we hadn't made it official.

I don't know. I can find it one way or the other in the past months. Yes.

What was brought up years ago was that I was wanting to make him a member of the DEC. Longer than I'll go, as a member of the DEC, I was hoping to be a part of the dreaded offense in the game, and at this point, I thought it was not appropriate and that's why it's been out of the constitution. Since then, the National Command has been out in the building for his letter to talk about being with a woman.

If you look at the DEC membership, what we're talking about, we're talking about having more stuff on file. When you talk about being registered for being with a woman, you're talking about living with her. And you're looking at all the abilities for a police member to have a relationship.

That's what we're talking about here. We're talking about being with a woman. For the record, I have no problem with that.

I just wanted to clarify while we were doing it again. All right, thank you. Hayden, do you have anything else? Hayden, do you have anything else to report? I'm gonna ask Scott Hildenberg to go to the mic and talk about accountability for ceremonial rifles.

Thank you, Commander. Once again, my name's Scott Hildenberg. I'm the District 3A Commander down in Southeast Oklahoma.

And I would like to present a little bit of information specifically to the front table, but a lot of it's gonna go back to our District Commanders and our Postal Commanders that are present. I want to talk real quick about the static play and the ceremonial rifles that you may or may not have in your possession or your postman in possession. And I had the opportunity to speak with Daytona

County National Defender and I approached them and I said, hey, I'm in Post 68 in Oklahoma and I want to know what rifles I'm supposed to have.

She said, none. I said, oh, well, I hypothetically have nine. I won't admit to anything.

She said, really? Can you send me the serial numbers? So I took pictures of my rifles and I sent it to her. I had seven rifles from a default posting with Oklahoma and I had two rifles, Daytona Post 12, who loaned them to us 20 years ago, who knows? They had all been reported lost in or stolen, lost in or stolen. So I have kind of gone through this nut hole with PICOM and I am returning the nine rifles that we had at Post 68 and they are going to reissue us a big nine with new rifles, well, new, right? They're going to send us to Garand versus the old 1903 ones.

So this is a cautionary tale for other post commanders and other district commanders and vice commanders and senior vice commanders and commanders, adjutants, jacks, right? I went and I pulled up all the paperwork that you need to request additional rifles, I'm going to request rifles. Packed it on the back page. I do want to talk a quick couple of things about this.

If you have a post that has a static display, that means a female piece of equipment, could be a helicopter, could be a towed artillery piece, could be an armored personnel carrier, could be a submarine, could be a boat, you know. Right? Those are required to be inventoried every year and you must send pictures back to TACOM every year that you inventory those static displays. Must.

Your ceremonial rifles must be certified and inventoried every three years and you must send back that certification to TACOM or they will start, they will come up with more than lost or stolen. All right? So cautionary tale. If you're a district commander and I have a regiment that has a static display of your post, remind them of this requirement.

The requirement for certification is easy, it's all done online. I've already certified the nine rifles. They're sending me my new ones, I'm going to send them back to your old ones.

You just go on to their website, TACOM. Click it and say you've got them and you're done. And it's that easy.

If you don't, bad things can happen. Couple quick things. Do not load or transfer your rifles when on the boat.

Well, we appreciate it. Okay? And if you can't like transport the housers either, once they're put in place, keep them there. Don't try to train or unload.

But if you're going to request new rifles, it's easy, it's quick with some simple paperwork that you will require an endorsement by national headquarters. TACOM will contact national for you if you didn't endorse the four year old boats and if they are inactive boats, they will do that for you. I

started the process after national.

I really kind of started doing the paperwork about two weeks ago and we expect to have our new rifles next week. So from submission of my paperwork to delivering our rifles, it's going to be less than 30 days and we're going to be good for the next three years. Commander, some of your questions.

I got it. Yes, sir. The lines.

Service to your post 153 commander. What did you have? And I'm not kidding you. Rifles here are radically the schemes from like the VFW.

Let them know. So my instead of talking, so I talked with Jacob Bauer, who is the special also talked to the chief at TACOM for the Army loan program. If you have rifles, if you could sit and the email is on the paperwork, email them, take pictures of the serial numbers of the rifles.

They will pull up where they came from, when they were issued and then they will walk you right through it. For us, because that's kind of where we got, they came from another organization. They simply said, acknowledge, we got it.

We'll assign them to you and you certify and ship them back to them. They'll send you new rifles. And literally it's been 30 months I'm going to have new rifles.

Any other questions? Three hundred and thirty-two. Yes. So if you request a stay, like they will put you on the list as well.

They don't come out as often, Commander. The last I heard was about a four year wait for your fourth to come around. And that's based upon, they only have a limited number of pieces of equipment.

They get the old equipment back and they're both closes. They'll take your old equipment back or as one of the services, demil the whole piece. They do it as well.

They recently did a black box. They built some black box. They got those set up and talked to some about what to do if you find me.

So yeah, there's about a four year wait. And they will contact you when your name comes up on the list and ask you if you want the equipment. They'll, yeah, we do.

All right, thank you. Thank you. Next up is on the agenda was the war angle.

The next subject on the agenda was the color of hats that people are wearing. I was asked a question here a while back, several months ago, or maybe a year or so ago about that. I did some research on it.

It was the National Resolution, National United States Resolution that was passed, if I'm not mistaken, I didn't realize, I don't have to bring it up, in 1964, if I'm not mistaken, which spelled out what color of hats people should be wearing, okay? Simply stated, it says it's up to the Department Constitution to make the determination that through the offices of the Department, if you look at our constitution, it tells you the offices of the Department of Oklahoma Simply stated, if you look at that page, I'll tell you what offices the Department is, what the offices of the District of Color and what the NEC, it tells you who those offices are. Simply stated, Department officers wear a white hat, District officers wear a blue and white hat, the National and NEC, and NEC often wears a red hat.

So that's basically the way it was then. So that's been in effect since 1964. Unfortunately, a lot of people say, well, we've always done it the other way.

NEC members wear a red hat. Committee members wear a white hat. That's not supporting the National.

Does anybody have any questions? Okay. Since we've worn white hats for, I don't know how long, Debbie Gordon, NEC, one name. Since we've worn white hats for, I don't know how long, you know, probably since 1964, can we at least be grandfathers until July? Because the DEC comes up for a vote this May or at the spring convention.

And some of us are probably gonna go off to DEC and see silly that dividing hat for six months. And it'll take us six months to get the hat in anyway. As a matter of fact, she just said that she took the DEC to a convention and gave the grandfather then to the next convention.

All I did, I just looked it up real quick, and in the article, DEC gives you the list of department offices and DEC. All I'm doing, I hate to be the bearer of bad news, but I'm just telling you what the rules are. That's what the rule is, 1964.

It's kind of buried in there. Go on, I found it by accident, and I'm awfully sorry, but all I'm doing is telling you what the rules are. That's all.

Article 11 of our constitution, so today is gonna be awful as well. And if anybody wants to talk about that resolution, if you'll get with me, I'll leave you a copy of the resolution so you can read it from me too. Good luck.

Okay, so Debbie had raised the question about being, about being grandfathered. We had talked about making it all effective with the summer convention. So until then, you can wear the hat you've been wearing, but if summer convention, we would request that you wear the appropriate hat.

Wasn't that? Okay. I'm sure that wasn't it. No, I don't know what.

Okay, so department officers. Who am I first? I'm gonna start with the report. Yeah, think about the people in here if you can't hear me from the top.

Maybe you're set for the front, right? Maybe that is. There you are. Department officers, department officers listed in the article said, department officers consist of the following, department commander, senior vice commander, senior vice commander Lee, vice commander Wes, judge advocate, adjutant, treasurer, historian, sergeant of arms, chaplain, surgeon, representative of the veterans commission.

We, this is gonna be interesting too. The district officer shall consist of district commander, district vice commander, with an S on it so it could be more than one, and the district representative to the department executive committee. I say that's interesting because how many of you have more officers than that? The national executive committee to the American region would be elected by the department when that'd be the national executive committee, man and the office of the national executive committee.

So basically, working it by that all, black hats, district commander, vice commanders, and this DEC, blue and white hats, NEC and ANEC, red hats. Okay, Debbie Gordon, DEC 1A. I still stand by my, it only affects the DEC reps because the boy state, boy baseball, all those people are not district officers.

Pam Cricklin, blue hat. I'm sorry, I can't understand, blue hat. You folks can do blue, everybody else, blue hat.

Okay. Any other discussion? Okay, I think that's it. That's the department commander, Steve Thomas.

Nice to see you, Steve Thomas. Just to give a little bit of insight where there's obviously a little bit of confusion, even our national riders chairman, we're a blue cover, and he is a national chairman. So if you are not an actual member of the national staff who wears red or the department staff that wears white, everybody's cover in this room is a temporary cover except for the blue one.

Every other one of them is rented for a short period of time. So that's what I have. Thank you, Steve.

And there were some questions brought up about procedures for changing districts from A and B to just the district. And that basically is a resolution of which we will discuss a little more in detail later. First merger updates.

I know there's some folks out here that they're talking about merging. I believe they have a paper work. How are you coming along with that, Scott? Commander Scott, head of our district 3A.

So I've got two posts that we're gonna merge with a third down in McAllister. We're gonna take 250. The plan right now is to take 250 McAllister and merge them with 79, and then take 445 out of Krebs and move it with 79 as well.

We've been in contact with the commanders and the executive committees for both posts. I have an additional meeting with them on Tuesday evening. They're still ironing out some agreements as far as the namings of the posts and if they wanna reapply for a new charter.

I'd hope to have that information to Dale prior to this DEC. They didn't get it completed. So we're working on that.

I should have that prior to the next DEC for approval. So thanks. Thank you.

Is there anybody else out there that has a post closure or merger? John, ask the department commander. Pardon? I have three. Okay.

The bridge up, four B, six post. Two of those six posts, one of them is a paper post. Post 144 in Dustin.

According to National, they have five members. Right, they do. Two of them are dead.

One is a one-year member. Two are public, who don't live in that town, never did what we did to you. Never attended that post.

So when I visit that post, there is a plan. Period. How did I find out? Well, I posted this week before.

I took all the paperwork, I mailed it to them, just like I'm supposed to do. I got it back from the post office. I got three years back.

Oh, the postmaster got fired over it. I talked to the guy who allegedly was the commander. He hasn't been a member of the American Legion since 1924.

I proposed to close post 144. There are no living members of that post. It has the bank account.

They bring back, you know, I talk to me, period. They have a bank account there. I've been told it's \$5,000.

I recommend to you that you ask your Department of Attorney to attack them, to communicate with Maverick Bank, with Lika Opal, and inquire about the account of post 144. That's the first one. The second one is post 242, the tollgate.

Again, national citizen, there's five members in that post. I have two posts, one or two veterans, two older folks who don't attend at all. The other three people in there, one has moved away, they're both involved, can't communicate with them at all, or one goes down.

So, as a part of that post, has no intention of joining again. He will not renew. Sergeant at Arms has renewed, so I've got two locals in the Sergeant at Arms.

They have two buildings. The county has taken them off of the tax exempt roles. They are now on the tax rolls.

Again, we have an old post. We have two brick buildings that you might consider taking possession of. If I go back, I can kind of see people's names who was receiving the tax payment, who was with me as a veteran.

They are in the region properly. Again, I suggest that maybe our attorney consider talking to Hughes County or Colton County. If you can't put those two buildings back on the tax exempt role, would you transfer them to the department? Or would you put them back on the tax rolls? To the non-tax rolls? They also have probably five or six acres of land to go with those two brick houses.

They're trash. I visited the office with Sergeant at Arms. It would take two, three days.

It was a brush off. I couldn't do that. I'd have to cut trees out of the air and replace windows.

I'd have to do roof on and on. If we're not careful, we'll lose both of those buildings to somebody else. The third post is Post 7, Tonawa.

Tonawa has six members. They have a beautiful building. The French houses are outside in the front.

The bottom of that front. They haven't had it in 83 years. They have no intention of having it.

They're not going to do that, but it's an injury. Their proposal is that they give it to the city. Now, I could visit the city, see if they want it, or if they're closing the post, starting the whole process and it should be put to a level.

Holding a special meeting with them and then taking the proposal to the building. It is in the American Legion conference at Seminole now. I would like to have permission to begin the closing process on those three posts.

Post 70, Post 142, Post 144. There are two other posts, one in that same four-B district who claim that they're going to close. And that's Post 72 in Haven.

That's a large post. Currently, they have 37 members. Haven 27.

Almost 70 on parole. That post commander decided to close. But he won't come into the meeting so I can attend and find out what else to do.

This meeting, me visiting, the district commander visiting in Stockholm saying, I'd be happy to

attend their meeting if you'd be willing to go. I don't know if it would do any good, but it's a great post and good membership of them. It's a money-making vehicle system.

But I think we need to turn them around somehow. My visit can't do it. I've already talked to them.

And then I have another post that's being built. That's in 4A. That went over.

72. 72 has a banner right there, the sun to ban on the, 72 has the sun to ban on auxiliary, right? Auxiliary is totally separate, downtown away from them. They're not allowed in there.

They have a sun? They have a sun. Okay. Thank you, Sheriff.

The auxiliary has been divorced from them for a year. They have their own boss. Reverend Anderson.

Yes, Anderson. Post 234, post 234 in Bowling, in the next meeting, they meet historically black folks. Their building is condemned.

The black hole is not going to be fixed. They have no renewed membership. Their next meeting is Saturday.

That's Saturday. I'll look at that meeting, see what they have done. I'll also send that post commander a letter and ask them what the plan was.

It doesn't look good. If they come back and say they're going to close, you are going to have permission to close the process. Yes, we do.

I will go with you to post 72, to let me know when. My support of John on Bowling, they also have an auxiliary there with only four members. The primary members are nursing home.

Once she passes, the other three members will cease their membership. So they will no longer have a Legion family there. So I will support John in his effort to start the closure of 234 Bowling.

If you don't mind, I want to take just a second to cover something I think is important. So this comes up quite often. My understanding, we do not have the ability to close the post.

We can only recommend that they close by nation. There's two ways that can happen. One is a voluntary because the post won't close.

And then the other one is if we go in and take action upon the door. So the post does not go from post to post, then we have to take action upon themselves. If the post is dying, like I was there and talking about, then it's a voluntary thing.

But when you look at that sheet of paper, because when the door gets ready to have to fill out, it's pretty complicated. So you basically go there and ask for a lot of historical stuff about how many

veterans are on the area. And basically, it's a pretty tough thing because they want to know why you closed the post if you've got 300 veterans and so forth.

But the bottom line on it is, what we would do is if it's a voluntary thing, is to go in and fill out the forms, recommend them to national, and then national will be the one that actually makes the decision. If you keep talking about the auxiliary, I think most of you probably know that if you call the post closings, if there's not many auxiliary closings, they can do what they call a will, and they can make that decision. I just want to make sure everybody understands that.

If I'm fired off and we hear the district commander come up and say, we're not doing what we want to do, therefore we need to close it. That's a disciplinary action. It would get people, nobody wants to be there anymore, then it's a voluntary action, and it is a fine for the district commander.

Closing a post is never easy. I've been through this 20 times today. But being a department commander, district commander, whatever, it's difficult.

You spend a lot of time just to research. You have to provide them three years of back membership. That's normally fairly easy.

As an adjutant, you have the ability to go back. If you look at the right report, you can get three years of back, but you gotta look at it. And in those questions, they say, what's the demographics of that post? You gotta get into Google, look.

Might have to go to the city hall, the county seat to ask. You have to check the tanker authority committee. If you send an email to them, they will tell you how many arrived on the issue they planned.

And are they still accountable? The four posts that I just talked about, all were issued 8 to 16, number one, not one to nine. They never reported them. Since they were never reported, they've been dropped from the roll by tank authority.

So we go in there and we find those and start all over, as he said. I now have to take those eight weapons, take them back, secure them, take pictures and send them up. If a tank authority notices, nope, they're not ours, then I ain't have a problem.

I found eight rounds in a doghouse, literally a doghouse. And again, wake up in the hall, put them in the vault, report them. Tank authority can't come back to them.

Clearly, we're looking for those that have been missing for 12 years. Send their bombs. I got an extractor in there.

I took them down, got them packed, shipped them at their expense. But it's taking time. If you're gonna close a post, you're gonna invest six plus two a year.

Just through the day, on a number of calls. Then why do they have money? What can you do with the money? All of that money must be disposed of. The builder must be disposed of.

The post is supposed to give you a plan of how they're going to dispose of all that fodder. But if you find \$20,000, am I gonna allow them to make a trust on scholarships for high school students in their town? I think this body has to make that decision. So all that information has got to come back here.

If you've never closed a post, the forms are available online. Download them, take the time to read them, and do your homework. Plus, you've got to send letters to every member of that post.

Live in our data. Gotta keep a copy of it, but it has to be in the enclosure so you're able to come back to the department. So, once the department gets it, they've got an endorsement on it.

Once they place their endorsement on it, they go to Madigan. They only look at these things twice a year. Same thing with murderers.

Same for suicide. Take the time, look at it, follow it all the way up to the front page. Thank you.

Thank you. Don't buy it. Just make sure everybody understands what John just said.

John's been talking to me for two years on this. As long as I've been Vice Commander, I know he's been thoughtful in these. So he's not moving forward just willy-nilly on these four.

I think that he's asking though for some support, Constar and our lawyer with 242. He says 344 and 242. 144.

144 and 242. 242, especially because it sounds like the VFW is trying to take that over. I would like though, if Chris Cook, if you could tell us just to make sure the four that we're looking at, is there an effect on you, the sons, with any of those? I mean, the one with World War II vets and things.

But if you could just- The only post that would affect them would be 72. If they really decide, whoa, then you can tear us off. Right, but today we're not looking at 72.

We're looking at the other four, right, John? That's what I'm asking. I don't want to- Right, we're still observing them. The other four, Chris? Well, 44 is under 242.

242 does not have a top colonel on the charter. On the staff, I think it's 73. Yes, so just for future information, if a post closed and they have a squadron either active or inactive, but if they have a charter, if there's any members within that squadron, they'll be transferred over to 213 and then

they can be transferred over to another squadron at their request.

We do not have the ability to operate separate like the artillery because we are a program of the post. Squadron's a program to the post. It says the detachment is the program of the primary.

So we cannot exist separately. So the members will be transferred over to 213 and then they can be transferred over to whichever squadron they request. Thank you.

Thank you. So John, are we looking for a motion? Was that a motion to move forward? I just need permission from DTC to begin the process. Okay.

Once they give me permission, once they give me permission at the DTC to begin the closing process, the squadron has only 40 spots in the building. I'll bring it back here in five seconds to make it used in the DTC down to 213. Okay.

Debbie Gordon with DTC 1A. I move that we give John Block some permission to proceed with finding it where they want to close and to do anything they want to. Thank you, Debbie.

Is that a good enough motion? Do I have a second? Seconded by Councilor Landrieu, 1.6, I second the motion. Thank you. Is there any discussion? Do we have a motion? Doug Hale.

Doug Hale, DEC District 7. I do, I have gone through this with John before, but when you get these folks that have buildings, that have cash, that has to be disposed of. In my case, we even had some mineral rights up in Leedy. What's really helped, if you can find an attorney, gotta do some pro bono work to help you.

The property in Eric, we needed the property to the city, wanted to use it for something. So there's people in the community that can use it as far as the cash goes. I believe it belongs to the community.

That's where the money came from. In almost all of my cases, we donated it to the school scholarships. And in a couple of cases, we donated it to a memorial fund in the cemetery for veterans.

So there's multiple things you can do with those assets. The only problem with allowing the property to go back to the tax road, while it's still in the American Legion tank, we're gonna get it back. All right, so we have a motion and a second to give John Clark some permission to look into the closing of the post he talked about.

All in favor, say aye. Aye. Any opposed, say nay.

Okay, so the motion passes. Thank you, John. Are there any other questions that we need to talk about? So we've been waiting for post 135 at a telecloth.

Point of order. Who are you? Which post, what position, please? Karen Cruz, Vice Commander

East. So we've been waiting for post 135.

It was supposed to be closed under Lee Cathey. And post 203 out of district 3B to be closed out of Hilton. And from Stark's report back to me, neither one of the DEC has previously voted to close both of those, but paperwork has been lost over the years.

So Stark's recommendation was that the DEC revotes to close both of them. So I'm asking the DEC to redo what's already been done. Hayden Woods, Post 39 Commander.

Past Department Commander. 203 was actually closed on paperwork was submitted to Patty Jackson out of National. I have the name.

They did submit that. The unfortunate problem was they didn't catch it in time. They put a awful back into that post.

And then the last two years ago, they put in a one year memory. So it's not the department, it's actually at National. But submitting the paperwork will not be a problem.

I think we still have copies of it around somewhere. Thank you. Bobby? Okay, Kayla? Kayla Rector, 2A District Commander.

I'll try to make this pretty quick. Like Karen said, 135 has still been showing up. That's all we need to do.

Let's go ahead and get that done. That was before my time. So not sure how all that went down.

Real quick. So we have Post 317 out of Quorum. They were more than likely are looking to merge with Post 22 Stigler.

They contacted me a few weeks ago. The guy who is the acting adjutant, or the only adjutant, only member that's active in that post. The commander apparently had a heart attack and was living in a assisted living facility up in North Tulsa.

So he's been talking to me about that. They haven't made any formal action yet, but I'm planning to have a meeting with 317 and 22 to see what they wanna do going forward. Post 403 Oak , they have about four active members.

Their commander has pretty much abandoned them. Found that out. She's been completely unavailable.

We're looking to have them elect a new commander. If it's so, what they choose to continue on with the post. Also talking to them about what they want in their future.

If they wanna continue on or not. If they wanna work revitalizing. I'd like to keep them, but I'm not gonna force them if it's, you know, if it makes sense.

Post 186 Westville is pretty much on paper. I know the membership cards, I guess there was an issue. We didn't even get membership cards from them this year for MASH.

I'm not sure what's going on with that. I've been kind of talking to Stark about it. Since MASH convention, we're still working on what's going on with that.

But the post, from my knowledge, they don't meet, they don't exist. They're on paper. They look like they're on paper, membership-wise, but there's nothing else to that.

I was just informed, because Stark was informed about five days ago before he made the email, Post 339 in Merlin. A little bit of backstory, about a year ago, their adjutant came to me. Their commander was not in good shape.

The adjutant and the commander worked to, they had three static displays. They had a Huey, a Tank, a Houser. They worked to get the static displays up because they wanted to return them to TACOM.

They wanted to close the post. We had some members who actually were members of the Department of Oklahoma before, transferred from Arkansas. The leadership resigned, we instituted new leadership.

They did phenomenal the past year. They reached 330% in membership. They were killing it.

I was just informed that their post commander has had a heart attack. He is now in Oklahoma City living with family. His wife is also disabled.

Their sergeant-at-arms is gonna be undergoing three different brain surgeries in a few days. And the treasurer has got his own medical issues that he's dealing with. So this came from the adjutant.

I emailed her back. I have not heard anything yet. If I don't hear anything over the weekend, I'm planning to call her Monday, Tuesday, just to kind of touch base and see what's going on with them.

Take it with them also. But that's where we're at with that. So just as I would request permission for post 317 Forum, 339 Rowland, and possibly 186 Westville to start the clothing procedures if they associate fit and or murder from this body.

Okay. Do I have a motion to allow family director to move forward with either closings or murders? Robert Marshall, 6B, Command and Development. I'm Robert.

Post 126, I second that. Thank you. Post 135, District 2A, 4K, West Pine.

Was closed by this body for an illegal activity. Property was sold. Money was... Then our front

lawn.

All the memberships were transferred at one point by the district commander. All the regular fraternities by the district chair. Should be re-tied for pre-testing.

I don't know. It sounds like it'd be the only time we'd have that. And I doubt it's very good.

You might want to hear clearer. People are going off the left as opposed to the right. That may be the start of the second one.

Yeah, Director 2A, Commander. Just like John said, from my knowledge, everybody was transferred out within the past two years or so. There's been... They're finally out now.

Now the membership report is showing zero over the past year or two. Somebody has been moving members in and out. And I have to keep moving them out.

I've had to transfer everybody. There was, at one point in this quarter, I've had to do this and I've had to transfer. I think there was nine members that I personally transferred to 213 to get them out.

Because we were trying to figure out what was going on. So I'm not sure if that could have held up that process or kind of restarted something. I'm not for sure, but that's what's been happening so far.

Okay, I'd like to mark it with a firm hand to the bottom and approve. Yes. Okay, we have a motion to allow the director to move forward.

And a second. Is there any other discussion? All in favor, say aye. Aye.

All opposed, say nay. Okay, that motion is passed. Now we have a motion.

And I'll ask, is there a second? Currently 3B's commander has been signed. As the vice commander, I am the acting, again, acting vice commander. I apologize.

Big Woods, post 39 commander, past department commander. No. 3B will be our officer.

I'm sorry. Apologize Scott. District three will be holding a meeting on the 24th to try to elect a new commander.

If there's not a new commander from district elected, I will probably fulfill those duties until my time expires. So we need a motion for 3B to have permission. Karen Cruz, vice commander east.

Hey, I'm so glad your husband's home. So we need a motion for 3B leadership to have permission to move forward with reclosing 203. You don't want us to put a name to it, is what you're saying? Hang on a second.

I gotta make this sort of... The information has already been collected. It's at national. Just because national can't find it doesn't mean it's not there.

You're talking to department level, not national level. Department has done their job. Instead of child, the other one too.

Yeah, I didn't want to get into this. Here's what's happening. National keeps making a mistake.

All right, they put people into these closed posts, which technically is still closed. We have, as a department, we have to move them out. I can regenerate the paperwork.

I don't need permission to regenerate something that's already been done. See what I'm saying? I just got to find the paperwork we can resubmit it. I don't need permission to close a post that's already closed.

Yeah. But if you want to give me permission to close the post again. So there is paperwork listed on 203? Yes.

He was transferred in about a year, year and a half ago after the post was closed. And then national, the guy went online, signed up again, and national, without checking, put him in the post because he's a local member of that area. It was not done through the department.

It was actually done through national. Okay, so I would request a motion for him to resubmit and transfer the POPL for post 203. Bobby? Bobby Marshall, commander of the district 6B.

I'll put forth a motion for him to be on the board to resubmit the paperwork. Thank you. I'll second.

Scott Hilderberg, commander of the committee of ASA. Thank you. Is there any discussion? Seeing there's no discussion, all in favor say aye.

Aye. Any opposed say nay. Okay.

Bobby, do you have something to say about that? Bobby Marshall, 6B commander. Once again, I've been keeping the leadership informed during our senior leader meetings. The current situation we have at the moment, Marlo has been in discussions about merging.

They're posting the Duncan Post 55. At this point, they're making one final push to try to save the post. I've given them in discussions until the spring conferences to show us any progress whatsoever.

If it remains dead, they can push forward at that point to see merging the post they've been closing in. Post 258 is still trying to figure out and decide which they want to do because out of that post, they prize most of the Stevens County Honor Guard. So that's the one thing that they're concerned about is losing the post, the building, and everything else there.

Then the Honor Guard thinks as well. So at this point, that's what the situation is in both of them. I just want to make sure that the leadership was informed about where we're at and what we have at this time.

All right, thank you. Next on the agenda would be any new posts. I do know that there is some discussion with two, one with the prison, as we already have two prison posts on this site that have went to the post.

There is another person that is considering it, and then we have a group of individuals who are trying to get enough signatures and numbers to start that post. So as that moves forward, I will keep you all informed. Mr. Anderson, I have a question for you.

Yes, I want to make sure you all know that after the, and Dan may want to talk about this, but after the convention this summer, our department convention, we approved several resolutions that by section of the constitution paragraph, since then they specifically changed parts of the constitution in a few areas with clear identification of those changes. So with Dale South, we went ahead and just made those changes directly as they were described, but then the constitution, like we had in the prior constitutions, annotated on the constitution form that the constitution was revised per that department convention. We noted those, listed those changes at the end of it, and it's posted on our website.

So I just wanted to let you all know that that's, as far as I think Dale can maybe, if he wants to come up and say something about it, as far as I understand it, that's all been done for the department convention. We just made those annotations. So we can argue other processes.

That's fine. This is why I'm bringing it up, but I'm just telling you that's what we want. So.

How about Arkansas and Poland there? A great way to get stuff done. You gotta have a constitutional bylaws committee in order to fix it. Okay.

I understand John said we have to have a constitutional bylaws committee to fix it. If you do not win election as a department commander, sometimes it is very difficult to get individuals to step up and take a committee chair. I have done due diligence and still, even today, I still have three open spots.

Soon as we get that committee chair in place, they will be, and we will go forward from there. Mike? Madam commander on the website. Mike Kerr.

We did an annotation on the department website in the files and forms. It says proposed constitutional bylaws of the date and a current constitutional bylaws on the date, just after that. So if you look on the website, you'll see one that says proposed, and that's the one with the changes, and one that says current.

That's the one without the changes on the website. Thank you, Mike. Debbie? Okay, Debbie

Gordon to DEC 1A.

On the constitutional bylaws changes that we're going to make that presented in the convention, is there any reason why we can't make it a revision and get rid of all the crap that's in there and the misspelled words and the words that are wrong? Haven't revised it in 10 years. It's only been added, amended, amended, amended. As long as we make sure that everything that's in there stays in there, can we not rearrange it to where it's logical and make it a revision? Is there any reason why we can't do that? I can look into that for you and find out.

Makes sense, Debbie. The basic problem with it is the constitution itself that says you have to have the content. They all ain't good at it.

I believe that the only problem with that is the way the constitution itself says the amendment has to be approved by the constitution. We could go back in and make all those changes, but it's still needs to go back to the convention. It's still needs to go back to the convention.

As far as the last change is concerned, we talked about going to the constitution bylaws committee. Those resolutions were approved at the convention. There was nothing for the constitution bylaws committee to go back in and look at and approve.

Those were approved. The only thing that was amended at the constitution is that the wording of those resolutions, which were approved by the convention and put into the document, which made us update the document. So that's not a matter of what we're going to do.

It's a matter of what the convention did at the last convention. Those were approved. And the only thing we did is we amended the document to include the approved resolutions.

And I think you'll find that the wording was about as close to what the resolution said as we could possibly make for it. Debbie, go ahead and do EC1A. I think you misunderstood what I was trying to say.

When we do an amendment, like we've been doing in revisions or non-revisional amendments and adding in these resolutions, we end up with something in one spot and then the same thing, maybe worded a little different in another spot. And you have to keep going and trying to, let me not revise it and get all the stuff in where it's supposed to be, not change anything. It's just get it more logically formatted.

I only follow what you're saying is you're taking the word amendment and following it, revising, and thinking it's a different subject. Revision is still an amendment. Well, some of these days we're going to run out of paper and have to go to page two on our title page because we keep going down, amended, amended, amended, amended with the data.

I mean, eventually it's going to have to be, say, revision and start over with new amendments. So

I'm just wondering if maybe 10 years is long enough to do that. All right, the current version of the Constitution, John Clark, different four DEC's.

All right, the current version of the Constitution and Bylaw 23. There have been a lot of proposed changes and some actual changes that need to be incorporated into that. Okay, now, Karen was working on, no, it is not.

The current approved version of the Constitution Bylaw 2023, period. Now, yes, that was the last of it. That is the current version.

I mean, that's part of that, of the count. Karen has some proposed Constitution that was presented to the department at the convention. It was not approved.

So if they're making corrections, amendments to a Constitution and Bylaw that has to be the 2023 version. Most of the stuff that Karen was trying to do, we had already done, Dale and myself and National. She had all those things, but there were changes in her version that didn't get approved that we needed to sit down and work on.

She's the only one that knows what it is, other than the things that came out this year's convention needs to be added in. But Karen's the only one that knows what she did to this. Dale, I'd like to remind you that the date was July 2022, the part that committed the resumption to Bylaw that we've been working on for quite a while.

Part of the proposed changes to the formal document, son. 2023, I hear you. This is the approved version.

That's it. Now, as I said, there is a paper out. That she proposed.

She proposed and I have the backdrop page. That's not the title, but what I was going to put on the map, if you need anything, but it didn't go before the convention. We did have letter of motions that went through the convention that were approved by the convention.

Unless the DEC is going to go along with what's in the extended convention, those resolutions span, and all we did was amend it to turn up the constitution of Bylaw to include resolutions for work. So anything else we would say, if this body wants to go back overrides, we'll have to remember to take everything in. And if I'm not mistaken, constitution of those provisions is now on the website.

When it is the current constitution of Bylaw, we need to be working on it. Because there is a case in point that we do need to amend it to approve the capital constitution. If we have other changes that we're not amended, then we'll need to review the resolutions that went through the convention and the extended convention.

And then we can go back and make a new proposal. All right, just so everybody knows, they've

been hanging around with the hat earlier, they can pledge \$300 for Steve Thomas. There are six resolutions pending out here with the passage of the committee members today.

There were six resolutions that have been submitted for consideration with the passage of the new committee member chair today. I would say that we let the committee resolutions committee meet, send it forward to the DEC for a letter later preferably the midwinter conference in January. I'm gonna ask Patricia to step up here for just a minute to talk about the midwinter conference and the fundraising idea.

Patricia Mathis-Kerr, senior vice president. So the midwinter conference, we did get approval and authorization from the Norman AFRC, the Armed Forces Preserve Center for the weekend of January 15th. So it's that weekend, that Friday, Saturday, Sunday.

All we have to come back with them is with our logistical requirements, audio visual, chairs, tables, always let us be there. What I'm bringing before you right now regarding that is the fundraising committee would like to have a window night, Friday or Saturday, I think we're looking at Friday, but we want to keep the DEC involved in every step of that because it does involve money flow and things like that. So today, what I would like to do is get approval and support from the DEC to have a window night at our midwinter conference.

And we do have specifics if there are questions. I am all for giving you, the DEC, the information as we'll go from our meetings, if that is what you so would like. But the first step we need to have is that whether you approve or disapprove of us having a window night at the midwinter.

John Lawson, DEC, and a group of four women. I am the Special Officer for the DEC. If you go not, you can move on.

Thank you, John Lawson. DEC blocks them. As a motion, is there a second? I will make the motion we are on a second that motion.

Thank you, John. Is there any discussion regarding putting them not? Now that we have the motion in effect. Oh, we're here.

Well, I'm glad to be here. I just want to let you all remind me there are legal requirements for that. So I'm going to let Julie go through the slides if you don't mind.

And we are doing exactly that. We have got several posts across the state that are going to do Bingo that are actually combining with us to make sure we meet the legal requirements. You guys don't have litigious signing.

Homegirl's not great to have on my own. So I'm going to make sure we're litigious, make sure you guys are kept in the loop on everything, funding, legal, certifications, license, and where you need. Further discussion.

I have a couple of questions to do. Sorry, I have a question for the commander. A couple of questions.

First, where are you wanting to hold the Bingo? So we're going to be holding it at the AFRC. Okay, Bingo licenses are not transferable. They have to be held at the location in which? It is geographically specific and we're prepared for that.

Okay, so what post or what name would it be under that would encompass that Norman readiness facility? Karen Ritter of Team Lead would you like to address that? Karen Ritter posted on 70th Road. So yes, it's specific to the site, but the department can apply for a charity Bingo license, which they have one that can be up to four times. And it states in there that you can put the location specific that you are giving it.

There's nothing that gets able about the department holding it. So it's not centered to what post you're at. We can choose to go through a post that is in Norman for this one if we choose to, but we do not have to.

We can get the charity Bingo license that way. And then if we choose a different geographical location within those four, we just have to report that location change to the AFRC. All four locations we can choose to do that.

What post is this going to be under? Or is this going to be under the department as a whole? It would be under the department as a whole. And that's exactly what she described. And Andrew, do you want me to help with this one, buddy? It doesn't matter.

My deal on that is we need to make sure that any of those posts that are participating, they will not be infringing on their four authorized- Yes, that's why we've got the department and not specific to the post. But they need to remain separate. They don't need to be on- And we can delineate that specifically so there's no legal question.

Any other questions, concerns? Karen, did you have anything else you wanted to add to this? So, Karen Herter, Coach Monson, Nick Crowe. So, earlier, Coach Herter passed out a form to you guys that says, in Karen's lead-up, this is just a sample, like my previous level we did at Post 178. No, not all these costs will be incurred at that level.

This is just what we've required at our- This is exact, just a sample. Yes. So, it's not really gonna cost a lot in the grand scheme of things.

It looks like a lot of front costs. It's not really. I have examples for other stuff that we can hit at another time.

They're, like, we have a spreadsheet that we've already prepared so we can use, so we can record our sales, calculate our payments, and do this up and above board. Any questions on that

before I- Any further discussion? Okay, without further discussion, would you have a motion and a second on the board? Those in favor of the motion, say aye. Aye.

Those against the motion, say aye. Motion passes. Thank you guys for this opportunity.

We will keep you in the loop on everything. It's going to be imperative that we do for the DDC. The paper specifically asks our national, and Steve has in place a committee running for national commissioner, that we submit a statement of support from the Department of Homeland Executive Committee.

So, a proposed statement basically says the Department of Oklahoma DDC enthusiastically endorses with 100% support Department of Oklahoma Legionnaires and Homeless Officers for a future national commander of the American League. Signed by myself, Charlie Larry, and Stark Natives. So, I need a motion to accept this statement of support.

At present, this is one of the standard statements that we have. All right, I have a question. Do I have a second? Richard Kahn, District 1A, commander.

I second that motion. Thank you, Rich. Do I have any discussion? If there is no discussion, all those in favor, say aye.

Aye. Any opposed, say nay. Good, thank you very much for your support.

At this time, is there a reason for not getting each member to the executive session? Let's see. Ken, Ken Wyatt, would you make that request? The item that you have to talk about, make the motion. Ken Wyatt, Ken Wyatt, first one to live in there, but one part of the committee, so I didn't know if I could make the motion.

Okay, we have a motion to move into executive committee. Do I have a second? I second. Illinois, District 1A commander, I second that motion.

Okay. So, okay, we'll back up for just a second. Ken, I'm sorry.

Hold on. No, Ken, go back. No, no, go back.

Go back. Without going into details, would you explain why we need an executive session, please? We have a formal complaint between two officers of the D.C. Right. And since Ken is not a voting member, I have to have a voting member make the motion, and then another member make the second.

First, the order of proposed 153, make the motion to go ahead and take the second. Do I have a second? Okay, District 1A commander, I second that motion. Is there any discussion at this time in the office? I will also add that we will be discussing a request from post-1800.

Is there anybody here from post-1800? Richard Russell, member of the Court of Appeasement

under all the office of the District of Illinois. Okay, so we will have two items that we will discuss in executive session. So, all in favor of going into executive session, please say aye.

Aye. All those opposed, say nay. Nay.

Okay, so if there are any questions, please have all non-D.C. members, non-voting members leave the room at this time. All those in favor, say aye. Aye.

Nay, two. All opposed, D.C. We're now entering the regular session of the D.C. members. At this time, is there someone that wants to make the motion on item number one? Yeah.

This is for me. I would love to have maybe a group of maybe five people. Okay.

Maybe you'll have a second? First, we have one, could you read that again? Any discussion? Seeing as there's no discussion, all in favor, say aye. Aye. Any opposed, say nay.

Nay. Okay. On item number three, is there anybody who wants to make a motion? Zeke Jenkins, Commander 5A.

I make a motion to accept the item as requested. Do I have a second? Yes, Commander 1A. It's Richard, and I second that motion.

Point of order. You need to step down. Steve Johns, Class Department Commander.

Mr. Zeke, can you clarify if you are voting to accept the member back or to refuse to recover the member? Jenkins, Commander 5A. I motion that we accept the member back. Thank you.

Thank you. Any discussion? All in favor, say aye. Aye.

All opposed, say nay. Nay. I want a roll call.

A roll call vote? Okay. We'll do a hand vote. I will have Steve and my family voting members on them.

All in favor, raise your hand. In favor of taking the member back vote. In favor of allowing the member back to vote.

Thank you. All opposed? All right. All right, by the nays, the 14th motion has failed.

What? Failed. Failed. It will not pass.

Is there anything that needs to be brought before the DEC for the good of the legion? This one's working easy, and it's on a good note. I cordially invite any and all of you, I will be releasing the schedule. Hopefully either this evening or tomorrow.

I'll be a social media up at post 178. we'll be doing our 22 event on November 22nd, starting at 2

o'clock and going through to November 23rd at noon. So we'll be doing a 22 hour stand in, same place as last year, same layout, and Mr. Kerr will be my site administrator.

Thank you. Karen Cruz? Karen Cruz, Vice Commander East. My post 1776 would like to invite the DEC to our naming ceremony, Kirk A. Owens.

He passed away August 2nd, 2011. It will be on November 6th. Social hours at 5.30, dinner will be at 6 o'clock, Square One Compassion Center in Tulsa.

We appreciate anyone that can attend to be there. Thank you. .

Next weekend, the Oklahoma Army and Air National Guard will be hosting a trunk retreat at the National Guard Museum. The Legion family from Oklahoma has two spaces there, two booths. They will be manned primarily by the sons.

We're looking for legionnaires and auxiliary members and riders to assist. The National Guard has paid for all the candy. So all we need to do is have bodies to hold those two booths.

It's a great opportunity to tout the Legion family for the guardsmen and the public that will be there. More information, please contact me if you're interested in going. Thank you very much.

This will be held at the, the question was where? It will be held at the Oklahoma National Guard Museum, the brand new museum that's at Oklahoma Military Department. That is next Saturday. It's at basically 36 MLK.

So if you need more information, please contact me and I'll make it available. It's free for us. We just have to show up.

They have all the candy that we could do. Is there anything else? At this time, I will have Senior Vice Commander Patricia Fernandez-Burr to give our introduction. Please come to the podium.

Thank you, Father. Thank you for this meeting today. Let us have business together and fellowship for life.

Lord, thank you for letting Oklahoma State and the people that are with you. For people that are with me today, let us live with camaraderie and friendship. Thank you, Father.