

THIRD DEPARTMENT EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING

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THE AMERICAN LEGION  
DEPARTMENT OF OKLAHOMA, INC.

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THIRD DEPARTMENT EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE (DEC) MEETING

ARMED FORCES RESERVE CENTER  
4000 THUNDERBIRD STREET  
NORMAN, OKLAHOMA 73069

JANUARY 18, 2026

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STATE OF OKLAHOMA -- OFFICIAL TRANSCRIPT

THIRD DEPARTMENT EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING

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18 Attachment Commander to be Included as Voting Members of

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22 Summer Convention (Department Adjutant Redden) . . 17/4

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Adjutant Applicants and Select One Applicant on Behalf of

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15 -Civil Air Patrol Requesting DEC to Reinstitute

16 Award for Civil Air Patrol Squadron

17 (Awards Committee Chairman Paul Ray) . . . . . 46/8

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19 Patrol . . . . . 49/23

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21 -VSO Compliance (Commander Sikes). . . . . 50/10

22 -Spring District Conference Dates. . . . . 51/17

23 District 8: April 11, 2026, Woodward, Oklahoma

24 District 5: April 18, 2026, location TBD

25 District 7: February 21, 2026, Mangum, Oklahoma

District 2: March 21, 2026, location TBD

District 6: February 28, 2026, Tuttle, Oklahoma

District 4: May 9, 2026, Bristow, Oklahoma

(Changed from April 25, 2026, in Executive Session)

District 1: March 7, 2026, Pryor, Oklahoma

District 3: April 11, 2026, Heavener, Oklahoma

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(Motion made by Cmdr. Sikes, seconded by Cmdr. Harris.)

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### THIRD DEPARTMENT EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING

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1 (Meeting called to order at 1349 hours.)

2 DEPARTMENT COMMANDER THOMAS: With the colors of  
3 our nation in place, Sergeant-at-Arms.

4 DEPARTMENT SAA LAGER: Hand salute. Two.

5 DEPARTMENT COMMANDER THOMAS: All members and  
6 guests in attendance shall remain standing with their cap  
7 removed and placed over their heart through the Pledge of  
8 Allegiance, opening prayer, and through the POW/MIA  
9 Ceremony.

10 Please join me in reciting the Pledge of Allegiance.

11 (Pledge of Allegiance was recited by all.)

12 DEPARTMENT COMMANDER THOMAS: Department  
13 Chaplain, would you please give us an invocation?

14 DEPARTMENT CHAPLAIN STEWART: Let's pray.

15 Lord, help us today and direct us in this executive  
16 meeting to conduct the business of the Department of  
17 Oklahoma. Guide and direct every comment, every  
18 discussion; everything that is done, that it be done  
19 decently and in order.

20 We ask these things now in Christ's name. Amen.

21 COLLECTIVE GROUP: Amen.

22 DEPARTMENT COMMANDER THOMAS: Resolution 288,  
23 adopted at the Legion's 67th National Convention, calls  
24 for designating an empty chair at all official American  
25 Legion meetings as a continual symbol of the thousands of

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1 POWs and MIAs still unaccounted for from all wars and  
2 conflicts involving the United States of America; and the  
3 cause for which we stand, namely the reparation of  
4 remains of those who died bravely in defense of liberty  
5 or a full accounting of all those still missing.

6 Accordingly, at this time, the POW/MIA flag has been  
7 placed on the chair as a reminder for all of us to spare  
8 no effort to secure the release of any American prisoners  
9 from captivity.

10 Let us pause and observe a moment of silence as we  
11 rededicate ourselves to this vital endeavor.

12 (A moment of silence was observed by all.)

13 DEPARTMENT COMMANDER THOMAS: Please re-cover.

14 Join me in reciting the preamble to the Constitution  
15 of the American Legion.

16 (Preamble was recited by all.)

17 DEPARTMENT COMMANDER THOMAS: Please be seated.

18 I now declare the third regularly scheduled meeting  
19 of the Department Executive Committee for the 2025-2026  
20 year convened for whatever business that comes before it.

21 Do I have any newly elected members of the DEC? Do  
22 I have any newly elected members of the DEC that have not  
23 been priorly sworn in?

24 Please come forward. Raise your right hand and  
25 repeat after me, giving your name where I give mine.

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1 (Oath was administered to Rachel Bratcher.)

2 DEPARTMENT COMMANDER THOMAS: You may lower your  
3 hand. Congratulations. Thank you.

4 (Applause.)

5 DEPARTMENT COMMANDER THOMAS: The Adjutant will  
6 now call the roll.

7 DEPARTMENT ADJUTANT REDDEN: Senior Vice  
8 Commander Shirley May.

9 SR. VC MAY: Present.

10 DEPARTMENT ADJUTANT REDDEN: Vice Commander East  
11 Karen Cruice.

12 VC EAST CRUICE: Present.

13 DEPARTMENT ADJUTANT REDDEN: Vice Commander West  
14 Lance Larson.

15 VC WEST LARSON: Present.

16 DEPARTMENT ADJUTANT REDDEN: Department Judge  
17 Advocate Dale Haynes.

18 DEPARTMENT JA HAYNES: Present.

19 DEPARTMENT ADJUTANT REDDEN: Department Finance  
20 Officer Sam McPherson.

21 DEPARTMENT TREAS/FO MCPHERSON: Present.

22 DEPARTMENT ADJUTANT REDDEN: Department  
23 Sergeant-at-Arms Ed Lager.

24 DEPARTMENT SAA ED LAGER: Present.

25 DEPARTMENT ADJUTANT REDDEN: National Executive

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1 Committeeman Charlie O'Leary.

2 NEC O'LEARY: Present.

3 DEPARTMENT ADJUTANT REDDEN: District 1A

4 Commander Karen Ritter.

5 COMMANDER RITTER: Present.

6 DEPARTMENT ADJUTANT REDDEN: Department Rep to

7 OK Veterans Commission Brett Martin.

8 DEPARTMENT REP TO OVC MARTIN: Present.

9 DEPARTMENT ADJUTANT REDDEN: 1B Commander

10 Andrew Fisher.

11 COMMANDER FISHER: Present.

12 DEPARTMENT ADJUTANT REDDEN: 2A Commander

13 Kayla Rector.

14 COMMANDER RECTOR: Present.

15 DEPARTMENT ADJUTANT REDDEN: 3A Commander

16 Gary Pierson. Gary Pierson. Gary Pierson.

17 Gary Pierson.

18 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: His First Vice is here.

19 DEPARTMENT ADJUTANT REDDEN: Please announce

20 yourself.

21 FV COMMANDER HILGENBERG: First Vice

22 Scott Hilgenberg, 3A.

23 DEPARTMENT ADJUTANT REDDEN: 3B Commander

24 Jack Sikes.

25 COMMANDER SIKES: Present.

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1 DEPARTMENT ADJUTANT REDDEN: 4A Commander  
2 Tom Snodgrass. Thomas Snodgrass.

3 Is there any other 4A or 4B commander present?

4 DEC REP BLOXOM: (Raised hand.)

5 DEPARTMENT ADJUTANT REDDEN: Yes, sir?

6 DEC REP BLOXOM: Not commander. DEC.

7 DEPARTMENT ADJUTANT REDDEN: We'll get there in  
8 a moment, sir. Thank you.

9 5A Commander Mike Harris.

10 COMMANDER HARRIS: Present.

11 DEPARTMENT ADJUTANT REDDEN: 5B Commander  
12 Eric Grubbs.

13 COMMANDER GRUBBS: Present.

14 DEPARTMENT ADJUTANT REDDEN: 6A Commander  
15 Grant Bower. Grant Bower.

16 Is there another representative from 6A present?

17 (No response.)

18 DEPARTMENT ADJUTANT REDDEN: 6B Commander  
19 James Rees.

20 DEPARTMENT COMMANDER THOMAS: Excused.

21 DEPARTMENT ADJUTANT REDDEN: Is there any other  
22 representative? I don't believe so.

23 7 Commander Elmo May.

24 COMMANDER MAY: Present.

25 DEPARTMENT ADJUTANT REDDEN: 8A Commander

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1 Joe Kingery.

2           COMMANDER KINGERY: Present.

3           DEPARTMENT ADJUTANT REDDEN: 8B Commander  
4 Wayne Flowers.

5           COMMANDER FLOWERS: Present.

6           DEPARTMENT ADJUTANT REDDEN: 1A Department  
7 Executive Committee Representative Debbie Gordon.

8           DEC REP GORDON: Present.

9           DEPARTMENT ADJUTANT REDDEN: 1B, Ron Bunch.

10          DEC REP BUNCH: Present.

11          DEPARTMENT ADJUTANT REDDEN: 2A Representative  
12 Jim Quinn is listed, but I know Jim's not here.

13          Is there anybody from 2B -- or 2A?

14          DEC REP DEER: 2B is here.

15          DEPARTMENT ADJUTANT REDDEN: Yeah.

16          And 2B, Curtis Deer.

17          DEC REP DEER: Present.

18          DEPARTMENT ADJUTANT REDDEN: 3A, David Seyler.

19          DEC REP SEYLER: Present.

20          DEPARTMENT ADJUTANT REDDEN: Am I saying your  
21 name right? David, am I saying your name right?

22          DEC REP SEYLER: Seyler (pronouncing).

23          DEPARTMENT ADJUTANT REDDEN: I agree that sailor  
24 sounds bad.

25          (Laughter.)

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1 DEPARTMENT ADJUTANT REDDEN: 3B, James Akin, is  
2 excused.

3 4A District Rep John Bloxom.

4 DEC REP BLOXOM: Present.

5 DEPARTMENT ADJUTANT REDDEN: 5A District Rep  
6 Melvin Hopkins.

7 DEC REP HOPKINS: Present.

8 DEPARTMENT ADJUTANT REDDEN: I didn't see him  
9 earlier.

10 5B District Rep Danny Thomas.

11 DEC REP THOMAS: Present.

12 DEPARTMENT ADJUTANT REDDEN: 6A District  
13 Representative Don Kuntze.

14 DEC REP KUNTZE: Present.

15 DEPARTMENT ADJUTANT REDDEN: 6B Representative  
16 Larry Wilson.

17 DEC REP WATSON: Watson. Present.

18 DEPARTMENT ADJUTANT REDDEN: I know his name. I  
19 don't know why I wrote down Wilson.

20 District 7 Representative Doug Hale. Doug Hale.

21 8A District Representative Tina Kilmer.

22 DEC REP KILMER: Present.

23 DEPARTMENT ADJUTANT REDDEN: 6B Representative  
24 Jack Day.

25 Now, what does it say right there?

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1 DEPARTMENT COMMANDER THOMAS: 8B.

2 DEPARTMENT ADJUTANT REDDEN: Oh, yeah.

3 8B District Representative Jack Day.

4 Past Department Commanders that are here, please  
5 rise and identify yourselves.

6 PDC O'LEARY: Charles O'Leary, Post 142, Hominy.

7 PDC TAYLOR: Michael Taylor, Post 12,  
8 Bethany-Warr Acres.

9 PDC WOODS: Hayden Woods, Post 39, Durant,  
10 Oklahoma.

11 PDC BLOXOM: John Bloxom, Post 126.

12 PDC KUNTZE: Don Kuntze, Post 353.

13 PDC MARTIN: Brett Martin, Post 12.

14 DEPARTMENT ADJUTANT REDDEN: Commander, we have  
15 28 voting members present.

16 DEPARTMENT COMMANDER THOMAS: I declare a quorum  
17 present.

18 DEPARTMENT ADJUTANT REDDEN: I will now call for  
19 those who have no voting rights but have voice in our  
20 assembly.

21 Department Historian Wayne Flowers.

22 DEPARTMENT HISTORIAN FLOWERS: Present.

23 DEPARTMENT ADJUTANT REDDEN: Department Surgeon  
24 John Loose.

25 DEPARTMENT SURGEON LOOSE: Present.

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1 DEPARTMENT ADJUTANT REDDEN: Department Chaplain  
2 Bobby Stewart.

3 DEPARTMENT CHAPLAIN STEWART: Present.

4 DEPARTMENT ADJUTANT REDDEN: Alternate National  
5 Committeeman Michael Taylor.

6 ALT NEC TAYLOR: Present.

7 DEPARTMENT ADJUTANT REDDEN: And Department  
8 Adjutant.

9 Thank you, Commander.

10 PDC MARTIN: Point of order. Two names were not  
11 called on the list that should have been, the ALR  
12 Director and the Sons.

13 DEPARTMENT ADJUTANT REDDEN: Detachment  
14 Commander Chris Sherbourne.

15 SAL DET COMMANDER SHERBOURNE: Present.

16 DEPARTMENT ADJUTANT REDDEN: American Legion  
17 Riders State Director Brett Martin.

18 ALR DIRECTOR MARTIN: Present.

19 DEPARTMENT ADJUTANT REDDEN: Thank you.

20 DEC REP KUNTZE: Commander, would you make the  
21 announcement to have them use the microphone when they're  
22 speaking, please?

23 DEPARTMENT COMMANDER THOMAS: I will, sir.  
24 Thank you.

25 Just as a reminder, please make sure to stand and

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1 wait to be recognized. Identify yourself, for the  
2 stenographer, with a microphone, please. Speak slowly.  
3 Remember, we are all professional Legionnaires. Let's be  
4 respectful, have some camaraderie, and get the business  
5 done so we can all get on to our personal lives.

6 The adjutant will now read the minutes of the last  
7 DEC 2 unless there is a motion to accept and approve the  
8 minutes without the requirement of the reading.

9 DEC REP DEER: Curtis Deer, 2B DEC. I make the  
10 motion to not read them.

11 COMMANDER HARRIS: Mike Harris, District 5A  
12 Commander. I second the motion approving the minutes as  
13 presented.

14 DEC REP DEER: Thank you for correcting me.

15 DEPARTMENT COMMANDER THOMAS: I have a motion  
16 and a second on the floor. Any discussions?

17 Hearing none, all in favor say "aye."

18 MULTIPLE SPEAKERS: Aye.

19 DEPARTMENT COMMANDER THOMAS: Any opposed, same  
20 sign.

21 (No response.)

22 THE COURT: Motion carries.

23 We obviously went through a ton of reports this  
24 morning, so unless you have a vitally important report  
25 aside from what was given during general session, if so,

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1 please step forward.

2 The Chair will recognize Department Finance Officer  
3 Sam McPherson to address any questions that may be  
4 included in the report that was presented.

5 DEPARTMENT TREAS/FO MCPHERSON: Good afternoon.

6 First of all, on the accounts, in our operational  
7 fund that we use day-to-day, there's \$36,000. We also  
8 have \$146,000 restricted. That includes our CD for the  
9 building fund, including the \$900 interest we've made so  
10 far. Also, that includes the set-a-sides we have for  
11 Oratorical scholarships and for the money we're going to  
12 set aside for the retirement fund, if we have to pay them  
13 that again.

14 Currently, this year, we've had an income of  
15 \$185,000, and we've spent \$208,000. So that's a negative  
16 \$23,000. However, looking at our budget guidelines, the  
17 budget was a little precluded to the front of the year  
18 than the end of the year, so it doesn't really look out  
19 of the ordinary so far.

20 And if there's specific questions, feel free to ask  
21 them at this time.

22 Seeing none, that concludes my report, Commander.

23 DEPARTMENT COMMANDER THOMAS: Thank you, sir.

24 Any further? Hearing none, we'll move on.

25 We will now, at this time, are there any resolutions

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1 to come before this body?

2 (No response.)

3 DEPARTMENT COMMANDER THOMAS: Mr. Hale has  
4 joined us.

5 Quick, brief moment of housekeeping. For those of  
6 you that were here yesterday, obviously you'd seen  
7 Mr. Akin around the convention or around the meetings.  
8 Last night Mr. Akin, Sr., was hospitalized. He is doing  
9 better currently. So keep that family, our family in  
10 your prayers.

11 Moving on to any Unfinished Business. The floor  
12 recognizes Mr. District Commander Mike Harris.

13 COMMANDER HARRIS: Mike Harris, District  
14 Commander, District 5A. About two years ago a resolution  
15 was put before this body, and it was -- the bottom line  
16 is it was to include the ALR Director and the Detachment  
17 Commander to be included into the DEC as voting members  
18 and a voice, and we have not heard anything from that.

19 Where is that, and what is the status? That should  
20 have been done by now.

21 DEPARTMENT COMMANDER THOMAS: Mr. Harris, can  
22 you give me an approximate timeline? Because that was  
23 prior to me joining.

24 COMMANDER HARRIS: It was done two years ago.

25 DEPARTMENT JA HAYNES: May I respond to that?

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1 DEC REP KUNTZE: Microphone, please.

2 COMMANDER HARRIS: That resolution was presented  
3 two years ago.

4 DEPARTMENT COMMANDER THOMAS: The floor  
5 recognizes Judge Advocate Dale Haynes.

6 DEPARTMENT JA HAYNES: I don't recall a  
7 resolution. If we have it, I would like to see it again.  
8 I do recall that that came up a couple of years ago when  
9 Commander Martin first took over as commander. I do  
10 recall that we was told that there has to be a change to  
11 the constitution. I was asked to do a report on that as  
12 district commander. I did that and pointed out that it  
13 could not be verbally done and therefore it died.

14 Since then, the judge advocate did a ruling on who  
15 the members are of the American Legion. So, therefore,  
16 these are programs, not necessarily something that needs  
17 to be a part of the DEC.

18 So I think that's the answer to the question as to  
19 why it was never done.

20 DEPARTMENT COMMANDER THOMAS: The second one is  
21 with Mr. Harris.

22 Does that answer your question, Commander?

23 COMMANDER HARRIS: Yes.

24 DEPARTMENT COMMANDER THOMAS: Thank you.

25 Any other Unfinished Business? Hearing none, we'll

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1 move on to Old Business and Correspondence.

2 Hearing none, we'll move on to New Business, and the  
3 Chair will recognize Department Adjutant Rick Redden.

4 DEPARTMENT ADJUTANT REDDEN: I have four things  
5 I need direction from the DEC on: two involving the  
6 process to hire a new adjutant; two involving  
7 summer '27's department convention.

8 So, to begin with, with the department adjutant, I  
9 recommend that the DEC appoint a three-person committee  
10 to review, interview applicants and select one on behalf  
11 of the DEC as a whole. I recommend that those three  
12 people be the Department Commander, the Department Senior  
13 Vice, and a third person to be selected by you, hopefully  
14 today.

15 So I would like that. If you could, somebody make  
16 that motion so that you can discuss it and come to some  
17 conclusion.

18 Thank you.

19 DEC REP DEER: DEC 2B Curtis Deer. I make that  
20 motion.

21 DEPARTMENT COMMANDER THOMAS: We need to  
22 identify a third member first.

23 DEPARTMENT ADJUTANT REDDEN: You're going to  
24 select a third member during discussion.

25 DEPARTMENT COMMANDER THOMAS: Okay.

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1 All right. I have a motion on the floor.

2 COMMANDER RITTER: Karen Ritter, 1A District  
3 Commander. I'll second.

4 DEPARTMENT COMMANDER THOMAS: I have a motion  
5 and a second. Any discussion?

6 MR. TALBOTT: Commander?

7 DEPARTMENT COMMANDER THOMAS: Microphone,  
8 please, sir.

9 MR. TALBOTT: Larry Talbott, Post 5. If you're  
10 going to include a third member, you've got to select  
11 where he's coming from, whether the DEC or the district  
12 commanders or the local posts or a member at large.

13 Thank you.

14 COMMANDER RITTER: Point of order.  
15 Karen Ritter, 1A --

16 THE COURT: Microphone, please.

17 COMMANDER RITTER: Point of order.  
18 Karen Ritter, 1A District Commander. He's not a member  
19 of the DEC.

20 DEPARTMENT COMMANDER THOMAS: Thank you.

21 DEPARTMENT JA HAYNES: I'm going to shoot from  
22 the hip here, but I think you'll find that the Rules of  
23 the DEC say that he can speak if he's given permission.

24 MR. TALBOTT: Mr. Commander, I have permission  
25 from our District Executive Committeeman Don Kuntze.

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1 DEC REP KUNTZE: Microphone, please.

2 MR. TALBOTT: Mr. Commander, I asked permission  
3 of District Executive Committeeman Don Kuntze to speak on  
4 the floor of this committee meeting.

5 DEPARTMENT COMMANDER THOMAS: I give you  
6 permission, sir.

7 MR. TALBOTT: Do what now?

8 DEPARTMENT COMMANDER THOMAS: Go ahead, sir.

9 MR. TALBOTT: Oh. Okay.

10 This certain member you're talking about, on the  
11 resolution, it needs to be designated who it's going to  
12 be --

13 DEPARTMENT COMMANDER THOMAS: It will be  
14 designated, sir.

15 MR. TALBOTT: -- whether the DEC, district  
16 commanders, a general member at large, or a post  
17 commander -- somebody. It just can't be a wide-open  
18 person.

19 DEPARTMENT COMMANDER THOMAS: Understood, sir.

20 MR. TALBOTT: Thank you for the consideration.

21 DEPARTMENT COMMANDER THOMAS: The floor  
22 recognizes Adjutant Rick Redden.

23 DEPARTMENT ADJUTANT REDDEN: If I didn't say it,  
24 it was my intent the third member would be from this body  
25 because this is the body that has to decide who that next

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1 person is going to be.

2 The second thing was, remember, our Commander  
3 appoints committee people, so we're not looking for a  
4 vote. We're certainly looking for volunteers from this  
5 body. And then, my motion was to allow him to set up the  
6 committee, give the committee the decision power over who  
7 the next adjutant was going to be.

8 DEPARTMENT COMMANDER THOMAS: Thank you for the  
9 clarification, Adjutant Redden. Thank you for the  
10 clarification.

11 So I will open to any volunteers from this body who  
12 would like to volunteer as that third position.

13 DEC REP GORDON: I have a question.

14 DEPARTMENT COMMANDER THOMAS: The floor  
15 recognizes Debbie Gordon.

16 DEC REP GORDON: Debbie Gordon, District 1A DEC.  
17 When we first talked about this in DEC 2, Rick had made  
18 the comment that he wanted to be one of the ones to  
19 decide between the last candidates.

20 DEPARTMENT COMMANDER THOMAS: No. So the way  
21 it's going to be --

22 DEC REP GORDON: He changed his mind then?

23 DEPARTMENT COMMANDER THOMAS: The way it's going  
24 to be structured is he is going to, obviously, permission  
25 from this body, to start the interview process and

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1 basically present a final four -- three, four options to  
2 this committee to make their suggestion to this body.

3 DEC REP GORDON: So he does have some input  
4 before it gets to the three?

5 DEPARTMENT COMMANDER THOMAS: That would be  
6 correct.

7 DEC REP GORDON: Thank you.

8 DEPARTMENT ADJUTANT REDDEN: The floor  
9 recognizes Past Department Commander Brett Martin.

10 PDC MARTIN: Brett Martin, Post 12. I would  
11 like to nominate Don Kuntze, as a past department  
12 commander, to sit on this committee. With his sage  
13 advice and years of leadership, I think he'd be vitally  
14 perfect for this role.

15 DEPARTMENT COMMANDER THOMAS: Is that a position  
16 you're willing to accept, sir?

17 DEC REP KUNTZE: Don Kuntze. I accept the  
18 position.

19 DEPARTMENT COMMANDER THOMAS: The nomination.

20 DEC REP KUNTZE: The nomination, yes.

21 DEPARTMENT COMMANDER THOMAS: Mr. Deer, you made  
22 a motion to approve myself and Senior Vice Shirley May.  
23 Will you amend your motion to also include Past  
24 Department Commander Don Kuntze?

25 DEC REP DEER: I will.

### THIRD DEPARTMENT EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING

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1 DEPARTMENT COMMANDER THOMAS: Right behind you,  
2 Sergeant-at-Arms.

3 COMMANDER RITTER: I'll second that.  
4 Karen Ritter, 1A District Commander.

5 DEPARTMENT COMMANDER THOMAS: Thank you.

6 Any discussion? Hearing none, all in favor to  
7 approve the three designated names to the committee to  
8 select our next department adjutant say "aye."

9 MULTIPLE SPEAKERS: Aye.

10 DEPARTMENT COMMANDER THOMAS: Any opposed, same  
11 sign.

12 (No response.)

13 DEPARTMENT COMMANDER THOMAS: The motion  
14 carries.

15 The Chair recognizes Adjutant Rick Redden.

16 DEPARTMENT ADJUTANT REDDEN: The second issue is  
17 guidance from you about what salary we can offer a new  
18 adjutant. It is my recommendation that, rather than try  
19 to specify a salary for someone we haven't even selected,  
20 that you set a cap, a max amount, we can offer somebody.

21 Obviously, different people's situations are  
22 different. I was okay with a relatively, what I  
23 consider, low salary because I had other sources of  
24 income. That's not necessarily true of other people who  
25 might apply.

### THIRD DEPARTMENT EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING

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1 I did a salary search. A nonprofit executive  
2 director in Oklahoma has a range of 90,000 to 120,000.  
3 Someone with a title Program Director averages around  
4 72,000. A charity director, whatever that might be, is  
5 90,000 to 233,000. Obviously, we don't have those kinds  
6 of funds, but I wanted you to be aware of what the  
7 marketplace looks like a little bit.

8 So my recommendation is that you set an \$80,000 cap,  
9 but that based on who the applicant is, the actual offer  
10 will come from that three-person committee.

11 DEPARTMENT COMMANDER THOMAS: I need a motion.

12 DEPARTMENT JA HAYNES: Dale Haynes, Judge  
13 Advocate. I make a motion we set this cap at 45,000, due  
14 to negotiations, if we find a good candidate.

15 VC WEST LARSON: Vice Commander West  
16 Lance Larson. I will second that.

17 DEPARTMENT COMMANDER THOMAS: I have a motion on  
18 the floor and a second to set a cap at 45,000.

19 Any discussion?

20 Commander Martin?

21 PDC MARTIN: Brett Martin, Post 12. Having done  
22 this process very recently as of last week on two  
23 different committees that I sit, I was reminded by a  
24 lawyer that you get what you pay for. In Rick's case,  
25 Rick didn't need the extra money. Because of his

### THIRD DEPARTMENT EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING

24

1 life-long employment, he could survive on that.  
2 Forty-five thousand dollars doesn't buy you anything if  
3 they can't support themselves. It buys you the  
4 bare-bones things.

5 I don't know where we would find the \$80,000. I  
6 think it at least needs to be bumped up 15,000, to 60K.

7 DEPARTMENT COMMANDER THOMAS: Chair recognizes  
8 Vice Commander East Karen Cruice.

9 VC EAST CRUICE: Karen Cruice, Vice Commander  
10 East. Right now the adjutant and the assistant's  
11 combined salary is \$80,000, so there's your 80.

12 DEC REP HALE: Doug Hale, DEC District 7. I  
13 concur with Brett. For 45,000, we're not going to get  
14 much. On the other hand, I know it's extremely difficult  
15 based on our financial situation to be able to do this.

16 For 45,000, I'm going to vote no, but I will say  
17 this: This organization is an important organization.  
18 If I have to, I'll contribute \$1,000 to raise that  
19 salary.

20 DEPARTMENT COMMANDER THOMAS: The floor  
21 recognizes Vice Commander West.

22 VC WEST LARSON: Vice Commander West Lance  
23 Larson. I agree we do need to raise the salary.

24 But I just got this -- I wanted to get the  
25 conversation started on this. So we know where we

### THIRD DEPARTMENT EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING

25

1 started in July. Where are we going to finish June 30th?  
2 Does anybody got an idea?

3 DEPARTMENT COMMANDER THOMAS: I will ask the  
4 Finance Chair to field that question.

5 DEPARTMENT TREAS/FO MCPHERSON: Sam McPherson,  
6 Finance Officer/Treasurer. If you were going to increase  
7 it, that's something you could build into the budget for  
8 next year.

9 As far as where exactly we'd be, I don't know.  
10 Early this year, because our projected budget deficit was  
11 going to be 55,000, we eliminated two positions. So  
12 that's going to be close to getting that rid of, but  
13 we'll still be over -- we'll probably be over budget just  
14 a slight amount.

15 But could we do it? It's possible, but we would  
16 have to seriously look at what we want to cut in order to  
17 do that. The only other option is to increase membership  
18 or increase some other type of income to the department.

19 DEPARTMENT COMMANDER THOMAS: Thank you.

20 I will remind you, in DEC 1 and when this body sent  
21 the Finance Committee to go to work, we started \$102,000  
22 in the red. That was not a budget in any way, shape, or  
23 form. We have shaved off roughly \$50,000 in salary  
24 positions.

25 We budgeted, from the very get-go of membership

### THIRD DEPARTMENT EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING

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1 year, based on 9,000, based on the downward trajectory  
2 that this department has faced over the past decade.  
3 We've already surpassed that by nearly 1,000 memberships,  
4 so we have seen some increase to the budget in that area.  
5 So just keep that as food for thought in your further  
6 discussion.

7 Any further discussion?

8 (No response.)

9 DEPARTMENT COMMANDER THOMAS: So my current  
10 motion on the floor is at 45,000, cap salary.

11 DEC REP WATSON: Larry Watson, Post 176, 6B.  
12 I'm inclined to agree that if we identify \$45,000 dollars  
13 as a not-to-exceed cap, there's a likelihood we may not  
14 get any candidates at all. If we were to bump that up to  
15 50- or \$60,000 to show that we're at least willing to  
16 negotiate, I think we'll have a lot better success in  
17 luring folks in to apply.

18 DEPARTMENT COMMANDER THOMAS: All right. So I  
19 currently have a motion on the floor. Hearing no further  
20 discussion, all in favor say "aye."

21 MULTIPLE SPEAKERS: Aye.

22 DEPARTMENT COMMANDER THOMAS: Any opposed, same  
23 sign.

24 MULTIPLE SPEAKERS: Aye.

25 DEPARTMENT COMMANDER THOMAS: Nays have it.

### THIRD DEPARTMENT EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING

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1 We will stay on the same topic if anybody has any  
2 further observations, motions.

3 The floor recognizes Mike Harris.

4 COMMANDER HARRIS: Mike Harris, District  
5 Commander 5A. Okay. We just disapproved a maximum cap  
6 of \$45,000.

7 Why don't we as a body trust the three-member  
8 selection committee on interviews and literally find out  
9 what these individuals are looking for? If we can hire  
10 them, I'm going to say, at less than 60, then we have  
11 candidates that would be viable to interview. But this  
12 three-person committee needs to be able to have people to  
13 interview before they bring a selection to this body to  
14 hire the next adjutant.

15 DEPARTMENT COMMANDER THOMAS: So do I hear a  
16 motion in that, sir?

17 COMMANDER HARRIS: I would make a motion to cap  
18 the adjutant salary no more than \$60,000.

19 DEPARTMENT COMMANDER THOMAS: I have a motion on  
20 the floor.

21 COMMANDER KINGERY: Joe Kingery, District 8A  
22 Commander. I second that.

23 DEPARTMENT COMMANDER THOMAS: I have a motion on  
24 the floor and a second to set a salary cap in the  
25 negotiations for our new department adjutant at 60,000.

**THIRD DEPARTMENT EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING**

1 Any discussion? Hearing no discussion, all in favor  
2 say "aye."

3 MULTIPLE SPEAKERS: Aye.

4 DEPARTMENT COMMANDER THOMAS: Any opposed, same  
5 sign.

6 MULTIPLE SPEAKERS: Nay.

7 MULTIPLE SPEAKERS: Aye.

8 DEPARTMENT COMMANDER THOMAS: My hearing is not  
9 that good.

10 All in favor, raise your hand.

11 (Hands raised.)

12 DEPARTMENT COMMANDER THOMAS: Put your hands  
13 down, please.

14 All opposed, raise your hand.

15 (Hands raised.)

16 DEPARTMENT COMMANDER THOMAS: The ayes have it.  
17 The floor recognizes Adjutant Rick Redden.

18 DEPARTMENT ADJUTANT REDDEN: The next topic is  
19 the summer 2027 department convention. It is not  
20 required but suggested in the department constitution  
21 that at the summer convention you announce the time and  
22 place of the next one. So that says, by this summer, it  
23 would be best if we had selected the 2027 location and  
24 timing.

25 I have prepared a Request for Proposal to go out

### THIRD DEPARTMENT EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING

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1 that needs to be reviewed by whatever group of men or  
2 women who are going to make the recommendation. So we  
3 need a convention site selection committee of some size  
4 who are willing to review these RFP responses and  
5 possibly make site visits and make a recommendation to  
6 the DEC.

7 There is a second part of that. A year ago we  
8 sought responses from around the state, got qualified  
9 what I thought were responses that were not in the  
10 Oklahoma City metro area. There was very much pushback  
11 from this group about travel times.

12 So, before I send out an RFP, I would like your  
13 guidance on geography I should solicit to or from.

14 Thank you.

15 COMMANDER HARRIS: Mike Harris, District 5A  
16 Commander. Rick, correct me if I'm wrong, but did we not  
17 last year agree to a three-year contract at Grand Casino?

18 DEPARTMENT ADJUTANT REDDEN: We did not. We  
19 solicited that, but the Grand Casino will only go a year  
20 out. That's just their policy.

21 What tribe is that? I'll say it in a moment.  
22 Potawatomi.

23 It's Potawatomi Tribe's policy not to go out longer  
24 than a year in bookings.

25 COMMANDER HARRIS: We're going one year at a

### THIRD DEPARTMENT EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING

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1 time versus three that was discussed last year?

2 DEPARTMENT ADJUTANT REDDEN: Yeah. Only because  
3 we selected them.

4 COMMANDER HARRIS: Okay.

5 DEPARTMENT ADJUTANT REDDEN: I would prefer a  
6 longer term.

7 DEPARTMENT COMMANDER THOMAS: So the request was  
8 a motion to start with a geographical limitation that you  
9 guys would be agreeable upon.

10 DEC REP GORDON: Are you saying OKC? That's  
11 your center point?

12 DEPARTMENT COMMANDER THOMAS: You need to  
13 identify yourself first and then make a motion.

14 DEC REP GORDON: Debbie Gordon, DEC 1A. What is  
15 our starting point then? Headquarters? I mean, where is  
16 your center point?

17 DEPARTMENT ADJUTANT REDDEN: Oklahoma City,  
18 period. So how far out can I go?

19 DEC REP GORDON: So, if we did Shawnee as a  
20 suggestion, that would be within, what, 45 miles?

21 DEPARTMENT COMMANDER THOMAS: That would be  
22 relatively close. I'm not from --

23 DEC REP GORDON: And that includes Norman and  
24 Moore and whatever else?

25 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Yeah.

### THIRD DEPARTMENT EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING

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1           DEC REP GORDON: Okay. I'll move that we go  
2 within 45 miles of Oklahoma City.

3           DEPARTMENT COMMANDER THOMAS: I have a motion on  
4 the floor to cap a 45 mile center circle around the  
5 Oklahoma City metro.

6           The floor recognizes Jack Sikes.

7           COMMANDER SIKES: Point of order, Commander. I  
8 think our department constitution and by-laws states  
9 "metroplex area." You're now defining the area?

10          DEPARTMENT COMMANDER THOMAS: That's for the  
11 headquarters, sir, not for the convention.

12          COMMANDER SIKES: Okay.

13          DEPARTMENT COMMANDER THOMAS: I have a motion on  
14 the floor. Do I have a second?

15          DEPARTMENT TREAS/FO MCPHERSON: I'll second.

16          DEPARTMENT COMMANDER THOMAS: I have a second on  
17 the floor.

18          Please stand and identify yourself, sir.

19          DEPARTMENT TREAS/FO MCPHERSON: Sam McPherson,  
20 Treasurer.

21          DEPARTMENT COMMANDER THOMAS: And?

22          DEPARTMENT TREAS/FO MCPHERSON: Oh. Second the  
23 motion.

24          DEPARTMENT COMMANDER THOMAS: All right. I have  
25 a motion on the floor and a second. Any discussion?

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1 The floor recognizes Karen Cruice.

2 VC EAST CRUICE: I'm not sure. I know we're  
3 kind of rushing this, but just from here, which is  
4 Norman, not Oklahoma City, it's 45 miles exactly to  
5 Shawnee. So I'm not sure we gave ourselves enough leeway  
6 if we went from Oklahoma City, which is further north  
7 from here.

8 DEPARTMENT COMMANDER THOMAS: Scott, the floor  
9 recognizes.

10 FV COMMANDER HILGENBERG: Commander Scott  
11 Hilgenberg, Post 68, District 3A Vice Commander. I think  
12 the 45 miles is too short. I think when we start talking  
13 about funding and the requirements for a new position,  
14 when we're looking to get more money and save more money,  
15 I think opening up that avenue for places such as Tulsa  
16 could potentially save us money on the convention in the  
17 outgoing years.

18 DEPARTMENT COMMANDER THOMAS: Floor recognizes  
19 Mike Harris.

20 COMMANDER HARRIS: Mike Harris, District 5A  
21 Commander. As a person that has lived in the northeast,  
22 I know what hotels run, and they're not cheap.

23 Now, if any of y'all have any knowledge of how large  
24 Oklahoma City is, you can drive from here to Guthrie and  
25 stay in Guthrie until about ten miles south of Guthrie.

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1 It's the same way going east when you go to Shawnee.  
2 You're in Oklahoma City limits until you get about ten  
3 miles from the Grand Casino. You're still in Oklahoma  
4 City.

5 And, honestly, we're in the center of the state. If  
6 you moved summer convention to Tulsa, you might as well  
7 forget about the districts on the west, far west.

8 So, in my opinion, we need to keep the summer  
9 convention within the Oklahoma City limits. So, when  
10 this committee starts looking, be aware of where the city  
11 limits start and stop.

12 DEPARTMENT COMMANDER THOMAS: The motion on the  
13 floor currently is a 45-mile radius from touching an  
14 Oklahoma City border.

15 DEC REP GORDON: No. It's from the center  
16 point.

17 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Center point.

18 DEPARTMENT COMMANDER THOMAS: I stand corrected.  
19 Forty-five miles from the Oklahoma City center point,  
20 wherever that may be.

21 Dale Haynes?

22 DEPARTMENT JA HAYNES: I think we're dancing  
23 around the issue, but the bottom line is this 45-mile  
24 measurement is going to be difficult. First of all,  
25 you've got to figure out where you're at, and then you've

### THIRD DEPARTMENT EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING

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1 got to figure out where the 45 miles is, and so forth and  
2 so on.

3 I think going with the way the constitution reads on  
4 our department and going with the metropolitan area would  
5 be a whole lot simpler than trying to figure out where  
6 we're going to start and how far 45 miles is.

7 DEPARTMENT COMMANDER THOMAS: Doug?

8 DEC REP HALE: Doug Hale, DEC --

9 DEPARTMENT COMMANDER THOMAS: You're off, sir.

10 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Your mic's off.

11 DEC REP HALE: Doug Hale, DEC 7. Since we  
12 talked about the center point, I'd amend the motion that  
13 we make that center point the Devon building, and 45  
14 miles from it.

15 DEPARTMENT COMMANDER THOMAS: Okay. I'm going  
16 to ask because I'm not from the Oklahoma City metro.  
17 I've never lived here. The Devon building, I heard a  
18 couple of people say "the big one." That narrows nothing  
19 down for me.

20 That would cover out to Shawnee, out to --

21 VC EAST CRUICE: Yes. It's 30 miles. Yes, it  
22 would.

23 DEPARTMENT COMMANDER THOMAS: Okay. Thank you.

24 Ms. Gordon?

25 DEC REP GORDON: Do I need to amend it then

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1 to --

2 DEC REP KUNTZE: Microphone.

3 DEPARTMENT COMMANDER THOMAS: Well, you're  
4 giving a specific landscape. Yes.

5 DEC REP GORDON: Is downtown area good enough?  
6 Devon? D-e-v-o-n?

7 DEPARTMENT COMMANDER THOMAS: Just "so moved."

8 DEC REP GORDON: So moved to amend my motion to  
9 the Devon building.

10 DEPARTMENT TREAS/FO MCPHERSON: Sam McPherson,  
11 Treasurer. Second.

12 DEPARTMENT COMMANDER THOMAS: I have a motion  
13 and a second, 45-miles radius from the Devon building.

14 All in favor say "aye."

15 MULTIPLE SPEAKERS: Aye.

16 DEPARTMENT COMMANDER THOMAS: Any opposed, same  
17 sign.

18 (No response.)

19 DEPARTMENT COMMANDER THOMAS: Motion carries.

20 All right. So, obviously, Mr. Redden will be  
21 retiring come July 31st, so we will be looking to  
22 identify a committee to be a selection committee going  
23 forward on the convention for 2027, a committee of an odd  
24 number.

25 Do we have three volunteers from this body willing

**THIRD DEPARTMENT EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING**

1 to take on that task?

2 DEC REP HALE: (Raised hand.)

3 DEPARTMENT COMMANDER THOMAS: Doug? Oh. Are  
4 you volunteering, sir?

5 DEC REP HALE: Yes.

6 DEPARTMENT COMMANDER THOMAS: Thank you, Doug  
7 Hale.

8 PDC WOODS: Yes, I was in the Navy, and I know  
9 what it stands for, but I will also --

10 DEPARTMENT COMMANDER THOMAS: Please identify  
11 yourself, sir.

12 PDC WOODS: Hayden Woods, Post 39, Durant,  
13 Oklahoma. I will volunteer to be on that committee.

14 DEPARTMENT COMMANDER THOMAS: Hayden Woods,  
15 thank you, sir.

16 Mr. Bloxom?

17 PDC/DEC REP BLOXOM: I think I can speak loud  
18 enough. I'll volunteer to be on the committee, sir.

19 DEPARTMENT COMMANDER THOMAS: Thank you, sir.

20 We have our three-man committee: Doug Hale,  
21 John Bloxom, Hayden Woods.

22 So I will look for a motion to approve that  
23 three-man committee.

24 DEPARTMENT JA HAYNES: Dale Haynes, Judge  
25 Advocate. I make the motion we approve the three-man

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1 committee for the three volunteers.

2 DEPARTMENT TREAS/FO MCPHERSON: Sam McPherson,  
3 Treasurer. Second the motion.

4 DEPARTMENT COMMANDER THOMAS: I have a motion on  
5 the floor and a second. Any discussion? Hearing none,  
6 all in favor say "aye."

7 MULTIPLE SPEAKERS: Aye.

8 DEPARTMENT COMMANDER THOMAS: Any opposed, same  
9 sign.

10 (No response.)

11 DEPARTMENT COMMANDER THOMAS: Motion carries.

12 We had no other New Business when we had opened it  
13 up for a week for suggestions for the agenda, so I will  
14 move on to Good of the Legion, and I will call on  
15 District Commander Mike Harris.

16 COMMANDER HARRIS: Mike Harris, District  
17 Commander, District 5A. Commander, when you ran last  
18 year, two of your comments that you were striving to do  
19 was companionship or camaraderie and transparency.

20 I am holding right now in my hand an e-mail that  
21 went out on December 14th. There were two people on that  
22 e-mail list that was in the west side of the state.  
23 Everything else that e-mail went to was on the east side.  
24 That is not transparency because the department did not  
25 see anything on that e-mail until a week and a half

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1 later.

2 DEPARTMENT COMMANDER THOMAS: And I sent that  
3 e-mail, sir?

4 COMMANDER HARRIS: No, you did not. The NEC  
5 sent it.

6 DEPARTMENT COMMANDER THOMAS: Okay.

7 COMMANDER HARRIS: And that is the furthest  
8 thing from transparency. If you're going to have  
9 something like this and get it organized, you need to  
10 include the entire department from the start.

11 In that e-mail, the NEC requested for funds to be  
12 reimbursed to him on expenditures that were going to be  
13 done on the 24th of January. That is not a deal. Any  
14 expenditures that are to be expended needs to come before  
15 this body prior to any commitments that are made. That  
16 was not done.

17 So, Mr. O'Leary, I'm sorry, but you may have to eat  
18 some hotel bills because this body is not going to  
19 approve any expenditures.

20 I'm done with that one.

21 The second thing is I have seen a major copyright  
22 infringement on our American Legion emblem. I have been  
23 told that there was approval done for Post 1 --

24 DEPARTMENT COMMANDER THOMAS: My I interject,  
25 sir?

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1           COMMANDER HARRIS:    Sure.

2           DEPARTMENT COMMANDER THOMAS:   When we had that  
3 discussion, I did not say that it was.   I said I believe  
4 it was, for clarification.

5           COMMANDER HARRIS:    Other than you, I have been  
6 told it was approved.

7           DEPARTMENT COMMANDER THOMAS:   Thank you, sir.

8           COMMANDER HARRIS:    If that was approved by  
9 national headquarters, I would love to see that approval.  
10 Because when you infringe on a copyright and patented  
11 emblem, it's a criminal offense, period.   You're breaking  
12 the law.   And unless you have sent that application to  
13 the adjutant of this department for him to sign off on it  
14 before it goes to National, you just broke the law.

15           And in my opinion, everything that is in Post 1 that  
16 is showing that, whatever it is that's infringing on our  
17 106-year-old emblem, again, that's copyrighted and  
18 patented, you're in hot water.   We've already gotten one  
19 black eye from that post.   This department does not need  
20 another one.

21           And it's my suggestion -- and I'm sorry because Post  
22 1 is going to have to bite some funds -- they need to get  
23 rid of everything that they've got that emblem on right  
24 now and replace it correctly.

25           DEPARTMENT COMMANDER THOMAS:   The floor

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1 recognizes Adjutant Rick Redden.

2 DEPARTMENT ADJUTANT REDDEN: The use of Post 1's  
3 emblem, as is, has been approved by the National Judge  
4 Advocate. He makes the point that there is a white space  
5 surrounding the emblem, between the emblem and the  
6 additional things that are placed.

7 So, Mike, I have that in my office, and I'd be glad  
8 to give it to you so you see it.

9 COMMANDER HARRIS: I'd love to see it.

10 DEPARTMENT ADJUTANT REDDEN: I'll give it to  
11 you.

12 COMMANDER HARRIS: Because there's no white  
13 space around the emblem.

14 DEPARTMENT ADJUTANT REDDEN: If there is not,  
15 then they're in violation of what the National Judge  
16 Advocate approved. So we can look into that. But a  
17 version with a white space around the emblem, and then  
18 there are additions around it.

19 And then, most of you may or may not know the Boys  
20 State emblem is absolutely out of compliance. And our  
21 National Judge Advocate uses it in every speech about  
22 what a bad emblem looks like. It's funny. He has chosen  
23 not to take action against Boys State, and I don't blame  
24 him.

25 But, Mike, I'll get back to you with what I have for

### THIRD DEPARTMENT EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING

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1 Post 1's emblem.

2 DEPARTMENT COMMANDER THOMAS: Does that clarify  
3 temporarily until you get that, sir?

4 COMMANDER HARRIS: Temporarily. But I don't  
5 think you're going to see any white space around it  
6 because everything I've seen, including a red tablecloth,  
7 there's no space between whatever that is and the Legion  
8 emblem.

9 DEPARTMENT COMMANDER THOMAS: The floor  
10 recognizes Brett Martin.

11 PDC MARTIN: Brett Martin, Past Department  
12 Commander. I'm going to pile onto something Mike said  
13 when it comes to the scope of duties of the NEC. The NEC  
14 cannot be sending e-mails out to the entire department.  
15 He does not act with the department. He is our liaison  
16 with National. If he has something to put out, have him  
17 go through the adjutant or the commander.

18 I heard rumor he's saying he has to approve who's  
19 going to the spring conference in D.C. Anybody can go,  
20 period. You can go to all the meetings. They're open,  
21 unless ANAVICUS -- you have to pay for that. The thing  
22 is you've got to pay for your own way and your own hotel  
23 room.

24 Right now we've got interference from the NEC across  
25 the board. It needs to stop, period. Or I can just keep

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1 putting stuff out there and have other NECs from other  
2 departments look at him and shake their head and comment  
3 about it.

4 DEPARTMENT COMMANDER THOMAS: The white band  
5 around the logo breaks it, where it keeps it within their  
6 compliance. That's what the Judge was signing off on.

7 I will agree any --

8 COMMANDER HARRIS: Huh-uh. That white band is  
9 part of our logo.

10 DEPARTMENT TREAS/FO MCPHERSON: Not according to  
11 the --

12 (Crosstalk.)

13 DEPARTMENT COMMANDER THOMAS: Please, no side  
14 conversations.

15 All right. I will recognize Karen Cruice.

16 VC EAST CRUICE: Karen Cruice, Vice Commander  
17 East. I have two things from what was just said.

18 One is if we're going to go after trade rights, then  
19 I believe that the state is also in noncompliance with  
20 Hayden Woods's department commander shirt. Which, it  
21 clearly states that it has to be white on red, and we are  
22 wearing black on red. So, if we're going to start  
23 looking at what the state is doing wrong, we also need to  
24 look at anyone that bought that shirt, if you don't have  
25 permission. Again, if it's supposed to go to the

**THIRD DEPARTMENT EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING**

1 adjutant for permissions to break the policy -- if you  
2 don't have it, they said that --

3 DEPARTMENT ADJUTANT REDDEN: No, no. That  
4 was --

5 VC EAST CRUICE: It was said that it goes to you  
6 before it goes to state -- or, to Nation.

7 (Crosstalk.)

8 VC EAST CRUICE: Before it goes to National.  
9 Right.

10 (Crosstalk.)

11 DEPARTMENT COMMANDER THOMAS: Please.

12 VC EAST CRUICE: So black is not allowed on red.  
13 And the second thing is if we have a problem -- and  
14 this is another thing when we're talking about what the  
15 Commander put forward. If we have a problem, we need to  
16 deal with it in here and not on social media, and we  
17 continue to put things on social media to badmouth one  
18 another, and it needs to stop.

19 DEPARTMENT COMMANDER THOMAS: I will just  
20 clarify the Legion conference at D.C. is open to every  
21 Legionnaire. Every Legionnaire can go. Now, if you have  
22 a call in, you get assistance to go; if you don't, and  
23 you choose to go out of your own pocket, that's on you.  
24 That is the point-blank clarity -- no ifs, ands, or buts  
25 about it. So hopefully that puts that to rest.

**THIRD DEPARTMENT EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING**

1 Yes, sir, Mr. Bloxom?

2 PDC/DEC REP BLOXOM: Sir, who approves selection  
3 of those people attending on a call in? Does the  
4 department headquarters approve it, or does the NEC  
5 approve it?

6 DEPARTMENT COMMANDER THOMAS: The NEC approves  
7 that, sir.

8 VC WEST LARSON: Point of order.

9 PDC/DEC REP BLOXOM: No, sir, he does not.

10 VC WEST LARSON: Point of order.

11 PDC/DEC REP BLOXOM: The decision --

12 DEPARTMENT COMMANDER THOMAS: Point of order.

13 VC WEST LARSON: We need to go to executive  
14 session, sir.

15 DEPARTMENT COMMANDER THOMAS: Is that a motion,  
16 sir?

17 VC WEST LARSON: Yes, sir.

18 DEPARTMENT COMMANDER THOMAS: I have a motion on  
19 the floor to enter executive session.

20 COMMANDER SIKES: Jack Sikes, 3B. Before we do  
21 this executive session criteria, why don't we handle the  
22 rest of our business so the ones that aren't involved in  
23 the executive session and want to go home can go home  
24 instead of us keeping them around until we come out of  
25 executive session only to tell them, "Okay. That's it.

**THIRD DEPARTMENT EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING**

1 See you later"?

2 DEPARTMENT COMMANDER THOMAS: Do you rescind  
3 your motion?

4 VC WEST LARSON: I rescind it, yeah.

5 DEPARTMENT COMMANDER THOMAS: With that said, is  
6 there anything else for the Good of the Legion?

7 DEC REP DEER: I have one question. What is the  
8 status of Private Daniels's repatriation?

9 DEPARTMENT COMMANDER THOMAS: The floor  
10 recognizes Director Martin.

11 ALR DIRECTOR/PDC MARTIN: Great question. Brett  
12 Martin, Past Department Commander/American Legion Riders  
13 Director. It's still on track to hopefully happen this  
14 spring. There was a big snafu with Tulsa. Evidently,  
15 there may be two bodies in the casket. So it's hard to  
16 produce a certificate because they don't know who the  
17 other body is.

18 They have brought a lot of other people in to try to  
19 expedite this, Curtis, but so far, it hasn't been  
20 expedited.

21 There's been funds raised. We're ready for wheels  
22 up, but we don't have a starting date yet. We're on hot  
23 standby, or as they say in the military, hurry up and  
24 wait.

25 DEPARTMENT COMMANDER THOMAS: Mr. Rice, you had

THIRD DEPARTMENT EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING

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1 stood up sir? I'm sorry. Mr. Ray. I'm sorry. I'm  
2 sitting there looking at you in the eyes and...

3 AWARDS CMTE CHAIRMAN RAY: I'm just a  
4 (unintelligible) fat guy.

5 DEPARTMENT COMMANDER THOMAS: I'm not going to  
6 go nowhere near that.

7 (Laughter.)

8 AWARDS CMTE CHAIRMAN RAY: Earlier this month, I  
9 received a request from a Civil Air Patrol squadron  
10 requesting the American Legion reactivate an award for  
11 the Civil Air Patrol squadron, the outstanding Civil Air  
12 Patrol squadron. National has discontinued that. They  
13 deleted it. They don't do it anymore, and the local  
14 Civil Air Patrol wanted us to reactivate it. I told them  
15 I don't have the authority to do that.

16 And so, I'm going to bring that to you, and you can  
17 put it on your agenda whenever you want to. But the  
18 Civil Air Patrol is asking us to institute -- to  
19 reinstitute an award that the National has discontinued.

20 Questions?

21 COMMANDER SIKES: I have one, yes, sir. Can you  
22 define what --

23 DEPARTMENT COMMANDER THOMAS: Please identify  
24 yourself, sir.

25 COMMANDER SIKES: 3B District Commander Jack

### THIRD DEPARTMENT EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING

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1 Sikes.

2 Paul, can you tell us what the criteria for that was  
3 before we vote to reinstate it?

4 AWARDS CMTE CHAIRMAN RAY: I have no idea. It's  
5 been erased.

6 DEPARTMENT COMMANDER THOMAS: The floor  
7 recognizes Sam.

8 DEPARTMENT TREAS/FO MCPHERSON: Sam McPherson,  
9 Treasurer. I believe we looked at this sometime last  
10 year. It had already passed. We didn't have time to do  
11 it last year. But I believe it was only a certificate.

12 And as far as criteria, we'll have to look that up,  
13 but I believe that the state CAP would designate who  
14 their outstanding wing is. And, really, all National did  
15 was they printed a certificate. That's a minimal cost.  
16 If that's the way it was done in the past -- we can  
17 research it, but if that's the way it was done in the  
18 past, it would be little to no cost to the department  
19 because we'd just print a certificate and present it to  
20 them.

21 DEPARTMENT COMMANDER THOMAS: Does this body  
22 look to take any action on that?

23 COMMANDER SIKES: Jack Sikes, 3B. Commander, I  
24 would motion that we reinstate that if it's just a  
25 certificate, if our research shows that. That's being

**THIRD DEPARTMENT EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING**

1 part of the community, and I think that's good standing.  
2 My motion would be after research to reinstate it.

3 DEPARTMENT COMMANDER THOMAS: I have a motion on  
4 the floor to reinstitute that award.

5 DEPARTMENT TREAS/FO MCPHERSON: I'd second so we  
6 can have a discussion.

7 DEPARTMENT COMMANDER THOMAS: I have a second on  
8 the floor.

9 Any discussion?

10 Oh. I'm sorry. Please identify yourself for the  
11 stenographer.

12 DEPARTMENT TREAS/FO MCPHERSON: Sam McPherson,  
13 Treasurer.

14 DEPARTMENT COMMANDER THOMAS: Thank you.

15 DEC REP GORDON: Debbie Gordon, DEC 1A. We're  
16 in for the Good of the Legion. We can't make motions.  
17 However, we could do an e-mail motion after the fact and  
18 approve it in an e-mail.

19 DEPARTMENT COMMANDER THOMAS: I just tried to  
20 get clarification from our Department Judge Advocate, and  
21 he stated that --

22 DEPARTMENT JA HAYNES: Why can you not do a  
23 motion? You can do it under Old Business. You can do it  
24 under New Business.

25 DEC REP KUNTZE: Microphone, please, Dale.

### THIRD DEPARTMENT EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING

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1 DEPARTMENT JA HAYNES: I'm not a  
2 parliamentarian, but we do it under all the other  
3 headings under our agenda, so I don't know why this one  
4 agenda item should say no motions. I don't see any  
5 reason why we can't go ahead and do a motion. We do it  
6 under everything else.

7 DEPARTMENT COMMANDER THOMAS: Any further  
8 discussion?

9 DEPARTMENT TREAS/FO MCPHERSON: Yes, sir. I  
10 know we --

11 DEPARTMENT COMMANDER THOMAS: Identify yourself.

12 DEPARTMENT TREAS/FO MCPHERSON: Sam McPherson,  
13 Treasurer. I would say you could go ahead and table the  
14 motion for further review, and then we can just end it,  
15 and move on.

16 DEPARTMENT COMMANDER THOMAS: All right. Any  
17 further discussion? Hearing none, all in favor say  
18 "aye."

19 MULTIPLE SPEAKERS: Aye.

20 DEPARTMENT COMMANDER THOMAS: Any opposed, same  
21 sign.

22 (No response.)

23 DEPARTMENT COMMANDER THOMAS: Motion carries.  
24 Anything else for the Good of the Legion?

25 COMMANDER MAY: Are we going into executive

**THIRD DEPARTMENT EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING**

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1 session?

2 DEPARTMENT COMMANDER THOMAS: Not yet.

3 COMMANDER MAY: I know, but -- Elmo May,  
4 District 7 Commander. I say we go ahead and pick the  
5 district conferences before those that want to leave,  
6 leave.

7 DEPARTMENT COMMANDER THOMAS: All right. We are  
8 going to --

9 Mr. Sikes?

10 COMMANDER SIKES: Jack Sikes, 3B. Before we go  
11 into executive session, and we're talking about breaking  
12 the law, let me explain to all those parties here that  
13 our VSO program is not in compliance with VA standards.  
14 There is an annual requirement by the VA for anybody  
15 handling PII or HIPAA information to be annually,  
16 annually recertified. We have several VSOs out there who  
17 have never had PII or HIPAA training -- \$10,000 fine per  
18 incident.

19 So I would like the DEC to know that if you think  
20 you have an accredited VSO, you need to check into it.  
21 If they have not done their annual criteria from the VA,  
22 they are in violation, and you are supporting it.

23 DEPARTMENT COMMANDER THOMAS: All right. Thank  
24 you, sir.

25 DEPARTMENT JA HAYNES: Can I comment on that?

### THIRD DEPARTMENT EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING

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1 DEPARTMENT COMMANDER THOMAS: Dale Haynes?

2 DEPARTMENT JA HAYNES: Dale Haynes, Judge  
3 Advocate. Jack, I understand what you're saying, but I  
4 don't think this DEC has any idea who the accredited  
5 service officers are, and we might work that through the  
6 districts or through the service officers, but the DEC as  
7 a whole, we have no idea who that is.

8 COMMANDER SIKES: Jack Sikes, 3B. Judge, I  
9 completely agree with you. I have requested a list of  
10 the VSOs from the department. They in turn have gone out  
11 to the regional commanders who, my understanding, have  
12 gone to the district commander and said "Who are your  
13 VSOs?" As the State Department Service Officer, I cannot  
14 provide you a list. Therein lies the problem.

15 DEPARTMENT COMMANDER THOMAS: The floor  
16 recognizes Rick Redden.

17 DEPARTMENT ADJUTANT REDDEN: We're now going to  
18 select or allow you to select the dates for your spring  
19 district convention. Somewhere in this string of dates  
20 we need to fit in a DEC. If possible, it would be nice  
21 to do it on the same day with a district in the middle  
22 part of the state.

23 Having said that, we're going to just first go  
24 through the list. The available dates are February 21st  
25 through May 16th. May 2nd is not available because of

### THIRD DEPARTMENT EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING

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1 spring meetings. There are other dates you would think I  
2 would black out, but I'm going to leave it up to you.  
3 March 7th is Oratorical. March 15th is Legion College,  
4 Oklahoma Legion College, and March 28th is Commander's  
5 homecoming in Kansas. We may or may not choose to block  
6 those out. That's your decision.

7 So I'm going to call these in the order of the  
8 e-mail I sent you, based on December 31st percent of  
9 attainment to goal, District 8 and 8A gets to choose.

10 COMMANDER KINGERY: April 11th.

11 DEC REP GORDON: May I ask a question?

12 DEPARTMENT ADJUTANT REDDEN: Yes, ma'am.

13 DEC REP GORDON: Debbie Gordon, DEC 1A. Are we  
14 still doing the east/west thing where they can have  
15 meetings on the same day?

16 DEPARTMENT ADJUTANT REDDEN: No, ma'am.

17 DEC REP GORDON: So everybody's -- so we have  
18 eight dates and eight districts?

19 DEPARTMENT ADJUTANT REDDEN: That is correct.  
20 And they're for two reasons: One, we think it's  
21 important for department officers to get there and not  
22 split their time; also, candidates for officer next year  
23 would like to be able to attend and can't make two at a  
24 time.

25 For District 5, 5B Commander?

**THIRD DEPARTMENT EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING**

1           COMMANDER GRUBBS: April 18th.

2           DEPARTMENT ADJUTANT REDDEN: District 7  
3 Commander?

4           COMMANDER MAY: February 21st in Mangum,  
5 Oklahoma.

6           DEPARTMENT ADJUTANT REDDEN: For District 2, 2A  
7 Commander?

8           COMMANDER RECTOR: March 21st.

9           AUXILIARY PRES VINCENT: Excuse me, may I say  
10 something?

11           DEPARTMENT ADJUTANT REDDEN: Kim, is it germane  
12 to this roll call?

13           AUXILIARY PRES VINCENT: It's roll call? It's  
14 about the '89er Day Celebration in April.

15           DEPARTMENT ADJUTANT REDDEN: You can announce  
16 the date if you like so they're aware of it, but we're  
17 not going to block the date, but go ahead.

18           AUXILIARY PRES VINCENT: April 18th, Saturday.  
19 Thank you.

20           DEPARTMENT ADJUTANT REDDEN: District 6A for  
21 District 6. Commander?

22           Is there anyone here from District 6?

23           DEC REP WATSON: The 28th of February in Tuttle.

24           DEPARTMENT COMMANDER THOMAS: Please identify  
25 yourself, sir.

**THIRD DEPARTMENT EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING**

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1 DEC REP WATSON: Larry Watson, 6B.

2 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: What date?

3 DEPARTMENT ADJUTANT REDDEN: February 28th,  
4 District 6.

5 District 4?

6 PDC/DEC REP BLOXOM: April 25th.

7 DEPARTMENT ADJUTANT REDDEN: District 1, 1A  
8 Commander?

9 1B Commander?

10 COMMANDER RITTER: March 7th.

11 DEPARTMENT ADJUTANT REDDEN: And finally,  
12 District 3. District 3A Commander?

13 FV COMMANDER HILGENBERG: What's left? Would  
14 that be Easter weekend?

15 DEPARTMENT ADJUTANT REDDEN: I've got April 4th,  
16 May 9th, May 16th.

17 FV COMMANDER HILGENBERG: What was the second  
18 date you said, sir?

19 DEPARTMENT ADJUTANT REDDEN: May 9th.

20 FV COMMANDER HILGENBERG: That's Mother's Day  
21 weekend.

22 DEPARTMENT ADJUTANT REDDEN: May 16th.

23 We're going to have conflicts, guys.

24 I show April 4th is available.

25 FV COMMANDER HILGENBERG: That's Easter weekend.

**THIRD DEPARTMENT EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING**

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1 DEPARTMENT ADJUTANT REDDEN: We made a quick  
2 decision. We're going to open up February 14th if you  
3 want it.

4 DEPARTMENT COMMANDER THOMAS: That doesn't give  
5 a 30-day notice.

6 FV COMMANDER HILGENBERG: You're trying to get  
7 me shot.

8 DEPARTMENT ADJUTANT REDDEN: Wait a second. I  
9 was just told that wouldn't give us the 30 day, so we --

10 DEPARTMENT COMMANDER THOMAS: We can't do  
11 February 14th.

12 DEPARTMENT ADJUTANT REDDEN: All right. I made  
13 an exception last spring and allowed us to double up. If  
14 we doubled up, what date would you want?

15 FV COMMANDER HILGENBERG: If we were to double  
16 one day?

17 DEPARTMENT COMMANDER THOMAS: You would have to  
18 double with one on the west, being you're out of the  
19 east. Can't have two on the east at the same time.

20 FV COMMANDER HILGENBERG: Roger.

21 So what do we have out in the west?

22 COMMANDER RITTER: February 21st, February 28th,  
23 April 11th, and April 18th.

24 FV COMMANDER HILGENBERG: We'll take April 11th.

25 DEPARTMENT ADJUTANT REDDEN: All right. I'm

**THIRD DEPARTMENT EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING**

1 going to read them back.

2 (Crosstalk.)

3 DEPARTMENT ADJUTANT REDDEN: Pardon me, Scott?

4 FV COMMANDER HILGENBERG: April 11th.

5 Scott Hilgenberg, 3A.

6 DEPARTMENT ADJUTANT REDDEN: All right. I'm  
7 going to read them back.

8 DEPARTMENT COMMANDER THOMAS: While you're  
9 reading them back, will you ask them if they have a  
10 location to put on the date, other than just in that  
11 district?

12 DEPARTMENT ADJUTANT REDDEN: Commander Thomas  
13 asked me, as I read these back, that if you have a  
14 location already selected, please let us know now. So  
15 I'll give you a moment to do that.

16 Debbie, do you have an issue before I go on?

17 DEC REP GORDON: Well, if we can double up or  
18 switch, since District 5 is the one that's got 418 and  
19 that's '89ers, which is in District 5, is it possible,  
20 maybe, we could switch with them and do March 7th for  
21 them and April 18th for us?

22 COMMANDER RITTER: Karen Ritter, 1A District  
23 Commander. That is a conflict with my own schedule.

24 DEC REP GORDON: I'm sorry. We had discussed it  
25 before you got up here.

**THIRD DEPARTMENT EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING**

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1 DEPARTMENT ADJUTANT REDDEN: All right. Listen  
2 up. District 8 on 4/11, do you have a location in mind?

3 COMMANDER KINGERY: Woodward, Oklahoma.

4 DEPARTMENT ADJUTANT REDDEN: District 5 on  
5 April 18th, do you have a location in mind yet?

6 COMMANDER GRUBBS: Somewhere in 5A, but no.

7 DEPARTMENT ADJUTANT REDDEN: District 7 on  
8 February 21st?

9 COMMANDER MAY: Mangum, Oklahoma.

10 DEPARTMENT ADJUTANT REDDEN: You said that,  
11 didn't you?

12 COMMANDER MAY: Yes, I did.

13 DEPARTMENT ADJUTANT REDDEN: Where is that,  
14 anyway?

15 COMMANDER MAY: In southwest Oklahoma.

16 DEPARTMENT ADJUTANT REDDEN: District 2 on  
17 March 21st, do you have a location yet?

18 COMMANDER RECTOR: To be decided.

19 DEC REP DEER: It will be in Wagoner.

20 DEPARTMENT ADJUTANT REDDEN: District 6 on  
21 February 28th?

22 DEC REP WATSON: Tuttle.

23 DEPARTMENT ADJUTANT REDDEN: District 4 on  
24 April 25th?

25 PDC/DEC REP BLOXOM: Bristow.

**THIRD DEPARTMENT EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING**

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1 DEPARTMENT ADJUTANT REDDEN: District 1 on  
2 March 7th?

3 COMMANDER RITTER: Pryor.

4 DEPARTMENT ADJUTANT REDDEN: And District 3 on  
5 April 11th?

6 FV COMMANDER HILGENBERG: Heavener.

7 DEPARTMENT ADJUTANT REDDEN: As we progress  
8 through the spring, please provide me with more specific  
9 information: registration time, start of the meeting  
10 time, address of the location within the town you  
11 declare. We can get that on the calendar early, and  
12 people can see it early.

13 Thank you very much.

14 DEPARTMENT COMMANDER THOMAS: Do I have anything  
15 else for the Good of the Legion? If not, I will  
16 entertain a motion to enter executive session. Hearing  
17 none.

18 COMMANDER SIKES: Jack Sikes, 3B. I make a  
19 motion we go into executive session if there's nothing  
20 else for the good of the cause.

21 COMMANDER HARRIS: Mike Harris, District 5A. I  
22 second that motion.

23 DEPARTMENT COMMANDER THOMAS: I have a motion  
24 and a second. All in favor say "aye."

25 MULTIPLE SPEAKERS: Aye.

### THIRD DEPARTMENT EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING

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1 DEPARTMENT COMMANDER THOMAS: Any opposed, same  
2 sign.

3 (No response.)

4 DEPARTMENT COMMANDER THOMAS: Motion carries.

5 All non-DEC members...

6 We're going to take a five-minute break so we can  
7 clear the room, and we will reconvene at 3:15.

8 All rise.

9 Sergeant-at-Arms, with the colors of our nation in  
10 place --

11 DEPARTMENT SAA LAGER: Hand salute. Two.

12 (Brief recess from 1509 to 1515 hours.)

13 (Executive session began at 1515 hours, and then  
14 regular session reconvened at 1600 hours.)

15 DEPARTMENT COMMANDER THOMAS: Please rise.

16 With the colors of our nation still in place,  
17 Sergeant-at-Arms.

18 DEPARTMENT SAA LAGER: Hand salute. Two.

19 DEPARTMENT COMMANDER THOMAS: Please be seated.

20 All right. So there was no recommendation to come  
21 out of DEC, so that concludes the business of this DEC  
22 meeting. However, I will give you a couple of brief  
23 updates that were just discussed.

24 On the district spring conferences, District 5 moved  
25 to April 25th. Immediately following the District 5

### THIRD DEPARTMENT EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING

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1 meeting, we will have DEC 4 so that we don't end up  
2 taking up another weekend, where you end up not having  
3 any weekends off. So we pinned it on the back of a  
4 district meeting.

5 COMMANDER CRUICE: Say that again.

6 DEPARTMENT COMMANDER THOMAS: District 5 on  
7 4/25, April 25th, will hold their meeting. Immediately  
8 following the closure of their district meeting, we will  
9 have DEC 4.

10 (Crosstalk.)

11 COMMANDER HARRIS: Commander, can I make a point  
12 on that?

13 DEPARTMENT COMMANDER THOMAS: Yes, sir.

14 COMMANDER HARRIS: Mike Harris, District  
15 Commander, 5A. I am asking and pleading, because we are  
16 going to have a DEC meeting immediately following a  
17 spring conference, please refrain from coming into and  
18 standing in the back of the spring conference for  
19 District 5 prior to DEC 4.

20 PDC MARTIN: Mike Harris, where's the location?

21 COMMANDER HARRIS: We don't know yet.

22 DEC REP KUNTZE: Commander, is your mic on?

23 DEPARTMENT COMMANDER THOMAS: No. I apologize.  
24 It is not.

25 DEC REP KUNTZE: Bingo. Thank you.

### THIRD DEPARTMENT EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING

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1 DEPARTMENT COMMANDER THOMAS: Mr. Harris, well,  
2 what I'm trying to figure out is if there are any other  
3 days that that would work because that is the National  
4 American Legion Day, on 4/25.

5 (Crosstalk.)

6 DEPARTMENT COMMANDER THOMAS: Do you want --  
7 we'll just not announce the date yet until we can figure  
8 this out?

9 COMMANDER HARRIS: Yeah.

10 DEPARTMENT COMMANDER THOMAS: Okay. Scratch  
11 that change.

12 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: The date is still the  
13 4/18 as of right now. That's what you got earlier;  
14 right? Or are we changing it?

15 DEPARTMENT COMMANDER THOMAS: You keeping the  
16 4/18, Mike?

17 COMMANDER HARRIS: For right now.

18 DEPARTMENT COMMANDER THOMAS: Okay. So scratch  
19 that entire change. No DEC 4. So District 5 will be  
20 4/18.

21 And the other change I was given, I want to clarify,  
22 District 4 was moved to 5/9, May 9th. Is that correct,  
23 Mr. Bloxom?

24 PDC/DEC REP BLOXOM: May 9th.

25 DEPARTMENT COMMANDER THOMAS: And that is still

**THIRD DEPARTMENT EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING**

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1 in Bristow.

2 All right. Yes, Ms. Gordon?

3 DEC REP GORDON: Debbie Gordon, DEC --

4 DEC REP KUNTZE: Turn your mic on, Debbie.

5 DEPARTMENT COMMANDER THOMAS: It's not on,  
6 Debbie.

7 DEC REP GORDON: Okay. Oh, it's not on? It's  
8 red.

9 DEPARTMENT COMMANDER THOMAS: Yeah, it has to be  
10 green. It's Christmas.

11 DEC REP GORDON: Christmas. I like that.

12 Okay. If we end up doing DEC back-to-back with a  
13 conference, if that happens, could you at least announce  
14 a no-earlier-than date -- I mean, time?

15 DEPARTMENT COMMANDER THOMAS: Yeah, we have --

16 DEC REP GORDON: Like, say, instead of "at the  
17 end of the conference," say "but no earlier than 1:00,"  
18 or no earlier than whatever so the ones that are  
19 traveling three or four hours don't have to travel and  
20 get here at noon only to have the meeting at 2:00.

21 DEPARTMENT COMMANDER THOMAS: We'll work for  
22 that.

23 There being no further business coming before the  
24 Department Executive Committee, Department Chaplain will  
25 close us in a prayer.

### THIRD DEPARTMENT EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING

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1           Please rise.

2           DEPARTMENT CHAPLAIN STEWART: Heavenly Father, I  
3 ask today that you give us a sense of peace across this  
4 department. Grant to us unity with one another, that we  
5 can be Legionnaires, that we can be the very best; as the  
6 slogan says, we can "Be the One."

7           I ask you now to dismiss us from this gathering.  
8 Give us traveling mercies to our homes, but give us an  
9 initiative to thrive as Legionnaires, for I ask it in  
10 Christ's name. Amen.

11           COLLECTIVE GROUP: Amen.

12           DEPARTMENT COMMANDER THOMAS: Sergeant-at-Arms,  
13 please retrieve the POW/MIA chair cover.

14           (POW/MIA chair cover was retrieved.)

15           DEPARTMENT COMMANDER THOMAS: Ladies and  
16 gentlemen, please re-cover.

17           Comrades, until we meet again, let us remember our  
18 obligation to our country can be fulfilled only by the  
19 faithful performance of our duties of citizenship. Let  
20 service to the community, state, and nation be ever a  
21 main objective of the American Legion and its members.  
22 Let us be ever watchful of the honor of our country, our  
23 organization, and ourselves, that nothing shall swerve us  
24 from the path of justice, freedom, and democracy.

25           With the colors of our country in place,

**THIRD DEPARTMENT EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING**

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Sergeant-at-Arms.

DEPARTMENT SAA LAGER: Hand salute. Two.

DEPARTMENT COMMANDER THOMAS: Meeting adjourned.

(Meeting concluded at 1607 hours.)

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