

DEC MEETING 2/22/2020

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3 THE AMERICAN LEGION  
4 DEPARTMENT OF MISSOURI  
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7 DEPARTMENT EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING  
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13 AMERICAN LEGION POST 152  
14 123 EAST BROADWAY  
15 ASHLAND, MISSOURI 65101  
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19  
20 February 22, 2020  
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1 (WHEREUPON, the meeting of the DEC  
2 began at 1:00 p.m.)  
3 COMMANDER WILLIAMS: The colors of  
4 our country being in their proper place, we will  
5 render the right hand salute. Two. Uncover. We  
6 will have our Department Chaplain Marvin Harper  
7 offer invocation.  
8 CHAPLAIN HARPER: Good afternoon,  
9 everybody. Oh precious Lord, thank you for being  
10 with us today and will you help us guide through  
11 this meeting to help us encourage and make the  
12 American Legion stronger. We appreciate your help.  
13 We appreciate you riding down with all of us and we  
14 got here in a safe manner. Please be with our  
15 troops and the leaders of the country so we can  
16 have some freedom and peace in life. God bless us  
17 all. God take care of us. Amen.  
18 COMMANDER WILLIAMS: Please remain  
19 uncovered. Resolution 288, adopted at the 67th  
20 National Convention, calls for the designating of a  
21 POW/MIA Empty Chair at all official meetings of the  
22 American Legion as a physical symbol of the  
23 thousands of American POW/MIAs still unaccounted  
24 for from all wars and conflicts involving the  
25 United States of America.

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4 THE AMERICAN LEGION  
5 DEPARTMENT OF MISSOURI  
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9 DEPARTMENT EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING  
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12 American Legion  
13 123 East Broadway  
14 Ashland, Missouri  
15 February 22, 2020  
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20 REPORTED BY:  
21 KELLENE K. FEDDERSEN, RPR, CSR, CCR  
22 Missouri CCR No. 838  
23 Alaris Litigation Services  
24 3432 West Truman Boulevard, Suite 207  
25 Jefferson City, MO 65109  
(573)636-7551

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1 Accordingly, the POW/MIA flag has  
2 been placed on the Empty Chair, a reminder for all  
3 of us to spare no effort to secure the release of  
4 any American prisoners from captivity, the  
5 repatriation of the remains of those who died  
6 bravely in defense of our liberty, and a full  
7 accounting of those missing. Let us rededicate  
8 ourselves for this vital endeavor.  
9 Join me in the Pledge of Allegiance.  
10 Remain uncovered.  
11 (The Pledge of Allegiance was  
12 recited.)  
13 COMMANDER WILLIAMS: Cover. Remain  
14 standing for the preamble to the Constitution of  
15 the American Legion.  
16 (The preamble to the Constitution of  
17 the American Legion was recited.)  
18 COMMANDER WILLIAMS: Welcome everyone  
19 to the Department's spring executive committee  
20 meeting. I remind you, this is an open session and  
21 all Legionnaires are welcome to attend. To speak  
22 on any matter, however, they must first obtain  
23 permission from their District Commander. When  
24 speaking, please give your last name and district  
25 or town for the recorder. One person speak at a

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<p>1 time.</p> <p>2 I'm going to ask Commander Sapp to</p> <p>3 please give us remarks.</p> <p>4 MR. SAPP: I'd just like to say</p> <p>5 welcome to everybody. Thank you for coming to our</p> <p>6 little town, and if there's anything we can do for</p> <p>7 you while you're here, let us know. Brian Sapp,</p> <p>8 Post 152.</p> <p>9 COMMANDER WILLIAMS: Thank you,</p> <p>10 Commander. We will now have our roll call by our</p> <p>11 Adjutant Lowry Finley-Jackson.</p> <p>12 ADJUTANT FINLEY-JACKSON: Good</p> <p>13 morning. Unfortunately, I left my roll call sheet</p> <p>14 on my desk. So bear with me and we'll get through</p> <p>15 this. All right. Here we go. Department</p> <p>16 Commander Hallie Williams.</p> <p>17 COMMANDER WILLIAMS: Present.</p> <p>18 ADJUTANT FINLEY-JACKSON: Senior Vice</p> <p>19 Commander Gary Grigsby.</p> <p>20 SR. VICE COMMANDER GRIGSBY: Present.</p> <p>21 ADJUTANT FINLEY-JACKSON: Zone I Vice</p> <p>22 Commander Robert Maddox.</p> <p>23 VICE COMMANDER MADDOX: Here.</p> <p>24 ADJUTANT FINLEY-JACKSON: Zone II</p> <p>25 Vice Commander Joseph Cochran is excused. Please</p>	<p>1 Historian Jerome Goolsby.</p> <p>2 MR. GOOLSBY: Here.</p> <p>3 ADJUTANT FINLEY-JACKSON: Department</p> <p>4 Sergeant-at-Arms Darlene Coats.</p> <p>5 MS. COATS: Present.</p> <p>6 ADJUTANT FINLEY-JACKSON: Department</p> <p>7 Adjutant Lowry Finley-Jackson. I am present.</p> <p>8 1st District Commander Lloyd Miller.</p> <p>9 MR. MILLER: Present.</p> <p>10 ADJUTANT FINLEY-JACKSON: 2nd</p> <p>11 District Commander Edwin Allender. He is not</p> <p>12 present but he's excused.</p> <p>13 3rd District Commander Doug Millison.</p> <p>14 MR. MILLISON: Here.</p> <p>15 ADJUTANT FINLEY-JACKSON: 4th</p> <p>16 District Commander Lenny Hill.</p> <p>17 MR. HILL: Present.</p> <p>18 ADJUTANT FINLEY-JACKSON: 5th</p> <p>19 District Commander Mike Harley Sweeney.</p> <p>20 MR. SWEENEY: Here.</p> <p>21 ADJUTANT FINLEY-JACKSON: 6th</p> <p>22 District Commander Bill Anderson.</p> <p>23 MR. ANDERSON: Keeping right along.</p> <p>24 ADJUTANT FINLEY-JACKSON: 7th</p> <p>25 District Commander Jim Heard.</p>
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<p>1 keep him in your prayers. Joe is still sick,</p> <p>2 battling cancer, so please keep him in your</p> <p>3 prayers.</p> <p>4 Zone I Vice Commander Rose Noonan.</p> <p>5 VICE COMMANDER NOONAN: Present.</p> <p>6 ADJUTANT FINLEY-JACKSON: Zone IV</p> <p>7 Vice Commander Philip Baker.</p> <p>8 VICE COMMANDER BAKER: Present.</p> <p>9 ADJUTANT FINLEY-JACKSON: National</p> <p>10 Executive Committee Member Kenneth Goth.</p> <p>11 MR. GOTH: Here</p> <p>12 ADJUTANT FINLEY-JACKSON: Alternate</p> <p>13 National Executive Committee Member Tom Goodin.</p> <p>14 MR. GOODIN: Yo.</p> <p>15 ADJUTANT FINLEY-JACKSON: Past</p> <p>16 National Commander Joe Frank is excused.</p> <p>17 Judge Advocate Cassie Strom.</p> <p>18 JUDGE ADVOCATE STROM: Present.</p> <p>19 ADJUTANT FINLEY-JACKSON: Department</p> <p>20 Finance Officer John Buckwalter.</p> <p>21 MR. BUCKWALTER: Here.</p> <p>22 ADJUTANT FINLEY-JACKSON: Department</p> <p>23 Chaplain Marvin Harper.</p> <p>24 CHAPLAIN HARPER: Here.</p> <p>25 ADJUTANT FINLEY-JACKSON: Department</p>	<p>1 MR. HEARD: Present.</p> <p>2 ADJUTANT FINLEY-JACKSON: 8th</p> <p>3 District Commander Terry McDonald.</p> <p>4 MR. McDONALD: Here.</p> <p>5 ADJUTANT FINLEY-JACKSON: 9th</p> <p>6 District Commander Ray Rolley is excused.</p> <p>7 10th District Commander Ed Ucinski is</p> <p>8 excused.</p> <p>9 11/12th District Commander Darlene</p> <p>10 Coats is present as Sergeant-at-Arms.</p> <p>11 13th District Commander Duane DeClue.</p> <p>12 MR. DECLUE: Present.</p> <p>13 ADJUTANT FINLEY-JACKSON: 14th</p> <p>14 District Commander Frankie Adams.</p> <p>15 MR. ADAMS: Present.</p> <p>16 ADJUTANT FINLEY-JACKSON: 15th</p> <p>17 District Commander Mark Bartley.</p> <p>18 MR. BARTLEY: Present.</p> <p>19 ADJUTANT FINLEY-JACKSON: 17th</p> <p>20 District Commander Marilyn Hirsch.</p> <p>21 MS. HIRSCH: Here.</p> <p>22 ADJUTANT FINLEY-JACKSON: Sorry.</p> <p>23 16th.</p> <p>24 17th District Commander Mark Reed.</p> <p>25 MR. REED: Here.</p>

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1 ADJUTANT FINLEY-JACKSON: I think I  
 2 got everyone, except for the past department  
 3 commanders. Okay. Joe Frank is excused. Past  
 4 Department Commander Joel Hauck is excused. Past  
 5 Department Commander David Voyles.  
 6 MR. VOYLES: Here.  
 7 ADJUTANT FINLEY-JACKSON: Past  
 8 Department Commander Clark Pointer is excused.  
 9 Past Department Commander and National Vice  
 10 Commander Richard Heigert.  
 11 NATIONAL VICE COMMANDER HEIGERT:  
 12 Here.  
 13 ADJUTANT FINLEY-JACKSON: Past  
 14 Department Commander Dave Shafer is excused.  
 15 Past Department Commander John Neger  
 16 is excused.  
 17 Past Department Commander Dave  
 18 Jennemann is excused.  
 19 Past Department Commander Marvin  
 20 Harper.  
 21 MR. HARPER: Here.  
 22 ADJUTANT FINLEY-JACKSON: Past  
 23 Department Commander Charles Goodin.  
 24 MR. CHARLES GOODIN: Here.  
 25 ADJUTANT FINLEY-JACKSON: Past

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1 we have a quorum.  
 2 COMMANDER WILLIAMS: Thank you.  
 3 Before we begin business, I would like to welcome a  
 4 special guest, National Vice Commander Rich  
 5 Heigert. Vice Commander, would you like to speak?  
 6 NATIONAL VICE COMMANDER HEIGERT:  
 7 Thank you very much, Commander. It's good to be  
 8 here. Fortunately, my travel schedule allowed me  
 9 to make sure I got here this weekend, and look  
 10 forward to our DEC today and our oratorical contest  
 11 tomorrow.  
 12 As you know, membership is the thing  
 13 that I'm pushing at the national level, and right  
 14 now, Missouri, we've got a lot of work to do.  
 15 We're pushing down about 39th position nationally.  
 16 The biggest thing, we've got about 14,000 members  
 17 that were members last year that have not yet  
 18 renewed.  
 19 So I'm asking everybody, every  
 20 district commander to get out there, get with your  
 21 posts and push to get those renewals in from last  
 22 year. That's the first thing the National  
 23 Commander's pushing right now. Get those in.  
 24 Revitalizations are great, but if we don't keep the  
 25 ones we've got, then it's not helping us at all.

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1 Department Commander Lynn Dorrell is excused.  
 2 Past Department Commander Kenneth  
 3 Goth.  
 4 PAST DEPARTMENT COMMANDER GOTH:  
 5 Still here.  
 6 ADJUTANT FINLEY-JACKSON: Past  
 7 Department Commander Art Wilson is excused.  
 8 Past Department Commander Tom Goodin.  
 9 MR. TOM GOODIN: Semper fi.  
 10 ADJUTANT FINLEY-JACKSON: Past  
 11 Department Commander Dennis Woeltje.  
 12 MR. WOELTJE: Here.  
 13 ADJUTANT FINLEY-JACKSON: Past  
 14 Department Commander George Scarborough.  
 15 MR. SCARBOROUGH: Here.  
 16 ADJUTANT FINLEY-JACKSON: Past  
 17 Department Commander Elizabeth Gonzales.  
 18 MS. GONZALES: Present.  
 19 ADJUTANT FINLEY-JACKSON: Past  
 20 Department Commander Cary Kellett.  
 21 MR. KELLETT: Here.  
 22 ADJUTANT FINLEY-JACKSON: Past  
 23 Department Commander Kerry Boardman.  
 24 MR. BOARDMAN: Present.  
 25 ADJUTANT FINLEY-JACKSON: Commander,

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1 So everybody have a good district --  
 2 or DEC today, and hope to see most of you at the  
 3 oratorical tomorrow. Thank you.  
 4 COMMANDER WILLIAMS: Thank you.  
 5 Please note that we will have a closed DEC meeting  
 6 immediately following this session.  
 7 I would like to request approval of  
 8 the minutes of the October 20th, 2019 DEC as  
 9 distributed.  
 10 MR. GOOLSBY: Goolsby, historian. I  
 11 move they be approved as published.  
 12 VICE COMMANDER ANDERSON: Anderson,  
 13 6th District. Second.  
 14 COMMANDER WILLIAMS: It's been moved  
 15 and seconded. Do I have a vote? All in favor?  
 16 (Responded "aye.")  
 17 COMMANDER WILLIAMS: Opposed?  
 18 (No response.)  
 19 COMMANDER WILLIAMS: Passed. Our  
 20 subcommittees, Phillip Baker, do you have anything?  
 21 MR. BAKER: Not at this present time.  
 22 We didn't really have anything that we had to go  
 23 over as we did previous years. I want to thank you  
 24 and the Adjutant for appointing me as subcommittee  
 25 chairman. I'm realizing it's an important job.

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<p>1 I'll still willing to do my best till the end of 2 the year if anything comes up when we are not 3 meeting, and I appreciate your vote of confidence. 4 Thank you. 5 COMMANDER WILLIAMS: Thank you. Our 6 Adjutant will now report on post charter 7 activities. 8 ADJUTANT FINLEY-JACKSON: I do have 9 this. Lowry Finley-Jackson, Department Adjutant. 10 We have no recommendations for new post charters. 11 We have two recommendations for cancelled post 12 charters. District 3, Marsh-Sewell-Dykes Post 194 13 from Holt, Missouri, and District 3 Floyd Ray Ames 14 Post 515 from Chariton, Missouri. All individuals 15 have been moved out of the posts. There are no 16 assets. We don't have any mergers. 17 COMMANDER WILLIAMS: Okay. You have 18 just heard the recommendation of cancellations of 19 posts. What's your will? 20 MR. BUCKWALTER: Buckwalter, Finance 21 Officer. I move that the charters of Post 194 and 22 515 be canceled. 23 MR. REED: Reed, 17th District, 24 seconds. 25 COMMANDER WILLIAMS: We have a motion</p>	<p>1 exceptions, I think, as we have some posts like we 2 had in the department where we have PUFs and no 3 activity and no active posts. So we need to figure 4 out a way to handle those posts. We can't cancel 5 the charter or cancel their post without some other 6 action. 7 I will give you a brief recap of my 8 message to go in to the Missouri Legionnaire, and I 9 sort of used the phrase win one for the Gipper. 10 Well, that's let's win one for Rich. We all need 11 to support Rich and get our renewals in and our 12 membership up. We've missed the 85 percent and 13 we've missed the 80 percent, if I'm remembering 14 correctly. We had the other goals attained, the 15 national goals attained. So I have in the article 16 that you -- the things that you know. 17 MR. TOM GOODIN: Question. 18 Tom Goodin, Alternate NEC. Where are we exactly at 19 membership? What is the number we have now? 20 SR. VICE COMMANDER GRIGSBY: As of 21 the report of February 20th, we have 30,159, and 22 that's 83.177 percent of the goal, and it shows how 23 many -- how many we need for 90 percent, which is 24 the next attainable goal is almost 2,500. 25 MR. TOM GOODIN: How many districts</p>
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<p>1 and a second. All in favor? 2 (Responded "aye".) 3 COMMANDER WILLIAMS: Opposed? 4 (No response.) 5 COMMANDER WILLIAMS: Carried. Are 6 there any questions? Okay. We're now to the 7 service part now. Senior Vice Commander Gary 8 Grigsby. 9 SR. VICE COMMANDER GRIGSBY: Thank 10 you, Commander. National Vice Rich Heigert has 11 already gone over this. We need to renew the 12 members that we had last year and in previous 13 years. That's the major thing that we need to work 14 on. We are, as he said, 39th place. We slipped 15 from 37th, and that needs to be corrected. That's 16 on the tall list. And Rich and I discussed that 17 our renewals are toward the bottom of the national, 18 of the American Legion. 19 I have a consolidated -- a note for 20 us to mention the consolidated post reports, and 21 that goes to membership, and last year not our 22 department but departments had 70 percent of the 23 posts submitting useful information. They're going 24 to ignore and not accept zero activity from the 25 posts, from the CPR reports. And there are some</p>	<p>1 have you visited, personally visited? 2 SR. VICE COMMANDER GRIGSBY: I have 3 visited, I think it is 10 or 12. 4 MR. TOM GOODIN: I don't understand 5 the numbers. I don't recall the last time we 6 missed 80 percent, and I don't recall that we 7 missed 85. I mean, those are -- in the past have 8 always been gimme numbers. It's when you get to 9 the 90, 95 that we struggle. So you're saying we 10 struggled from the get-go? 11 SR. VICE COMMANDER GRIGSBY: Well, we 12 attained the goals, the previous goals, each one of 13 them, but it was at the 11th hour as I review it. 14 MR. TOM GOODIN: So we hit the 15 80 percent or we did not? 16 SR. VICE COMMANDER GRIGSBY: We did 17 not. Well, we are now at 83 percent. We didn't 18 get that -- 19 MR. TOM GOODIN: If we didn't hit 20 those goals at that date, then we're done as far as 21 turning in reports, but we shouldn't be done as a 22 department. 23 SR. VICE COMMANDER GRIGSBY: Correct. 24 MR. TOM GOODIN: I just don't 25 understand what's going on with membership. I</p>

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1 don't. It's always been close to my heart. I  
 2 apologize, I took the floor. I'm catching up here  
 3 in the dark. Either the message isn't getting  
 4 across or the districts aren't buying into your  
 5 message or we're hammering too hard or something.  
 6 It just seems like everybody's turned a deaf ear to  
 7 membership, and a Band-Aid isn't going to fix this.  
 8 It's going to take a collective effort from all of  
 9 us in this room to get this righted.

10 SR. VICE COMMANDER GRIGSBY: That's  
 11 correct. Thanks. Thanks, Tom.

12 So you hear it. Now we need to go  
 13 out and do something about it. I've offered to  
 14 help print any of the lists for you to help with  
 15 anything that you need. So we need to get our  
 16 posts to start calling these nonrenewals. It's the  
 17 Buddy Check. That's what National Commander is  
 18 coming down with, let's do the Buddy Check. Check  
 19 in on the members that you have and get them -- see  
 20 what's going on with them, what's happening in  
 21 their life, and if they're having a crisis, offer  
 22 to help. That's the -- that's the way the Legion  
 23 was developed, and that's what it was based upon,  
 24 and that's what we need to continue doing.

25 SR. VICE COMMANDER GRIGSBY: Let's

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1 It's all going to go out the window if we don't  
 2 keep membership up. Membership is our job. It's  
 3 not his job, his job, your job. It's our job.

4 Zone Commanders, call your District  
 5 Commanders. District Commanders, call your Post  
 6 Commanders. Other than a few of the larger posts,  
 7 everybody in the post knows each other. They know  
 8 who hasn't paid their dues. Walk down the street  
 9 and ask him why. Walk down the street and ask her  
 10 why.

11 Larger posts it's kind of hard to do  
 12 because you've got people from California and  
 13 everywhere all the way across the state. The small  
 14 posts are the ones we need to be at a hundred  
 15 percent. They can be at a hundred percent. They  
 16 know the members who aren't coming. They've just  
 17 got to go down the street and talk to them.

18 Sitting here and listening and  
 19 shaking our head, yeah, we agree, yeah, we agree,  
 20 that's good, but that ain't going to get it done.  
 21 And if we don't get it done, we're here for  
 22 nothing, and I want to be here for something. So  
 23 thank you.

24 SR. VICE COMMANDER GRIGSBY: Yes,  
 25 sir?

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1 see. One more thing. I think that -- oh, and I  
 2 have emphasized before getting three new members.  
 3 The form is out on the national website, and all  
 4 you need is three new members that have not been  
 5 members of the Legion before, and you send it in  
 6 with the name, their membership number and the  
 7 post, and you get the National Commander's  
 8 membership pin. How many of you have that pin?  
 9 Good.

10 UNIDENTIFIED: I got three members  
 11 but I don't have a pin yet.

12 SR. VICE COMMANDER GRIGSBY: You need  
 13 to fill out --

14 UNIDENTIFIED: Just got one the other  
 15 night. He ain't got a number yet.

16 SR. VICE COMMANDER GRIGSBY: So with  
 17 that, you see what the task is ahead of us. Let's  
 18 get to work and continue following and we'll be  
 19 able to get there.

20 MR. BOARDMAN: Vice Commander?  
 21 SR. VICE COMMANDER GRIGSBY: Yes.  
 22 MR. BOARDMAN: Kerry Boardman,  
 23 Immediate Past Department Commander. We've all got  
 24 to buy into this. Last year we spent a whole year  
 25 budget cuts, raising this, doing away with that.

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1 MR. KELLETT: Past Department  
 2 Commander Cary Kellett. Is there a backlog of  
 3 renewals at the department?

4 ADJUTANT FINLEY-JACKSON: No, there  
 5 is not. Renewals are being processed -- I mean,  
 6 excuse me. Lowry Finley-Jackson, Department  
 7 Adjutant. As soon as the cards come in, the cards  
 8 are being processed within 24 hours.

9 MR. KELLETT: Because posts are  
 10 showing where they've got 71, 84 members --

11 ADJUTANT FINLEY-JACKSON: As soon as  
 12 the memberships come in, they're being processed  
 13 within 24 hours. The backlog is at National.

14 MR. KELLETT: At National. Okay.  
 15 Thank you.

16 SR. VICE COMMANDER GRIGSBY: It was  
 17 my understanding that once the department put it  
 18 in, that National had it and it was supposed to  
 19 automatically update, but it's not happening. So  
 20 what's appearing as department or a district or a  
 21 post not doing their job is further up the chain.  
 22 Now, you have a tool --

23 MR. ANDERSON: Excuse me.  
 24 SR. VICE COMMANDER GRIGSBY: Yes.  
 25 MR. ANDERSON: Anderson, District 6.

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1 So you're telling me we missed 80 and 85 percent  
2 because National is not processing?  
3 ADJUTANT FINLEY-JACKSON: No, that's  
4 not why we missed it, Bill.  
5 SR. VICE COMMANDER GRIGSBY: Not  
6 necessarily, no.  
7 MR. ANDERSON: Okay.  
8 SR. VICE COMMANDER GRIGSBY: You  
9 saw -- well, you saw from the Judge Advocate, and  
10 she will be talking about the amendment. That will  
11 help. We have a few instances of a post holding  
12 and withholding their memberships and not sending  
13 them up, waiting until the end of the year and  
14 doing it all in one, and that's a historical at  
15 least one post that I'm aware of. So that impacts  
16 on the district. That impacts on the zone and the  
17 department. And had those been in, it would have  
18 helped, maybe not completely.  
19 MR. SWEENEY: Sweeney, 5th District.  
20 If National is not processing our membership as  
21 fast as the department is processing our  
22 membership, how do they get our percentages?  
23 SR. VICE COMMANDER GRIGSBY: Good  
24 question. I've asked. They told me that once you  
25 log in and do -- there's several ways you can pay

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1 your dues. You can log in and you can pay it  
2 directly to National, and they told me that that  
3 would immediately reflect to the department, but it  
4 doesn't happen  
5 ADJUTANT FINLEY-JACKSON: It's not  
6 happening.  
7 SR. VICE COMMANDER GRIGSBY: They  
8 told me that as soon as department uploaded it on  
9 the computer, that it immediately impacted. It  
10 does not. It does not.  
11 MR. SWEENEY: Then if we're sitting  
12 with 85 percent and National has not processed a  
13 hundred of our members out of the department  
14 sending it to them, it seems to me like then we're  
15 not going to make our percentages. If they don't  
16 process them and they're the ones -- National is  
17 the ones that give us the percentage, our  
18 85 percent or 90 percent, is that not correct?  
19 SR. VICE COMMANDER GRIGSBY: That's  
20 correct.  
21 MR. SWEENEY: If they have not  
22 processed our memberships, then how do we get our  
23 correct percentage?  
24 ADJUTANT FINLEY-JACKSON: We'll  
25 discuss it.

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1 SR. VICE COMMANDER GRIGSBY: So the  
2 other thing, you have a -- does everyone have in  
3 your packet the Buddy Check? Read through this,  
4 look at the process and give us a report on how  
5 it's working for you. I think you will see some  
6 results. Now, and there's good instructions how to  
7 organize, make the list of your resources. All of  
8 these things are contained here, and it will help  
9 you. So I'm not going to waste your time reading  
10 it to you. You can read it, but let's get the job  
11 done. Yes.  
12 MR. SWEENEY: Sweeney, 5th District.  
13 Sir, if I'm correct, National has passed a  
14 resolution that the Buddy System will be conducted  
15 twice a year as a minimum.  
16 SR. VICE COMMANDER GRIGSBY: Correct.  
17 MR. SWEENEY: Posts and districts can  
18 do it as they wish, but they have directed that it  
19 will be done twice a year, Veterans Day and Legion  
20 birthday, I believe.  
21 ADJUTANT FINLEY-JACKSON: Which  
22 should be -- Lowry Finley-Jackson, Department  
23 Adjutant. Yes, it should be done between the 15th  
24 and 18th of the month, and the resolution was  
25 passed.

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1 SR. VICE COMMANDER GRIGSBY: Thank  
2 you. Any other questions? That's my report.  
3 COMMANDER WILLIAMS: Thank you. New  
4 business. Finance report, information from our  
5 finance committee chairman David Voyles reporting  
6 for Terry Lanning.  
7 MR. VOYLES: Dave Voyles, Past  
8 National Vice Commander. I have a few reports, and  
9 I've been given permission to get them all done  
10 now.  
11 So let's start with the -- finance  
12 will be short. Now, April the 18th, I believe it's  
13 11 o'clock in the morning, it will be at Post 5,  
14 that is when we're going to have our budget. Now,  
15 those who want something in their budget or  
16 whatever needs to be sent to Terry Lanning by the  
17 March 15th. So that's heads up. But Terry  
18 couldn't make it here. He's on vacation. I don't  
19 know if John is wanting to say, wherever he is  
20 anymore, but that's -- basically right now I can't  
21 say too much because we haven't had our budget  
22 meeting. But that will be on the 18th of April.  
23 So if anybody -- not saying you're  
24 going to get money, but if you need money, you need  
25 to send it in for us. This way we've got an idea

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1 where you're all coming from. I don't have  
 2 anything more based on the finance unless you'd  
 3 like to -- is that all right, Commander? John, do  
 4 you want to -- go ahead.  
 5 MR. BUCKWALTER: John Buckwalter,  
 6 Finance Officer. In your packet you have two  
 7 financial data sheets, as you always do. One is  
 8 simply the balance sheet which summarizes our  
 9 resources. The other is labeled profit and loss  
 10 budget versus actual through today.  
 11 The way this second report is  
 12 formatted is it only shows active lines. So if  
 13 you're a district commander and you don't see your  
 14 district commander's name back there in that  
 15 account, it means that we have not processed any  
 16 travel vouchers or anything for you in this fiscal  
 17 year. That doesn't mean you don't have any money  
 18 coming. It just means that the district  
 19 commander's budget's all lumped into one sum.  
 20 The other thing I would point out is,  
 21 at this point in the fiscal year, between  
 22 membership dues and Post 1000 dues, we are \$150,000  
 23 short of our revenue projections for the year.  
 24 That's it.  
 25 MR. VOYLES: Thank you, John.

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1 Appreciate it. So if you want -- Commander.  
 2 COMMANDER WILLIAMS: Yes.  
 3 VICE COMMANDER BAKER: Phil Baker,  
 4 Zone IV Vice Commander. I was reading an e-mail  
 5 and, to paraphrase, it basically said that this was  
 6 being sent out to all those that had budgeted  
 7 items, and that if you did not respond to them by,  
 8 I think the date was April 15th, that you would be  
 9 dropped from the budget. I recommend most people  
 10 read that and reply to it. Otherwise, that's  
 11 exactly what they said, you will be dropped from  
 12 the budget if you do not reply. That's the e-mail  
 13 I got. Thank you.  
 14 MR. BUCKWALTER: That's the e-mail.  
 15 MR. BAKER: Am I right?  
 16 MR. BUCKWALTER: Yes, that's correct.  
 17 VICE COMMANDER BAKER: I think it  
 18 should be pointed out.  
 19 MR. VOYLES: I thought I said send it  
 20 in by March 15th.  
 21 MR. BAKER: If you do not reply by  
 22 March 15th, you will be dropped.  
 23 MR. BOARDMAN: Kerry Boardman,  
 24 Immediate Past Department Commander. Finance  
 25 Officer Buckwalter, so the budget shortfall was

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1 down is due to the membership being so down, is  
 2 that what that correlates to?  
 3 MR. BUCKWALTER: Right now we do not  
 4 have a budget shortfall. Our spending is not  
 5 linear. So we have not made the majority of our  
 6 expenditures because everything basically is paid  
 7 in arrears, travel, convention and all of that.  
 8 But when we look at our revenue  
 9 projections on how much money we expect to have for  
 10 the year to come out with a budget surplus, right  
 11 now we are \$150,000 short on our membership  
 12 projection because we should be roughly at  
 13 90 percent already and we're not.  
 14 MR. BOARDMAN: So it's not  
 15 overspending, it's income coming in is not there?  
 16 MR. BUCKWALTER: That's not \$150,000  
 17 deficit for the department. It is merely the fact  
 18 that we are \$150,000 short of our revenue  
 19 projection. I haven't compared that to our  
 20 expenditures.  
 21 MR. BOARDMAN: Thank you.  
 22 MR. VOYLES: Anybody else got  
 23 anything on finance? Okay. So get your budget in.  
 24 Okay. The next thing I'm going to  
 25 talk about is a little bit on baseball, not much.

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1 But I got a piece of paper here. I'm going to pass  
 2 it around to our District Commanders. I need to  
 3 know who your district baseball chairman is. I've  
 4 got a list probably about five districts turned it  
 5 in. The other districts have not turned their  
 6 chairman's name in. So it's important. Gary Stone  
 7 needs this. I just got a listing and who did it.  
 8 So I brought this. Put your district  
 9 on here. Put the name of who your chairman for  
 10 baseball, and if you've got a number for that  
 11 person, please, put the number on there. So I'll  
 12 be passing this around. Okay.  
 13 What I've got, I've got the 7th  
 14 District, the 5th District, the 4th District, the  
 15 3rd District, and you've got the 14th District and  
 16 8th District on the sheet already. Everybody else,  
 17 I need your baseball chairman of your district.  
 18 Any questions on that? It's important. Next week  
 19 I've got a baseball meeting back in Jeff City, so  
 20 I'd like to have this information. Send it by  
 21 e-mail or whatever. I'd appreciate it.  
 22 Now, I'll touch on the -- every one  
 23 of you got these brochures. These are new  
 24 brochures that we reprinted because of the Legion  
 25 Act. So everybody basically from 1941 is eligible

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1 to belong to the American Legion. National says  
 2 that this Legion Act has generated 4 million  
 3 capable veterans to belong to the American Legion.  
 4 So the number's out there. How you get them,  
 5 that's up to you guys. Basically, you know  
 6 yourself. If the post doesn't do it, it's not  
 7 going to get done, but you need to talk to the  
 8 posts. It's important.  
 9 It shows in this here, it's a  
 10 501(c)(3). It shows in here about the  
 11 scholarships. If you want to start a new  
 12 scholarship, it would cost you \$12,500 for a new  
 13 scholarship. That's a \$500 scholarship for life.  
 14 Whoever wants the scholarship, they can put their  
 15 own name on it and they can put their own criteria.  
 16 So it is up to them.  
 17 If you look on the back on this here  
 18 it shows that all the scholarships that we already  
 19 have, and my son's name's on this, and I set the  
 20 criteria for my son. And that's what anybody can  
 21 do when they want to start a new scholarship. And  
 22 there may be some people who want to start  
 23 something, like they've got a loved one or  
 24 something they want to keep their name in there.  
 25 My understanding, all these applications go to all

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1 well.  
 2 The foundation, a couple years ago we  
 3 knew we had membership problems. So what the  
 4 foundation did, we said that we would pay for two  
 5 years of the foundation the 17,500 for the  
 6 scholarships. We said it would come out of the  
 7 foundation instead of coming out of the department  
 8 to help them save money during this crisis.  
 9 Last year was the worst year that we  
 10 had on membership. We lost 5 percent of our  
 11 membership last year. That's a little over 2,000.  
 12 And Terry put out for those who are members a five-  
 13 year outlook of this whole thing. This year the  
 14 foundation also gave another 17,500 to take care of  
 15 the scholarships.  
 16 Now, my recommendation as finance  
 17 officer is that this foundation, and I got  
 18 foundation the same time as finance, but this  
 19 foundation feels we need to stop doing that. We  
 20 have gave over \$50,000 to the department to see if  
 21 we could help them because of the membership.  
 22 Okay. Like I said, our portfolio is 830. If we  
 23 wouldn't have gave that 50,000, we'd have 880 or  
 24 880,000.  
 25 So here's where I'm coming from. We

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1 the high schools in the state of Missouri, correct?  
 2 Am I correct?  
 3 ADJUTANT FINLEY-JACKSON: Uh-huh.  
 4 MR. VOYLES: So it gives us some  
 5 publicity. Get their name out. We all have this  
 6 Centurytel here. It explained it here. We get  
 7 pins. Put your name on a plaque. But what we've  
 8 done is just brought this back up to date, make  
 9 sure that we had things covered. Does anybody want  
 10 to say anything about the brochure right now?  
 11 Study it. Bring it up at your  
 12 district meetings. You go to a post, bring it up,  
 13 and let's see what kind of response we got.  
 14 Now, here's -- this is my pet peeve  
 15 right here. I'll give you a little statistics.  
 16 Last year, January 31st of 2019, the foundation  
 17 portfolio was 724,000, almost 725,000. I'm not  
 18 going to go down to the cents. Don't need to.  
 19 Now, this year, January 31st of 2020, our market  
 20 value is \$830,000. That's in a one-year span.  
 21 We in this foundation have been  
 22 averaging 5 percent over the last five years.  
 23 Yeah. Last five years we've averaged 5.69 percent.  
 24 You can't get that on a savings bond or nothing.  
 25 You know how rough it is, but we've been doing very

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1 give to a lot of groups out there. We don't do  
 2 anything for the department and the posts. Now,  
 3 the foundation wants to help. The only way we can  
 4 help this, help the department and the posts out is  
 5 that if we can reach our portfolio to be at  
 6 \$1.2 million. And we looked at 3 percent at 1.2.  
 7 We're conservative. We're not going to say we're  
 8 going to get 5 percent every year. We're being  
 9 conservative. That is approximately \$36,000 that  
 10 would be income to the foundation.  
 11 When that hits that, we can give you  
 12 24,300 to cover the scholarships for the 17,500 and  
 13 the oratorical scholarship which is 6,800. So we  
 14 can give that 24,000 back to the department because  
 15 that's what our investment is making for us and it  
 16 can help ease the burden until we get your  
 17 membership where we want it to.  
 18 I'm not harping on membership. I'm  
 19 just telling you why the foundation is doing it.  
 20 We've been in here for years. We've got a lot of  
 21 great people watching this. Wells Fargo has been  
 22 great for us.  
 23 But here's what I'm asking. I  
 24 brought it up at my district meeting. Our district  
 25 they said \$200 is going to go to foundation. Those



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1 who have a budget, whether you're a district, post,  
 2 if you've got a budget and if you can afford it, I  
 3 would -- I'm asking you to earmark a budget for the  
 4 foundation.  
 5 Now, every post and every district is  
 6 different. I'm not putting an amount on what you  
 7 want to do. Some are better off than others.  
 8 Whatever you can give as a fair market for you guys  
 9 and gals, then we need it, because until we reach  
 10 this 1.2 million and we keep going down the way  
 11 we're doing, you know, we figured it would be  
 12 5 percent loss every year until we straighten  
 13 things out.  
 14 So membership is everybody's job.  
 15 Everybody knows that. But we as a foundation, if  
 16 we reach this plateau of the 1.2, we can help the  
 17 department and the posts. Hopefully what this will  
 18 do is we will drag out where we don't have to raise  
 19 dues. Raising dues is not the answer to our  
 20 problem. That is not. Never works. Never has  
 21 worked. You lose people out of that. That's a  
 22 fact.  
 23 So what I need for you really to do,  
 24 you guys are the grass roots. You get out there,  
 25 you talk to them, you talk to them posts and

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1 explain what we're doing. I hope you understand  
 2 what I'm trying to say. I'm trying to get it out  
 3 as simple as possible.  
 4 As our nine person commission that we  
 5 have in the foundation, when I have that meeting  
 6 with them on April 18th, every one of them  
 7 commissioners, including myself, will be going out  
 8 to our own districts and trying to help and explain  
 9 why we need donations to the foundation. They need  
 10 to hear it from us because this is -- we don't help  
 11 ourselves. This is an opportunity to help  
 12 ourselves right here.  
 13 And I'm not asking for blood. You've  
 14 got a five-year budget range here. For five years  
 15 I'd like to see some kind of a donation from the  
 16 districts and the posts. And I'm going to the SAL  
 17 when they have a department convention because the  
 18 SAL is there to help us. The ladies there help us,  
 19 too. Maybe they can help us in this area, too.  
 20 But I'm going to reach all out to do  
 21 this, but you -- the foundation of this  
 22 organization, that's the black hat. They're the  
 23 foundation, but you're the leaders. You are the  
 24 leaders of this organization. You need to make  
 25 sure they understand what -- how much it would help

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1 this department and their posts by giving in and  
 2 donating money to the foundation. People of the  
 3 foundation doesn't receive a dime. We get nothing,  
 4 nothing at all. Just let you know that.  
 5 So I guess I've done all my  
 6 bandwagon, but I'm very sincere about this. I can  
 7 see a good plus for it, a good positive for all of  
 8 us. Now, we have to get out there and do the work.  
 9 If we don't do it, it's not going to happen. Not  
 10 going to happen.  
 11 With that, Commander, thank you for  
 12 your allowing me the time. I was told I couldn't  
 13 talk this long but I couldn't help myself. Thank  
 14 you.  
 15 COMMANDER WILLIAMS: Thank you. The  
 16 oratorical chairman recommendation. The following  
 17 individuals' term expire this year: Larry DuFour,  
 18 David Shafer and Bob Ravenscraft. Chairman Benton  
 19 has requested that they all be reappointed. Second  
 20 on that.  
 21 CHAPLAIN HARPER: I'll second.  
 22 MR. GOOLSBY: Commander, you're  
 23 recommending that that recommendation be --  
 24 COMMANDER WILLIAMS: Be accepted.  
 25 MR. GOOLSBY: I make a motion that be

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1 done.  
 2 CHAPLAIN HARPER: I second.  
 3 MR. GOOLSBY: Goolsby, Historian.  
 4 CHAPLAIN HARPER: Harper, Chaplain.  
 5 COMMANDER WILLIAMS: All right.  
 6 You've heard the recommendation. Any questions?  
 7 None. All in favor?  
 8 (Responded "aye".)  
 9 COMMANDER WILLIAMS: Opposed?  
 10 (No response.)  
 11 COMMANDER WILLIAMS: None. Pass.  
 12 Thank you. The department committee appointments.  
 13 Ronnie Chism resigned from the Leadership and  
 14 Training Committee. I would like to appoint Albert  
 15 Jackson to replace her.  
 16 MR. GOOLSBY: Goolsby, Historian. I  
 17 move that recommendation.  
 18 MR. REED: Reed, 17th District.  
 19 Second.  
 20 COMMANDER WILLIAMS: Are there any  
 21 questions? Discussion? Okay. It's been moved and  
 22 second. All in favor?  
 23 (Responded "aye".)  
 24 COMMANDER WILLIAMS: Opposed?  
 25 (No response.)

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1           COMMANDER WILLIAMS: Passed. Okay.  
2           Next, set registration fee for department  
3           convention of \$5 in the past.  
4           MR. GOOLSBY: Goolsby, Historian. I  
5           move that be done for this upcoming convention.  
6           COMMANDER WILLIAMS: Approve the  
7           department delegation registration fee.  
8           MR. ANDERSON: Anderson, 6th  
9           District. Second.  
10          COMMANDER WILLIAMS: Okay. All in  
11          favor?  
12          (Responded "aye".)  
13          COMMANDER WILLIAMS: Questions?  
14          Discussion?  
15          MR. TOM GOODIN: Did you do the vote  
16          before the discussion?  
17          COMMANDER WILLIAMS: Okay. Any  
18          discussion? Call for the vote. All in favor?  
19          (Responded "aye".)  
20          COMMANDER WILLIAMS: Opposed?  
21          (No response.)  
22          MR. TOM GOODIN: Commander?  
23          COMMANDER WILLIAMS: Yes, sir.  
24          MR. TOM GOODIN: Tom Goodin,  
25          Alternate National Committee. You know, we had a

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1           valiant effort today to try to hold this DEC  
2           meeting here. Attendance is down. There's  
3           committees that were complaining that they couldn't  
4           meet.  
5           I would like to open up for  
6           discussion that next year we go back to a one-day  
7           spring conference to be held at a venue in  
8           Jefferson City -- it doesn't have to be a hotel --  
9           where we have the conference in the morning from 9  
10          to 11, then we have the DEC immediately following  
11          the conference, then we have the oratorical that  
12          afternoon at that same location to keep everything  
13          in one day and people don't have to stay over. I  
14          would make that motion that we accept that.  
15          COMMANDER WILLIAMS: That's too much.  
16          MR. TOM GOODIN: What?  
17          COMMANDER WILLIAMS: You can make a  
18          motion.  
19          MR. TOM GOODIN: I just did.  
20          JUDGE ADVOCATE STROM: Cassie Strom,  
21          Judge Advocate. Would you like to refer that  
22          motion to the Convention Committee?  
23          MR. TOM GOODIN: Why would it have to  
24          go to the Convention Committee?  
25          ADJUTANT FINLEY-JACKSON: No. Lowry

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1           Finley-Jackson. Convention Committee does not set  
2           up the conferences.  
3           JUDGE ADVOCATE STROM: But they could  
4           put together a plan for putting it before the DEC  
5           or not.  
6           MR. TOM GOODIN: Goodin, Alternate  
7           National Committee. They've never done that. All  
8           we're doing -- all I'm suggesting is that instead  
9           of having this, we do everything in one day. I  
10          don't think there's going to be many people at the  
11          oratorical tomorrow, my personal opinion. I don't  
12          see why we can't -- doesn't have to be at a hotel.  
13          There's venues in Jeff City that we can rent the  
14          hall for the day. We might even be able to have it  
15          at Post 5. I don't know.  
16          But we can have the conference in the  
17          morning, the DEC immediately following the  
18          conference, and then the oratorical that afternoon.  
19          Get everybody in town and get them out instead of  
20          doing it over two days. The committees can meet in  
21          the morning that way. That's the motion I make.  
22          JUDGE ADVOCATE STROM: There's a  
23          motion on the floor.  
24          COMMANDER WILLIAMS: Any questions?  
25          MR. BUCKWALTER: There's no second.

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1           MR. TOM GOODIN: Nobody seconded.  
2           JUDGE ADVOCATE STROM: I'll second  
3           it.  
4           COMMANDER WILLIAMS: Discussion?  
5           CHAPLAIN HARPER: Harper, Department  
6           Chaplain. What time of day are you starting this  
7           and so on and so forth?  
8           MR. TOM GOODIN: Well, that's this  
9           body to discuss that. I mean, we can't start real  
10          late in the day. Start at ten o'clock in the  
11          morning and go for two hours on the conference and  
12          the committees can meet before that, then break for  
13          lunch, go into the DEC from one to three and have  
14          the oratorical from three o'clock till it's  
15          finished.  
16          MR. CHARLES GOODIN: Commander?  
17          Charles Goodin, Past Department Commander. I agree  
18          with the idea, but I really think that you need to  
19          have a committee to discuss this. This meeting  
20          will be all day long trying to work out the finer  
21          points of this. I do agree that we need to have a  
22          meeting in the spring. This is not going to work.  
23          It's not conducive to where we're headed. And that  
24          would be my recommendation, for you to appoint a  
25          committee to research this and report it to the

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1 commission.  
 2 COMMANDER WILLIAMS: Okay. You just  
 3 heard that.  
 4 JUDGE ADVOCATE STROM: I guess we  
 5 have a motion. Do we want to just vote on this  
 6 motion and then we'll take up Charlie's? Is there  
 7 any other discussion?  
 8 MR. BUCKWALTER: I believe this  
 9 should be tabled until the DEC at the convention.  
 10 CHAPLAIN HARPER: I second.  
 11 MR. BUCKWALTER: That gives us an  
 12 opportunity to review it with the Finance  
 13 Commission to see the implications and also look at  
 14 the potential schedule.  
 15 MR. TOM GOODIN: I don't see where  
 16 the Finance Committee -- Goodin, Alternate National  
 17 Executive Committee. I don't see where the Finance  
 18 Committee has any input to what this body does.  
 19 MR. BUCKWALTER: Somebody has to pay  
 20 for this.  
 21 MR. TOM GOODIN: I understand that,  
 22 and we don't even know if we're going to have it at  
 23 Post 5 or a venue that's available in Jeff City.  
 24 MS. COATS: Commander?  
 25 COMMANDER WILLIAMS: Yes.

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1 MS. COATS: Darlene Coats,  
 2 Sergeant-at-Arms. I think also you also got to  
 3 take into consideration before you decide to make  
 4 something like this, you need to get the Oratorical  
 5 Commission's input because those are our people,  
 6 and the contestants as well. Now you're going into  
 7 late in the evenings. We might have a really hard  
 8 time getting judges there. They need to be on  
 9 board with these decisions, too, before you take it  
 10 to the full body. My opinion.  
 11 MR. TOM GOODIN: Goodin, Alternate  
 12 National Executive Committee. It never started  
 13 till 1:30 in the past, Darlene. We had a fall  
 14 conference in the morning and then we -- then the  
 15 luncheon and then we had that at 1:30. So I mean  
 16 I've got to agree with Charlie. We're not going to  
 17 get the details worked out today. What we're  
 18 trying to do is get the principle that we're going  
 19 to go to a one-day format. And if we can vote on  
 20 that and get a one-day format, we would go back to  
 21 having a little bit of a conference, then move  
 22 the -- you can always do the oratorical next and  
 23 then the DEC. It doesn't matter how you make the  
 24 flow, you make the flow work.  
 25 But this is -- this isn't working.

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1 Look at the attendance. We've got district  
 2 commanders that aren't here. We've got a zone  
 3 commander that's not here. We've got a bunch of  
 4 past department commanders that aren't here. We've  
 5 got committees that didn't meet that should have  
 6 met.  
 7 JUDGE ADVOCATE STROM: Cassie Strom,  
 8 Judge Advocate. Point of order. We've got a  
 9 motion to table this as well as his motion. If we  
 10 vote, we can just vote on the motion to table it if  
 11 you want to do that, and then from there we can  
 12 take up whether or not you want to set up an ad hoc  
 13 committee, which is in your purview to do, and when  
 14 you want to do it. So give me a second on the  
 15 table.  
 16 MR. SWEENEY: Sweeney, 5th District.  
 17 Second.  
 18 JUDGE ADVOCATE STROM: So we have a  
 19 second.  
 20 MR. GOOLSBY: Marvin Harper has  
 21 already moved and seconded.  
 22 COMMANDER WILLIAMS: All in favor?  
 23 MR. BUCKWALTER: Tell them what we're  
 24 voting on.  
 25 JUDGE ADVOCATE STROM: So by saying

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1 aye, a vote in favor of tabling this at this time  
 2 until either the next meeting or ad hoc committee  
 3 if the Commander so appoints. So a vote for  
 4 tabling this will put it on hold until further  
 5 details are developed. A vote against will take it  
 6 back to his original motion to have a vote on it.  
 7 COMMANDER WILLIAMS: Did you  
 8 understand what was said? A motion --  
 9 JUDGE ADVOCATE STROM: It's not  
 10 debatable, but it's a vote.  
 11 COMMANDER WILLIAMS: All in favor?  
 12 (Responded "aye".)  
 13 COMMANDER WILLIAMS: Opposed?  
 14 MR. TOM GOODIN: No.  
 15 MR. ANDERSON: No.  
 16 COMMANDER WILLIAMS: The ayes have  
 17 it. Judge Advocate, Cassie.  
 18 JUDGE ADVOCATE STROM: My report?  
 19 MR. TOM GOODIN: Are you going to  
 20 appoint an ad hoc committee or not?  
 21 JUDGE ADVOCATE STROM: I have  
 22 actually several things to discuss today. Sorry to  
 23 the Commander and the Adjutant. First off is that  
 24 I have an address change. So the address that is  
 25 in the last book is no longer. I've canceled my

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1 P.O. Box. My new address is actually in the  
 2 system, and it's 9234 Laramie, L-a-r-a-m-i-e,  
 3 Drive, St. Louis, Missouri 63126.  
 4 Second, Christine Sapp is going to  
 5 take my place at the convention this summer. I  
 6 have a wedding in England that's going to keep me  
 7 from being able to attend. I hope you all will be  
 8 as nice to her as you are to me.  
 9 We have two changes to our  
 10 constitution and bylaws. The first is a really  
 11 easy one that we saw today. We canceled the  
 12 charter of two posts. Our constitution and bylaws  
 13 don't have the word cancellation in them. So what  
 14 we would like to do is amend Article X, Article 10  
 15 Section 2 to include cancellation. All of this  
 16 will be presented for the summer convention for a  
 17 vote, but I just wanted to give you the heads up.  
 18 The second change has to do with the  
 19 policy letter that I sent out earlier, and in  
 20 essence the policy letter doesn't really have a lot  
 21 of oomph to it, but it gives the posts notice that  
 22 we are going to be changing their -- their  
 23 resending their annual dues payments to the  
 24 department within 30 days of receipt. Then it  
 25 picks up with the National's constitution and

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1 bylaws. It just helps us let the post process  
 2 disciplinary actions against members without them  
 3 being able to move to another post to avoid  
 4 sanctions. Those sorts of things cause a lot of  
 5 disruption in a post, and they actually affect  
 6 membership. So I recommend that you put that word  
 7 out within your districts and/or zones.  
 8 The other thing that I've been  
 9 getting a lot of, you know, information on is the  
 10 instability that is taking place at post meetings.  
 11 I don't know if any of you have seen this. We've  
 12 had situations where people are in screaming and  
 13 yelling matches. We had a commander called a very  
 14 derogatory term at a DEC meeting where nobody  
 15 except for one person stood up and said something  
 16 to the individual that made a very, you know,  
 17 nasty, nasty comment.  
 18 Those are reasons why our membership  
 19 doesn't get better. I mean, people, especially  
 20 young people see how we treat each other, see how  
 21 we handle things within our post, that we let  
 22 people steal money and get away with it, that we  
 23 don't take any action, or if we try to take action  
 24 they're able to move to another post and then, you  
 25 know, they do the same thing at another post.

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1 bylaws that says the department has to resend that  
 2 portion of the dues to National within 30 days of  
 3 their receipt.  
 4 As discussed earlier with the  
 5 membership issues, we have some posts holding on to  
 6 things. Right now we're dealing with a post who  
 7 has checks laying around up to five years old along  
 8 with cash that were never turned in.  
 9 So I don't know if anyone has  
 10 questions about that policy letter or any other  
 11 issues with it. We'll have this teed up to be  
 12 proposed as an amendment to our constitution and  
 13 bylaws at our July convention. Any questions on  
 14 either of those?  
 15 All right. Two other things. One,  
 16 we are having some disciplinary actions that I've  
 17 been involved with and some of the districts and  
 18 zones have also been involved in. If a post is  
 19 taking action against one of its members, I  
 20 recommend that you contact or send the name of the  
 21 individual and the membership number, whatever, to  
 22 Lowry Finley-Jackson so that no action to transfer  
 23 that person to another post can occur before that  
 24 disciplinary action is complete.  
 25 It's not in the constitution and

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1 So I think it's really important for  
 2 us to ensure that, like our preamble and our  
 3 constitution and bylaws say, that we treat each  
 4 other very civilly, that we don't allow members to  
 5 abuse other members or to harass other members or  
 6 any of those sorts of things.  
 7 There's also a sexual harassment  
 8 policy that's come up from National, and we're  
 9 exposing ourselves in some of these instances to  
 10 damages, and younger people aren't going to  
 11 tolerate it as much as the older people.  
 12 So if you're serious about  
 13 membership, then you need to be serious about posts  
 14 running ethically and properly within the  
 15 constitution and bylaws and that we all treat each  
 16 other well.  
 17 That is all I have. If anyone has  
 18 any questions, questions? Thanks.  
 19 COMMANDER WILLIAMS: Thank you. Well  
 20 put. Our National Executive Committeeman Kenny  
 21 Goth.  
 22 MR. GOTH: Good afternoon. This is  
 23 going to be a little shorter than normal because  
 24 usually I talk about our D.C. trip, and our D.C.  
 25 trip is not till March 8th through 11th. So I'm

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1 not going to talk about that.  
2 However, I am going to say that for  
3 ye who has not given me money for Paul Diller,  
4 which we will give to him on that Monday, please  
5 see me after the meeting.  
6 Anyway, I'd like to -- and some of  
7 you may know about this. Everyone knows about the  
8 Bladensburg Memorial that the Supreme Court voted  
9 seven to two, but some of you may not know about  
10 the Bayview cross in Florida. Well, the 11th  
11 Circuit Court reversed the decision and allowed  
12 that cross to stand. So what the Bladensburg seven  
13 to two vote did at the Supreme Court is now coming  
14 back and repaying us on that cross, and that comes  
15 from the membership being able to go to Congress  
16 and talk to them. So, you know, we always go back  
17 to membership. That's a good thing.  
18 And now I'd like to talk about our  
19 site visit. National Convention Committee, they  
20 were here in the last weekend of January in Kansas  
21 City, and then the next weekend we went to  
22 St. Louis. They have bids in for the 2025  
23 convention, along with Tampa Bay, Florida and Salt  
24 Lake City.  
25 Lowry, Rich Heigert, myself, Kathy

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1 and George Scarborough were in Kansas City, and I  
2 really, really enjoyed being there. I've got --  
3 I'm biased. I can't vote for one or the other.  
4 But in St. Louis Betty, Lowry, Rich, myself and  
5 Kathy were there, and they treated us great also.  
6 We've got two good candidates, and we'll find out  
7 who gets it in May at the NEC or the convention  
8 committee. Sorry.  
9 But the one thing I want to say is,  
10 it kind of opened our eyes, the ones on the  
11 Convention Committee, and Lowry. Chairman Mike  
12 Walton, National Convention Committee Chairman, and  
13 the Vice Chair John Fucola (phonetic), and with  
14 them were the director Bridget Robinson and Andrea  
15 Watson and Reggie Matthews. And let me tell you,  
16 those people know what they're doing. They go in  
17 there and their rates are too high, they won't tell  
18 them you have to reduce them, but they highly  
19 suggest it.  
20 I think both St. Louis and Kansas  
21 City put pretty good bids in. Like I say, we'll  
22 know by the convention if Kansas City or St. Louis  
23 is going to get it in 2025.  
24 MR. BOARDMAN: Can you expand on what  
25 it means to have it in the state?

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1 MR. GOTH: Whatever city gets it is  
2 going to be millions and millions of dollars. You  
3 know, when we go as in the department convention  
4 committee and we go on a site visit, we don't have  
5 the power because we may have a couple hundred  
6 people there, you know, and some people -- and I  
7 don't know if you guys realize this. Some people  
8 stay at different hotels. Well, that in turn hurts  
9 the department because we have to spend so much  
10 money there and, if we don't, we have to write them  
11 out a check. Isn't that true? And so by staying  
12 at a different hotel, you may be saving ten bucks,  
13 but it's going to cost us. So think about that the  
14 next time we have a convention and you think, well,  
15 I'm going to stay down here because I need to save  
16 ten bucks. Well, it's not.  
17 But National, they're talking about  
18 thousands, 10,000, 15,000, somewhere in there  
19 people, and plus they've got their families. Like  
20 I said, you're talking millions and millions of  
21 dollars. That's why they can say if you're not  
22 going to go -- their rates are \$200 and they're not  
23 going to get that commission, but if they come  
24 down, and it's just so much money. You're talking  
25 lots of money. Does that answer your question?

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1 MR. BOARDMAN: Sure.  
2 MR. TOM GOODIN: It's also a boon to  
3 the department, right?  
4 MR. GOTH: Last year, I believe, and  
5 what it is is they get to keep 50 percent and they  
6 give National 50 percent, and I believe it was  
7 102,000, which was pretty high. Usually it's  
8 somewhere around 60 or 70,000, but this was the  
9 hundred year anniversary one.  
10 NATIONAL VICE COMMANDER HEIGERT:  
11 Rich Heigert, National Vice Commander. When we had  
12 the convention in St. Louis in 2003, our portion  
13 for the Department of Missouri was \$80,000.  
14 MR. GOTH: Usually it's somewhere in  
15 there. They had a really good year. So that's --  
16 that comes to the Department. So it's going to  
17 help us, too. Any other questions? And that, my  
18 friends, ends my report. Anybody have any  
19 questions? That ends my report. Thank you.  
20 COMMANDER WILLIAMS: Thank you, my  
21 friend. Legislative chairman, Charles Goodin.  
22 MR. CHARLES GOODIN: Thank you,  
23 Commander. Good afternoon, everyone. First thing  
24 I have to say is they're serving lunch and dinner  
25 this afternoon at Post 5. The ladies are having

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1 their annual fundraiser. So at 4:30 it's barbecue  
 2 chicken and pork steak. So if you're staying for  
 3 the oratorical, it's just 15 miles straight down  
 4 the road to get there. My secretary said I better  
 5 say that.  
 6 In your packet you have two  
 7 resolutions that were very important to the  
 8 Missouri Association of Veterans Organizations and  
 9 us. House Joint Resolution No. 72 has to do with  
 10 constitution of the State of Missouri when they  
 11 passed the marijuana law, and any time that there's  
 12 money involved, everybody wants to put their finger  
 13 in there and get some.  
 14 So the University of Missouri Law  
 15 School has a veterans clinic where they help  
 16 veterans do the same work essentially our service  
 17 officers do. And I'll just read. This is an  
 18 amendment essentially to the constitution. They  
 19 moved on the original bill, constitutional change,  
 20 the Veterans Commission was listed as first and  
 21 only recipient besides the State for any funds.  
 22 You know, when the State gets all of theirs, all  
 23 the remaining funds will go to the Missouri  
 24 Veterans Commission.  
 25 So this bill decides to drop that to

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1 next and first beginning January 1st, 2021 to the  
 2 University of Missouri School of Law Veterans  
 3 Clinic in an amount equal to 10 percent of the  
 4 total annual revenue collected under this section  
 5 but not to exceed \$2 million per year. The  
 6 \$2 million per year appropriations cap shall be  
 7 adjusted at least triennially for inflation to  
 8 reflect the aggregate increase in the general price  
 9 level as measured by the Consumer Price Index as  
 10 defined and officially published by the United  
 11 States Department of Labor or its successor agency.  
 12 So the University of Missouri, which  
 13 has probably got the highest general revenue budget  
 14 of any organization in the state, law school wants  
 15 to take money off the top that we haven't gotten  
 16 any yet. This will take directly from the homes  
 17 and the cemeteries and the service officer program.  
 18 Which the other part of that, in a  
 19 meeting before this, the Missouri Veterans  
 20 Commission gets their money from the gambling boat.  
 21 That's where it comes from. Not the lottery, not  
 22 anything. It comes from the gambling boats. At  
 23 one time we got around \$30 million a year to bring  
 24 you up in history and we had a whole lot of money.  
 25 So the first thing that came around

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1 was the Liberty Memorial. Well, this is a veterans  
 2 thing. They got \$15 million to start and I think  
 3 more. So the IF was still up there and the  
 4 gambling boats were working, and then early  
 5 childhood asked for some money. They got it, and  
 6 before we knew what happened they had control of  
 7 it. Anyway, we got that back.  
 8 The problem is the projection for the  
 9 gambling revenue is about \$14 million in five  
 10 years, down from 30 to 14. That's the only money  
 11 we have coming in to the Veterans Commission to pay  
 12 for the homes and the cemeteries and the veterans  
 13 service officers.  
 14 So there's another bill that I've  
 15 been called on. Probably some of you are  
 16 wondering. You should have these bills in your  
 17 packet. That's House Bill No. 1485. And as  
 18 introduced, line 2, care facility is defined as  
 19 assisted living facility, intermediate care  
 20 facility and residential care facility or a skilled  
 21 nursing facility, and those terms are defined under  
 22 Section 198.006.  
 23 The nursing homes -- Lloyd, you  
 24 correct me if I'm wrong. Their lobbyists were  
 25 there and they're lobbying for this money, and what

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1 they're lobbying for is if you can't get a nursing  
 2 home through the VA, the VA has money up to -- I  
 3 don't know the cap figure, about 2,200 a month  
 4 where they'll pay for a nursing home for veterans.  
 5 MR. MILLER: They won't for us, but  
 6 they will them.  
 7 MR. CHARLES GOODIN: The ones that  
 8 they've got approved. Right. The nursing home  
 9 industry has represented in this meeting and under  
 10 this Bill 1485, once any veteran that needs skilled  
 11 nursing -- and that was after testimony because at  
 12 first it was -- it was from assisted living all the  
 13 way up to skilled nursing. There's a lot of  
 14 difference there. They're wanting anybody that  
 15 can't get a Missouri Veterans home within 50 miles  
 16 or a VA selected home of their home to get a pay  
 17 voucher to pay that to them to make up the price.  
 18 So I'm pretty sure it's not the whole thing because  
 19 that would be about \$6,000 a month, but it's what  
 20 the -- they allow what Missouri allows to be paid.  
 21 I think they're up to \$2,200.  
 22 So I testified on both of these bills  
 23 before they came out of committee, and they are --  
 24 came out of committee due pass. 1485 is not out of  
 25 rules yet. The other one is. It's -- it's

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1 imperative that this body and the people in it take  
2 this back to their constituents, your posts, your  
3 districts and anybody and have all Legionnaires  
4 call or e-mail their State Representative, but more  
5 so it's almost too late for that. It still has to  
6 pass the House floor. Call your senators, too.  
7 In that stuff you have -- or I can  
8 give you the number. It's easy to go online and  
9 send an e-mail. You just go to www.house.mo.gov  
10 and click on legislation or bills list, and the  
11 same thing for the Senate, just substitute Senate.  
12 Look up your Representative or Senator and send  
13 them an e-mail. Phone call would be better.  
14 Somebody will answer the phone. Those phone  
15 numbers will be there for you. It's all going to  
16 be in front of you on your computer, your phone or  
17 whatever.  
18 If we don't make some noise on this,  
19 the veterans that use our services, use the dirt in  
20 the cemeteries are the ones that will suffer. So I  
21 beg of you to at least call on these. Some of you  
22 now get an e-mailing from me through the hard work  
23 of my wife of all the bills that have to do with  
24 defense and veterans. There's just a short  
25 synopsis on there. You can follow. It will tell

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1 you how to follow it. That information I just give  
2 is on it. If you don't get this and want it, give  
3 me your e-mail before I leave here today or you  
4 leave. I'll get you on the e-mail list.  
5 MR. TOM GOODIN: Charles? Tom  
6 Goodin, Alternate National Executive Committee. I  
7 talked to the director of Missouri Veterans  
8 Commission Friday, and the economic impact if this  
9 passes, which she said it's going to pass the House  
10 and the Governor's for it, is \$10 million a year  
11 that they will have to swallow and take away from  
12 the homes and the cemeteries. And we don't have  
13 the money. We can't afford it.  
14 So we've got to hit the cinders hard  
15 on this. We're too late for the House. It's an  
16 election year. Politicians are looking for a  
17 headline that's going to make them look good to be  
18 reelected. It's a nice headline that says,  
19 Missouri veterans get vouchers to stay in nursing  
20 homes. Well, we can't afford \$10 million a year.  
21 We just can't do it. Thanks, Charlie.  
22 MR. CHARLES GOODIN: That's about it.  
23 Are there any other questions you have? This is  
24 the -- this is the time to do something, you know.  
25 The marijuana money I think, as I understand it,

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1 Cassie, will have to go to a vote of the people  
2 because that was a constitutional amendment. They  
3 can pass the change but it still has to go before  
4 the people, but they've done it without going to  
5 the people before.  
6 So don't say you're going to do it  
7 and not do it. Do something, and ask your people  
8 in a phone call or something to do the same. You  
9 know, we do have 30,000 members. I know all of  
10 them probably won't do that, but if we do nothing,  
11 nothing is what we'll get. That's all I have.  
12 Thanks for your time, Commander.  
13 COMMANDER WILLIAMS: Boys State,  
14 Dennis Woeltje.  
15 MR. WOELTJE: Good afternoon.  
16 Missouri Boys State typically sends between 900 and  
17 1,000 boys to Boys State each year. This year  
18 we're having just a little bit of trouble getting  
19 our boys signed up.  
20 Currently there are 628 boys that are  
21 interested in going to Boys State and have actually  
22 filled out an application. However, they're not  
23 being sent in to headquarters. Headquarters  
24 currently and -- well, not so current. As of the  
25 13th of February headquarters had 17 paid-up

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1 applications in headquarters.  
2 Deadline is March 1st. I know it's  
3 not there yet, but we need to be talking to our  
4 district chairs, talking to our district posts,  
5 talking to our high schools, finding out why these  
6 kids and the money is not coming in.  
7 I gave each of you a list of the  
8 different districts, the schools involved, total  
9 numbers. It's a great program. We need to sponsor  
10 it, we need to support it, but we need the kids to  
11 come in.  
12 Basically, that's all I've got. It's  
13 kind of like membership. We need kids. American  
14 Legion Missouri Boys State headquarters. Excuse  
15 me. Okay. We're talking Warrensburg, yes.  
16 MR. GOTH: Kenny Goth, National  
17 Executive Committee. I think some of the problem  
18 is that they moved -- it was April 1st. Now  
19 they've moved it to March 1st, and some of them are  
20 still in that mode, such as myself.  
21 MR. WOELTJE: Okay. Get on the  
22 stick.  
23 MR. GOTH: Anyway, I think that's  
24 some of the problem.  
25 MR. WOELTJE: Yeah. I've had some

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<p style="text-align: center;">Page 61</p> <p>1 posts tell me that they just don't want to get out 2 and find that money, which is not acceptable. 3 There is -- also, if you would get 4 back to your district chairs, Boys State chairs. 5 On the transmittal form there's a new block, and 6 that block is to put your post or your district 7 involvement in getting the Boys State sponsorships. 8 When we go to a meeting and they tell 9 us that the American Legion is only providing 10 30 percent of the effort in sending boys to Boys 11 State, that's misleading. What they're actually 12 saying is that the American Legion posts, 13 districts, they're only providing 30 percent of the 14 income. We know that we're out there and we're 15 doing 75 to 80 or better of the effort to get these 16 boys into Boys State. 17 So with the new transmittal form and 18 we put our involvement percentages down, that is 19 going to increase our reported involvement in Boys 20 State. The Legion will come out looking better 21 because of the new form. So anyway, that was 22 something we -- yes. 23 MS. COATS: Darlene Coats, 24 Sergeant-at-Arms, 11/12th District Commander. As I 25 spoke to you earlier, just what you were saying,</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Page 63</p> <p>1 student. So we can take care of that. 2 MS. COATS: I mean, even if it goes 3 to someone outside our district or whatever, that's 4 fine, but at least give us the information that it 5 was, you know, that person. 6 MR. WOELTJE: I guess all of you are 7 aware that they have started a thank you letter 8 from Boys State. The student is given a letterhead 9 with his name and the American Legion Boys State. 10 He writes out a letter to his sponsor thanking them 11 for their support. I think that has been a great 12 help and I think most everybody's appreciated it. 13 But as she says, if they don't get a thank you 14 note, there's a little bit of disappointment. 15 Any other questions? That's my 16 report. 17 COMMANDER WILLIAMS: Media and 18 communication, John Buckwalter. 19 MR. BUCKWALTER: There are two 20 editions of the Missouri Legionnaire that will be 21 published before the convention, one in March and 22 one in June. The deadline for those of us who owe 23 Lowry articles for the March edition is when? 24 Today. Get those articles in to Lowry in Word 25 format with PDF -- I'm sorry -- with JPG images and</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">Page 62</p> <p>1 where in my district, and I'm pretty sure about 2 your district, the problem we got with posts 3 sponsoring is when the young gentlemen cancel, and 4 they say, well, we'll get somebody else in there. 5 But they're not giving us the information of the 6 individual that they are putting in there. So a 7 lot of my posts do not want to sponsor anyone and 8 don't be given credit, just like what you just 9 said, whereas if someone, a post sponsor come and 10 wants to have a waiting list, they'll take someone 11 off the waiting list and not tell that post. 12 MR. WOELTJE: Okay. In my district 13 we charge \$590 for a boy to go to Boys State. 14 That's 500 for the application, \$90 for 15 transportation. So you sponsor a boy to go to Boys 16 State. He backs out and doesn't go. That is not 17 lost money. That money will put someone through 18 Boys State. They're going to pick up an alternate 19 from somewhere across the state and put that person 20 in to Boys State. 21 However, there's a possibility that 22 your money will not be recognized as sponsoring 23 someone outside of your district. So I'll bring it 24 up to them and make sure that the thank you note 25 goes to the person that's actually paying for that</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Page 64</p> <p>1 she will get the paper put together and ready to 2 roll. 3 The 2020 annual newsletter 4 competition will be conducted in the same format as 5 the past couple of years. The deadline for those 6 applications will be Friday, July 10th by 9 a.m. 7 or, if mailed, by July 3rd, 2020. 8 The Toot Our Horns competition, the 9 deadline for that again will be June 30th, the same 10 criteria as in the past for Toot Our Horns, and the 11 new criteria will be available on the website very 12 soon. Right now it's still got the 2019. I 13 apologize. We'll get that fixed. 14 One other deadline while I'm standing 15 up here. Scholarships, the high school scholarship 16 applications are due to Missouri Legion Department 17 Headquarters by April 20th. The forms for all the 18 scholarships are available on the 19 MissouriLegion.org website under programs. 20 They were sent to school counselors, 21 but based on the number of conversations that I 22 have on the phone with school counselors, I don't 23 know where they wind up at in the school, but those 24 forms are there and they can be downloaded. The 25 students can complete them and get them in.</p>

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1 So at your post and district level,  
 2 please touch base, remind people to get those  
 3 scholarships in. I would really like to give away  
 4 \$17,000. Thank you.  
 5 COMMANDER WILLIAMS: Scouting, Jerome  
 6 Goolsby.  
 7 MR. GOOLSBY: Goolsby, Historian,  
 8 also Department Scouting Chairman. The  
 9 applications for the Eagle Scout year have to be in  
 10 to the department by the 1st of March. Now, I  
 11 understand the 1st of March is going to be on a  
 12 Sunday. I'll be flexible with them. I'm going to  
 13 look at the cancellation that the Post Office puts  
 14 on it. If you've got it in before the 1st of  
 15 March, that's fine. We're not going to be meeting  
 16 to go over them until the 9th. I did it that way  
 17 simply to give the department enough time to get  
 18 them all together and also give enough time for  
 19 them to get sent in.  
 20 If I see postmarks like the 2nd of  
 21 March, 3rd of March, whoever makes that application  
 22 is going to get a nice little thank you for  
 23 participating or whatever it is the department  
 24 sends out to those people that don't get the award  
 25 that you're not going to get considered.

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1 Deadline's the 1st.  
 2 So that's all I have on that section.  
 3 Does anybody have any questions about that?  
 4 Okay. Something that came up. Boy  
 5 Scouts of America National Office, as you probably  
 6 saw, filed a Chapter 11 bankruptcy petition. You  
 7 need to make sure, those of you that sponsor  
 8 troops, that that doesn't affect anything at the  
 9 council level. You guys shouldn't see anything at  
 10 all change in how you do things because it works  
 11 sort of like a franchising system.  
 12 The councils are chartered from  
 13 national. So they're running a program that  
 14 national headquarters of Boy Scouts of America gave  
 15 them. The Boy Scouts of America filing at the  
 16 national level is not going to affect how they do  
 17 things. It is going to affect to some extent what  
 18 kind of things national has available to them.  
 19 They may wind up having to sell some  
 20 of the stuff that they have. They've got a couple  
 21 high adventure areas. They've got the Scout ranch.  
 22 They've got the place they just opened up, Bethel  
 23 Scout Reserve. What they're going to do with all  
 24 that, I don't know, but they've got to come up with  
 25 some kind of fund to protect themselves from these

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1 lawsuits that they have.  
 2 That shouldn't affect your council.  
 3 You need to make sure to do what you can to let  
 4 people know that the council's -- everything's  
 5 going to be fine, that they need to keep supporting  
 6 those Boy Scout councils, whatever council's in  
 7 your area. Anybody got any questions on that?  
 8 Thank you for your time. Commander, that concludes  
 9 my report, sir.  
 10 COMMANDER WILLIAMS: Before the  
 11 Department Adjutant comes up with announcements,  
 12 are there any other commissions/committee chairmen  
 13 that would like to make a report? Yes, sir?  
 14 MR. BOARDMAN: Kerry Boardman,  
 15 Immediate Past Department Commander and president  
 16 of the Past Post Commanders Club, a very honorable  
 17 organization. By show of hands, how many here are  
 18 members of that club? Now, by show of hands, if  
 19 you're not a member, how many are past post  
 20 commanders? Let's do this a different way. If  
 21 you're a past post commander, raise your hand. Put  
 22 your hand down if you are a member of the Past Post  
 23 Commanders Club. Everybody in here's a member.  
 24 You're a life member. Once you're paid, you're  
 25 paid for life. Even if you've been disbarred,

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1 you're still a member.  
 2 In your packet you'll notice that  
 3 there is not -- I'm losing my voice -- a form for  
 4 the Past Post Commanders Club golf tournament held  
 5 every year. It's a very honorable, time-consuming  
 6 -- I mean very honorable thing to do is play golf  
 7 in the past. It's our main fundraiser. When I say  
 8 play golf, I don't really mean that literally  
 9 because there's some out there that do not play  
 10 golf. They could have a backhoe and a basketball  
 11 and still not be able to tee off. Larry, Mike  
 12 Sweeney.  
 13 There's no form for that.  
 14 Inadvertently left out. Probably my fault. I  
 15 don't know. I'm assured, though, that they will be  
 16 in the mailing.  
 17 This is a very important thing. The  
 18 money we raise through the club goes to very, very  
 19 highly classed supporting places. Give to the  
 20 commander for his fund, send boys to Boys State. I  
 21 do believe we sponsor a girl for Girls State. I  
 22 think we did. All the money coming in we get from  
 23 this.  
 24 When you play golf, that money pays  
 25 for the golf. Our money comes from the sponsorship

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1 of the hole. I believe it's \$50. You get your  
2 name, whether it's post, personal name, district on  
3 a plaque that goes on a hole. Everyone here I'm  
4 sure's going to sponsor a hole with their district.  
5 Everyone here is going to sponsor a hole with your  
6 personal name on it, especially if you're a  
7 department officer or going to want to be a  
8 department officer.

9 Please, when you get the information,  
10 it's online, go to the website and get it. Get it  
11 sent in. Who's the chairman this year? Calvin  
12 Baumgardner. He was last year. He did a great  
13 job. Same course

14 ADJUTANT FINLEY-JACKSON: Yes, it is.

15 MR. BOARDMAN: It's in St. Louis.  
16 It's the Thursday before the convention. Ma'am.

17 ADJUTANT FINLEY-JACKSON: Lowry  
18 Finley-Jackson. I was going to tell about this,  
19 but since you're already on it, so the entrance for  
20 the golf tournament must be received by July 1st  
21 for the golf tournament and also for the hole  
22 sponsors. The forms will be on the department  
23 website as soon as Richard gets back to -- are they  
24 there already?

25 MR. HEIGERT: They're there. They're

1 Cadet Patrol. As you know, we have slots every  
2 year for Cadet Patrol. Right now with the deadline  
3 being the March 1st, we only have ten applications.  
4 Last year we only had 17 individuals attend Cadet  
5 Patrol. We don't want to have to cancel the  
6 program. If you could get out there and start  
7 beating the bushes again for everything, pretty  
8 much beating the bushes, which is kind of sad.  
9 This is what's happening with our programs.

10 Again, we only have ten applications  
11 as of yesterday, and Frankie walked in with one, so  
12 we had nine until Frankie walked in the door. So  
13 the deadline is March the 1st, which is in two  
14 weeks. So if you're holding those applications or  
15 if you have some applications out there, please get  
16 them in.

17 Youth Government Day is also coming  
18 up. Sign up for -- we have no schools signed up so  
19 far. The sign-up is March the 25th. Last year we  
20 had six schools participate. Festus has been there  
21 two years, two or three years. Festus has been at  
22 the Youth Government Day two or three years in a  
23 row.

24 UNIDENTIFIED: More like five or six.

25 ADJUTANT FINLEY-JACKSON: They've

1 just not in the monthly mailing. I will add them.

2 ADJUTANT FINLEY-JACKSON: Richard has  
3 already posted it.

4 MR. SWEENEY: Sweeney, 5th District,  
5 aged golfer. I've got with my partner, Ace No. 2,  
6 a recommendation for the golfing, sir. There is no  
7 gift or anything for last place, and we feel very  
8 left out on that.

9 MR. BOARDMAN: The reason we do that  
10 is because the same group would have last place  
11 every year.

12 MR. GOOLSBY: You could name the  
13 award after them.

14 MR. BOARDMAN: It would be the same  
15 two every year. I will not mention that group.  
16 No. Get it sent in. I know you all want to be  
17 there and you all want to play golf this year.  
18 It's going to be fantastic. Thank you, Commander.

19 ADJUTANT FINLEY-JACKSON: Lowry  
20 Finley-Jackson, Department Adjutant. Just a few  
21 announcements. Some youth programs that were not  
22 talked about -- and I'm not going to be long  
23 because I see people looking at their watches.  
24 Some youth programs that we did not talk about that  
25 are very important to this organization, one being

1 been coming. One year they were the only school  
2 there. Lloyd's school from Paris. Now, if little  
3 Paris can bring some students, I know the rest of  
4 the bigger towns can probably get some individuals.  
5 We had 80 students last year.

6 Marilyn, did you want to talk about  
7 the Junior Shooting Sports or do you want me to?

8 MS. HIRSCH: I can. It doesn't  
9 matter. Okay. I will. Hirsch, 16th District  
10 Commander.

11 The Junior Shooting Sports, we got a  
12 school this year that won Missouri state champion.  
13 It was the Mexico Military Academy. The young man  
14 is William Baker. And right now Post 26 when they  
15 get the opportunity they're going to give him his  
16 award, so the district commander for Post 26. I  
17 will keep you informed. And anybody else that's  
18 got anybody interested in junior shooting, ROTC,  
19 4H, let's get out there and get these kids  
20 involved.

21 ADJUTANT FINLEY-JACKSON: Thank you.  
22 In your packet is the Auxiliary anniversary  
23 celebration. I'm surprised Charlie's secretary  
24 didn't make him talk about this as well. the  
25 Auxiliary supported us last year for our hundredth

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1 celebration. Please support them for their  
 2 hundredth anniversary celebration. They're doing a  
 3 decade theme. You can dress up how you like to  
 4 dress up. I will say you need to support them like  
 5 they supported us.  
 6 The National Legacy Ride, and I know  
 7 this was talked about in the ALR meeting. Got a  
 8 call from the national legacy committee. They've  
 9 already set up the ride pretty much. They will be  
 10 coming through Missouri again this year. They came  
 11 through Missouri a couple of years ago, which was a  
 12 great time for anybody that stopped at the  
 13 particular sites.  
 14 The legacy ride is in August. The  
 15 planned stops for this year is Poplar Bluff, that  
 16 will be an overnight stop, and the next day they  
 17 will go in to Perryville. We all know that in  
 18 Perryville they have the Vietnam wall there now.  
 19 So we would like to, if you can, go to one of those  
 20 stops and support the legacy run ALR. So again,  
 21 that's Poplar Bluff and Perryville, and I will get  
 22 more information out on that as it comes to me.  
 23 And they've already talked about the  
 24 golf tournament, which was on my list. The only  
 25 other thing is oratorical contest is tomorrow,

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1 1:30. For those of you who are involved in the  
 2 distinguished guest luncheon, it will be held here  
 3 at 152 at 12 o'clock, and the oratorical contest  
 4 will start at 1:30 and it is at the South Boone  
 5 High School, which is located right up the street  
 6 and to the right. You can't miss it. There's only  
 7 one high school in Ashland, so you can't miss it.  
 8 We'd like for as many people as possible to be  
 9 there.  
 10 I think that is all I have.  
 11 JUDGE ADVOCATE STROM: I have one  
 12 announcement  
 13 ADJUTANT FINLEY-JACKSON: Well, that  
 14 is all I have. Are there any questions before I  
 15 sit down? Thank you.  
 16 JUDGE ADVOCATE STROM: Cassie Strom,  
 17 Judge Advocate. We are running, I think I  
 18 mentioned it before, the Veterans Experience Action  
 19 Center June 26/27 at UMSL in St. Louis. The  
 20 targeted audience is really all across the state of  
 21 Missouri as well as western Illinois. Tracy Vawter  
 22 and our American Legion Veterans Service Officers  
 23 are going to be very engaged in it. So we'll be  
 24 sending out more information on that in the next  
 25 couple months.

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1 ADJUTANT FINLEY-JACKSON: If you're a  
 2 district commander and you did not give me your  
 3 constitution and bylaws -- and you know who you  
 4 are, I'm not going to put you on the spot -- we  
 5 need those so they can be reviewed. Cassie's  
 6 already talked about a lot of the problems that  
 7 we're having. The Judge Advocate is going to review  
 8 each one of them, give you some suggestions back.  
 9 She's also going to give you information for a --  
 10 to help the posts get their constitution and bylaws  
 11 straightened out as well.  
 12 So if you're a district commander and  
 13 you haven't gotten them, know that you will not get  
 14 your expense check until I get your constitution  
 15 and bylaws. And I sent you out an e-mail, so  
 16 that's not a surprise. Okay.  
 17 COMMANDER WILLIAMS: Good of the  
 18 order. Senior Vice Commander Grigsby, Vietnam  
 19 celebration, World War I Memorial.  
 20 SR. VICE COMMANDER GRIGSBY: Thank  
 21 you, Commander. I draw your attention to the  
 22 handout that's in your packet about the Vietnam  
 23 exhibition which is going on presently. It opened  
 24 up November 6th and will be in the museum until  
 25 May 31st. There will be a special event, and I've

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1 forgotten the March date. I'll try to get it out  
 2 to you district commanders. The March date is  
 3 maybe a National Vietnam Day, and that will -- that  
 4 will be a special event in Kansas City. So if you  
 5 can, try to make it up for that.  
 6 There are some sponsorships. I  
 7 wouldn't be shocked by the second page of that one.  
 8 Right now they have the major funding, but there  
 9 are some needs for funding for the speakers, for  
 10 travel for them, and we're raising money. Okay.  
 11 So you can on your own do that.  
 12 So I encourage you to get up to the  
 13 exhibition and encourage your posts to send people  
 14 to see it. Thank you.  
 15 COMMANDER WILLIAMS: Approval of  
 16 mileage. Time out.  
 17 ADJUTANT FINLEY-JACKSON: For the  
 18 good of the order. Please remember to have your  
 19 reservations in for the department convention no  
 20 later than June 17. The information is online, and  
 21 what happens every year is someone will miss that  
 22 reservation and then they'll call me and tell me  
 23 that our room block is full or they have to pay  
 24 whatever the market value price is of the room.  
 25 Then I'll get a phone call saying they're charging

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1 me \$115, \$120, without the individual saying I  
 2 missed the deadline. So I can't fix -- I can't  
 3 magically fix your price. If you miss the  
 4 deadline, you miss the deadline. So please let  
 5 your people know, they must adhere to these  
 6 deadlines. Same thing with National convention.  
 7 Deadlines are made for a reason.  
 8 COMMANDER WILLIAMS: Thank you. Does  
 9 anyone have anything else for the good of the  
 10 order? Approval of mileage.  
 11 MR. GOOLSBY: Goolsby, Historian. I  
 12 move mileage be approved for those members that  
 13 submit proper signed paperwork to the Department  
 14 Adjutant's office.  
 15 MR. ANDERSON: Anderson, District 6.  
 16 Second.  
 17 COMMANDER WILLIAMS: It's been moved  
 18 and seconded that mileage be approved. All in  
 19 favor?  
 20 (Responded "aye".)  
 21 COMMANDER WILLIAMS: Nos?  
 22 MR. TOM GOODIN: No.  
 23 COMMANDER WILLIAMS: At the close of  
 24 this DEC -- motion carried. Any questions? At the  
 25 close of this DEC, there will be a ten-minute break

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1 CERTIFICATE  
 2  
 3 STATE OF MISSOURI )  
 4 ) ss.  
 5 COUNTY OF COLE )  
 6  
 7 I, Kellene K. Feddersen, Certified  
 8 Shorthand Reporter with the firm of Alaris  
 9 Litigation Services, do hereby certify:  
 10  
 11 that I was personally present at the proceedings  
 12 had in the above-entitled cause at the time and place  
 13 set forth in the caption sheet thereof; and  
 14  
 15 that I then and there took down in Stenotype the  
 16 proceedings had; and  
 17  
 18 that the foregoing is a full, true and correct  
 19 transcript of such Stenotype notes so made at such  
 20 time and place.  
 21  
 22  
 23 \_\_\_\_\_  
 24 Kellene K. Feddersen, RPR, CSR, CCR  
 25

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1 before the closed session of the DEC. Chaplain  
 2 Harper, will you please give a benediction.  
 3 CHAPLAIN HARPER: Please, everybody,  
 4 tomorrow remember the oratorical if you can  
 5 because, after all, those are future leaders of our  
 6 country.  
 7 That being said, our father, thank  
 8 you for being with us during this meeting, that  
 9 what we accomplished reaches your approval. Oh  
 10 Lord, please be with us and ride with us back to  
 11 our homes, and please be with our troops and bring  
 12 them home. In Father's name, amen.  
 13 COMMANDER WILLIAMS: Thank you.  
 14 Cover. The colors of our country being in their  
 15 proper place, render right hand salute. Two.  
 16 There being no further business, I declare this  
 17 spring department executive committee meeting  
 18 adjourned.  
 19  
 20 (WHEREUPON, the open meeting of the  
 21 DEC concluded at 2:52 p.m.)  
 22  
 23  
 24  
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