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AMERICAN LEGION
DEPARTMENT OF MICHIGAN
DEPARTMENT EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE
FALL CONFERENCE
DEPARTMENT HEADQUARTERS
212 VERLINDEN AVENUE
LANSING, MICHIGAN 48915
FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 21, 2018

STEVE STRIGGOW
State Commander

RONALD RUNYAN
State Adjutant

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1
2 **P R O C E E D I N G S ,**

3 **CALL TO ORDER**

4 DEPT. CMDR. STRIGGOW: Please your attention to the Muskegon
5 Post 9 Color Guard for presentation of our colors.

6 **ADVANCEMENT OF COLORS**

7 DEPT. CMDR. STRIGGOW: Hand-salute.

8 Two.

9 (Colors advanced.)

10 DEPT. CMDR. STRIGGOW: I would ask Past Department
11 Commander, Al Ford to come forward for the invocation. We are not done yet.

12 **INVOCATION**

13 PAST DEPARTMENT CMDR. FORD: Please uncover.

14 Oh, God, our Supreme Commander, we pray that you will be with us
15 at this time to guide our work in this meeting.

16 Grant us the wisdom to seek your will in all that we undertake and
17 the courage to follow in the direction you would have us to go in seeking to serve
18 our God and country. May our efforts be of benefit to our fellow veterans and all
19 the people of our community.

20 This we pray in your most Holy Name.

21 Amen.

22 (Chorus of amens.)

23 **POW/MIA RESOLUTION**

24
25

1 DEPT. CMDR. STRIGGOW: As a reminder that there are still
2 some of our brothers who have not returned, Resolution 288, adopted at the 67th
3 National Convention calls for designating a POW/MIA Empty Chair at all official
4 meetings of The American Legion as a physical symbol of the thousands of
5 American POW-MIAs still unaccounted for from World War II, the Korean War, the
6 Vietnam War and now, the Gulf War. The POW-MIA flag on the Empty Chair
7 serves as a reminder to all of us to spare no effort to secure the release of any
8 American prisoners from captivity, the repatriation of the remains of those who
9 died bravely in the defense of liberty and a full accounting of those missing. Let us
10 rededicate ourselves to this vital endeavor.

11 **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

12 DEPT. CMDR. STRIGGOW: Please join me in the Pledge of
13 Allegiance.

14 (Recitation of Pledge of Allegiance.)

15 **PREAMBLE**

16 DEPT. CMDR. STRIGGOW: Recover.

17 Oh, sorry. Don't do that.

18 Please join me in the Preamble to the Constitution of The American
19 Legion.

20 (Recitation of Preamble.)

21 DEPT. CMDR. STRIGGOW: Now, you may sit down.

22 I will call on Adjutant Runyan for our roll call.

23 **ROLL CALL**

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DEPT. ADJT. RUNYAN: Thank you, Mr. Commander.

Good afternoon, everyone.

(Chorus of good afternoon.)

DEPT. ADJT. RUNYAN: Commander, this will be a roll call of the
Department Executive Committee Meeting.

Department Commander, Steve Striggow.

DEPT. CMDR. STRIGGOW: Here.

DEPT. ADJT. RUNYAN: Department Finance Officer, Barry Wood.

DEPT. FINANCE OFFICER WOOD: Here, sir.

DEPT. ADJT. RUNYAN: Department Historian, Ernie Berry.

DEPT. HISTRN. BERRY: Here.

DEPT. ADJT. RUNYAN: Department Sergeant-at-Arms, Danny
Crisp.

He's working.

DEPT. ADJT. RUNYAN: Department Chaplain, Eddie Brown.

DEPT. CHAPLAIN BROWN: Here, sir.

DEPT. ADJT. RUNYAN: Thank you, sir.

Department Judge Advocate, Kimberlee Hillock.

DEPT. JUDGE ADVOCATE HILLOCK: Here.

DEPT. ADJT. RUNYAN: 1st Vice Commander, Jim Austin.

Jim Austin.

DEPT. ADJT. RUNYAN: 2nd Zone Commander, Bob Berger.

DEPT. VICE CMDR. BERGER (Zone 2): Here, sir.

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DEPT. ADJT. RUNYAN: 3rd Zone Commander, Doug Carignan.

DEPT. VICE CMDR. CARIGNAN (Zone 3): Here.

DEPT. ADJT. RUNYAN: 4th Zone Commander, Don Mraz.

DEPT. VICE CMDR. MRAZ (Zone 4): Here, sir.

DEPT. ADJT. RUNYAN: 5th Zone Commander, Carl Morrison.

DEPT. VICE CMDR. MORRISON (Zone 5): Here, sir.

DEPT. ADJT. RUNYAN: Immediate Past Department Commander,
Brett Holt.

IMMEDIATE PAST DEPT. CMDR HOLT: Here, sir.

DEPT. ADJT. RUNYAN: National Executive Committeeman, Ray
Moore.

NATL. EXECUTIVE CMTMAN. MOORE: Present.

DEPT. ADJT. RUNYAN: 1st District Commander, Greg Spight.

DIST. CMDR. SPIGHT (1st): Present, sir.

DEPT. ADJT. RUNYAN: Alternate, Cheryl Tenor-Thomas.

Is she absent?

DIST. CMDR. SPIGHT (1st): Yes, sir.

DEPT. ADJT. RUNYAN: 2nd District Commander, Terry Beck.

DIST. CMDR. BECK (2nd): Here.

DEPT. ADJT. RUNYAN: Alternate, Rudy, is excused due to health
purposes.

DEPT. ADJT. RUNYAN: 3rd District Commander, Duane Miller.

DIST. CMDR. MILLER (3rd): Here.

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DEPT. ADJT. RUNYAN: Alternate, Dan Osborne.

DIST. CMDR. MILLER (3rd): We've got 2nd Vice filling in.

DEPT. ADJT. RUNYAN: 4th District Commander, Richard Parks.

DIST. CMDR. PARKS (4th): Here.

DEPT. ADJT. RUNYAN: Alternate, Walter Garrertt?

Excused? Absent?

DIST. CMDR. PARKS (4th): He's not here.

DEPT. ADJT. RUNYAN: It's a question mark.

5th District Commander, Keith Wakefield.

DIST. CMDR. WAKEFIELD (5th): Here, sir.

DEPT. ADJT. RUNYAN: Alternate, Fred Youngs .

ALT. DIST. CMDR. YOUNGS (5th): Here.

DEPT. ADJT. RUNYAN: 6th District Commander, Chris Vervaet.

DIST. CMDR. VERVAET (6th): Present.

DEPT. ADJT. RUNYAN: Alternate, John Fischer.

DIST. CMDR. VERVAET (6th): Absent. 2nd Vice is filling in.

DEPT. ADJT. RUNYAN: 7th District Commander Lew Mitchell.

DIST. CMDR. MITCHELL (7th): Here, sir.

DEPT. ADJT. RUNYAN: Is your Alternate, Ken Miller her?

DIST. CMDR. MITCHELL (7th): Here, sir.

DEPT. ADJT. RUNYAN: 8th District Commander is Elmer Lurette.

DIST. CMDR. LERETTE (8th): Here, sir.

DEPT. ADJT. RUNYAN: And your Alternate, Art Diffin.

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DIST. CMDR. LERETTE (8th): Excused.

DEPT. ADJT. RUNYAN: 9th District Commander, Randy Gilbert.

DIST. CMDR. GILBERT (9th): Here.

DEPT. ADJT. RUNYAN: Alternate, John Walsh.

DIST. CMDR. GILBERT (9th): Excused.

DEPT. ADJT. RUNYAN: 10th District Commander is Mike Pergande. He is excused. Filling in is Joe Duby.

Right? That's what I was told.

Sergeant, can you track down Joe Duby for me.

DEPT. ADJT. RUNYAN: 11th District Commander, Wendy Sexton.

DIST. CMDR. SEXTON (11th): Here, sir.

DEPT. ADJT. RUNYAN: Alternate is Martin Matchinski.

DIST. CMDR. SEXTON (11th): Excused.

DEPT. ADJT. RUNYAN: 12th District Commander, Wendy Retzloff.

DIST. CMDR. RETZLOFF (12th): Here, sir.

DEPT. ADJT. RUNYAN: You still have no Alternate; is that correct?

DIST. CMDR. RETZLOFF (12th): Pending.

DEPT. ADJT. RUNYAN: Pending.

16th District Commander is Craig Tillman.

DIST. CMDR. TILLMAN (16th): Here, sir.

DEPT. ADJT. RUNYAN: Alternate, Ed Gorecki.

ALT. DIST. CMDR. GORECKI (16th): Here, sir.

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DEPT. ADJT. RUNYAN: 17th District Commander is Jeff
Haeseker.

DIST. CMDR. HAESEKER (17th): Here, sir.

DEPT. ADJT. RUNYAN: Alternate is Gary DeMars.

ALT. DIST. CMDR. DeMARS (17th): Present.

DEPT. ADJT. RUNYAN: 18th District Commander, Mike Fitzgerald.

DIST. CMDR. FITZGERALD (18th): Here, Mr. Adjutant.

DEPT. ADJT. RUNYAN: Alternate is Don Wert.

ALT. DIST. CMDR. WERT (18th): Here, sir.

DIST. CMDR. FITZGERALD (18th):

DEPT. ADJT. RUNYAN: 19th District Commander, Brian Morrison.

DIST. CMDR. MORRISON (19th): Here.

DEPT. ADJT. RUNYAN: And, Alternate is Charles Bowman.

ALT. DIST. CMDR. BOMAN (19th): Present.

DEPT. ADJT. RUNYAN: Other officers in attendance.

Alternate National Executive Committeeman, John Knox.

ALT. NATL. EXECUTIVE CMTMAN KNOX: Here.

DEPT. ADJT. RUNYAN: Assistant Judge Advocate, Elmer White.

Elmer White.

Assistant Department Chaplain, Larry Vollink.

Assistant Sergeant-at-Arms, Sarge Parr.

ASST. DEPT. SGT-AT-ARMS PARR: Here, sir.

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DEPT. ADJT. RUNYAN: Assistant Sergeant-at-Arms, Bob Salamon.

ASST. DEPT. SGT-AT-ARMS SALAMON: Here, sir.

DEPT. ADJT. RUNYAN: Assistant Sergeant-at-Arms, Larry Chase.

ASST. DEPT. SGT-AT-ARMS CHASE: Here, sir.

DEPT. ADJT. RUNYAN: V.A. & R. Director Easterling.

V.A. & R. DIRECTOR EASTERLING: Here, sir.

DEPT. ADJT. RUNYAN: Public Relations Director, Mark Sutton.

MEDIA AND COMMUNICATIONS DIRECTOR SUTTON: Here, sir.

DEPT. ADJT. RUNYAN: Membership Director, Richard Tracy.

MEMBERSHIP DIR. TRACY: Here, sir.

DEPT. ADJT. RUNYAN: Assistant Membership Director, Bob Higley, Jr.

ASST. MEMBERSHIP DIR. HIGLEY: Here, sir.

DEPT. ADJT. RUNYAN: U.P. Membership Director, Gary Lane.

Gary's not in the room? I know he's here somewhere. He might be in his room.

DEPT. ADJT. RUNYAN: DMS Coordinator, Jim Carlin is excused.

Mr. Commander, I'm your Department Adjutant, Ron Runyan.

NATL. EXECUTIVE CMTMAN. MOORE: Mr. Adjutant.

DEPT. ADJT. RUNYAN: Yes.

NATL. EXECUTIVE CMTMAN. MOORE: Let the record reflect that Duby is in the room.

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DEPT. ADJT. RUNYAN: DUBY is in the room.

ALT. DIST. CMDR. DUBY (10th): Here, sir.

DEPT. ADJT. RUNYAN: Thank you, sir.

Mr. Commander, we have a quorum.

DEPT. CMDR. STRIGGOW: Thank you, sir.

Sergeant-at-Arms, would you please bring Catherine Buckley to the station, please.

LEGIONNAIRE BUCKLEY: Thank you.

I've had many of you asking me about my campaign.

Last Thursday, I –

LEGIONNAIRE: I'll read for Catherine.

Last Thursday, I had a biopsy done, and Wednesday afternoon, I was given the news none of us wish to hear. I have cancer. The location is next to my heart and was told that surgery is necessary.

I must, with much regret for the good of the Legion and my health, step down from running for State Commander. I must try to keep my life stress free, but I will continue to do what I do best, is helping veterans wherever they may be.

Thank you all for all understanding and love and support.

Thank you, Commander.

Catherine Buckley.

APPROVAL OF 2018 CONVENTION MINUTE TRANSCRIPTS

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DEPT. CMDR. STRIGGOW: At this time, we'll be asking for approval of the Convention minute transcripts, as printed, and they're in the office?

DEPT. ADJT. RUNYAN: Yes, they are.

NATL. EXECUTIVE CMTMAN. MOORE: Mr. Commander, Raymond Moore moves.

DEPT. CMDR. STRIGGOW: Do we have a second for the motion?

DIST. CMDR. PARKS (4th): 4th District seconds.

DEPT. CMDR. STRIGGOW: Is there any discussion?

There being no discussion, all in favor, say aye.

(Chorus of ayes.)

Opposed?

Motion carries.

I would like Bob Hall from the – from Post 9 Convention Corporation to, please, approach the podium.

LEGIONNAIRE: He was not in the Honor Guard, Commander.

DEPT. CMDR. STRIGGOW: Okay. When I see him come back in, we'll bring him up.

INTRODUCTION – RICHARD DUBAY, PAST NATIONAL HISTORIAN

DEPT. CMDR. STRIGGOW: Sergeant-at-Arms, would you please bring Richard Dubay, Past National Historian to the station.

PAST NATL. HIST. DUBAY: Commander, I just want to take a – I've got a list here, you know. But you said I could take all the time I want, right?

DEPT. CMDR. STRIGGOW: I did, yes.

1 PAST NATL. HIST. DUBAY: I have about a minute.

2 I want to say thank you to everybody for your support this past year
3 as being your National Historian. It was a dream come true and I really appreciate
4 it. I want to thank each and every one of you for putting me in this position, and I
5 hope I did a good job for you. I'm sure I did.

6 Thank you very much.

7 Commander.

8 **INTRODUCTION – RAYMOND MOORE – NATIONAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEEMAN**

9 DEPT. CMDR. STRIGGOW: I would ask that our NEC Ray Moore
10 come forward for purpose of introduction.

11 **INTRODUCTION – JAMES OXFORD – LEADING NATIONAL CANDIDATE –**
12 **DEPARTMENT OF NORTH CAROLINA**

13 NATL. EXECUTIVE CMTMAN. MOORE: Thank you, Mr.
14 Commander. It's a short report.

15 Good late afternoon. Are we all educated now? Ready to hit the
16 roads? Maybe half of you are. All right.

17 I have several purposes up here, and I'm going to try to do them all
18 at once so you can take a short nap.

19 My purpose at the moment for being before you is to introduce to all
20 of you the leading candidate for National Commander. We have been around
21 today and visited a lot of the meetings, but this is going to be the formal
22 announcement.

23
24 Bill Oxford joined The American Legion in 1986, earning his eligibility
25 by service in the United States Marine Corps from 1967 to 1970. He served as an

1 Aviation Electronic Technician on the A-6 Intruder Aircraft. After his return from
2 Vietnam, by way of Iwakuni, Japan, he elected to be discharged as a Sergeant E-
3 5. After leaving the Marine Corps, he immediately joined the North Carolina
4 National Guard.

5 He attended the North Carolina Military Academy Officer Candidate
6 School where he was commissioned in 1973 as a 2nd Lieutenant in the
7 Transportation Corps. He served as a Platoon Leader, a Company Commander, a
8 Battalion Commander, and other State level staff positions, and retired as an O-6,
9 and that's a Colonel, for those of you were enlisted, like me, with more than 34
10 years of service.

11 Bill has served his Post and District in many officer positions. He is a
12 Past Department Commander of the Department of North Carolina and has served
13 on national level committees and commissions. He served as Chair of the
14 National Legislative Commission and the Veteran Education and Employment
15 Commission.
16

17 Bill also serves his community through volunteering and by his serve
18 on City Council and as Mayor.

19 Bill met his wife, Frances in 1966 before entering the Marine Corps
20 and married in 1967. They recently celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary.

21 They have two children, a son, Charles, and a daughter, Jackie, and
22 four grandchildren who are athletic and active in many sports. They love watching
23 their grandchildren play sports.
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Michigan Legionnaires, please help me in welcoming the Leading Candidate for National Commander of The American Legion, Bill Oxford.

LEADING NATL. CANDIDATE OXFORD: Thank you, thank you, thank you very much.

We're going to talk just a few minutes about a few different things, but we're going to have a good time.

At Minneapolis, I had the opportunity to present a commemorative baseball from the 2018 World Series to your new Commander. I would like to take this opportunity to present a commemorative baseball from the 2018 World Series to the old Commander.

Commander, would you stand up.

Thank you, Commander,

Like most of us –

PAST DEPARTMENT CMDR. HOLT: Excuse me, Bill.

I originally came from the Midland Post, Midland-Berryhill. I'd like to invite you to –

LEADING NATL. CANDIDATE OXFORD: I know all about them. They represent Michigan well, in the world series. But thank you for the opportunity.

Like most of you know, North Carolina plays pretty good basketball, but in North Carolina, we've got the Tar Hills, we've got the Bluebells, we've got the Boyd Forest Legions, but I've got to know, in Michigan is it Michigan State? I

1 hate to tell you, but anyway, I'm a big fan of athletics in general, but thank you for
2 what you all do to support those two programs.

3 Now, it comes down to another question. Are there any Marines in
4 the crowd? I've got – I always ask that question because I like to know who has
5 got my back. But, if there's more than two of them together, that's probably where
6 the trouble is going to start. If you're sitting beside a Marine, you need to move.

7 Thank you – Commander, thanks for the opportunity. Just to make it
8 clear, there are no better friends, or worse enemies than a United States Marine.
9 Semper Fi, brother.

10 And I love to – I always start my presentation with that because I was
11 poor white trash from North Carolina. I lived on the wrong side of the tracks, even
12 though we didn't have tracks. I was so far from town, you had to mail a letter a
13 week ahead of time. But falling in on the yellow footprints at Paris Island, South
14 Carolina, changed my life, and I'm sure anybody who ever filled in on the yellow
15 footprints anywhere, whether it was Great Lakes, or Air Force, or Ft. Jackson, or
16 wherever, but the yellow footprints changed my life. From Paris Island, I ended up
17 moving up to Camp Lejeune for ITR, that camp – if you're familiar with the corps,
18 you know what I'm talking about. ITR stands for Infantry Training Regiment. I think
19 they've changed the name now to MCP or Marine Combat Training, and to the
20 Army, that's AIT, Advanced Infantry, Advanced Individual Training, or whatever,
21 but I think to the Air Force that's Palm Beach.

22
23 But any, at the – see, I told you we were going to have a good time.
24 At Paris Island, it wasn't about making friends, it was about survival. And you
25

1 know, if anybody has been there, they know what I mean. But after we moved up
2 to Camp Lejeune and started ITR, making friends was a little bit easier, a lot
3 easier. We moved into those big open World War II barracks, with top and bottom
4 bunks, and remember where I came from. I just – but my bunk mate was a big
5 black guy, about 6'5" and his name was Moose. And when I asked – I'm serious,
6 his name was Moose, and when I asked Moose where he came from, he said, oh,
7 man, I'm from the city.

8 Well, you've got to understand, to me, the city was the next town
9 over that had a stop light. And he introduced me to the real world when he started
10 talking about the things that happened in New York City and the Big Apple. The
11 stories – the stories that he told introduced me to a whole new different part of the
12 world, but it continued my education to the world. Unfortunately, Moose was killed
13 a year later in Vietnam. It was a traumatic loss. We became as close as two
14 people could be. And Moose was one of the best friends I ever had.

15
16 But after ITR, I went home on leave and married the same gal, I
17 married my wife, Frances, and it's 51 years this year, Ray, so we were married in
18 1967. I married the same gal, and she's – I don't know, either she's the luckiest,
19 or I'm the luckiest, but I know I'm one of the smartest guys that I've ever met
20 because she's a wonderful lady and I still love her to death.

21 After we got married, I ended up going over to Memphis – your
22 information is wrong, Mr. Ray.

23 NATL. EXECUTIVE CMTMAN. MOORE: That's not the first time.
24
25

1 LEADING NATL. CANDIDATE OXFORD: Anyways, we've been
2 married a long time. And still happy to be married to here.

3 But, let's see, where was I? Going to Memphis, Tennessee, for
4 aviation electronic school. From Memphis, I ended up being transferred over to
5 Cherry Pointe, where I joined an A-6 Squadron and that was where – that really
6 started my career. And I'll get into that in just a minute.

7 From Cherry Pointe, I ended up being transferred back to VMA-533
8 in Chulin, Vietnam. I did my tour in the corps, loading 500 pounds bombs on the
9 A-6 day-after-day. They would fly away, drop them, come back and we would re-
10 load them. But that's what Vietnam was for me. I lived in a wooden hut, didn't do
11 any jungle training, or didn't do any jungle warfare kind of stuff. For me, Vietnam
12 was about a wooden hut and going to work every night.

13
14 But after Vietnam, I ended up coming home. I got out of the Corps
15 almost immediately after I got home, and that was partly – well, it was mostly my
16 wife's decision. We all know about that. If I wanted to stay married, it was get out
17 of the Corps. But she was more than willing to let me turn around and join the
18 North Carolina Guard and spent 30 – 31 and a half years in the North Carolina
19 Guard and Reserves, but just a tremendous opportunity, and was lucky as I could
20 be to be able to do that.

21 But after I joined the Guard Unit, I ended up going to OCS and, like
22 Ray talked about, I became a – I went to OCS, became a platoon leader, a
23 company commander and later battalion commander and worked all the level staff
24
25

1 positions, but just had an extremely lucky career to be able to do that in the
2 Reserves.

3 The think about a Reservist, most Reservists, and I know – I knew a
4 lot of them, they all had to work a full-time job, along with their Reserve duty. And
5 I did that. I worked – went to work as a plant electrician and became a plant
6 engineer. The Tucking Keetering (ph.) Manufacturer plant was a 24/7 operation,
7 and we did facility, equipment, all of that to maintenance and engineer. I picked
8 up a degree along the way, but anyway, our maintenance team did it all. We had
9 plumbers, electricians pipefitters, carpenters, custodians, the whole bit. We just –
10 we took care of the facilities. And that's me. That's who I am. I still love to do
11 that, and I mean, I'm a builder, I'm a fixer, I'm a repair – that's just who I am, and I
12 would like to make it real clear, I would be a lot more comfortable on the business
13 ends of a hammer or a pipe wrench than I am up here in front of you today. So,
14 that's who I am and what I do.

15
16 But that job taught me a lot of critical things. But the most important
17 part of that, every project, every job starts with a solid plan, a firm foundation.
18 Now, how does that relate? Well, that's the theme to my campaign. The
19 American Legion is in the midst – we're starting our 100th Year Birthday
20 celebration. And we're successful, active, doing great work all around. We have
21 been able to do that because the founding fathers created the framework of this
22 organization, going back to 1919 in Paris.

23 When you look at the four pillars, that's promoting Americanism,
24 supporting a strong national defense, supporting our children and youth programs,
25

1 and supporting American's veterans, that's the framework our organization was
2 built around, and it still works. But, we need to look – we need to look deeper than
3 that.

4 The building blocks that support the foundation of this organization,
5 and there is a difference between the framework and the foundation. If we think
6 about our foundation, we can look at the Preamble, they're all part of the
7 foundation, and they're all just as important. And we can look at them individually,
8 uphold and defend the Constitution, maintain law and order, foster and perpetuate,
9 make right the Master of Might, all of those are important. We started with a solid
10 base and as the years have passed, we've added other blocks of our foundation in
11 the form of our programs that solidifies us and builds our foundation.

12 We can think about our programs like Baseball, started in 1926 in
13 South Dakota. That's – that's probably the largest and most visible American
14 Legion program. And if we do a little math, 85,000 players and 4,400 teams, more
15 than 75 – in fact, it's 77 this year, American Legion players are in the Baseball Hall
16 of Fame. Fifty percent of major league players played Legion baseball.

17 I know Midland knows about this. Each year, our baseball season
18 climaxes in Shelby, North Carolina with the World Series. If you haven't been, you
19 need to go. The atmosphere, the event is overwhelming. You'll have a good time,
20 I promise you. But – and this is a good example of our goal and our task and our
21 mission, in recent years, our number of players, the teams, the numbers have
22 declined because other teams and leagues and venues have signed the players
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1 away from American Legion Baseball. We have to find a way to reverse that
2 trend.

3 Our Baseball Committee worked hard to try and figure out a way to
4 do that, but we need everybody's help. We need everybody's help supporting that
5 program. We cannot let that block crumble.

6 Another block of our foundation, the Oratorical Contest, completed
7 recently. Carlissa Fredericks from Kentucky, took home \$18,000.00 as the winner
8 of that scholarship. An excellent opportunity to teach high schoolers how to
9 become better citizens and learn more about the Constitution.

10 Another block of our foundation, Boys' State, Boys' Nation, started in
11 1935 in Illinois, teaching high school students about state and federal government.
12 It's an interesting educational program to develop the future leaders of this
13 country, and I'd like to drop just a few names. People like, Bill Clinton, Scott
14 Walter, Governor of Wisconsin, Neil Armstrong, Michael Jordan, Bon Jovi, Bruce
15 Springsteen, Dick Cheney, Joe Lieberman, Chris Christy, all graduates of Boys'
16 State. And the list goes on and on. There are hundreds of government leaders
17 from local, state and federal who are graduates of Boys' State and Boys' Nation.
18 Outstanding program.

19
20 The first American Legion youth program was Boy Scouting started
21 in 1919. A great program to support our young guys and girls.

22 Junior Shooting Program. It's been around a good while. It hasn't
23 developed, but it's starting to come around. There's a lot of Junior Shooting
24 Programs out there. We need to continue to support that program.
25

1 American Legion charities, the TFA, the Veterans Service Fund,
2 National Emergency Fund, Child Welfare Foundation. The National Emergency
3 Fund had distributed millions of dollars in support of Legionnaires suffering from
4 national disasters, like North Carolina just saw this past week.

5 I just – I talked to our Adjutant today, Randy Cash, and asked him
6 about applications. He said they are just starting to come in because people are
7 still under water, but those charities are a tremendous asset to help people in
8 need.

9 Another program, another one of our blocks of the foundation our
10 legislative efforts. That's – in my opinion, that's probably the least understood, but
11 one of the most valuable programs the Legion has. Congress wants and needs
12 and has to hear from The American Legion about what we want, what we need,
13 what we expect and what we need their support on. If you are knowledgeable in
14 law with your legislators, please get involved. They want to hear what we have to
15 say. We've had some great successes recently. When we think about Veterans'
16 Choice, the Whistle Blower Protection Act, the Forever GI Bill and the Centennial
17 Coin, just recently signed into law.

18 These programs, along with the Preamble are all part of the
19 foundation of The American Legion. And the organization is solid, don't get me
20 wrong, The foundation is firm, we all know that. But block-on-block-on-block,
21 without cement or mortar or glue is subject to failure.

22 And we talked the programs, that's the foundation. And each one is
23 just as important, but I haven't got to the place where we talk about the glue, the
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1 cement, the mortar. And if you will look around, you can see the glue, the cement,
2 the mortar that holds this organization together, that will ensure their survival is the
3 people that make it all possible. To run our programs, we've got to have bodies.

4 Now, we all have jobs – Brett Reistad, the National Commander has
5 a job, Ray, your NEC'man has a job, your Commander, every District, Zone, Post,
6 every Legionnaire has a job, and that's to protect America's veterans, but if we
7 want to survive another 100 years, and you can do the math. I know everybody is
8 hurting, we say that today, our membership is about 1.9 million people national.
9 But, if we look at the numbers we lose every year, around 100,000 folks, transfers
10 to Post Everlasting, non-renewals, those – if you do 1.9 divided by 100,000, that's
11 19 years from now, the Legion will not be here, unless we replace those people.
12 And it's got to happen. And I know your committed to the Legion because you're
13 here today on a Friday afternoon. We've got to have everybody's help in doing
14 that.
15

16 There won't be anybody in this room here in 100 years to celebrate
17 the second centennial, but our Legacy will be about the organization that we
18 present to the next generation. Are you willing to do that?

19 Membership is the bond that secures our foundation, and we need
20 everybody's help. And it's easy to stand by and say, let Freddie, or Joe, or Jack,
21 or Jim or Ted handle it, I'm not a recruiter. And that's probably true. There's a lot
22 of people, and I'm one of them, I couldn't give away \$100.00 bills, but everybody
23 knows at least one person who is eligible to become a Legionnaire. Will you be
24 the glue that helps me do that and that secure the foundation for The American
25

1 Legion. We've got to do that if we expect The American Legion to have a 200th
2 Birthday.

3 God Bless The American Legion, God Bless America. And thank
4 you very much, Michigan.

5 DEPT. CMDR. STRIGGOW: Before you go, earlier you presented
6 me with a coin, and I would like to present you with one of Michigan's 100 Year
7 Centennial Coins.

8 LEADING NATL. CANDIDATE OXFORD: Thank you, Commander.

9 DEPT. CMDR. STRIGGOW: And I believe that Mr. Moore has a
10 presentation, also.

11 NATL. EXECUTIVE CMTMAN. MOORE: Please be seated.

12 Everybody except Pete. Stand up.

13 Mr. Leading Candidate, this gentleman from that Post that has those
14 funny hats, has listened to your speaking earlier today and personally wrote a
15 check to The American Legion, Department of North Carolina for the National
16 Emergency Fund.
17

18 LEADING NATL. CANDIDATE OXFORD: Thank you very much.

19 NATL. EXECUTIVE CMTMAN. MOORE: Peter.

20 LEADING NATL. CANDIDATE OXFORD: Thank you very much.

21 The folks in East Jordan, North Carolina got hammered. There are still a lot of
22 those individual people, Posts, and projects and buildings under water. So, as I –
23 as we get a chance, those requests start coming in. Thank you, Peter, we very
24 much appreciate you.
25

1 **REPORT OF NATIONAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEEMAN, RAYMOND MOORE**

2 NATL. EXECUTIVE CMTMAN. MOORE: While they're trying to
3 break Mark's camera, I would like to take this opportunity, since I'm here, to give
4 you a little report on the activities of the National Executive Committeeman.

5 To begin with, I just want to thank you for your confidence and
6 support to allow me to accede to that position. It's been a busy two months since
7 our Convention in June. August has out Thirty-Day Meeting with Commander
8 Striggow setting in motion, plans for this Membership Year and discussions of
9 important issues for moving into our second century. Many of these issues will be
10 discussed this weekend.

11 After a full day at Headquarters we departed the next day for
12 National Headquarters for a Membership Workshop for two days, and were
13 provided with info for the Centennial Year and beyond.

14 Later in August, it was off to National Convention in Minneapolis. As
15 expected, Brett Reistad was elected National Commander, and our own Jim
16 Wallace was elected as National Vice Commander.

17 So, then, we got down to some business after having some meetings
18 here and there and somewhere else, and they did better in Minneapolis, you know,
19 they never put any of the meetings close to where you're at, so that's an aside.
20

21 I have to keep Penny on track here. If I don't screw up every once in
22 a while, she thinks I wasn't doing something.
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1 We also learned that the last parade to be held at a National
2 Convention will be in Indianapolis next year, as we complete our Centennial Year.
3 So, if you want to be in a parade, go to Indianapolis.

4 A special note was the unveiling of the 100th Anniversary
5 commemorative coin, which I know you have been able to see this out there, but
6 this is the Silver Dollar, and there will be a gold five dollar and a clad half-dollar. I
7 didn't get a chance to ask the guy what clad meant, but apparently, it means
8 something.

9 The sales are expected to begin in March of 2019 with a first mint
10 ceremony to be held at the Philadelphia Mint on January 19th of 2019. Hopefully,
11 the coins will be available prior to the Legion's Birthday. So, keep your eyes open
12 for that. I'd tell you what they cost, but you won't want to buy any, so you better
13 find out for yourself.

14 It was also reported that there will be a Legion float in the
15 Tournament of Roses Parade New Year's Day.

16 Immediately upon our return from Minneapolis, it was unpack, wash
17 and dry clothes and repack for the National Commander's visit. Commander
18 Reistad flew in on Saturday, September 1st -- keep in mind, we came home on
19 Friday, August 31st -- and was at Wilwin until September 3rd. We also were able
20 to visit Presidential Museum in Grand Rapids, Michigan on Labor Day and then
21 send and his aide on their way to Alabama, I think is where they were headed.

22 I would note that while we were in Minneapolis, the parade was
23 cancelled due to serious weather conditions being predicted. I would note that on
24
25

1 our way to Wilwin, we drove through Baldwin where they had a tornado, and I
2 would note that when he left to go to Alabama, a hurricane came into the coast.

3 Good luck, Mr. Commander, for better weather.

4 Now, we're gathered here for the purpose of continuing the plans
5 and programs laid out by the National organization and the Department of
6 Michigan. I salute you all for your involvement and attendance as we work
7 towards our goals.

8 In three weeks, I along with others from the Department will be in
9 Indianapolis for fall meetings and update and implementation of decisions made at
10 the National Convention.

11 More to follow. Thank you, again, for your support.

12 Now, with any luck at all, this should be the last thing that I do up
13 here on the podium. I am leaving Sunday morning to take what's his name – oh,
14 he moved over here, okay. Bill has to be at the airport on Sunday morning so he
15 can fly back and find out whether or not his rain gauge has gone up from 2 and $\frac{3}{4}$
16 inches to, you know, three inches or whatever. So, I will not be here Sunday
17 morning when you reconvene for your DEC. We will be dropping the leading
18 candidate off at the airport, and I'm not coming back because by the time I drive
19 back from the airport, you people are all going to be gone, and I don't want to be
20 here alone.
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22 So nothing personal. You heard the schedule. I haven't been home
23 a lot lately.
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At this point, I would like to introduce to you the National Vice Commander from Michigan. Most of you know Jim.

Jim is a member of Post 419 in Pinckney, Michigan. A U.S> Army veteran of the Vietnam era, served as Department of Michigan Commander in 2014/2015, Department Finance Committeeman in 2014/2015, Department Public Relations Director, 2012/2013, Department Director of Membership, 2011/2012, Department Assistant Director of Membership, 2010/2011, and 6th District Commander, 2009/2010.

He is a member of the National American Legion Press Association, a 2012 National American Legion College graduate and a charter member of Post 419's Legion Riders Chapter.

Jim also served on the National Security Committee and was a committeeman on the Americanism Council.

Legionnaires, please welcome our National Vice Commander, Jim Wallace.

REPORT OF NATIONAL VICE COMMANDER – JIM WALLACE

NATL. VICE CMDR. WALLACE: Thank you for that eloquent introduction, Mr. National Executive Committeeman, I appreciate that.

My speech I have prepared, I could just about rip it up, because these two eloquent presentations you had before me kind of took care of everything.

LEGIONNAIRE PIERCE: Well, rip it up.

1 NATL. VICE CMDR. WALLACE: I said, I could. I didn't say I was
2 going to.

3 But I do have a couple of stats. This is my membership meeting
4 here this Fall Conference you have here. I had planned on being back here in the
5 February Winter Meeting that you have, so I'll continue on with my official report
6 then.

7 But as far as membership goes, before I get into that, I just want to
8 thank each and every one of you for your continued support these past few years.
9 It has been my honor to know you, to be involved with you, and I just really
10 appreciate your confidence in me to be able to hold this prestigious position. And
11 thank you.

12 As of yesterday, Michigan was at 55.585 percent. They ranked fifth
13 in the Central Division – or Central – yes, Central Division and 19th in the National
14 Standings.

15 Compared to last year, on September 20th of 2017, we are currently
16 ranked 45th as in comparison with gains and losses. Right now, we are at 2,112
17 members less than we had last year. I hope that hits home. We're just in
18 September, and we're already over 2,000 members less than we had last year.
19 What does that say to you? A lot of the things that have already been said. But,
20 we need to get out there.
21

22 Yes, we are losing 2,000 to 3,000 members a year to the Great
23 Commander in the sky. We have to make that up, let alone make our goals.
24 There is a tough road ahead for us. We need to be able to get out there, every
25

1 one of us, to get, as was mentioned, at least one member. But we know not
2 everyone can do the one member, so I'm expecting a lot of members here to get
3 two, three, four, ten, 15 – I can keep going. It's important that we do that, or as
4 was mentioned, we aren't going to be around in 20 years. So, it's important that
5 we do that.

6 Also, just to give you an idea, we are not the only ones having that
7 problem. Currently, as of last year at this time, the National average is 73,685 less
8 than we had last year at this time. So, it's a national problem. But we are
9 concerned about Michigan. We are concerned about the National, but we are
10 concerned about Michigan. We want to be 100 percent plus by the end of – the
11 middle of May, the last count. And the only ones that can do that is each and
12 every one of you, from the Commander, to the Adjutant, to the Vice Commanders,
13 District Commanders, everyone in this room, every Post, every individual, we need
14 to work hard to get this accomplished.
15

16 The National Commander has sent me here to give you some of his
17 ideas that he's got for this year. His theme is Celebrate the Legacy. We want to
18 be able to celebrate the legacy, as mentioned, another 100, 200, 500 years, but
19 we can only do it by getting our membership up.

20 His focal point is Team 100. What that means to the Commander to
21 be related to you is increasing the membership for the next 100 years, increasing
22 the activities we have for the four pillars, and also, the Commander would like to
23 see 100 new Posts throughout the National organization for this next year. And
24 we can do that here. There are places that need new Posts. Unfortunately, we
25

1 have lost some Posts in the past, but we need to go out and get some new Posts
2 started.

3 And, Jerry Andrus, where are you?

4 LEGIONNAIRE ANDRUS: Over here.

5 NATL. VICE CMDR. WALLACE: You're in charge of that, right?

6 LEGIONNAIRE ANDRUS: Yes, sir.

7 NATL. VICE CMDR. WALLACE: Okay.

8 So, we'll get at least a dozen or so out of Michigan, correct?

9 LEGIONNAIRE ANDRUS: Yes, sir.

10 NATL. VICE CMDR. WALLACE: I hope so.

11 That's on tape, right, Penny?

12 Okay, good. We'll see how that parlays into the next ten, twelve
13 months – ten, twelve – ten months.

14 Also, the Commander has – National Commander has five priorities,
15 brand awareness. Everybody is familiar with what brand awareness is. It's
16 promoting ourselves out to the general public, letting them know what this emblem
17 on the side of the hat means, what it stands for.

18 I ran into two individuals last week, as a matter of fact, who said,
19 what is The American Legion? They were probably about 20, 25 years old. So, I
20 explained it to them. And they were semi-impressed because they didn't know
21 anything about it. And whose fault is that? Everyone here, everyone in this
22 Department for not getting it out, who we are, what we are, what we do.
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1 The next one is communications. We need to get communications
2 out either by TV, radio, newspapers, activities that the Posts are doing, that the
3 Districts are doing, that this Department is doing so people can recognize who we
4 are and what we do.

5 Training, that's one of the big things we need to do. Make sure we
6 train our Legionnaires on the values, the ideas and the needs of this American
7 Legion. We need to find out the revitalization process of Posts that are kind of
8 having trouble, maybe losing members. Mr. Ford was involved with that for – I'm
9 sorry, sir, how many years?

10 LEGIONNAIRE FORD: Only twenty-one.

11 NATL. VICE CMDR. WALLACE: Only twenty-one years, and he's
12 done an excellent job. But we need to revitalize our local Posts and keep them
13 going without losing them.

14 And, of course, we need to recruit members and mainly retain the
15 ones we have without losing them. We have to get to them. And how are we
16 going to do this?
17

18 The best way to retain them is, if you know the ones that are going to
19 be late in getting their membership in, get to them face-to-face, eye-to-eye, talk to
20 them. Tell them the needs and necessities that we have for their dues to keep our
21 programs going, to enhance our membership and, also, we have to be able to
22 make them understand they are needed at the Posts. Come in, get involved.

23 Just about done.
24
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1 So, just ask through eye-to-eye contact, and also, use your
2 mylegion.org. That's an excellent tool for getting – not only renewing membership,
3 getting new members. You can go out, ten, fifteen miles, twenty miles, but
4 practice right in your one-mile area first and get it worked out. Get those that are
5 close to the Post to get them to come in. They'll talk to other people. Get them to
6 get new people in. They are out there. They're -- in the State of Michigan, there
7 are over approximately 600,000 veterans, I believe there is. And we're about ten
8 percent of that. There are either 90 percent that don't know about us, or haven't
9 been asked or contacted.

10 So, they're there. We just need to get them.

11 Another big important tool is the CPR, Consolidated Post Reports.
12 They have to be brought up. I think we had 66 percent this year, if I remember
13 right. National had 66 percent. I don't know what the 66 percent is, but let's get
14 off that and move beyond that so we can get that information to our Senators and
15 Congressmen so they know we have the power to help persuade them to do what
16 we need for our veterans. That's the only way we can do that.

17 The American Legion Riders. We know they're the newest addition
18 to The American Legion. They are getting very popular. There are currently
19 approximately 2,200 Chapters in the National organization, which started right
20 here in Garden City, Michigan in 1993.

21 We have over 120,000 Riders and growing. They're from the
22 Legion, the Auxiliary and the Sons of The American Legion. By getting these
23 people in, they talk to other people about the Riders, what we do, how we do it, it
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1 brings them in, so we have to be cognizant to that fact that it is one of the biggest
2 promotional tools we have to get new members in for the whole Legion family.

3 One last thing. This is an election year, okay. I don't care what your
4 politics are, I don't care if you vote, you don't vote. I don't care if you're
5 Republican, Democrat, Independent, it doesn't matter to me or to The American
6 Legion. The only thing that does matter is, if you're with politicians campaigning,
7 do not, please, I tell you, do not wear your Legion cover, do not wear any emblem
8 on any clothing, anything that might represent The American Legion, because we
9 are non-political. We are not involved in the politics of the government's
10 politicians.

11 We are involved in what we can do with them to help the Legion –
12 the veterans with their benefits, their activities, the dues that are due them for
13 serving in this great United States Military service, but please, keep those under
14 wraps, out of sight. I know you've probably seen other organizations – I won't
15 name them, that wear their cover when they're around politicians. Make sure you
16 let anybody know who thinks that The American Legion is, that it is not, that it
17 should not be.

18
19 And, if I may, Mr. Commander, have a point of personal privilege?

20 DEPT. CMDR. STRIGGOW: Certainly.

21 NATL. VICE CMDR. WALLACE: Off script.

22 Greg, can you stand up for a second, please?

23 This gentleman here, last year, from the Department of Michigan,
24 was number one as a District for membership. Because of the high amount of
25

1 return he had from the year before and this year, he was given a great honor. He
2 was allowed to go to the National Convention on the National dime for his –

3 Now, I assume you're going to want to do a repeat?

4 DIST. CMDR. SPIGHT (1st): Absolutely.

5 NATL. VICE CMDR. WALLACE: I know it's been a few months here
6 and you're getting back into the motion of doing things. But I expect great things
7 to come out of you this year. However, each and every District Commander here
8 is being challenged by me to not let him get another hundred percent.

9 I would love to see 15 other Districts above him. I hope he's going to
10 get a hundred percent. I have confidence in him. But my challenge is to make
11 sure that you out-score him. And if it takes 15 of you to go to National Convention,
12 excellent.

13 Michigan is proud, but it's up to every one of you. Do you accept the
14 challenge? Do you accept the challenge? Do you accept the challenge? There's
15 a challenge here.
16

17 Okay.

18 DIST. CMDR. SPIGHT (1st): There is no question at all, we do
19 accept.

20 NATL. VICE CMDR. WALLACE: There we go, good.

21 Now, that you've accepted the challenge, I expect to see this guy in
22 a year.

23 Thank you.
24
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1 DIST. CMDR. SPIGHT (1st): If we all do that, you know who is on
2 the podium, also, accepting it? It's a big one.

3 NATL. VICE CMDR. WALLACE: One last thing. I would like to
4 thank, again, every one of you for getting me into this position and, especially, I
5 would like to thank Tom Cadmus, our Past National Commander, who was
6 instrumental in getting me involved in the process of running for National Vice
7 Commander. Due to his untimely death, I'm sorry he's not here for that, but I'm
8 sure he's looking down from above.

9 But, I do know, our Past Commander Al Ford has stepped up and
10 helped me with the process of the National inner-twining, I should say. And, also,
11 Past National Vice Commander, John Mella. They have both assisted me
12 specifically at National level. So, to you, I thank you both very much.

13
14 NATL. EXECUTIVE CMTMAN. MOORE: Just a short sentence.

15 You know, Jim wants to run around with this damn thing, I want to
16 be able to talk into it.

17 I just wanted to touch on one of the discussions we had with the
18 National Commander when he was at Wilwin, was the idea of creating some new
19 Posts. And we had some discussion, Commander, I think you were there. Jim, I
20 think you were there. About a challenge to begin a new Post as a Centennial Post
21 2019 in each Department. I don't know where there has gone, if it's gone
22 anywhere yet. Al, I don't know if you've heard anything about that from National. I
23 suspect we may get some more information on that when we're down in a couple
24 of weeks.
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But put that in your thought process and see what you think about it.
If nobody else wants to do it, Michigan ought to be able to do it. Thank you again.

INTRODUCTION – BOB HALL – POST 9 CONFERENCE CORPORATION

LEGIONNAIRE HALL: On behalf of Post No. 9, Muskegon, I would like to thank The American Legion of Michigan for three full years in a row, four of the last five, which you have come here to Muskegon.

We have learned so much. We have enjoyed it. We're tired. So, we're not doing this for a couple years. Then we're going to work on something else.

But I would just like to say, thank you to everybody. I'll let you know a few things that are going on this weekend. Tomorrow night, there is going to be a party in here, 100th Anniversary Party. There is going to be cake, there is going to be a bar, there is going to be all kinds of munchies. There's going to be a band with veterans in it.

The LST, if you haven't heard, last year – and if you haven't been down there, please go. They were rated number one Maritime Museum in the world – in the world. So, it's really something to see, and you've got the GNUTS party tonight at 6:00.

Thank you very much for coming. Thank you for giving us this opportunity.

Thank you.

INTRODUCTION – BENNETT LOWE – 2018 BOYS' STATE GOVERNOR

1 DEPT. CMDR. STRIGGOW: Sergeant-at-Arms, would you please
2 bring Jerry Kelley and Bennett Lowe, the 2018 Boys' State Governor to this
3 podium.

4 I would like to present you with this plaque on behalf of The
5 American Legion. It reads, "The American Legion, Department of Michigan, and
6 the youth it serves, recognizes Ben Lowe, Grand Haven, Michigan, Boys' State
7 Governor, 2018."

8 Signed, Steven Striggow, State Commander, attested, Ron Runyan,
9 State Adjutant.

10 Is there anything you would like to say, sir?

11 MR. LOWE: Well, I would like to start off just by saying, thank you,
12 to everybody here at the Legion who support all of us at Boys' State and helped us
13 get there, because it really is just an incredible experience. I mean, that week is
14 really something that I don't have anything really to compare it to.
15

16 You know, you meet a lot of people in your city and the whole overall
17 thing of Boys' State that you just get so close to. You know, you get there and you
18 think these people are going to be in the city with you, but by the end of it, you
19 leave as incredibly close friends, and it's just – it's really an incredible thing.

20 At the same time, you meet a lot of people who have varying political
21 opinions. You know, I met people who were farther left than I was. I met people
22 who were farther to the right than I was. But at the same time, we were still able to
23 unite and function as a government and get things done, and I think that's
24 something that's given me a lot of hope in the future for the next generation.
25

1 We did a lot of things. We passed a lot of legislation on stuff, you
2 know. We got – we were able to invest in economics. We were able to come
3 together to help out when one of the cities got flooded. It was really something
4 that was just remarkable.

5 This kind of goes in that Boys' State really gives a lot of insight on
6 government that I don't think any other program that I can think of even does, and
7 they don't even come close to it. You know, there are so many things that I
8 learned at Boys' State, not just from, you know, just learning how government
9 works, but learning how it is to be a politician. You have to compromise on your
10 own beliefs if it was best for the state. You have to compromise for what you
11 believe for other people. And it something that I really had a lot of influence in my
12 life because I think because of it, I want to go in and try to be a politician when I
13 grow up. I want to try to help improve the government and the country.

14 This is why I think we really should focus on continuing Boys' State.
15 You know, I know I've been working in my high school talking to some junior below
16 me about going, and I really think it is something where we need to invest more
17 into, because you know, beyond just the personal influence that it had on me, and
18 the influence it had on everybody at Boys' State. It also teaches all of us to
19 compromise and work together, you know, from all walks of life, from all parts of
20 the state, from all different varying opinions. It teaches us all that we can work
21 together and we can get things done.

22 I think that we can work together as the next generation to get a
23 better and bright future for the country.
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1 Thank you.

2 DEPT. CMDR. STRIGGOW: Sergeant-at-Arms, will you please
3 bring Gary Easterling to this podium for purposes of presentation.

4 **PRESENTATION: 2018 CARLTON SEAMAN AWARD – VICTORIA ELLIS AND**
5 **2018 ALBERT R. THEIL, SR., AWARD – DAVID MOOBERRY**

6 V.A. & R. DIRECTOR EASTERLING: Thank you, Commander.

7 Good afternoon. I promise I won't walk around like Jim did.

8 I'm here today to present two awards that we present annually here
9 at the Fall Meetings.

10 Our first award is the Carlton L. Seaman Award. This award goes to
11 the most dedicated Post Service Officer that does the most – that we feel does the
12 most in their Post to provide services for veterans.

13 Well, this year's winner is out of Post 558 out of Farwell, and this is
14 her second time winning this award, Victoria Ellis.

15 Vicky actually cracks me up. You don't want – if she sets an
16 appointment up for you to see one of my Service Officers, don't miss it. She will
17 hunt you down. Let me tell you, she is phenomenal. I can tell you, I had one of
18 my Service Officers go on vacation, I had to go up there and work. I'll never do
19 that again.

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21 That day, I think it was 22 veterans that I saw that day. I did not – I
22 was going to take a break, she goes, where are you going? Sit back down, you've
23 got more people to see.

24 Vicky, congratulations. We appreciate it. This is for you. And keep
25 up the good work.

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MS. ELLIS: Thank you.

V.A. & R. DIRECTOR EASTERLING: This next award is the Albert R. Theil, Sr. Service Award. This award goes to the District that provides the best service, who gets the most Posts to turn in their annual Post Service Officer Reports. This gentleman has been hard at it for a long time, and he comes to all of our Service Officer Schools, all of our training.

So, we want to welcome David Mooberry from Post 29 out of Jackson, the 2nd District. District Service Officer of the Year.

DEPT. CMDR. STRIGGOW: Is there anything you want to say?

MR. MOOBERRY: Sure. Just a couple updates.

Thank you, DEC. Thank you, Gary.

I work as a Service Officer, as an information provider. And as a Service Officer needing to incorporate Auxiliary, SAL and Legion members all as Junior Service Officers to find the veterans in need so we can get to help.

Thank you.

V.A. & R. DIRECTOR EASTERLING: One thing, I would like to put out a challenge, also. This year was probably our lowest year for getting reports. It wasn't a very good year for Posts and Districts to turn them in. We only got 35 Posts Service Officer reports, and only eight District Service Officer reports. Like I said before, and I'll say it again, 100,000 times, I am available 24/7. My cell phone is published everywhere.

If you need some help with your Post, your Post Service Officers, District Service Officers, I am always available, period.

1 So, thank you. Thank you for everything you do for my Department
2 and I appreciate every one of you. Thank you.

3 **INTRODUCTION – GARY TANNER – PRESENTATION 2018 JAMES SCHUTZE**
4 **AWARD – BATTLE CREEK POST 257 - COMMANDER BRIAN MOHLMAN**

5 DEPT. CMDR. STRIGGOW: Sergeant-at-Arms, would you please
6 bring Gary Tanner forward for a presentation?

7 LEGIONNAIRE TANNER: Real briefly, too, I'd like to piggyback
8 Gary's comment. I bug him incessantly all year long when people come to us for
9 assistance and needs and have questions regarding the Service Officers, and his
10 whole team puts up with us all throughout the year. And he is available 24/7, I can
11 attest to that.

12 So, thank you for what you do, Gary. Thank you to all the Service
13 Officers for what you do, as well, at the State, District and Post level.

14 Well, at this time, it's my honor and privilege to present this year's
15 James W. Schutze Reconnect Award. The Reconnect Committee created this
16 award in honor of one of our previous members to recognize Posts that exemplify
17 what Reconnect is about, what The American Legion is about. And we ask that
18 you submit nominations this past year. You had Reconnect ones from National
19 that were used to record reconnect efforts, and we encourage you to continue
20 using those going forward, not just this past year because that helps not only us
21 track reconnect in the state, but it also helps you look at your Posts and your
22 Districts and Zones and say, hey, this must be a good nomination for the Schutze
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1 Award and we encourage you to get those nominations in, preferably by Winter
2 Meeting. But either way.

3 This year's recipient does a lot in the community. They embody the
4 entire four pillars. They work very closely with some of their Units, the 110th Attack
5 Wing is one of them. They go out, they get involved with the military families doing
6 things for them, for their family days. They get involved with the Chamber of
7 Commerce to get involved in the community itself. They give back so much of
8 their time, and they get a lot of participation from the military stopping in to check
9 out what they're doing and what The American Legion is all about.

10 So, at this time, it's my privilege to present the 2018 James Schutze
11 Award to Staff Sergeant Michael A. Dickinson, II, Post 257, Battle Creek,
12 Michigan. So, is there a representative here today?

13 **INTRODUCTION – DANIEL PATRICK – FISHER HOUSE**
14

15 DEPT. CMDR. STRIGGOW: Sergeant-at-Arms, would you please
16 bring Daniel Patrick from Fisher House – Michigan to this podium, please.

17 Before Dan addresses you, is there any Posts or individuals present
18 that have a donation to make to Fisher House – Michigan? If you do, see Mark,
19 we'll total it up, and present it on one of the big – big checks.

20 Dan Patrick.

21 LEGIONNAIRE PATRICK: Well, Commander, first I want to say
22 thank you for having me. Thank you to your State Commander for letting me
23 come back here. I love this Conference. Last year was my first one. I was a new
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1 American Legionnaire, and so I've had a fantastic year getting to learn about the
2 organization more in depth. Now, I've figured out what we're really about.

3 I love this Conference because I love being around all of you. I love
4 this Conference because I love being a Legionnaire. And as I said, in my local
5 Post and to my friend, Zack, last night, I ask myself, why do I love doing this so
6 much? Why do I love this organization so much? And I realized it was the same
7 reason that I love the Marine Corps. Because I love being a part of something
8 bigger than myself. I love being a part of an organization that takes care of their
9 community, instead of just existing within it, instead of just sucking off that
10 community, they look to give back. That's why I love this organization.

11 So, it's been a really busy year since the last time I saw everyone.
12 I'm sure it's – as many of you have been incredibly busy, we strive to keep
13 ourselves busy at Fisher House Michigan to make sure that we stay focused on
14 the mission.

15
16 For any of you who don't know, that mission is to make sure that
17 people are taken care of who often get forgotten. You see, when men and
18 women, active service members are in the jungle or the desert or the mountains or
19 the sand, it's the corporals and the sergeants and the captains and the chiefs next
20 to them that are fighting for them. But when those men and woman are injured, or
21 when they retire and 30 years later, the effects of Agent Orange kick in, it's no
22 longer the corporals and the sergeants that stand next to them and fight. It's the
23 mothers and the daughters and the husbands and the wives. That's who pick up
24 that mantle.
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So, Fisher House looks to fight for those who aren't being fought for, those family members. They're so busy fighting for the veterans. And I can say that thanks to the help of this amazing organization, a lot has changed in a year. In just this one year, we are now just \$300,000.00 away from the goal of our construction costs of the Ann Arbor House. So, thank you.

That is large in part to the contributions and the hard work and efforts that Legions across this state have put in. Legions that realize the need, they heard the call that I made last year and they took that mantle and they marched forward. So, thank you.

But the fight's not over. So, while the construction costs at Ann Arbor House is almost complete, as many of you may have heard and if you haven't the news to you now is that we've also decided to take on the mantle to build Detroit. Our work is not done, this mission is not complete.

So, we thank you for your support. And along with that continued request for support, the Commander has made it his personal project and effort to support us in that. We need your help to do this. The reason we got as far as we have is because of you, because of your Posts, because of your members, because of your hard work. I work hard, but I think you guys work a lot hard than me. So, thank you for that, because we have a long way to go. Detroit, and down the road, hopefully more. Michigan has missed out for a long time, so we're going to continue until every warrior has the care that they deserve, and every Michigan family has a Fisher House that they deserve.

So, thank you.

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DEPT. CMDR. STRIGGOW: Just start out --- let's go over in front of the – we'll start out with the first installment, the Department of Michigan would like to present you with a check for \$3,200.00.

LEGIONNAIRE PATRICK: Thank you very much.

DEPT. CMDR. STRIGGOW: As Dan said, this is my personal project for the year. Everyone knows that I've communicated to you that last year I had the pleasure of going to the Fisher House site in Ann Arbor and joining with Post 46 on their presentation of their challenge, and we're accepting the challenge. We're going to raise as much money as we can to match what Post 46 has donated. And, if I remember correctly, that's \$100,000.00.

So, they've challenged us to match them. Let's meet that challenge and show them what Michigan Legionnaires really are made of.

INTRODUCTION – RICHARD McDONALD, COMMUNITY REBUILDERS

DEPT. CMDR. STRIGGOW: Sergeant-at-Arms, would you please bring Richard McDonald from the Community Rebuilders forward, please.

LEGIONNAIRE McDONALD: My name is Richard McDonald. I want to thank you for having me. I wish I could have gone first, though, in all fairness, he's a really hard act to follow.

So, I'm going to keep this to two hours. I am a Legionnaire. I am retired VA. I worked for 27 years with homeless efforts. After that – after that, I went to work for Community Rebuilders. They came and asked me, they had veteran programs. They needed a veteran to work these programs. So, for five years, I've been working for homeless veterans in Kent County in Grand Rapids,

1 and two years ago, our COO set up the idea that we were going to end veteran
2 homelessness. We believe every veteran – no veteran should be homeless. And
3 so, this past year, the federal government recognized Kent County as the first
4 county in Michigan that officially ended homelessness.

5 Well, we knew if we stopped there, this could all happen again. We
6 have a table set up out there, and we've got some information there that's pretty
7 interesting, and I don't want to bore you with it here, but we started with over 500
8 veterans in Kent County, and we got it down to nothing. But we knew if we sat
9 back, this all could happen again.

10 So, what we did is, we set up Bridge Houses. Bridge Houses are
11 houses – you might want to call them transitional. They don't like that term where
12 I come from, so they use Bridge Houses, and what we did is, we furnished them,
13 and then when we got a veteran, instead of sending them to a mission, which you
14 know missions, but I never liked them. So, we would send them to a Bridge
15 House.
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17 So, they would – we would have five people in each Bridge House
18 and they pretty much governed themselves, other than they have case managers
19 that help them. Because we believe housing first, and then we'll take care of
20 whatever issues you have and work on those. And then, we went to St. James,
21 the rectory and that's in Grand Rapids, also. And that has 24 slots open. And we
22 opened that up, and we got a – we furnished that. And so, we can put 24 veterans
23 in there, also, and they can stay there and usually, we've been transitioning them
24 out into permanent housing within 30 days. And that's been going really well.
25

1 And then, we've got a place called Grandview. It's a brand new
2 thing. They started it early last year, and they finished it this year in early spring.
3 They gave us 21 apartments. These things are all brand new in a box and they sit
4 on the Grand River, it's just beautiful. We've got 21 of those apartments where for
5 families, ten of them were for individuals.

6 Then we've got a church that heard about us and said, we would like
7 to sponsor and furnish one of those rooms. And we thought that was pretty cool.
8 So, we met with them and they came – we have a warehouse. They came over to
9 the warehouse and met with us, saw what we were doing, and then, we took them
10 over there to Grandview. It's still under construction, and a couple days later they
11 said, you know, we'd like to furnish all 21 of those rooms. And we thought that
12 was good. What we didn't realize, they spent \$76,000.00 doing that. They put
13 washers and dryers there, all the furniture was from Ikea, and the place is just
14 amazing, and its full now with veterans.
15

16 The other thing, when we were – when I started there, I would take
17 people to their apartment, show them their apartment and that, the living room is
18 empty, the bedroom is empty, the kitchen is empty, everything is empty. To me,
19 this was depressing. And so, I went to people that run Community Rebuilders,
20 and I said, we need to do something about this. We need to furnish these
21 apartments.

22 At first, they weren't real crazy about getting into this undertaking of
23 furnishing apartments, but with a little coaxing I told them we could get the money,
24 to do some fund raisers. So, we did some fund raisers. We brought an enclosed
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1 trailer, we put a team of volunteers together, and got a really good team of
2 volunteers, which has been going really well. And then, we just went out – we
3 went to churches, schools and then we got four or five – or four hotels that were
4 remodeling and gave us the furniture.

5 So, we rented a big warehouse and we are still raising money for
6 that. So, now, what we can do, when somebody gets in there, the goal first is
7 nobody sleeps on the floor. Get them off the floor. Then we make sure they've
8 got living room furniture so they can sit on it, and then someplace for them to eat,
9 so we get dining room tables.

10 So, we just advertise. We've got a network, we use social network,
11 and we just go pick up and deliver, and this has worked out really well, and so
12 that's kind of the gist of what's going on in Grand Rapids, and with the veterans
13 there.

14 And I really like being a Legionnaire and what you guys do and what
15 we do. So, thank you very much for having me.

17 **INTRODUCTION – DYKE SHANNON – LEGION INSURANCE TRUST**

18 DEPT. CMDR. STRIGGOW: Sergeant-at-Arms, would you please
19 bring Dyke Shannon from LIT forward, please?

20 LEGIONNAIRE SHANNON: Thank you, Commander.

21 Everybody still awake? Long afternoon. That's too big a lunch we
22 had.

23 I'm Dyke Shannon from Cocoa Beach, Florida. I work with the
24 Legionnaires Insurance Trust, your Insurance Trust.
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I first want to thank Ron for the job he does as a Trust Director. This Trust is, so you understand what it is, it's made up of the 49 states that participate in it, and each state has a Trust Director, more of a Board of Directors that give direction in the programs and what we do. So, Ron is your representative, and he does a great job.

Very quickly, I just want to remind you that we are the people that provide the accidental death policy. It's \$1,000.00, you're going to the store for a loaf of bread. It's \$5,000.00 if you're doing anything on behalf of the Legion. We have expanded that to include the SAL and Auxiliary, if you don't know that. District Commanders, you ought to have some of our brochures in your tool box – I used to always call it tool box. I have these brochures out there. Ron has more. If you need them, they were designed to be a mailer when people pay their dues to send it to, particularly new members, and they don't know anything about it. Include it in a number ten envelope.

I was the Department Adjutant in Florida for 30 years. So, I understand the Legion. And I think that we need to rethink – and we've heard a lot of testimony here today about what we need to do, but I truly believe that we have an obligation to enroll our members in this thing. Because I have actually had to tell families at their worst of times, that gosh, I'm sorry that you have a loss, but had not signed up for the insurance program, and that we couldn't give them that money. So, what a nice thing it would be for a Post to be able to hand that family a check at their very worst of times.

1 So, it's kind of an obligation, I think, that we have to really
2 encourage. Now, you can't make people sign up, I understand that, and some
3 people get nervous for that word "free," but it's there and really keep presenting it
4 and pushing people. Because God only knows, any of us in this room going
5 home, something might happen, and so keep that in the back of your mind and
6 push that.

7 I want to thank Mark and the crew for the extra AV stuff that they put
8 out there for me. I'll be here until noon tomorrow. I've got a table right outside the
9 door.

10 I'm going to leave you with a very quick little bit of history, trivia.

11 Hugh Hess was your Department Adjutant about 25 years – I don't
12 know, time gets away. Whenever the Internet first started becoming a big deal,
13 and all of a sudden everybody wanted to have web pages, and you need to know
14 something, I don't think probably, except Lafferty and maybe Garrett knew, but
15 Michigan was the first Department to ever have a web page up and running. I
16 know because you beat me. I was trying. I was second. But Michigan was first.

17 So, the thing that this Department has a history of really being on top
18 of their social media, it gives you tools to do your job better, and to get the word
19 out about what we've talked about here today.

20 So, the tradition goes way back. Keep the ball rolling. You're doing
21 a great job with that.

22 So, with that, Commander, thank you. I appreciate the opportunity.
23 It's good to see you all again.
24
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1 Thank you.

2 **CONFIRM NEW APPOINTMENTS**

3 DEPT. CMDR. STRIGGOW: Since our 45-Day Meeting, I have
4 made three appointments, and changed Committee assignments of another
5 Legionnaire.

6 So, I would like to have confirmation of the appointment of Brian
7 Mohlman to the Internal Affairs.

8 Jim Topps to Baseball.

9 Move Bill Hafeman from Children and Youth to Education and
10 Scholarship.

11 And, Bob Bigham appointed to Children and Youth.

12 DIST. CMDR. MORRISON (19th): Brian Morrison, 19th District, so
13 moves.

14 DIST. CMDR. PARKS (4th): Richard Parks from the 4th District
15 seconds.

16 DEPT. CMDR. STRIGGOW: Discussion?

17 All in favor, say aye.

18 (Chorus of ayes.)

19 Opposed?

20 Motion carries. The appointments are confirmed.

21 **POST CANCELLATION – POST 535 LANSING – 6TH DISTRICT**

1 DEPT. CMDR. STRIGGOW: We do have one Post cancellation to
2 consider. I would like Christ Vervaet from the 6th District, to please address this
3 issue.

4 DIST. CMDR. VERVAET (6th): Yes, Commander. Thank you.

5 Post 535 had voted to turn in their Charter. The membership
6 decided that they wanted to turn that in. The Post Revitalization Committee, we
7 had a meeting. We invited all of the members. Nobody was in attendance from
8 Post 535.

9 We decided that Post 535, we would grant their wish, and we filled
10 out the paperwork for them to turn in their Charter.

11 DEPT. CMDR. STRIGGOW: Jerry.

12 DIST. CMDR. VERVAET (6th): I'd like to make a motion that Post –
13 that we accept Post 535's wish to turn in their Charter.

14 DEPT. CMDR. STRIGGOW: Okay.

15 Jerry Andrus.

16 CHAIRMAN ANDRUS: Yes, sir.

17 DEPT. CMDR. STRIGGOW: Committee report on this.

18 CHAIRMAN ANDRUS: As Chris said, they no longer want to be part
19 of The American Legion. They did not want to have a Post anymore, and so we
20 offered to help them, but they did not want the help.

21 So, I have to confirm Chris' –

22 DEPT. CMDR. STRIGGOW: So you recommend cancellation?

23 CHAIRMAN ANDRUS: Yes.
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DEPT. CMDR. STRIGGOW: Okay.

Is there a second to this?

DIST. CMDR. MILLER (3rd): 3rd District, Duane Miller, seconds.

DEPT. CMDR. STRIGGOW: Thank you. We have a – we have a motion and a second to cancel the Charter of Post 535 in Lansing.

Any other discussion? I guess I got the cart before the horse.

Yes, Brian.

DIST. CMDR. MORRISON (19th): Mr. Commander, I see on the membership report, the Post has ten Paid-Up-For-Life members. Are they being transferred to another Post? What's happening with that?

DEPT. CMDR. STRIGGOW: Yes, Chris.

DIST. CMDR. VERVAET (6th): I'd like to address that.

Thank you, Brian.

Yes, the Post does have ten Paid-Up-For-Life members. We are in the process of trying to transfer those members into a new Post. I actually have been in contact with a couple of the members right now. But that is something that we are aware of and we need to address.

I am not getting very much cooperation with those particular members; however, I think seeing what the Department – I think they have a plan to move forward with that.

DEPT. CMDR. STRIGGOW: They'll go to 225 if they don't transfer to another Post.

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DIST. CMDR. VERVAET (6th): Commander, I'd like to make just one point during the discussion period.

The Charter for 535, this is the first women's post in the State of Michigan. We're going to leave that Charter in the museum in Okemos, the Women's Museum, the State of Michigan Women's Museum for a reason.

One, we want to inspire other potential Legionnaires, women Legionnaires to be able to see that and maybe they will foster their own Charter. And two, it's a piece of Michigan's history and we want to leave that there.

So, if there's any questions about where the actual physical Charter is, it's going to be staying at the Museum.

Thank you, Commander.

DEPT. CMDR. STRIGGOW: Thank you.

Okay. Any other discussion?

All in favor of the motion, say aye.

(Chorus of ayes.)

Opposed?

Motion carries. The Charter is cancelled.

I know we're running behind, but I've had a request for one Committee Report to be made before I ask for announcements.

So, I would ask Past Department Commander Chatman, if you would like to come up and give your report, please.

**DEPARTMENT VETERANS EMPLOYMENT AND EDUCATION COMMITTEE
MEETING REPORT**

PAST DEPARTMENT CMDR. CHATMAN: Good evening.

1 Friday, September 21st, 2018, 11:00 o'clock, Ambassador Room,
2 Holiday Inn, Muskegon Harbor.

3 Minutes from Veterans Employment and Education Committee
4 Meeting.

5 Salute to the Flag.

6 We had six guests.

7 Roll Call of Officers: Chairman, Gerald Merrell was excused.

8 Member, Stephen Tulloch was absent.

9 Member, Richard Chatman was present.

10 Alternate, James Gross was present.

11 We had a quorum.

12 Selection of a Vice-Chairman and Secretary. Dick Chatman.

13 Approval of Minutes:

14 Standing Committee from June 21st, and Convention Committee
15 Meeting from June 22nd. Motion made by Gross, seconded by Chatman. Motion
16 carried.
17

18 Old Business: There was none.

19 New Business: Report of the National Veterans Employment and
20 Education Commission and the National Convention in Minneapolis.

21 Members of the Employment and Veterans' Preference and
22 Veterans' Education, Other Benefits and Homelessness met on August 25th, 2018
23 to listen to a presentation from a variety of subject matter experts in homelessness
24 and small business development.
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1 In addition, the Commission handed out national employer and
2 homeless veterans awards. The discussion included recommendations that would
3 assist transitioning service members, veterans and their spouses with searching
4 and ultimately obtaining gainful employment and other related benefits.

5 Resolutions: The Convention Committee on Veterans Employment
6 and Education presented six resolutions to the Pre-National Executive Committee.
7 The subject of the resolutions and resolveds were discussed and read.

8 The Veterans Employment and Education Meeting was visited by
9 NEC Committeeman, Ray Moore, Alternate NEC Committeeman, John Knox,
10 National Vice Commander, our own, Jim Wallace, and leading candidate Bill
11 Oxford.

12 Members and guests heard brief remarks from Mr. Oxford.

13
14 Good of the Department. The National Veterans Employment and
15 Education Commission is imploring all Departments to submit awards in the nine
16 award programs. To that end, the Department of Michigan Veterans Employment
17 and Education Committee is recommending that our Chairman work with the
18 Department Public Relations Director and the Chairman of the Media Relations
19 Committee to better promote and communicate to the Department of Michigan
20 Legionnaires, the Veterans Employment and Education Committee Programs and
21 the National Award Programs, as well, as establishing a Veterans Employment
22 and Education page on the Department's website.

23 Media Relations Chairman Hansbarger, "Bud," who attended the
24 meeting was urged by those in attendance to convey their current dissatisfaction
25

1 with the current state of the Department's website to the Department's Public
2 Relations Director.

3 With no further business to discuss, motion to adjourn made by
4 Gross, seconded by Chatman. Motion carried.

5 Commander, I respectfully submit these minutes to the DEC, and to
6 you for approval.

7 DEPT. CMDR. STRIGGOW: We have a motion to accept these
8 minutes.

9 DIST. CMDR. PARKS (4th): 4th District.

10 DEPT. CMDR. STRIGGOW: The 4th, okay. We have a motion and
11 a support to accept the minutes.

12 Any discussion?

13 Being none, all in favor, say aye.

14 (Chorus of ayes.)

15 Opposed?

16 Motion carries.

17 I would ask Adjutant Runyan to come forward for announcements.

18
19 **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

20 DEPT. ADJT. RUNYAN: Thank you, Mr. Commander.

21 First and foremost, I'll have to lower that, because I'm short and stout
22 like a teapot.

23 Is Garrett Veihi in the room? You might want to talk to leading
24 candidate Bill Oxford before he leaves on Sunday, because it sounds like he has a
25

1 lot of experience swinging hammers, twisting screwdrivers and doing a lot of work
2 around properties. I think Wilwin could use that help.

3 Also, for all of the new DEC and Chairmen that received shirts from
4 our Department Commander, those will be worn on Sunday. It will be a business
5 casual day. The manufacturer of those that did the embroidery has asked me to
6 urge you that when you take them home, do not tumble dry them, because of the
7 stitching in those emblems and the embroidery that was done, it will shrink that
8 embroidery, and it will cause it to cup.

9 Immediately following the DEC today, we're going to be holding the
10 Department raffle. The Department raffle, on our last count, gross – net profit of
11 over and close to \$43,000.00.

12 So thank you for all of our members in The American Legion and
13 The Sons of The American Legion that helped raise that money to promote our
14 American Legion.

15 Right after the raffle when we adjourn, as you've heard, GNUTS will
16 be happening over on the LST across the street, and that will be from 6:30 to 8:30,
17 unless we stay there a little longer and have some more fun.

18 I urge everybody to come over and have some fun. Everybody is
19 eligible if you know how to sign your name, or take notes. I need help.

20 Also, so you know, there's a reception tomorrow evening in the
21 Department Commander's suite, Room 819 from 8:00 p.m. until 10:00 p.m. And if
22 you have not met Bill Oxford personally, we invite you to come up to the
23 Commander's Room and meet Bill and tell him a little story about Michigan, and
24
25

1 tell him how much our Baseball Program is succeeding and will win that World
2 Series.

3 Also, as Bob mentioned, there will be a social event in this room
4 tomorrow night, also at 8:00 p.m.

5 Sunday, DEC will start at 6:00 o'clock in the morning – excuse me,
6 9:00 o'clock in the morning. That must have been a typo.

7 Also, Children and Youth has a table out in the hallway. They have a
8 50/50 going on. Also, there are some silent auctions from donations that were
9 done. They have a bowling ball, they also have a 57th National Convention
10 Decanter out there, and the whiskey bottle that's in it is actually full, and it has a
11 collector's box. So, that is a great item to be able to bid on. So, please see the
12 Children and Youth table out in the hallway. They will be drawing that tomorrow at
13 12:00 noon. And the winner will be notified by phone.

14
15 Are there any Eagle Scouts from the Boy Scouts of America in the
16 audience this evening? If you could please stand up.

17 Immediately following tonight's DEC and the raffle, we're asking all of
18 our Eagle Scouts to go out into the hallway where the Boy Scouts of America has
19 a table, and we would like to take a picture of all of us together to promote the Boy
20 Scouts of American within our American Legion.

21 Thank you for everything you've done. You've done a great job.

22 Membership renewal cards, we have about eight packets, the last I
23 have heard from Posts within your Districts. Please go visit Deanna while you're
24 here, within the next two days and find out and ascertain if there is a Post within
25

1 your District that has not filled out the three forms that are necessary and get their
2 cards picked up. They are here with us.

3 So, if you can even contact them and have them join us, especially, if
4 they're in the 5th and 9th Districts – 6th District, maybe they can make it over
5 tomorrow and we can get that taken care of. That way, we can get our
6 membership turned in.

7 Two other quick notes, Winter Conference will be February 15th
8 through the 17th at the Holiday Inn – Gateway in Flint. And our Summer
9 Convention will be June 27th through the 30th in Kalamazoo once again.

10 Tomorrow, and as you heard from Gary Easterling, our V.A. & R.
11 Director, and also Tripp Cantwell, our Assistant V.A. & R. Director, will be here the
12 entire weekend. If you have any questions, concerns or anything that you would
13 like to talk about with an accredited Service Officer, they are here at your disposal.
14 So, please, use them.
15

16 Thank you everybody for making and taking the time to be here this
17 weekend, using your hard-earned money and the time that you give to our
18 organization.

19 Thank you, Commander.

20 DEPT. CMDR. STRIGGOW: I would ask Department Chaplain,
21 Eddie Brown to come forward for Memorial Resolutions.

22 **MEMORIAL RESOLUTIONS**

23 DEPT. CHAPLAIN BROWN: You may stay seated, but if you would
24 uncover out of respect.
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Resolution No. 4-2019.

The American Legion, Department of Michigan.

Subject: Memorial to Lannie Thomas.

Whereas, it has pleased Almighty God, the Great Commander, to summon to His Immortal Legion, our beloved comrade, Lannie Thomas, who served The American Legion and his fellow veterans as Department Service Officer; and

Whereas, Lannie Thomas was a member of Post 409 at the time of his passing; and

Whereas, Lannie achieved his eligibility for membership in The American Legion through his service in the United States Army during the Vietnam War; and

Whereas, we humbly bow to the will of Divine Providence, while ever cherishing in our hearts the memory of his distinguished service to our country and his outstanding contribution to all veterans.

And, Resolution No.5-2019.

Submitted By: The American Legion, Department of Michigan.

Subject: Memorial to Dave Wells.

Whereas, it has pleased Almighty God, the Great Commander, to summon to His Immortal Legion, our beloved comrade, Dave Wells, who served The American Legion and his fellow veterans in many capacities, including 10th District Commander; and

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Whereas, Dave Wells was a member of Post 422 at the time of his passing; and

Whereas, Dave achieved his eligibility for membership in The American Legion through his service in the United States Army during the Korean War; and

Whereas, we humbly bow to the will of Divine Providence, while ever cherishing in our hearts the memory of his distinguished service to our country and his outstanding contribution to all veterans.

Resolution No. 6-2019.

Submitted By: The American Legion, Department of Michigan.

Subject: Memorial to Donald Hudon.

Whereas, it has pleased Almighty God, the Great Commander, to summon to His Immortal Legion, our beloved comrade, Donald Hudon, who served The American Legion and his fellow veterans in many capacities, including Department Baseball Chairman, and 5th Zone Commander; and

Whereas, Donald was a member of Post 146 at the time of his passing; and

Whereas, Donald achieved his eligibility for membership in The American Legion through his service in the United States Army during the Vietnam War; and

Whereas, we humbly bow to the will of Divine Providence, while ever cherishing in our hearts the memory of his distinguished service to our country and his outstanding contribution to all veterans.

1 Resolution No. 7-2019.

2 Submitted by: The American Legion, Department of Michigan.

3 Subject: Memorial to Janice Roy.

4 Whereas, it has pleased Almighty God, the Great Commander, to
5 summon to His Immortal Legion, our beloved comrade, Janice Roy, who served
6 The American Legion and her fellow veterans in many capacities, including 5th
7 District Commander; and

8 Whereas, Janice was a member of Post 258 at the time of her
9 passing; and

10 Whereas, Janice achieved her eligibility for membership in The
11 American Legion through her service in the United States Navy during the Vietnam
12 War; and

13 Whereas, we humbly bow to the will of Divine Providence, while ever
14 cherishing in our hearts the memory of his distinguished service to our country and
15 his outstanding contribution to all veterans; now, therefore, be it

16 Resolved, by The American Legion, Department of Michigan, in
17 Annual Department Fall Conference assembled in Muskegon, Michigan,
18 September 21 – 23, 2018, that The American Legion, Department of Michigan,
19 does mourn the passing of our distinguished comrades, Lannie Thomas, Dave
20 Wells, Donald Hudon and Janice Roy, and we commend to all men their works
21 and to God their Spirits.

22
23 Commander, as Chaplain of this Department, I would recommend
24 the passage of these resolutions.
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DEPT. CMDR. STRIGGOW: Do we have a motion to approve these resolutions?

DIST. CMDR. VERVAET (6th): I'd like to make a motion to approve the resolutions, as read.

DEPT. CMDR. STRIGGOW: Is there a second.

DIST. CMDR. BECK (2nd): 2nd District, Terry Beck.

DEPT. CMDR. STRIGGOW: We have a motion and second.

Any discussion?

All in favor, say aye.

(Chorus of ayes.)

Opposed?

Motion carries.

Could we have the Benediction, please.

BENEDICTION

DEPT. CHAPLAIN BROWN: Please stand and uncover.

Oh, God of grace and glory, we remember before you today, our beloved friends, Lannie Thomas, Dave Wells, Donald Hudon and Janice Roy, and we thank you for giving them to us to know as comrades in our battles here on earth.

In your boundless compassion, console those who mourn and give us your aid so that we may see in death, the gate to eternal life. And may we continue our march on earth until by your call, we are all united with those who have gone on before us.

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In your Holy Name we pray,

Amen.

(Chorus of amens.)

DEPT. CMDR. STRIGGOW: Recover.

PDC Chatman, I would like to see you before you get out of here this afternoon, please.

PAST DEPARTMENT CMDR. CHATMAN: Yes, sir.

SALUTE THE COLORS

DEPT. CMDR. STRIGGOW: The colors being in place, hand-salute.

Two.

RECESS

DEPT. CMDR. STRIGGOW: We are now in recess until 9:00 o'clock on Sunday morning.

(Proceedings concluded at or about 5:50 p.m.)

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1 REPORTER'S CERTIFICATE

2
3 I hereby certify that this transcript, consisting of 68 pages, is a complete,
4 true, and accurate record of the proceedings taken in this matter on Friday, September
5 21, 2018.
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PENNY E. SIDICK (CER-4039)
10 Certified Shorthand Reporter

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12 Dated: January 10, 2019.
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