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AMERICAN LEGION  
DEPARTMENT OF MICHIGAN  
DEPARTMENT EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE  
FALL CONFERENCE  
DEPARTMENT HEADQUARTERS  
212 VERLINDEN AVENUE  
LANSING, MICHIGAN 48915  
SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 23, 2018

STEVE STRIGGOW  
State Commander

RONALD RUNYAN  
State Adjutant

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

2 **CALL TO ORDER**

3 DEPT. CMDR. STRIGGOW: The meeting will come to order.

4 **SALUTE THE COLORS**

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

7 Two.

8 Would Chaplain Eddie Brown please come forward.  
9

10 **INVOCATION**

11 DEPT. CHAPLAIN BROWN: Good morning.

12 Before we begin this morning, I want us to remember that there's a  
13 lot of people that are suffering the storms and black right now. We've had some  
14 hurricanes and some flooding and some tornados. And we also have some  
15 brothers and sisters that are suffering physically and could not be here and we  
16 want to remember them.

17 Almighty God, we bring hopeful hearts into this meeting, encouraged  
18 by what we have learned this week, and by the comradeship we have shared and  
19 experienced. Keep us always true to the principles on which The American Legion  
20 was founded, and we ask this again in your Holy Name,  
21

22 Amen.

23 (Chorus of amens.)

24 **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

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

(Recitation of Pledge of Allegiance.)

**PREAMBLE**

DEPT. CMDR. STRIGGOW: Please join me in the Preamble to the Constitution of The American Legion.

(Recitation of Preamble.)

DEPT. CMDR. STRIGGOW: I now declare this Conference of The American Legion, opened.

Adjutant Runyan, roll call, please.

**ROLL CALL**

DEPT. ADJT. RUNYAN: Yes, sir, Commander.

Good morning.

(Chorus of good morning.)

Nice to see everybody made it through all those socials that we had last night.

It reminds me of the social that I had yesterday afternoon, Commander. I was walking and talking to this older gentleman. He said he was walking over by the marina yesterday afternoon and he came upon this talking frog.

And the talking frog said to him, if you kiss me, I'll turn into a beautiful princess.

And the older guy took the talking frog and put it in his pocket.

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The frog said, hey, didn't you hear me? If you kiss me, I will turn into a beautiful princess.

The older guy took the frog out, looked at it, and said, Buddy, at my age, I think I'd rather just have a talking frog.

This will be your roll call of the DEC, Commander.

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: Historian, Ernie Berry.

DEPT. HISTRN. BERRY: Here.

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

DEPT. SGT-AT-ARMS CRISP: Here, sir.

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

DEPT. CHAPLAIN BROWN: Here, sir.

DEPT. ADJT. RUNYAN: Chaplain, Eddie Brown.

DEPT. CHAPLAIN BROWN: Here, sir.

DEPT. ADJT. RUNYAN: Judge Advocate, Kim Hillock.

DEPT. JUDGE ADVOCATE HILLOCK: Here, sir.

DEPT. ADJT. RUNYAN: 1<sup>st</sup> Zone Commander, Jim Austin, is excused. He's on a motorcycle ride.

2<sup>nd</sup> Zone Commander, Bob Berger.

DEPT. VICE CMDR. BERGER (Zone 2): Present.

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DEPT. ADJT. RUNYAN: 3<sup>rd</sup> Zone Commander, Doug Carignan.

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

DEPT. ADJT. RUNYAN: 4<sup>th</sup> Zone Commander, Don Mraz.

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

DEPT. ADJT. RUNYAN: 5<sup>th</sup> 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, is excused. He's driving the candidate to the airport.

1<sup>st</sup> District Commander, Greg Spight.

DIST. CMDR. SPIGHT (1<sup>st</sup>): Here, sir.

Alternate, Cheryl Tenor-Thomas is still absent.

2<sup>nd</sup> District Commander, Terry Beck.

DIST. CMDR. BECK (2<sup>nd</sup>): Here, sir.

DEPT. ADJT. RUNYAN: Rudy is still excused.

3<sup>rd</sup> District Commander, Duane Miller.

DIST. CMDR. MILLER (3<sup>rd</sup>): Here.

DEPT. ADJT. RUNYAN: Alternate, Dan Osborne.

DIST. CMDR. MILLER (3<sup>rd</sup>): He's excused, but 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice is covering.

DEPT. ADJT. RUNYAN: 4<sup>th</sup> District Commander, Richard Parks.

DIST. CMDR. PARKS (4<sup>th</sup>): Here.

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DEPT. ADJT. RUNYAN: Alternate, Walter Garrertt?

DIST. CMDR. PARKS (4<sup>th</sup>): Absent.

DEPT. ADJT. RUNYAN: 5<sup>th</sup> District Commander, Ken – let's do the  
4<sup>th</sup> – 5<sup>th</sup> District Commander, Keith Wakefield.

DIST. CMDR. WAKEFIELD (5<sup>th</sup>): Here, sir.

DEPT. ADJT. RUNYAN: Alternate, Fred Youngs.

ALT. DIST. CMDR. YOUNGS (5<sup>th</sup>): Here, sir.

DEPT. ADJT. RUNYAN: 6<sup>th</sup> District Commander, Chris Vervaet.

DIST. CMDR. VERVAET (6<sup>th</sup>): Here, sir.

DEPT. ADJT. RUNYAN: And your Alternate is John Fischer.

DIST. CMDR. VERVAET (6<sup>th</sup>): He's absent. Tim Hill, our 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice is  
filling in.

DEPT. ADJT. RUNYAN: 7<sup>th</sup> District Commander Lew Mitchell.

DIST. CMDR. MITCHELL (7<sup>th</sup>): Here, sir.

DEPT. ADJT. RUNYAN: Alternate is Kenny Miller her?

ALT. DIST. CMDR. MILLER (7<sup>th</sup>): Present.

DEPT. ADJT. RUNYAN: 8<sup>th</sup> District Commander is Elmer Lurette.

DIST. CMDR. LERETTE (8<sup>th</sup>): Here, sir.

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

DIST. CMDR. LERETTE (8<sup>th</sup>): Excused, sir.

DEPT. ADJT. RUNYAN: 9<sup>th</sup> District Commander, Randy Gilbert.

DIST. CMDR. GILBERT (9<sup>th</sup>): Here, sir.

DEPT. ADJT. RUNYAN: Alternate is John Walsh.



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DIST. CMDR. GILBERT (9<sup>th</sup>): Excused. 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice is filling in.

DEPT. ADJT. RUNYAN: 10<sup>th</sup> District Commander is Mike Pergande is excused.

Sitting in, Alternate, Joe Duby.

ALT. DIST. CMDR. DUBY (10<sup>th</sup>): Here, sir.

DEPT. ADJT. RUNYAN: 11<sup>th</sup> District Commander , Wendy Sexton.

DIST. CMDR. SEXTON (11<sup>th</sup>): Here, sir.

DEPT. ADJT. RUNYAN: Alternate is Marty Matchinski.

DIST. CMDR. SEXTON (11<sup>th</sup>): Excused.

DEPT. ADJT. RUNYAN: 12<sup>th</sup> District Commander, Wendy Retzloff.

DIST. CMDR. RETZLOFF (12<sup>th</sup>): Here, sir.

DEPT. ADJT. RUNYAN: And you still don't have an Alternate. 16<sup>th</sup> District Commander, Craig Tillman.

DIST. CMDR. TILLMAN (16<sup>th</sup>): Here, sir.

DEPT. ADJT. RUNYAN: Alternate, Ed Gorecki.

ALT. DIST. CMDR. GORECKI (16<sup>th</sup>): Here, sir.

DEPT. ADJT. RUNYAN: 17<sup>th</sup> District Commander is Jeff Haeseker.

DIST. CMDR. HAESEKER (17<sup>th</sup>): Here, sir.

DEPT. ADJT. RUNYAN: Alternate is Gary DeMars.

ALT. DIST. CMDR. DeMARS (17<sup>th</sup>): Present.

DEPT. ADJT. RUNYAN: 18<sup>th</sup> District Commander is Mike Fitzgerald.

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DIST. CMDR. FITZGERALD (18<sup>th</sup>): Here, sir..

DEPT. ADJT. RUNYAN: Your Alternate is Don Wert.

DIST. CMDR. FITZGERALD (18<sup>th</sup>): He walked.

DEPT. ADJT. RUNYAN: 19<sup>th</sup> District Commander is Brian Morrison.

DIST. CMDR. MORRISON (19<sup>th</sup>): Here.

DEPT. ADJT. RUNYAN: And the Alternate. The Alternate is Chip Bowman.

ALT. DIST. CMDR. BOMAN (19<sup>th</sup>): Here.

DEPT. ADJT. RUNYAN: Other Department Officers in attendance today. Alternate National Executive Committeeman, John Knox.

ALT. NATL. EXECUTIVE CMTMAN KNOX: Here.

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

ASST. DEPT. JUDGE ADVOCATE WHITE: Here, sir.

DEPT. ADJT. RUNYAN: Assistant Department Chaplain, Larry Vollink.

Assistant Sergeant-at-Arms, "Sarge" Parr.

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

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.

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

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

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

DEPT. ADJT. RUNYAN: Public Relations Director and masseuse,  
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.

U.P. MEMBERSHIP DIR. LANE: Here, sir.

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

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

That completes the roll.

DEPT. CMDR. STRIGGOW: Thank you, sir.

DEPT. ADJT. RUNYAN: And, you do have a quorum.

DEPT. CMDR. STRIGGOW: We do have a quorum. All right.

**INTRODUCTION – BOB JOHNSON – BOARD OF MANAGERS**

DEPT. CMDR. STRIGGOW: At this time, would Bob Johnson,  
Board of Managers, please come forward.

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MR. JOHNSON: Good morning, everyone.

I'd like to give you a quick update on the Homes. We're actually making some movement, some progress on the first two new facilities. It happens when you get old, and you drop stuff. Not setting a good tone already for this.

All right. Just to rehash. In the summer of 2016, the MVA, along with the Board of Managers set up a modernization committee with the purposes of seeing where we wanted to move with the Veterans' Homes.

Through that, legislation was developed to help start an Authority and actually start construction of two new Veterans' Homes.

2017, the Governor signed that legislation, which started the Authority in April of last – of 2017. The Authority, they started getting membership with that. In August of '17, we submitted for the VA Matching Fund Grants. The VA has a matching grant. They pay 65 percent of the cost of building the new facility.

2018, the VA released the priority list. We got our money for the two Veterans' Homes, so we're looking good for that.

We submitted documentation in August to help start that process.

Just to 2019, where we are now. We – they just a few weeks ago, announced that they did acquire property for the southeastern Michigan Home. That is in the old housing of the Selfridge Base, and we were able to get that property from the Army. So that will be where the – if you want to call it the Detroit Home, or Southeast Michigan Home, that's where that will be.

1 The one for Grand Rapids, they originally had a location on the  
2 campus to put it. There were some environmental concerns, so they had to move  
3 it closer to the existing facility.

4 We hope to have a, for lack of a better term, a ceremonial breaking  
5 of ground in March or April – or April of next year, and then the construction, they  
6 hope will be complete around May of 2021.

7 Once the construction is done, then they have some certification to  
8 get through and everything else. So, they hope to be – it's just kind of the  
9 September 2021 opening the doors of both new facilities.

10 Any questions, comments.

11 Thank you very much. That's my report, Commander.

12 DEPT. CMDR. STRIGGOW: Thanks very much. Thanks, Bob.

13 Sergeant-at-Arms, is our Detachment Commander outside the door,  
14 or not? Is he?

15 Please bring him in.

16  
17 **INTRODUCTION – GARY LaMUNYON – SAL DETACHMENT COMMANDER**

18 DEPT. CMDR. STRIGGOW: Sergeant-at-Arms, please bring  
19 Detachment Commander, Gary LaMunyon to the stage.

20 It's all yours.

21 DETACHMENT CMDR. LaMUNYON: Thank you.

22 Good morning. Thank you, Commander, for inviting me. Greetings  
23 from your Sons of The American Legion.

24 Commander, the first thing I want to do is present you with a little gift.  
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DEPT. CMDR. STRIGGOW: Well, thank you.

DETACHMENT CMDR. LaMUNYON: Please go ahead and open it.  
Show them what it is. All right.

DEPT. CMDR. STRIGGOW: It's a frog.

Oh, wonderful. All right. An apron.

Proud to be a Legion Commander.

Thank you so very much.

DETACHMENT CMDR. LaMUNYON: There's a story behind that,  
you know. You probably know our friends at Cedar Springs. And, in January,  
we're going to go to the Red Flannel Festival, and they're going to put us in these  
long johns and parade us around like a couple of fools, and I told Commander  
Striggow, I said, you know, that's really not a very good look for us. So, we  
decided we better do something about it. I have one that says, Proud to be a SAL  
Commander.

Speaking of bad looks, I don't know if you know what President  
Williamson did to me. Should I tell them?

DEPT. CMDR. STRIGGOW: Go ahead.

She sends her apologies. She had to take the National President  
back to the airport in Grand Rapids, so that's why she's not going to be able to be  
here.

But in any event, speaking of bad looks, let me show you this one.

DEPT. CMDR. STRIGGOW: Yeah.

1                   DETACHMENT CMDR. LaMUNYON: I told her, I said, you know,  
2 we want to be Superman and Bat Man, no, we're Skipper and Gilligan.

3                   So, anyway, you're not going to take me seriously with this. So,  
4 there's a couple of things I want to share with you.

5                   We just got back from National Convention in Minnesota, which is  
6 from my house, almost as far as the U.P. We really had a great visit, but I want to  
7 tell you that your Sons of The American Legion are doing wonderful.

8                   On the National level, we're bigger than we were last year. We only  
9 had, sadly, about 33 percent of our Squadrons report on their Consolidated Report  
10 form. But what they gleaned from that in goods and serves and finances, we  
11 contributed in excess of \$56,000,000.00 to your causes.

12                   On the local level, I can tell you that under the leadership of Past  
13 Commander Dominic Merlington and his predecessor, Carvin Chapman, who was  
14 our Membership Director, the Detachment of Michigan set a record. It is now  
15 bigger than it has ever been in their history. We're in excess of 23,000.

16                   And, I guess, the other thing that I want to tell you is that as I travel  
17 around the country, I am really impressed with the welcome that I get from all of  
18 you veterans and from your Posts and from the Auxiliary, for that matter, and I  
19 don't take that personally. That tells me that you do, in fact, have a good deal of  
20 respect for what the Sons of The American Legion are trying to do for you, and I'm  
21 telling you, we work hard at it. But it is, in fact, a labor of love.

22                   Thank you.  
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1 DEPT. CMDR. STRIGGOW: I do have to fess up. I did have my  
2 captain's hat in here this morning, but when I found out that Deb wasn't going to  
3 be able come into the meeting, I put it in the car.

4 DETACHMENT CMDR. LaMUNYON: I let the cat out of the bag.

5 DEPT. CMDR. STRIGGOW: There you go. That's good.

6 DEPT. CMDR. STRIGGOW: Sergeant-at-Arms, would you please  
7 retire our Detachment Commander.

8 Commander LaMunyon's remarks remind me of one thing I was  
9 going to ask this morning. How many of the Legionnaires in this room have taken  
10 the basic training course?

11 That should be one hundred percent. You would not believe –  
12 they've made the improvement from the old course to this new basic training  
13 course. There are a lot of things in there that a lot of long-time Legionnaires would  
14 say, oh, really? So, I would encourage everyone in this room, if you have not  
15 taken that basic training course, you can either do it – get a printed copy, or you  
16 can do it on line and you don't have to do it all at once. You can do it a little bit at  
17 a time and resume it, but I do believe that it would help everyone in this room, if  
18 they haven't taken it, to take it.

19 Also, too, before I forget, how many members are there in here from  
20 the Grand Haven Post? Any? I don't see Garrett. He's usually here. That was  
21 one fantastic party last night, and I'd like to thank Jennifer for all the pictures she  
22 took last night. She did an outstanding job capturing the event. And Mark, of  
23  
24  
25



1 course, and LaDonna were there doing the same. So, I just would like to  
2 congratulate the Grand Haven Post on an outstanding party last night.

3 **INTRODUCTION – MARILYN BRITTEN FOR PRESENTATION**

4 DEPT. CMDR. STRIGGOW: Now, I would ask Marilyn Britten to  
5 come forward for a presentation.

6 LEGIONNAIRE BRITTEN: Commander Holt, would you please  
7 come forward.

8 This will be the one and only time I say this to him. It was an honor  
9 serving as your Historian because he gave me a lot of grief. I also kept reminding  
10 him, I've got the camera and I'm taking all the pictures.

11 So, I want to thank you so much for serving with you last year, and  
12 here's your book.

13 PAST DEPARTMENT CMDR. HOLT: Thank you.

14 Thank you, Marilyn. It was an honor to have you following me  
15 around. It was kind of freaky at times, but it was an honor to have you following  
16 me around taking pictures to record the year, and I really do appreciate the job  
17 that you did and the work that you put into it.

18 DEPT. CMDR. STRIGGOW: Do you think she was a bear hunter?

19 PAST DEPARTMENT CMDR. HOLT: Oh, maybe.

20 Just one other thing before I leave here.

21 Commander, if you're going to be Skipper, you've got to work on  
22 your profile.

23 DEPT. CMDR. STRIGGOW: Yeah, I know. Well, believe me, I am.  
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PAST DEPARTMENT CMDR. HOLT: Thank you, Commander.

**INTROUDUCTION – BARRY WOOD – MICHIGAN VETERANS TRUST FUND**

DEPT. CMDR. STRIGGOW: Would Barry Wood please come forward for the Michigan Veterans Trust Fund Report.

DEPT. FINANCE OFFICER WOOD: I broke it. Let me get this out of my face.

Good morning.

Michigan Veterans Trust Fund.

A bit of history, as described in 1958:

In 1943, the Michigan State Legislature transferred 50 million dollars from the surplus in the State Treasury to a post-war reserve fund “for the purpose of liquidating Michigan’s obligation after termination of the war, to its returning servicemen, their widows and dependents.”

Subsequently, Act 9, Public Acts of 1946, 63<sup>rd</sup> Legislature, Extra Session, was unanimously passed by the Legislature. It is the act which created the Michigan Veterans Trust Fund and its Board of Trustees and outlined the provisions for its administration.

The fund is administered by the Board of Trustees for the benefits of honorably discharged veterans of World War II and the Korean Conflict and their dependents. The basic mission of the Michigan Veterans Trust Fund is to grant financial assistance to meet the emergent needs of qualified veterans and their dependents. The aid is not intended as a source of continuing assistance but as

1 an alleviation of a temporary emergent need. It should not duplicate assistance of  
2 existing agencies or aid individuals with chronic or long-term requirements.

3 Eligibility has been expanded over the years and it now includes  
4 veterans meeting one of three criteria, which covers all Michigan resident wartime  
5 veterans:

6 (1) The veteran must have been honorably discharged, retired, or  
7 reverted to an inactive status under honorable conditions.

8 Veterans who served in more than one period of wartime service  
9 may combine their active duty dates to satisfy the required 180-  
10 days. Only the last separation certificate of wartime service will  
11 be considered for the character of service;

12 (2) A person separated from military service prior to completion of  
13 180 days – this is No. 2, sorry – A person separated from military  
14 service prior to completion of 180 days of wartime service as a  
15 result of a physical or mental disability incurred in the line of duty,  
16 or aggravation of a pre-existing disability while on active duty, is  
17 eligible for assistance from the Michigan Veterans Trust Fund. A  
18 person who dies on active duty during wartime is considered a  
19 veteran and his or her legal dependents are eligible for Michigan  
20 Veterans Trust Fund services; and

21 (3) An honorably discharged veteran who was awarded the Armed  
22 Forces Expeditionary Medal is eligible for Michigan Veteran Trust  
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Fund Services in the same manner as wartime service, provided they served a minimum of 180 days on active duty.

Emergent need is defined to be an emergency in the life of honorably discharged veterans and/or legal dependents, who meet the prescribed eligibility requirements, which necessitates immediate temporary service for unforeseen emergencies. The Michigan Veterans Trust Fund was not designed to take the place of existing programs, but to supplement these programs on a temporary, not long-term, basis.

Emergent need is further defined to mean an unforeseen circumstance causing a temporary financial emergency or hardship that a grant will resolve. The key factor in determining whether or not a grant is approved is the ability of the applicant to manage the obligation for which aid is requested after a grant is made. If there is no reasonable expectation the grant – the Michigan – oh, sorry, I'm losing my place here – If there is no reasonable expectation the Michigan Veterans Trust Fund grant would enable the applicant to resume his/her financial responsibility, then a grant does not meet policy.

So, for 72 years, the Michigan Veterans Trust Fund has been giving out grants to wartime veterans to assist with financial needs during emergency situations. The current Board of Trustees intends to continue with this endeavor. It is important that the Board help assist veterans, and their families, when possible and when the veteran meets the policies of the Trust Fund, but the Board is also responsible to ensure the fund stays as healthy as possible for future generations of veterans.

1 Now, the Board of Trustees has regular meetings with the State  
2 Treasury office. At one of these meetings a few years ago, the Board suggested  
3 that with the currently improving equities market that the Treasury might find a way  
4 to invest a portion of the Trust Fund in the market where there could be more  
5 gains realized. As a result of this decision, the Trust Fund has just recently  
6 reached 60 million dollars in market value.

7 The Trust Fund Board of Directors has decided to look into  
8 alternative ways to support Michigan veterans. The Board has begun discussions  
9 in two different areas. One is in the discussion process, and another will soon  
10 begin. We are looking to leverage the growth of the fund in different ways to  
11 support Michigan Veterans. When these endeavors come to fruition, the word will  
12 be put out to those that need this information to guide veterans to these resources.

13 I want you to know that the Michigan Veterans Trust Fund Board of  
14 Directors is working to help veterans of Michigan. It is important to understand  
15 that the Michigan Veterans Trust Fund should not duplicate assistance of existing  
16 agencies or aid individuals with chronic or long-time requirements. As stated in a  
17 summary of the Michigan Veterans Trust Fund (Revised March 1958), "The aid is  
18 not intended as a source of continuing assistance but is – but as an alleviation of a  
19 temporary emergent need."  
20

21 Commander, that gives an overview of the Michigan Veterans Trust  
22 Fund and where we are trying to head in the future.

23 Thank you.

24 Whoops, I don't want to take your stuff here.  
25

1 DEPT. CMDR. STRIGGOW: Okay.

2 Committee Reports. We will start with Americanism Committee, Don  
3 Meskill.

4 **DEPARTMENT AMERICANISM AND COMMUNITY SERVICE COMMITTEE MEETING**  
5 **REPORT**

6 CHAIRMAN MESKILL: Good morning.

7 The Americanism Committee meeting was called to order at 2:47  
8 p.m. by Chairman Don Meskill in the Ambassador Room of the Holiday Inn,  
9 Muskegon.

10 Roll Call: The following members were present: Don Meskill, Carl  
11 Atkinson, Clyde Sinclair, Lawrence Burwell, John Stams. Ron Blaisdell was  
12 excused. Seventeen guests were present.

13 Elections: Secretary was Carl Atkinson; Vice Chairman was Clyde  
14 Sinclair. Motions for both by Burwell and Stams.

15 Special Guests: NEC Moore introduced Leading Candidate, Bill  
16 Oxford, who gave the meeting some comments on our programs.

17 Minutes: The minutes of the June 21<sup>st</sup>, 2018 Standing Committee  
18 were read and approved. Motion by Sinclair, seconded by Lawrence Burwell.

19 Unfinished Business: None.

20 New Business: Reviewed the Americanism and Community Service  
21 Rules of Procedure. No changes were noted.

22 Reviewed the forms and applications for the several programs.  
23 These were for informational purposes only. They will be available in early  
24 October. The Committee approved the dates of the student programs with the  
25

1 Michigan State Police of July 14<sup>th</sup> – 19<sup>th</sup>, 2019, with the understanding that the  
2 application form will reflect the same date. Motion by Sinclair, second by Stams.

3 Reports: Scouting Chair: No report.

4 Law and Order Chair: Reported on Fire Fighters and Law  
5 Enforcement of the Year. Motion to accept reports by Sinclair, second by Burwell.  
6 Carried.

7 Good of the Legion: Discussed the Flag Code etiquette.

8 Ideas shared on how to recruit students for programs.

9 Closing: Being no further business to come before the Committee,  
10 the meeting adjourned at 3:18 p.m.

11 Respectfully submitted,

12 Don Meskill, Chairman.

13 Commander, I ask for the adoption of this report.

14 DEPT. CMDR. STRIGGOW: Do we have a motion for adoption of  
15 this report?  
16

17 DIST. CMDR. PARKS (4<sup>th</sup>): 4<sup>th</sup> District makes the motion to adopt  
18 the report.

19 DIST. CMDR. SPIGHT (1<sup>st</sup>): 1<sup>st</sup> District seconds.

20 DEPT. CMDR. STRIGGOW: Thank you.

21 I want to make sure that everybody today, when you do a motion or  
22 a support or a second, please give your District and your name along with that,  
23 also, so that it's on the tape for Penny. Okay.

24 Is there any discussion?  
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Being no discussion, all in favor of the motion signify by saying aye.  
(Chorus of ayes.)

Opposed.

Motion carries.

Baseball, Nelson Cronkright.

DEPT. ADJT. RUNYAN: Nelson's not here, Commander. I would skip that one.

MS. SEIDELBERG: Jeff is on his way. He'll be late, but he will read it when he gets here.

DEPT. CMDR. STRIGGOW: Okay. Thank you.

All right. Boys' State, Jerry Kelley.

**DEPARTMENT BOYS' STATE COMMITTEE MEETING REPORT**

CHAIRMAN KELLEY: The meeting of the Department Boys' State Committee was called to order by Jerry Kelley, Director, at 10:00 a.m. Friday, September 21<sup>st</sup>, 2018 at the Holiday Inn Harbor Hotel, Muskegon, Michigan.

The following people were present:

Members: Dave Sheeler, Dan McCrary, Tim Hill, Kevin Sherman, Mike Holley, John Burke and Jerry Kelley were present. Walter Hanson was excused. A quorum is present.

Guests: Eighteen were present. The list is attached to the minutes.

It was moved by Wheeler and seconded by Sherman that John Burke be placed on the Committee in Walter Hanson's absence. Approved.



1 It was moved by Hill and supported by McCreary that the minutes  
2 from the Winter Conference, February 17<sup>th</sup>, 2018, Boys' State Committee be  
3 approved. Motion carried.

4 Election of the Vice-Director and Secretary-Treasurer was moved by  
5 Wheeler and seconded by Sherman that the Director appoint a Vice-Director and  
6 Secretary-Treasurer. Approved.

7 Old Business:

8 Standard Operating Procedures/Contingency Plan for Boys' State  
9 was sent in electronic form to all Committee members to review and make  
10 suggestions. This continues to be a work in progress.

11 Motion by Hill and seconded by McCreary that we attend college  
12 nights during the 2018/2019 school year. Approved.

13 Requests to attend these college nights that are available would be  
14 sent to Committee members and anyone in the area where college nights are  
15 available.  
16

17 In addition to promoting Boys' State, we also promote other Legion  
18 programs like:

- 19 (i) Essay contest;
- 20 (ii) Student Trooper;
- 21 (iii) Scholarships;
- 22 (iv) Girls State;
- 23 (v) Sons of the American Legion;
- 24 (vi) Legion membership;
- 25

1 (vii) Oratorical.

2 College Nights that were attended in 2017/2018 were 35.

3 Motion by Hill and seconded by McCreary that the Boys' State  
4 Marketing Plan, which is attached, be approved and submitted to the Marketing  
5 Committee. Motion carried.

6 I only have 20 pages here.

7 Motion by Wheeler and seconded by McCreary that the Boys' State  
8 Committee, working with the District Boys' State Chairs and our Marketing  
9 Department promote the idea that each American Legion Post and SAL Squadron  
10 have a Boys' State Chair that will promote the Boys' State Program in that Post  
11 and community. Approved.

12 Motion by Hill – New Business:

13 Motion by Hill and seconded by Wheeler that the brochures and the  
14 two-page flyer for Boys' State be approved. Motion carried.

15 Motion by Wheeler and seconded by Sherman that we have  
16 challenge coins for 2018. Motion carried.

17 Motion by Hill and seconded McCreary that the application for the  
18 Boys' State 2019 be approved. Motion carried.

19 Discussion of the Department goals, objectives and guidelines for  
20 social media as they pertain to Boys' State.

21 The goal of the Facebook page is simple, to promote the Boys' State  
22 to communicate with future attendees, parents of current attendees during that  
23 week, and to try to maintain alumni. It is to teach and encourage engagement. It  
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1 is an asset of the Department and on occasion, it will promote other programs the  
2 followers may or may not know exist. The goal is not to promote individual  
3 committee members, the Department Commander or what the Committee itself is  
4 doing. If any of your Committee members have an idea for a post, they may e-  
5 mail it to [media@michiganlegion.org](mailto:media@michiganlegion.org) for consideration. It should be well-written  
6 and preferably accompanied by a picture.

7 For the Good of Boys' State:

8 Training presentation Saturday morning training by the Big Rapids  
9 Post on how they have gone from three to four delegates their first year to Boys'  
10 State, this last year to 30 boys and girls. The presentation will include how they  
11 raise funds to help cover the costs.

12 Plans were set in motion to have a veterans – plans were set in  
13 motion to have veterans from the Grand – okay – from the Grand Rapids Veterans  
14 Home visit Boys' State in 2019.

15 There being no further business to come before the Committee, it  
16 was moved by Sherman and supported by Wheeler that the meeting be adjourned  
17 at 10:43 a.m. Motion carried.

18 Respectfully submitted,

19 Jerry Kelley, Chairman/Director.

20 DEPT. CMDR. STRIGGOW: Is there a motion to accept this report?

21 DIST. CMDR. MORRISON (19<sup>th</sup>): Brian Morrison, 19<sup>th</sup> District, so  
22 moved.  
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DIST. CMDR. BECK (2<sup>nd</sup>): I'll second the motion. Terry Beck, 2<sup>nd</sup>

District.

DEPT. CMDR. STRIGGOW: Thank you.

Is there any discussion on the motion?

DEPT. ADJT. RUNYAN: Mr. Commander?

DEPT. CMDR. STRIGGOW: Yes.

DEPT. ADJT. RUNYAN: Under administrative clarification, it says that their marketing plans are being sent to the Marketing Committee. We don't have a Marketing Committee. Who is that going to be sent to?

CHAIRMAN KELLEY: Is that the Publications – Public Relations?

DEPT. ADJT. RUNYAN: Media and Communications.

DEPT. CMDR. STRIGGOW: Media and Communications.

CHAIRMAN KELLEY: Thank you.

DEPT. CMDR. STRIGGOW: For clarification, where he reported it was going to be sent to the Marketing Committee, it's going to be sent to Media and Communications.

So, any more discussion?

LEGIONNAIRE (5<sup>th</sup> District – Post 179): Commander.

DEPT. CMDR. STRIGGOW: Yes, ma'am.

LEGIONNAIRE (5<sup>th</sup> District – Post 179): Jenna Wellmer (ph.), 6<sup>th</sup> District, Post 179, I read in the brochure yesterday that it was 32 people that were sent versus 30 that's in the report.

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DEPT. CMDR. STRIGGOW: I know.

CHAIRMAN KELLEY: It was 32, but originally, I had been given the number 30 when I was doing the minutes.

DEPT. CMDR. STRIGGOW: All right. Thank you, Jerry.

Any other discussion?

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

(Chorus of ayes.)

Opposed?

Motion carries.

Children and Youth, Ron Geiger.

**DEPARTMENT CHILDREN AND YOUTH COMMITTEE MEETING REPORT**

CHAIRMAN GEIGER: Department Children and Youth Committee was called to order by Chairman, Ron Geiger, at 10:06 a.m. in the Ambassador Room, Holiday Inn, Muskegon, Michigan.

Districts present: 5, 16, 18 and 19.

One guest.

A quorum was met.

Motion by Peter Satterthwaite, seconded by Keith Gardner to elect Bob Bigham as Secretary. Motion carried.

Minutes of June 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2018 were read.

Keith Gardner was voted in as Vice-Chairman in the event of Chairman Ron's absence.

Old Business:

1 Chairman Ron read two thank you cards from two girls from this  
2 Committee that were sent to Girls' State this year.

3 New Business:

4 The American Legion Child Welfare Foundation's Banner program  
5 was discussed and the disbursement of funds received.

6 The meeting was temporarily held for NEC Ray Moore to introduce  
7 the Leading Candidate for National Commander, William W. "Bill" Oxford from  
8 North Carolina.

9 The meeting continued with a motion by Peter Satterthwaite,  
10 seconded by Keith Gardner to send two boys to Boys' State, two girls to Girls'  
11 State and one Student Trooper. That motion carried.

12 There is a table in the hallway for the Children and Youth fund raiser.

13 There being no further business, it was moved by Peter  
14 Satterthwaite, seconded by Keith Gardner to adjourn at 10:46. Motion carried.

15 Respectfully submitted,

16 Ron Geiger, Chairman

17 Bob Bigham, Secretary.

18 Commander, I ask that this report be accepted.

19 DEPT. CMDR. STRIGGOW: Do we have a motion?

20 DIST. CMDR. MILLER (3<sup>rd</sup>): Duane Miller, 3<sup>rd</sup> District. I make a  
21 motion.

22 DEPT. CMDR. STRIGGOW: Do we have a second?

23 DIST. CMDR. BECK (2<sup>nd</sup>): Terry Beck, 2<sup>nd</sup> District.  
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DEPT. CMDR. STRIGGOW: Thank you, Terry.

Any discussion? Any questions?

Being none, all in favor of the motion signify by saying aye.

(Chorus of ayes.)

Opposed?

Motion carries.

CHAIRMAN GEIGER: Commander, can I have a point of –

DEPT. CMDR. STRIGGOW: Sure. Of course.

CHAIRMAN GEIGER: -- personal privilege?

Every year at Convention, the Red Phassen Committee has a silent auction as a memorial to Red. With the money we receive from that, the Committee met at this Conference and a motion was made by myself, Ron Geiger, and supported by Catherine Buckley, to award monies to two Boys' State candidates, one Girls' State and one Student Trooper. This money, in the amount of \$1,515.00 to be awarded from the Red Phassen account. That motion was passed.

The Committee consists of Ron Geiger, Catherine Buckley, Lavern Spolarich, Gerald Dennis and Ron Runyan.

And, also, at our table Friday and Saturday, our silent auction raised \$325.00; the 50/50 was \$137.00. The winner was Kevin Sherman, 10<sup>th</sup> District. And I would also like to thank you for all of the purchased Children and Youth pins. Without your help, these Children and Youth programs wouldn't happen.

Thank you.

1 DEPT. CMDR. STRIGGOW: With a time limit, Education and  
2 Scholarship, John Bradford.

3 **DEPARTMENT EDUCATION AND SCHOLARSHIP COMMITTEE MEETING REPORT**

4 CHAIRMAN BRADFORD: There you go.

5 Don't worry, this will only take about an hour.

6 Actually, you know, I've got to apologize. I thought you wanted  
7 something.

8 I actually went through my mind – my memory bank, and it only took  
9 a second and a half. I don't have any frog jokes. Sorry, Ron.

10 Okay. The American Legion Department of Michigan, 2018 Fall  
11 Conference, 21 September 2018, Holiday Inn, Muskegon, Michigan.

12 The meeting of the Education and Scholarship Committee was called  
13 to order by John Bradford, Chairman in Muskegon on September 21<sup>st</sup> at 10:06.  
14 The following people were present.  
15

16 Chairman John Bradford, Vice Chairman Bill Hafeman, Secretary  
17 Charles Boman. Also present were four guests.

18 The minutes of the March 11<sup>th</sup>, 2018 meeting were presented.  
19 Motion by Hafeman, second by Boman. Motion passed.

20 NEC Committeeman Ray Moore presented Leading Candidate for  
21 National Commander James W. "Bill" Oxford to the Committee. Also, Alternate  
22 NEC John Knox and National Vice Commander Jim Wallace were present.

23 Old Business: None.  
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New Business: The Wilson Scholarship, it was proposed that all 16 Districts select one winner for their District, and send the application to Department, along with the two top selections for consideration.

The Wilson Scholarship was set up for needy 12<sup>th</sup> graders in the State of Michigan. Each District has a better knowledge of the needs of the youth in their own community. Yeah, and I lost my place now.

The Committee has recommended to allow each District to select one Wilson winner, the two runner-ups, sending all three Wilsons to Department.

The Brewer Scholarship selection process will remain the same as previous years. The Education and Scholarship Committee will take all remaining scholarships and review them in accordance with the rules as set forth by Wilson and Brewer guidelines. Motion by Boman, seconded by Hafeman. Motion passed.

Discussed the dates and details of the Oratorical competition, how it is judged and the importance of allowing time for the contestants to prepare for the competition.

Respectfully submitted,  
John Bradford, Chairman.

Mr. Commander, I would ask that the DEC adopt the minutes.

DEPT. CMDR. STRIGGOW: Do we have a motion to accept this report?

DIST. CMDR. SPIGHT (1<sup>st</sup>): Gregory Spight, 1<sup>st</sup> District.

DEPT. CMDR. STRIGGOW: Okay. Second?

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DIST. CMDR. SEXTON (11<sup>th</sup>): 11<sup>th</sup> District, Wendy Sexton.

DEPT. CMDR. STRIGGOW: Thank you.

You heard the motion and support. Is there any discussion?

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

(Chorus of ayes.)

Opposed?

Motion carries.

CHAIRMAN BRADFORD: Well, that didn't take too long.

DEPT. CMDR. STRIGGOW: No. Thanks, John.

CHAIRMAN BRADFORD: Randy didn't say I had my cap on backwards. He tried to get me.

DEPT. CMDR. STRIGGOW: Okay.

Finance and Personnel, Roger Avie.

**DEPARTMENT FINANCE AND PERSONNEL COMMITTEE MEETING REPORT**

CHAIRMAN AVIE: Thank you, Commander.

Good morning, ladies and gentlemen. Thank you for allowing me to get up here. I'm going to run through this fast. The document speaks for itself. If you need to hear these numbers or see these numbers, see the Commander or see the Adjutant because I'm going to run through them quick so it's on the record.

These are the minutes of the Finance Standing Committee, American Legion, Friday, September 21<sup>st</sup>, 2018, President Room, Holiday Inn, Muskegon, Michigan.

Call to Order:

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Chairman Roger Avie called the meeting to order at 9:00 o'clock in the Holiday Inn, Muskegon Michigan. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Roll Call:

The following members were present: Roger Avie, Chairman, Dave Babbage was excused, Dave Buist, Raymond Carlson, Patrick Lafferty, Lyle Shanks, Alternate, Marilyn Britten, Alternate, Barry Wood, Finance Officer, Steve Striggow, Commander, Ron Runyan, State Adjutant, Gary Easterling, V.A. & R. Director.

Vice Chairman: Motion by Buist with support by Wood to nominate Ray Carlson as Vice Chairman of the Finance and Personnel Committee. Motion was carried.

Guests: There were 21 guests present.

Minutes: A motion to approve the minutes of the June 21, 2018 Finance Standing Committee meeting was made by Buist and supported by Carlson. The motion was carried.

Finance Statements:

Sons of The American Legion, this is for informational purposes only.

Income: \$11,059.16.

Expenses: \$20,701.30.

Leaving a Net Loss of \$9,642.14.

Boys' State Program:

Income of \$325.00

Expenses of \$1,448.18.

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Leaving a Net Loss of \$1,119.18.

Motion was made by Carlson, supported by Lafferty to accept the Boys' State financial statements. Motion was carried.

Assets in the Foundation – this is for informational purposes only -- \$104,728.84.

Liabilities of \$132,685.57.

Wilwin Lodge, and this is for informational purposes only, \$22,663.86.

Expenses of \$22,468.70.

Leaving a net income of \$195.16.

Publication, excuse me, the Income for that period was \$43,069.67.

Expenses of \$38,633.18.

Leaving a Net Income of \$4,436.49.

Motion was made by Striggow – Commander, excuse me, Commander Striggow to accept the Publication financial statement and supported by Wood. The motion was carried.

V.A. & R. – Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation has:

Income of \$57,761.04.

Expenses of \$179,296.00.

Leaving a Net Loss of \$121,534.96.

A motion was made by Buist to accept the Veterans Affairs and Rehab financial statement and supported by Carlson. The motion was carried.

Department of Michigan:

1 Income of \$406,230.58.

2 Expenses of \$194,884.44.

3 Leaving a Net Income of \$211,346.14.

4 A motion made by Wood to accept the Department of Michigan  
5 financial statement and was supported by Mr. Ray Carlson. The motion was  
6 carried.

7 Under Unfinished Business:

8 Marty's at the Convention. The Adjutant reported that the  
9 appearance of Marty's Goldenaires was a very good success. They also  
10 performed at the Michigan party.

11 Parking Lot:

12 Ron reported that he has received two quotes and is waiting for a  
13 third. Recommendation is to wait until spring to proceed with the project.

14 Building Security Update:

15 All doors entering the Legion Headquarters are now locked down.  
16 Key pads have been added to the Auxiliary and Legion employee doors and only  
17 employees have the entry codes. All visitors are encouraged to enter using the  
18 front door, but door bells have been added, to be used for the handicap entrance  
19 and deliveries.  
20

21 Motion by Wood with support by Lafferty to elevate Alternate Marilyn  
22 Britten to the Committee in place of the absent Dave Babbage. The motion was  
23 carried.

24 New Business:  
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1 OCW Donations at National Convention. Ron reported on the  
2 current donations made by Department at National Convention and proposed to  
3 add \$2,000.00 to the budget next year for donation to Operation Comfort Warrior.  
4 Many Michigan veterans take advantage of this fund. Mr. Bill Hafeman, PDC,  
5 informed the Committee that this year Operation Comfort Warrior donated a pool  
6 table, massage table and shuffle board equipment to Wilwin. Motion by Buist with  
7 support by Lafferty to add \$2,000.00 to next year's budget for contributions to  
8 OCW. The motion was carried.

9 JH Marketing – Interim Fall Raffle Report.

10 Ron reported that \$42,880.22 in profit had been recovered – or  
11 received thus far for the Fall Raffle.

12 New Employees:

13 Gary Easterling introduced Tripp Cantwell, his Assistant Director and  
14 informed the Committee of recent staff changes within V.A. & R. Joe DiGiovanni  
15 retired in June. Deb Tomlinson retired in August. Blazin Tapia-Martinez left this  
16 spring for personal reasons and Phil McCaskey left to head the Jackson County  
17 VSO. New employees are Ron Blackwell, who will cover Ann Arbor and  
18 Southgate. Steve Todd, a part-time floater, based in Detroit, and Corey Jordan, a  
19 former part-time employee who will now be working full-time. The Detroit office is  
20 now staffed with five VSO's.

21 New Grant Contract from the State of Michigan.

22 Gary also reported on the ongoing contract discussions with the  
23 State of Michigan and the difficulties the V.A. & R. has had with current contracts.  
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1 The State has introduced penalties of \$5,000 for the first occurrence and \$10,000  
2 for the second, per month for the coalition missing their goal hours. With the new  
3 contract, the number of monthly hours have been reduced to 6,600 and penalties  
4 have been restructured. The American Legion V.A. & R. percentage of the new  
5 contract will be reduced from 25 percent to 24.5 percent with an anticipated  
6 projected yearly share of \$939,000.00 coming to the Legion. Gary answered  
7 questions regarding excess grant funds, which are not allocated to the MVAA, but  
8 are returned to the State of Michigan.

9 Moving on to Tribal Contract, Excess Funds.

10 Ron reported that he is in communication with the Sioux tribe in  
11 regards to the current contract which expires on October 1<sup>st</sup>, 2018. Funds left from  
12 this year's grant are approximately \$40,000 due to the later hire of the tribal  
13 service officer. The tribe has requested a refund of the excess funds and currently  
14 has a resolution prepared for the renewal of the contract, but it's not been signed  
15 at this time. Ron will continue his contact with the tribe, as the status of the trial  
16 service officer also remains in limbo because of that failure to sign.

17  
18 Commander Striggow.

19 Commander Striggow proposed an incentive program to aid in the  
20 completion of Post CPRs, that's the Consolidated Post Reports, at a cost of  
21 approximately \$7,000.00 per year. \$250.00 to District Commanders when all  
22 Posts within their District file their reports, and \$500.00 to the Zone Commanders  
23 when all Posts within their Districts submit these reports. Michigan has a 66  
24 percent compliance rate last year, but our goal is 100 percent to submit this  
25

1 important information. The Committee will discuss this proposal further in their  
2 December meeting.

3 There was a motion by Buist with support by Carlson to accept all  
4 reports, as submitted. The motion was carried.

5 Gary Easterling wanted to thank the SAL for their gracious \$5,000.00  
6 donation to the Detroit office of the V.A. & R. The funds were used to purchase  
7 individual scanners for all Service Officers, which has proved to be invaluable.

8 NEC, Ray Moore, introduced the Leading Candidate for National  
9 Commander, James William Oxford to our Committee from North Carolina.

10 The date of our next meeting is going to be Monday, December 10<sup>th</sup>,  
11 2018.

12 Adjournment: There being no further business to come before this  
13 Committee, the meeting was adjourned at 10:03.

14 Respectfully submitted,

15 Roger Avie, Finance/Personnel Committee Chairman.

16 I ask that this motion (sic.) be adopted.

17 DEPT. CMDR. STRIGGOW: Okay. Do we have a motion to accept  
18 this report?

19 DIST. CMDR. PARKS (4<sup>th</sup>): Richard Parks, 4<sup>th</sup> District makes the  
20 motion.

21 DIST. CMDR. SEXTON (11<sup>th</sup>): District 11, Wendy Sexton, supports.

22 DEPT. CMDR. STRIGGOW: Thank you.

23 Is there any discussion? Any discussion?  
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All in favor of the motion, signify by saying aye.

(Chorus of ayes.)

Opposed?

Motion carries.

CHAIRMAN AVIE: Thank you, Commander.

DEPT. CMDR. STRIGGOW: Internal Affairs, Ron McCall.

**DEPARTMENT INTERNAL AFFAIRS COMMITTEE MEETING REPORT**

CHAIRMAN McCALL: Good morning.

The Internal Affairs Committee, September 21<sup>st</sup>, 2018, Fall Meeting,  
Muskegon, Michigan.

The meeting of the Internal Affairs Committee was called to order by  
Chairman Ron McCall at 1:30 at the Holiday Inn, Muskegon, Michigan.

Present were Chairman Ron McCall, Robert Mayrand, Howard  
Crunit, Tim Hernandez and Kimberlee Hillock.

Absent was Brian Mohlman, who was excused.

Eight guests.

Motion to elect Brian Mohlman Secretary was supported and  
approved.

Previous Minutes for the Winter Meeting were read and supported by  
Hernandez, seconded by Hillock. The motion carried.

No old business.

New Business:

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Proposed Legion Riders Resolution was read. Motion was supported and approved.

The meeting was suspended for NEC Moore and the introduction of the Leading Candidate for National Commander, James W. "Bill" Oxford. Candidate Oxford thanked the Committee and guests attending and excused themselves from the meeting.

Being no further business. A motion to adjourn was by Crumit, seconded by Mayrand. The motion was carried.

The meeting was adjourned at 1:57.

The meeting was reconvened at 2:10 with new business.

Discussion of proposed change to Finance Committee Rules of Procedure. Motion was supported and seconded and accepted.

The meeting was re-adjourned at 2:17.

Respectfully submitted,

Ron McCall, Chairman.

DEPT. CMDR. STRIGGOW: Do I have a motion to accept this report?

DIST. CMDR. RETZLOFF (12<sup>th</sup>): Commander, the 12<sup>th</sup>.

DEPT. CMDR. STRIGGOW: And your name is?

DIST. CMDR. RETZLOFF (12<sup>th</sup>): Wendy Retzloff.

DIST. CMDR. MILLER (3<sup>rd</sup>): Duane Miller, 3<sup>rd</sup> District supports.

DEPT. CMDR. STRIGGOW: Do you want to repeat that, Duane, please.

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DIST. CMDR. MILLER (3<sup>rd</sup>): Duane Miller, 3<sup>rd</sup> District, supports.

DEPT. CMDR. STRIGGOW: Thank you.

You've heard the motion and support. Is there any discussion?

There being no discussion, all in favor say aye.

(Chorus of ayes.)

Opposed/

Motion carries.

Thank you.

Legislative, Tim Poxson.

**DEPARTMENT LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE MEETING REPORT**

CHAIRMAN POXSON: Good morning.

The meeting of the Department Legislative Committee was called to order by Tim Poxson, Chairman, at 14:30 Friday, September 21<sup>st</sup>, 2018 at the Holiday Inn, Harbor Inn, Harbor Hotel, Muskegon, Michigan.

The following were present: Tim Poxson, Skipper Townes, Joe Renis and Stephen Stevens.

Guests were nine.

John Knox introduced the leading candidate for National Commander, Bill Oxford, from the Department of North Carolina.

Motion by Stevens, seconded by Townes to add Joe Renis, Secretary/Treasurer. The motion passed.

Motion by Renis, seconded by Stevens to have Skipper Townes, Vice Chairman. Motion passed.

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Tim Poxson reviewed Legislative Committee Rules of Procedure.

Tim Poxson read past Conference Meeting Minutes. Motion by Townes, seconded by Stevens, minutes approved. Motion passed.

Mark Support Report:

Legislative priorities for 2018:

Support HB 5913 – Sales Tax Exempt for 501(c)19 organizations.

Support HB 4785 and HB 4786 – Credit and Opportunity for Dog Owners to donate \$10.00 to a fund to help veterans offset the cost of training a service animal.

Support SB 35 – Charitable Gaming.

Oppose legislation that modifies the disabled veterans property tax in ways that discriminates against any veteran.

Support House Bill 6024, Prorates property taxes for the year for qualifying disabled veterans and eliminates the annual reporting requirement for certain disabled veterans.

Motion by Townes, seconded by Stevens to have Mark Sutton send letter to the appropriate Committee Chairs to support our 2018 priorities. Motion passed.

Mark Sutton reviewed the Department’s legislative priorities for 2019/2021:

To establish a permanent Department of Veterans Affairs at the cabinet level of the Governor’s office that includes all parties in the state working with veterans.

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To ensure Michigan veterans have access to U.S. Department of Veteran Affairs accredited Veteran Service Officers in each county, either by accredited VSOs or partnered counties.

To ensure proper funding to provide accredited veteran services to our veterans.

To ensure the data collected about veterans services is reported accurately and interpreted correctly.

To maintain an ombudsman program at all Michigan veterans' homes and expand the programs as new facilities are completed.

To ensure the completion of two new veterans' homes.

To ensure four to six new veterans' homes are established around the state to better serve the veterans' needs.

To ensure proper funding and maintain – excuse me, management of new homes is maintained.

To promote that all departments in the state government are veteran-friendly and provide veteran preferences.

To promote and encourage veterans apprenticeship programs are approved by state approving agency.

To provide and ensure the use of apprenticeship in all jobs in state government for veterans.

To support the Michigan National Army and the Air Guard efforts to maintain operational readiness through proper training exercises, infrastructure, and equipment procurement.

1 Motion by Stevens, seconded by Townes to adopt the legislative  
2 priorities for 2019-2021. Motion passed.

3 Tim Poxson provided the following reiteration concerning contact  
4 between Legislators and Legionnaires:

5 "It must be continued to be stressed that no Legionnaire can speak  
6 to Legislators or government officials on behalf of the Department of Michigan  
7 without prior authorization and/or consultation from the Commander, the  
8 Department Adjutant, Legislative Director Mark Sutton, or the Chairman of the  
9 Legislative Committee. You may only contact your own elected representative  
10 and in that case you can only represent yourself, not The American Legion."

11 The meeting was opened to questions from the guests.

12 There being no further business to come before this Committee, it  
13 was moved by Renis and approved by Townes that the meeting be adjourned at  
14 15:10. Motion passed.

15 Respectfully submitted,

16 Tim Poxson.

17 DEPT. CMDR. STRIGGOW: Do we have a motion to accept this  
18 report?

19 DIST. CMDR. HAESEKER (17<sup>th</sup>): District 17, Jeff Haeseker.

20 DEPT. CMDR. STRIGGOW: Do we have a support?

21 DIST. CMDR. SEXTON (11<sup>th</sup>): 11<sup>th</sup> District, Wendy Sexton.

22 DIST. CMDR. LERETTE (8<sup>th</sup>): The 8<sup>th</sup> supports.

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DEPT. CMDR. STRIGGOW: Thank you. All those supports, I like it.

You've heard the motion and the support. Any discussion?

There being no discussion, all in favor say aye.

(Chorus of ayes.)

Opposed, same sign.

Motion carries.

CHAIRMAN POXSON: Mr. Commander, may I have a point of personal preference?

DEPT. CMDR. STRIGGOW: Yes.

CHAIRMAN POXSON: I'll take a moment of personal preference. I wanted to advise all of you present and guests that two-thirds of our Legislature is going to turn over this coming year, two-thirds, sixty-six (66) percent. This will be important for you to make personal contact with the people that get elected in your areas. I can't stress it enough. We're going to have starting almost fresh there. That's good and bad.

I must say that also, and we've been reminded all weekend, and I'm going to say it again. Do not wear anything that has any insignia of The American Legion on it if you happen to be near a candidate that's running for office. We've got a lot of them running for office, and they would love to get that picture some way. We are not a Democratic or Republican organization. We are an American organization. Please carry that message to your Post so your Post members understand that they can't do that also.

1 Thank you, also to the staff at Headquarters. Without their  
2 assistance, my job would be impossible.

3 Thank you, Mr. Commander.

4 DEPT. CMDR. STRIGGOW: Media and Communications, Bud  
5 Hansbarger.

6 **DEPARTMENT MEDIA AND COMMUNICATIONS COMMITTEE MEETING REPORT**

7 CHAIRMAN HANSBARGER: Good afternoon, this is Bud.

8 Good morning, DEC, how are we?

9 The American Legion, Department of Michigan.

10 2018 Department Fall Conference at the Holiday Inn, Muskegon,  
11 Michigan.

12 Media and Communications Committee met at 13:30 in the  
13 Ambassador Room.

14 The meeting of the Department of Michigan Communications –  
15 Media and Communications was called to order by Bud, Chairman, at 13:30 on  
16 Friday, September 21<sup>st</sup>, 2018.

17 Roll Call of Members: Bud, Chairman, present. Joe McClellan,  
18 present. Mike Huber, present. Edward Burkhardt, absent, ex-officio, Mark Sutton,  
19 present. Having a quorum and 13 Legion family guests, the Media and  
20 Communications Committee conducted regular business.

21 Unfinished Business: None.

22 New Business: The Committee reviewed and accepted Media and  
23 Communications Committee Rules of Procedure, as charged.  
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Motion to nominate Joe McClellan as Committee Secretary by Joe McClellan and seconded by Mark Sutton. Motion passed.

Motion to nominate Mike Huber as Vice Chairman by Mark Sutton, seconded by Joe McClellan. Nomination accepted by Mike Huber. Motion passed.

Committee reviewed minutes of previous minutes (sic.), accepted as written. No action required.

The Committee reviewed and received – or received and reviewed Department of Michigan Medial and Communications Report from the Public Relations Director. Motion for adoption of the report by Mark Sutton, seconded by Joe McClellan. Motion passed.

Motion that the Michigan Legionnaire list State Adjutant Ron Runyan as Publisher, Mark Sutton as Managing Editor and LaDonna Austhof as Editor by Mark Sutton. Seconded by Joe McClellan. Motion passed.

Good of the Legion:

Media and Communications training topic and content was reviewed.

Discussion regarding American Legion Department of Michigan image, including limiting missed and lost opportunities. Review of prior Committee readings and review of Start with Why by Simon Sinek and Chairman “Bud” also requested/suggested current Committee and guests read Start with Why and Team of Rivals – The Political Genius of Abraham Lincoln by Doris Goodwin.

1                   Adjournment: Being there was no further business to come before  
2 this Committee it was moved by Mike Huber and seconded by Joe McClellan.

3 Motion passed.

4                   Meeting adjourned at 14:25.

5                   I request the Medial and Communications Committee Meeting  
6 minutes be adopted.

7                   DEPT. CMDR. STRIGGOW: Do we have a motion?

8                   DIST. CMDR. MORRISON (19<sup>th</sup>): Brian Morrison, 19<sup>th</sup> District so  
9 moves.

10                  DEPT. CMDR. STRIGGOW: Thank you.

11                  DIST. CMDR. MITCHELL (7<sup>th</sup>): Lewis Mitchell, 7<sup>th</sup> District supports.

12                  DEPT. CMDR. STRIGGOW: Thank you.

13                  You've heard the motion and the support. Is there any discussion/  
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15 There being no discussion, all in favor, say aye.

16                  (Chorus of ayes.)

17                  Opposed, the same.

18                  Motion carries.

19                  CHAIRMAN HANSBARGER: Commander, may I have a point of –

20                  DEPT. CMDR. STRIGGOW: Yes.

21                  CHAIRMAN HANSBARGER: Okay. It's Friday when it was  
22 suggested by Mark that we refer to me as Bud, with his meeting minutes, it was  
23 suggested that I express if there was any dislikes about the website, please  
24 express them. And that was for the purpose of improving it. So, please, share the  
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concerns and possible solutions to Mark Sutton and/or myself. It's important that we think outside of the box, not just say there's a problem, but give us a solution in solving that problem.

And a really big topic that we talked about was missed opportunities. It's kind of a touchy subject when our National Commander came to visit us. Many of us did not know. Granted, he just did a month-long thing for the National Convention. In a week, it will probably be the equivalent of "Hell Week" for the rest of us, and going to Wilwin was probably exactly what he needed. However, maybe something a little low key, maybe an endorsement to say that he came and enjoyed and saw how Wilwin works. But that was a missed opportunity that I think we need to be careful with in the future.

Thank you.

DEPT. CMDR. STRIGGOW: Membership, Richard Tracy.

**DEPARTMENT MEMBERSHIP STANDING COMMITTEE MEETING REPORT**

CHAIRMAN TRACY: Good morning.

The Department of Michigan Membership Committee was called to order by Membership Director, Richard Tracy in the Trustee Room at the Holiday Inn in Muskegon Harbor in Muskegon, Michigan on September 21<sup>st</sup>, 2018 at 11:00 a.m.

Members Present: Dick Tracy, Bob Higley, Gary Lane, Jim Carlin, Robert Berger, Doug Carignan, Donald Mraz and Carl Morrison.



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There was a lengthy discussion on DMS headquarter post members.

Gary Lane gave the U.P. report. We need to get out in the public and be visible.

Dick Tracy stated Michigan is currently in 18<sup>th</sup> place nationally in membership.

Post Development and membership training will take place on Saturday, September 22<sup>nd</sup>, from 3:00 p.m. to 4:30 p.m. in the Governor room.

Dick Tracy announced that the Al Ford Award is now an award that can be earned every year.

There being no further business to come before this Committee, the meeting was closed at 11:50 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,  
Richard Tracy, Membership Director.

DEPT. CMDR. STRIGGOW: Do we have a motion?

DIST. CMDR. TILLMAN (16<sup>th</sup>): 16<sup>th</sup> District, Craig Tillman, motion.

DEPT. CMDR. STRIGGOW: A support?

DIST. CMDR. BECK (2<sup>nd</sup>): 2<sup>nd</sup> – Terry Beck, 2<sup>nd</sup> District, support.

DEPT. CMDR. STRIGGOW: Thank you.

You heard the motion and support. Any discussion?

There being no discussion, all in favor of the motion, signify by saying aye.

(Chorus of ayes.)

All opposed?

1 Motion carries.

2 CHAIRMAN TRACY: Thank you, Commander.

3 DEPT. CMDR. STRIGGOW: National Security and Foreign  
4 Relations, Lavern Spolarich.

5 **DEPARTMENT NATIONAL SECURITY AND FOREIGN RELATIONS COMMITTEE**  
6 **MEETING REPORT**

7 CHAIRMAN SPOLARICH: The National Security and Foreign  
8 Relations Committee was in the Upper Restaurant Room at the Muskegon Holiday  
9 Inn in Muskegon.

10 The meeting of the Department National and Foreign Relations  
11 Committee was called to order by Chairman Spolarich at 2:30 p.m., September  
12 21<sup>st</sup>, 2018.

13 The following were present: John Kailunas, Gary Sammons, Richard  
14 Dubai, Gary Hlavka, Catherine Buckley and there were four guests.

15 Previous minutes were read.

16 Motion made by Sammons for Richard Dubai for Vice-Chairman and  
17 Catherine Buckley for Secretary, seconded by Kailunas. The motion passed.

18 Gary Sammons' motion for National Securities (sic.) to be under the  
19 V.A. & R, seconded by Dubai. The motion passed.

20 There was a motion to pay Committee members for one-day at  
21 Convention, seconded by Dubai. The motion passed. That's going to moved  
22 under – with the proposal to eliminate one day at Convention.  
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1 Catherine Buckley spoke on Flags, with statement attachment. The  
2 attachment reads: In 1968, the Federal Flag Desecration Law was enacted as a  
3 result of Vietnam War protests that included the burning of the U.S. flag. That law  
4 made it illegal to show contempt for the flag by publicly mutilating, defacing,  
5 defiling, burning or trampling.

6 As a result of the U.S. Supreme Court's opinion, the government  
7 revised the Federal Flag Desecration Statute in 1989. The Supreme Court, in  
8 cases that followed that revision finally held in the case of U.S. v Eichman that the  
9 federal law was unconstitutional because it was aimed at prohibiting or limiting  
10 symbolic speech. Following that case, although Congress attempted to amend the  
11 law in a way that would give both Congress and states the right to prohibit physical  
12 desecration of the U.S. flag, it could not get enough votes and the bill failed.

13 Also, an attachment a Summary for House Resolution 3121 of the  
14 115<sup>th</sup> Congress of 2017/2018. What it is, is The All-American Flag Act.

15 This bill requires U.S. flags acquired for use by the federal  
16 government to be manufactured entirely in the United States from articles,  
17 materials, or supplies grown, produced, or manufactured in the United States.  
18

19 Such requirement shall not apply if: (1) articles, material, or supplies  
20 to be used are not grown, produced, or manufactured in the United States in  
21 sufficient and reasonably available commercial quantities and are not of a  
22 satisfactory quality; or (2) the President determines a waiver is necessary to  
23 comply with a trade agreement.  
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1 Gary Hlavka gave his report that on September 4<sup>th</sup>, 2018, the  
2 remains of Korean War Veteran. Lieutenant Herman L. Falks of New York was  
3 found and identified after 51 years missing.

4 Operation El Dorado Canyon and Operation Desert Storm Gulf War  
5 bodies not found.

6 There are 126 missing from the Cold War.

7 July 28<sup>th</sup>, 2018, 55 MIAs returned home from North Korea.

8 September 20<sup>th</sup>, 2018, the flag presentation at the new Korean  
9 Memorial at Arlington.

10 September 21, 2018, the third Friday in September was declared  
11 POW/MIA Day was recognized by Congress, August 10<sup>th</sup>, 1990.

12 Lavern Spolarich spoke on blood donations, 26 awards for donations  
13 of ten gallons or more at present.

14 Question asked, why can't we give blood when it has been so long  
15 over the Mad Cow Disease. Also, can you give blood with a pacemaker. Answers  
16 forthcoming. I'll be giving blood donations next month, and I'll be asking the  
17 Michigan Blood about those and have something either in the Legionnaire, or I'll  
18 report it at Winter Meeting.

19 Fred Youngs, 5<sup>th</sup> District, Post 154, stated the Prime Minister of  
20 Poland has offered U.S. 10 million to send troops permanent to Poland.  
21 Confirmation forthcoming.

22 Larry Chase is to try and bring a gentleman that went to Russia to  
23 the Winter Conference. We've still got missing in Russia from World War II.  
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1 Motion made by Gary Sammons, seconded by Richard Dubay to  
2 adjourn. Passed at 3:03 p.m.

3 Respectfully submitted,

4 Lavern Spolarich, Chairman.

5 Commander, I recommend adoption of this report.

6 DEPT. CMDR. STRIGGOW: Do we have a motion?

7 DIST. CMDR. BECK (2<sup>nd</sup>): Terry Beck, 2<sup>nd</sup> District. I make a motion  
8 that we accept the report.

9 DIST. CMDR. MITCHELL (7<sup>th</sup>): Second, Lewis Mitchell, 7<sup>th</sup>.

10 DEPT. CMDR. STRIGGOW: Thank you.

11 You've heard the motion and the support. Is there any discussion?

12 DEPT. ADJT. RUNYAN: Mr. Commander, when the report was  
13 given, it stated that Gary Sammons made a motion that the National Security  
14 Committee go under V.A. & R.; however, he actually made the motion that the Ad  
15 Hoc National Cemeteries Committee to be placed under V.A. & R., so that  
16 correction needs to be clarified.

17 CHAIRMAN SPOLARICH: I said a motion for National Cemeteries.

18 DEPT. ADJT. RUNYAN: That's what I just said.

19 CHAIRMAN SPOLARICH: Yes, okay.

20 DEPT. CMDR. STRIGGOW: Did you hear that?

21 DEPT. ADJT. RUNYAN: During the report, the Chairman stated  
22 that Gary Sammons made a motion for the National Security Committee to be  
23 placed under V.A. & R. during the reading of the minutes; however, it states Gary  
24  
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1 Sammons made the motion for the Ad Hoc – it's an Ad Hoc Committee in  
2 Department of Michigan, the National Cemeteries Committee be placed under  
3 V. A. & R. So, that correction needs to be made so that when they're voting on it,  
4 they understand that the Ad Hoc National Cemeteries Committee be placed under  
5 V.A. & R.

6 CHAIRMAN SPOLARICH: I apologize for that.

7 DEPT. CMDR. STRIGGOW: Okay. Everybody has heard the  
8 correction.

9 Any other discussion?

10 All in favor, say aye.

11 (Chorus of ayes.)

12 All opposed, no.

13 Motion carries.

14 Permanent Time and Place, Mr. Holt.

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16 **DEPARTMENT PERMANENT TIME AND PLACE COMMITTEE MEETING REPORT**

17 PAST DEPARTMENT CMDR. HOLT: Thank you, Commander.

18 I'd thank you for the appointment, but this is dictated by the By-Laws,  
19 so it's kind of a –

20 Permanent Time and Place Committee was called to order – the  
21 meeting of the Permanent Time and Place Committee was called to order by  
22 Raymond Moore, Chairman, at 2:40 p.m.

23 Roll Call: The following members were present. Raymond Moore,  
24 Jim Wallace, Mike Buda, Larry Money and Brett Holt.  
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There were 16 guests.

Minutes of the Standing Committee Meeting at Convention were read. Motion by Jim Wallace and seconded by Money to accept. Motion carried.

Unfinished Business: None.

New Business: Entertained discussion about possible July Department Convention in the Upper Peninsula in the future. The Committee gave the approval to submit a bid for the weekend after July 4<sup>th</sup>.

Bids for Fall of 2020 are needed. Did everybody get that? Bids for Fall 2020 are needed.

There being no further business to come before the Committee, motion to adjourn by Buda, seconded by Wallace. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 3:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,  
Raymond Moore, Chairman.

Mr. Commander, as a member of the Department Executive Committee, I move to accept this report.

DEPT. CMDR. STRIGGOW: Do we have a second.

DIST. CMDR. MITCHELL (7<sup>th</sup>): Second, Lewis Mitchell, 7<sup>th</sup> District.

DEPT. CMDR. STRIGGOW: Thank you.

You heard the motion and the second. Is there any discussion?

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

(Chorus of ayes.)

Opposed, no.

1 Motion carries.

2 Mr. Holt.

3 **DEPARTMENT RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE MEETING REPORT:**

4 PAST DEPARTMENT CMDR. HOLT: Mr. Commander, with your  
5 permission, I have the Resolutions here.

6 DEPT. CMDR. STRIGGOW: Go ahead. Go for it.

7 PAST DEPARTMENT CMDR. HOLT: The meeting of the  
8 Resolutions Committee was called to order by Raymond Moore, Chairman, at 8:45  
9 a.m.

10 Roll Call: The following members were present, Raymond Moore,  
11 Jim Wallace, Mike Buda, Larry Money and Brett Holt.

12 There were nine guests.

13  
14 New Business: Discussed five resolutions, one thank you to  
15 Convention Corporation and four Memorials. Moved by Past Department  
16 Commander Buda to send all to the DEC, seconded by Past Department  
17 Commander, National Vice Commander Jim Wallace. The motion carried.

18 Past Department Commander Moore introduced Leading Candidate  
19 James Oxford.

20 There being no further business to come before the Committee, Past  
21 Department Commander Money moved to recess, subject to recall. Motion  
22 carried.

23 The Committee was recalled – reconvened at 2:30 p.m.

24 All members were present.  
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Chairman Moore read Resolution 8-2019, Michigan American Legion Riders. Motion to accept by Larry Money, seconded by Mike Buda. Motion carried.

Motion to adjourn by Money, seconded by Buda. Motion carried.

Resolution Committee recessed, subject to recall.

Respectfully submitted,

Raymond Moore, Chairman.

Again, Mr. Commander, as a member of the Department Executive Committee, I move to accept this report.

DEPT. CMDR. STRIGGOW: Is there a second?

DIST. CMDR. PARKS (4<sup>th</sup>): 4<sup>th</sup> District, Richard Parks, seconds.

DEPT. CMDR. STRIGGOW: Thank you.

You've heard the motion and the support. Is there any discussion?

All in favor, say aye.

(Chorus of ayes.)

Opposed, no.

Motion carries.

PAST DEPARTMENT CMDR. HOLT: Mr. Commander, we have two resolutions that we need to read.

DEPT. CMDR. STRIGGOW: Go for it.

PAST DEPARTMENT CMDR. HOLT: All right. You guys thought you got rid of me, didn't you?

I will read the Resolved clauses for these.

1 Resolution 3-2019.

2 Resolved, by The American Legion, Department of Michigan, in  
3 annual Department Fall Conference, assembled in Muskegon, Michigan,  
4 September 21<sup>st</sup> through the 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2018, that The American Legion, Department of  
5 Michigan go on record as expressing to Post 9, Conference Corporation, its  
6 officers and members, the combined thanks of The American Legion, Department  
7 of Michigan, its officers, the Executive Committee and each Legionnaire attending  
8 the Fall Conference and ask its members to extend their appreciation to all those  
9 who may have contributed in any way.

10 The recommendation from the Resolutions Committee is to accept  
11 approval.

12 DEPT. CMDR. STRIGGOW: Do we have a motion?

13 DIST. CMDR. MORRISON (19<sup>th</sup>): Brian Morrison, 19<sup>th</sup> District, so  
14 moved.

15 DEPT. CMDR. STRIGGOW: Do we have support?

16 DIST. CMDR. LERETTE (8<sup>th</sup>): 8<sup>th</sup> District, Elmer Lerette, supports.

17 DEPT. CMDR. STRIGGOW: You've heard the motion and the  
18 support. Is there any discussion?  
19

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

21 (Chorus of ayes.)

22 Opposed, no.

23 Motion carries.

24 PAST DEPARTMENT CMDR. HOLT: One more, sir.  
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DEPT. CMDR. STRIGGOW: Go for it.

PAST DEPARTMENT CMDR. HOLT: Thank you.

Resolution 8-2019, again, I'll read the Resolved clauses.

Resolved, that the Department of Michigan adopt the titles of  
Director and Assistant Director for all Michigan Chapters – this is, I'm sorry,  
Subject: Michigan American Legion Riders.

Again, Resolved, that the Department of Michigan adopt the titles of  
Director and Assistant Director for all Michigan Chapters; and be it, finally,

Resolved, by The American Legion, Department of Michigan in  
annual Department Fall Conference, assembled in Muskegon, Michigan,  
September 21<sup>st</sup> through the 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2018, that The American Legion, Department of  
Michigan, adopt the titles of Director and Assistant Director for all Michigan  
American Legion Rider Chapters.

The recommendation from the Resolutions Committee is to approve.

DEPT. CMDR. STRIGGOW: Do we have a motion?

DIST. CMDR. MILLER (3<sup>rd</sup>): Duane Miller, 3<sup>rd</sup> District, motion.

DIST. CMDR. MORRISON (19<sup>th</sup>): Brian Morrison, proud American  
Legion Rider, seconds.

DEPT. CMDR. STRIGGOW: Okay. We have a motion and second.  
Any discussion? Any discussion?

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

(Chorus of ayes.)

Opposed, no.

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Motion carries.

PAST DEPARTMENT CMDR. HOLT: Mr. Commander, that's all I can think of to do up here. So, I'll leave.

DEPT. CMDR. STRIGGOW: American Legion Baseball, Jeff McGinnis.

**DEPARTMENT AMERICAN LEGION BASEBALL COMMITTEE MEETING REPORT**

LEGIONNAIRE MCGINNIS: Good morning, and greetings from your State American Legion Baseball Committee.

This 21<sup>st</sup>, forgive me, I've forgotten my glasses. It's not real good. Good thing I'm not umpiring. I think I can do it here.

The 21<sup>st</sup>, right here in Muskegon, Nelson Cronkright called the meeting to order at 9:00 o'clock.

All were present, with the exception of Zone 2, which we have a vacancy. Mike Trickey was phone.

We had five guests.

Minutes from June 19<sup>th</sup>, 2018 was read and approved.

Election of Officers: It was moved that Jeff McGinnis, great guy, was elected as Vice Chairman, Dave Stanifer as Secretary, and Mike Trickey was added for the Treasurer. That was because of the Upper Peninsula and he's so far away that when they're up there, he's the Co-Chairman for the – or the Co-Treasurer.

The 2017/2018 budget was reviewed and discussed and put off until later for the budget for the upcoming year.



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The Chairman expressed interest in establishing a job description for all Zone Commanders. That was tabled to our December meeting.

Dates for the summer finals were determined. It was an error that next week, because they thought the National Committee had made that decision. They had not. It will be two weeks, and Ashley will inform us.

We had at that time the Leading Candidate came in and spoke to us, and he loves baseball. Well, who doesn't?

The SAL Commander, Gary LaMunyon discussed his special project, which is Legion Baseball. Donations to the SAL Commander's project will go to American Legion Baseball this year. Praise him.

Class A and AA State Finals will be played on the same weekend. It was decided that the Chairman will go to one, the Vice Chairman will go to the other to supervise that tournament. I can only imagine where he's going to send me.

The Regional Baseball tournaments will be in Charleston on the 7<sup>th</sup> to the 11<sup>th</sup> of 2019. The World Series will be August 15<sup>th</sup> through the 20<sup>th</sup> in Shelby, North Carolina.

Several ideas were discussed about brackets. We can't seem to get together on the brackets and so we will discuss it in December. Don't hold your breath on that one either.

There will be discussions on purchasing baseballs. Rawlings Baseball makes a decent ball. Diamond is our official baseball sanctioned by the National. But here's the problem. They're going to give us a break on baseballs.

1 Well, that's a good thing, right? But, they, Diamond, speaking of Diamond, gives a  
2 scholarship, \$50,000.00 for the tournament and numerous other ones. So, it was  
3 decided not to screw with them, so we're going to stay with Diamond.

4 Discussions for a central location. This one is an easy one to  
5 understand. The Upper Peninsula has to travel great distances, and then when  
6 it's in the Upper Peninsula, we travel great distances, which causes extra money  
7 for travel and so on and so forth, so we have been discussing a central location,  
8 such as Lansing or Midland or somewhere in that area, and that was put off.  
9 Never met a discussion that they wouldn't table, and so our December meeting,  
10 we'll see what happens then. We won't hold our breath.

11 Okay. Ashley came up with a great idea, and it is a good idea, to  
12 redo the baseball brochure. If anybody has seen one, because I hope you all  
13 have, from the Department or from the National, they are not very informative. So,  
14 she's going to put together a new one, and we're very happy about that.

15  
16 There was concern expressed about the lack of applications put in  
17 for the scholarships. How come? Well, we're going to press that issue, too.

18 It was – in the Menominee single A tournament was great. They did  
19 a wonderful job up there, and it was moved that we will give a letter of appreciation  
20 to Steve Vanike. Anyway, he helped run the place. It was also mentioned that  
21 Mike Trickey took over for Don Hudon, who unexpectedly passed away, and he  
22 did a great job.

23 Now, may all your fly balls reach the fences and your Baseball  
24 Committee will continue to do the best we can for you.  
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Commander, thank you for having me.

DEPT. CMDR. STRIGGOW: Do we have a motion to accept the report?

DIST. CMDR. BECK (2<sup>nd</sup>): Terry Beck, 2<sup>nd</sup> District, accepts the motion.

DEPT. CMDR. STRIGGOW: Support?

DIST. CMDR. RETZLOFF (12<sup>th</sup>): District 12, Wendy Retzloff, seconds.

DEPT. CMDR. STRIGGOW: Thank you.

You've heard the motion and support to accept the Baseball report.

Any discussion?

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

(Chorus of ayes.)

Opposed, no.

Motion carries.

Post Development, Jerry Andrus.

**DEPARTMENT POST DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE MEETING REPORT**

CHAIRMAN ANDRUS: Post Development Committee, September 21<sup>st</sup>, 2018.

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Andrus at 1:30. Roll call was taken and a quorum was present. Scott Mullarkey was excused.

There were also 20 guests present.

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Al Ford was voted as Vice-Commander and Jerry Lynch as Secretary.

The minutes of the Convention were read and approved.

Jerry stated that we have done one revitalization and two more are planned. He still has to meet with a couple other Posts.

At Barryton, we signed up three new members and resigned or transferred 17 others.

Our VOS and another Service Officer did 16 claims.

Al Ford was assigned to the 9<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> Districts; Jerry Lynch to the 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup>; Ken Dittenber to the 8<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup>; Scott to the 3<sup>rd</sup>, 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup>; and Jerry will take the rest.

Ken reported on his area and he is trying to help a couple of Posts.

Al reported on Barryton and there are a couple that might be closing.

Jerry stated that most of the U.P. is well, but some help might be needed soon.

Jerry Andrus reported on the two revitalizations coming up and that he has three other Posts to meet with.

There was much discussion on getting Posts to ask for help and getting Posts to come to meetings. A lot of good comments from many guests and some with good ideas.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Jerry Andrus, Chairman.

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I move for adoption.

DEPT. CMDR. STRIGGOW: Is there a motion?

DIST. CMDR. SPIGHT (1<sup>st</sup>): Gregory Spight, 1<sup>st</sup> District.

DEPT. CMDR. STRIGGOW: Support.

DIST. CMDR. SEXTON (11<sup>th</sup>): District 11, Wendy Sexton.

DEPT. CMDR. STRIGGOW: You heard the motion and the support.

Any discussion?

There being no discussion, all in favor say aye.

(Chorus of ayes.)

Opposed, no.

Motion carries.

Reconnect, Gary Tanner.

**DEPARTMENT RECONNECT COMMITTEE MEETING REPORT**

CHAIRMAN TANNER: Good morning, everyone.

The minutes of the Reconnect Committee, The American Legion, Thursday (sic), September 21<sup>st</sup>, 2018, Muskegon, Michigan.

Call to Order: The Department Reconnect Committee was opened by Chairman Tanner at 10:03 a.m. Pledge was said, along with an opening prayer.

Roll Call: Three members were present and twelve guests.

Ken Pierce nominated Gary Walter as Vice Chairman and Gary Walter nominated Ken Pierce as the Secretary. Motion carried.

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Gary Walter made a motion to accept the Rules of Procedure, seconded by Ken Pierce. Motion carried.

Minutes of the previous meeting were distributed. Gary Walter moved to approve, as printed, seconded by Ken Pierce. Motion carried.

Under Unfinished Business: The Committee reviewed the process procedures for the Reconnect Programs. Moved by Pierce, supported by Walter to approve. Motion carried.

Reviewed ongoing Committee promotional items.

Chairman Tanner sent out feelers to military units regarding their desire to have the Elomobility Room. Once these responses are gathered, the Committee will decide if a new trailer is warranted.

NEC Ray Moore introduced the Leading Candidate for National Commander, Bill Oxford from North Carolina. He also introduced National Vice Commander Jim Wallace and Alternate NEC John Knox.

Under New Business: There was no new business to be considered.

Business for the Good of the Legion: Chairman Tanner explained what the Reconnect Committee does to help veterans in distress. Mr. Chairman reported that we have supported at least \$30,000 to \$40,000 to help families that applied for help through the Reconnect Committee and that should have – should have stated, since Convention, not as a whole.

There being no further business to come before this Committee, it was moved and supported by Pierce that the meeting be adjourned at 10:55 a.m. Motion carried.

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Respectfully submitted,

Gary Tanner, Chairman.

Ken Pierce, Secretary.

16<sup>th</sup> District, Craig Tillman, motion.

DEPT. CMDR. STRIGGOW: Second.

DIST. CMDR. PARKS (4<sup>th</sup>): 4<sup>th</sup> District seconds.

DEPT. CMDR. STRIGGOW: Thank you.

We have a motion and support. Is there any discussion?

There being no discussion, all in favor say aye.

(Chorus of ayes.)

Opposed?

Motion carries.

CHAIRMAN TANNER: Thank you, Commander. Just a quick moment of personal privilege.

One interesting fact when the National Commander came in is, you know, he's from North Carolina. North Carolina and Michigan, as you may or may not know are two of the states with the highest concentration of Guard and Reserve Units. And as such, that's why these programs are very important and earlier in the year, around February, March time frame, I was contacted by the Department of North Carolina. Past Department Commander Rohan had indicated that they had decided to establish a special committee, the Reconnect Committee, and he was appointed to chair that committee, and indicated that

1 North Carolina, in fact, wants to remodel their Reconnect Program after the  
2 Department of Michigan's Reconnect Program.

3 So, it was kind of a nice connection with the new incoming leading  
4 candidate. Commander Rohan had the focus on Reconnect last year, and with  
5 the incoming Commanders Department focusing on that, as well, we're hoping that  
6 at the National level more than seven Departments will do Reconnect nationally,  
7 which was a shocking statistic that only seven Departments do Reconnect.

8 That's a really important program for not only membership, but to  
9 serve our military families.

10 And, lastly, prior to Convention, I was contacted by Jim Mackey. His  
11 wife had a very severe medical emergency. She actually stopped breathing, her  
12 heart stopped at a rest stop in Petoskey on the way to Convention. Luckily, some  
13 bystanders were able to get her out of the car and revive her. They got her to the  
14 hospital. She's recovered and doing fairly well.

15  
16 When Jim didn't show up to the meeting today, or this weekend, I  
17 was concerned. I called her after the meeting, and Jim had had some sort of  
18 aneurysm below his kidney that they had to put a stent in and do some surgery.  
19 He's still in the hospital and recovering to my knowledge. So, he's doing okay, but  
20 it's still, does he do a well recovery. So, I just would like to ask that all of you keep  
21 their family in your thoughts and prayers. They've had a very difficult year and Jim  
22 does a lot for us in the Upper Peninsula. So, please keep them in your thoughts  
23 and prayers.

24 Thank you, Commander.  
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DEPT. CMDR. STRIGGOW: Okay. I have made two appointments to the Reconnect Committee. That would be Daniel Patrick, who spoke to us yesterday from Fisher House, or on Friday, and Earl Lash.

So, I would like to confirm those appointments. Could I have a motion to confirm those appointments?

DIST. CMDR. PARKS (4<sup>th</sup>): Richard Parks, 4<sup>th</sup> District.

DEPT. CMDR. STRIGGOW: Thank you. Is there a second?

DIST. CMDR. LERETTE (8<sup>th</sup>): Elmer Lerette, 8<sup>th</sup> District supports.

DEPT. CMDR. STRIGGOW: Thank you.

We have a motion and a support. Is there any discussion on those two appointments to the Reconnect Committee?

There being none, all I favor say aye.

(Chorus of ayes.)

Opposed, no.

Motion carries.

CHAIRMAN TANNER: Thanks, Commander.

DEPT. CMDR. STRIGGOW: Thank you.

Okay. I don't see Don Howard in the room.

Okay. You're going to make it for him. Okay.

V.A. & R. Report.

**DEPARTMENT VETERANS AFFAIRS & REHABILITATION COMMITTEE MEETING REPORT**

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LEGIONNAIRE BOURDEAU: I'm standing in for Don for reading the minutes.

The meeting of the Michigan Department V. A. & R. Committee was called to order by Don Howard, Chairman, at 1:00 in the Cabinet Room of Holiday Inn, Muskegon, Michigan.

Present were the Standing Committee, Don Howard, Tony Licari, Alfonse VanHese, Gary Bourdeau, Bob Gillette, the Alternate was standing in for Tom Sheppard, whose dad is in the hospital, and Gary Easterling was present.

The guests that came in. Ray Moore came in and introduced Bill Oxford, the Leading Candidate, John Knox and Jim Wallace were present with him. Mr. Oxford, the Leading Candidate for National Commander expressed the importance of, especial the VAVS Committee and the V.A. & R. Committee for the work that they do for our veterans.

Minutes of the June 21<sup>st</sup> meeting were read. Moved by Mr. Licari and supported by Mr. VanHese that the minutes of the V.A. & R. Committee be approved. The motion carried.

We had a VAVA update from Chairman, Gerry Dennis.

Old Business: None.

New Business: Gary Easterling gave an update on our Department and VSOs and Department Service Officers, and the upcoming contract with the State of Michigan.

We had Mr. Mark Linke give us an update on the Fisher Houses.

1                   There being no further business to come before this Committee, it  
2 was moved by Mr. Licari and supported by Mr. VanHese that the meeting be  
3 adjourned at 2:14. Motion carried.

4                   Respectfully submitted,

5                   Don Howard, Chairman V. A. & R. Committee.

6                   I ask this – these minutes be accepted, as read. I had some  
7 changes to do on the one that I submitted, and I will get them in to Kelly.

8                   DEPT. CMDR. STRIGGOW: Who is Kelly?

9                   DEPT. ADJT. RUNYAN: Or Kim?

10                  LEGIONNAIRE BOURDEAU: Kim.

11                  Hey, I'm new at this, Ron.

12                  DEPT. ADJT. RUNYAN: I thought I had a new staff member.

13                  DEPT. CMDR. STRIGGOW: Do we have a motion to accept this  
14 report?

15                  DIST. CMDR. MILLER (3<sup>rd</sup>): 3<sup>rd</sup> District, Duane Miller makes the  
16 motion.

17                  DEPT. CMDR. STRIGGOW: Is there a second/

18                  DIST. CMDR. MORRISON (19<sup>th</sup>): Brian Morrison, 19<sup>th</sup> District.

19                  DEPT. CMDR. STRIGGOW: Thank you.

20                  We have a motion and a second to accept this report; any  
21 discussion?

22                  All in favor, say aye.

23                  (Chorus of ayes.)  
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1                   Opposed, no.

2                   Motion carries.

3                   This has got to be the most enthusiastic bunch I've ever seen.

4                   VAVS/VHVS, Gerald Dennis.

5                   **DEPARTMENT VAVS/VHVS COMMITTEE MEETING REPORT**

6                   CHAIRMAN DENNIS: The VAVS Committee Meeting, Thursday  
7                   (sic), September 21<sup>st</sup>, 2018.

8                   The meeting of the Veterans Affairs Voluntary Services and the  
9                   Veterans Home Voluntary Services was called to order by Chairman D=Gerald  
10                  Dennis at 11:00 a.m. in the Diplomat Room of the Holiday Inn, Muskegon,  
11                  Michigan with a salute to the colors and the Pledge of Allegiance.

12                  Roll Call: Gerald Dennis from the Grand Rapids Home was there;  
13                  Henry Altman from the V.A. Saginaw was there; Jim Long from Ann Arbor was  
14                  there.  
15

16                  Excused was Dan Osborne from Battle Creek; Ferrand Ethington  
17                  from V.A. Iron Mountain, Frank Roche from V.A. Detroit; and James Feliciano of  
18                  the D.J. Jacobetti Veterans Home in Marquette.

19                  We had 16 guests, and I won't read off the Districts.

20                  We stopped our meeting because we had a visit from the Leading  
21                  Candidate for National Commander, Bill Oxford, who hails from North Carolina.  
22                  He was escorted by NEC Ray Moore, Alternate NEC John Knox, and the National  
23                  Vice Commander, Jim Wallace.  
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Seeing that we did not have a quorum, we closed the regular meeting at 11:12 a.m. as we had an error as to when and where our meeting was to start.

We opened the floor for questions and comments from our guests. After much discussion, we official left our meeting room.

We reconvened at 18:00 – for your non-Air Force people – as we had a quorum to elect Dan Osborne, as Vice Chair and James Long as Secretary. Everyone received a copy of the Rules of Procedure to review.

Respectfully submitted,  
Gerald Dennis, Chairman.

I recommend the adoption of the report.

DEPT. CMDR. STRIGGOW: Do I have a motion?

DIST. CMDR. HAESEKER (17<sup>th</sup>): Jeff Haeseker, 17<sup>th</sup> District.

DEPT. CMDR. STRIGGOW: Second.

DIST. CMDR. LERETTE (8<sup>th</sup>): Commander, 8<sup>th</sup> District, Elmer Lerette, supports.

DEPT. CMDR. STRIGGOW: I thought you forgot your name for a minute.

You've heard the motion and the support. Is there any discussion?

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

(Chorus of ayes.)

Opposed, no.

Motion carries.

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Veterans Employment and Education. I don't see Gerald Merrell here anywhere.

DEPT. ADJT. RUNYAN: Dick Chatman gave that report on Friday, Commander.

DEPT. CMDR. STRIGGOW: Oh that's right, he did. I'm sorry. Okay. That report has already been given.

Do we have any unfinished business?  
Mr. Knox.

ALT. NATL. EXECUTIVE CMTMAN KNOX: Commander, Alternate NEC. I would like a motion that the minutes include the National Vice Commander Jim Wallace attended all Committee meetings and was introduced.

Thank you.

DEPT. CMDR. STRIGGOW: Thank you.

Do we have a second to that?

PAST DEPARTMENT CMDR. HOLT: PDC Holt, seconds.

DEPT. CMDR. STRIGGOW: Thank you. Commander Holt seconds that motion.

Any discussion?

LEGIONNAIRE: What was the motion?

DEPT. CMDR. STRIGGOW: The motion was made to include Jim Wallace in on all mentions. He made all the Committee meetings with the National – with the NEC and the Leading Candidate for National Commander.

Thank you.

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DEPT. ADJT. RUNYAN: You have to take that vote. You have a motion and a support, you've got to –

DEPT. CMDR. STRIGGOW: Yes, I'm going to do it.

Okay. You've heard the motion and the support.

DIST. CMDR. MITCHELL (7<sup>th</sup>): Motion by Lewis Mitchell, 7<sup>th</sup> District.

DEPT. CMDR. STRIGGOW: We already did that.

John made the motion, and Brett seconded. I know, you're just boiling over.

You've heard the motion and the support, any discussion?

All in favor, say aye.

(Chorus of ayes.)

Opposed, no.

Motion carries.

Thank you, Mr. Knox.

ALT. NATL. EXECUTIVE CMTMAN KNOX: I think we also should give Jim Wallace a hand.

(Applause for Jim Wallace.)

DEPT. CMDR. STRIGGOW: Is there any other unfinished business?

Mark.

MEDIA AND COMMUNICATIONS DIRECTOR SUTTON: Mr. Commander, may I give a report of the Foundation and other items?

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DEPT. CMDR. STRIGGOW: Yes, sir. You've got 30 seconds.

MEDIA AND COMMUNICATIONS DIRECTOR SUTTON: Just a few points on the Centennial things that are happening.

Road signs for the rest areas. I'm in communication with MDOT, although over the last couple of weeks, it's been sparse because of their labor disputes that they're having with big equipment operators.

We're trying to coordinate between the MDOT and the sign company to be the signs made and get the signs to the designated spots for MDOT so they can install the signs, which they anticipate probably would be in next Spring's work orders.

Centennial Coins. We have sold over 1,000 coins, and those fund will help with the cost of the rest area signs that were not sponsored by the Posts. Approximately eight signs will be under the Department of Michigan. We sold the other eleven and twelve signs.

There will be a digital media workshop November 3<sup>rd</sup>, Saturday, at Headquarters from 9:00 to 4:00.

We have tickets, if you would like tickets for the Centennial 45 that we're raffling off. I have tickets in the back. You can get those after the DEC Meeting.

And, as President of the Foundation, I would like to ask -- Ron Runyan resigned as a member of the Board of Directors, per American Legion compliance. He's an ex- -- hell become an ex-officio member. But he comes off



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the Board, so we have a slot open. The Foundation nominated Brett Holt, seconded by Roger Avie, and it was approved by the Foundation Board.

Mr. Commander, I'd like to ask the DEC to approve this appointment.

DEPT. CMDR. STRIGGOW: Do we have a motion to approve this appointment?

DIST. CMDR. MORRISON (19<sup>th</sup>): Morrison, 19<sup>th</sup> District, so moves.

DEPT. CMDR. STRIGGOW: Thank you. Second?

DIST. CMDR. MILLER (3<sup>rd</sup>): 3<sup>rd</sup> District, Duane Miller, seconds.

DEPT. CMDR. STRIGGOW: Okay. You heard the motion and the support to approve Brett Holt's appointment to the foundation.

Any discussion?

All in favor, say aye.

(Chorus of ayes.)

Opposed, no.

Motion carries.

You don't count, sir.

Is there any other unfinished business?

New Business. Do you have New Business? You do not.

That brings us to announcements. Adjutant Ryan (sic).

DEPT. ADJT. RUNYAN: Runyan.

DEPT. CMDR. STRIGGOW: Runyan.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

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DEPT. ADJT. RUNYAN: I'm going to have to ask for more money in the budget. We've got more employees.

GNUTS was a huge success. Thanks to everybody that attended. We took in just a little over \$880.00 that night at GNUTS. The GNUTS leadership did make the motion and we did make a donation to the Leading Candidate for his endeavors and his candidacy for National Commander. The remaining balance will be used to offset the cost to hold GNUTS. A donation we made to the LST and the remaining funds are usually used to support a Children & Youth type activity, like Boys' State or Student Trooper, or something like that as a scholarship.

So, those funds that are raised go to a great purpose. So, thank you for attending.

Winter Meeting, again, is going to be February 15<sup>th</sup> to the 17<sup>th</sup>, 2019 at the Holiday Inn Gateway in Flint.

Summer Convention is June 27<sup>th</sup> to the 30<sup>th</sup> in Kalamazoo.

I wanted to extend some thank you's.

Thank you, again, to the Muskegon Holiday Inn and the staff here at this hotel and the affiliated hotel across the street. They've done a great job over the last three years accommodating all the requests for all of our meeting rooms, and the staffing that they do to provide the rooms. So, thank you to the hotel, as well as to the Convention Corporation and the members that helped to make this event possible for us. And that makes our job easier as the staff at the Department Headquarters.

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I want to personally thank Penny, once again, for being here. You perform excellently, you take great time and effort to put together our verbatim minutes for us, and we thank you again for being here.

Give a shout out to our National Commander Brett Reistad, who I am sure we will be watching Facebook live video for Team 100 from Michigan.

Thank you to our DEC members for being here, everyone and everybody who attended our National Convention, which made that a huge success, and again, we got to enjoy Marty's Goldenaires at our party and in the parade. So, that was a huge success.

Thanks again to all of our Sergeants. You guys are instrumental with unloading and loading vans, getting rooms ready and making things happen in a timely manner so that we can perform our responsibilities.

And lastly, thanks to our staff. Currently, I think there's a couple here, LaDonna, who has been doing our Facebook and media all weekend, Mark, and Kim. So put your hands together for them. And thank you to all the rest of the staff that is not here.

LEGIONNAIRE: You mean Kelly, Ryan.

DEPT. ADJT. RUNYAN: Mr. Commander, that concludes my announcements and you had a wonderful conference, sir.

DEPT. CMDR. STRIGGOW: None of this would be possible without Adjutant Ryan over here.

I would ask that Chaplain Brown come forward for our Benediction.

**BENEDICTION**

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DEPT. CHAPLAIN BROWN: Commander, as a point of personal privilege. As the Chairman of the Heroes to Hometown Committee, I want you to know that we have had members from our state that have used Fisher House in Maryland, and they wanted me to pass along how proud they are that Fisher House is coming here and support for that program.

As we continue this march on this earth, I pray that the Lord may bless and keep you and make his face shine upon you and be gracious to you.

And may the Lord look upon you with favor and grant you peace. And, until we meet again, may he guide our paths with his light and his love.

Amen.

(Chorus of Amens.)

DEPT. CMDR. STRIGGOW: Recover.

**RETIREMENT OF COLORS**

DEPT. CMDR. STRIGGOW: Muskegon Post 9, Color Guard, retire the colors.

(Colors retired.)

**ADJOURNMENT**

DEPT. CMDR. STRIGGOW: I now declare this Conference of The American Legion, Department of Michigan – everybody is talking, I figured I screwed up again.

I declare this meeting of the Department of Michigan adjourned.

(Proceedings concluded at or about 11:12 a.m.)

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1 REPORTER'S CERTIFICATE

2  
3 I hereby certify that this transcript, consisting of 85 pages, is a complete,  
4 true, and accurate record of the proceedings taken in this matter on Sunday, September  
5 23, 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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