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AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY
DEPARTMENT OF CALIFORNIA
103rd ANNUAL CONVENTION
FRIDAY, JUNE 23, 2023
VISALIA, CALIFORNIA

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Reported by: Karen A. Aufdermaur, CSR No. 10919

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AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY
DEPARTMENT OF CALIFORNIA
103rd ANNUAL CONVENTION
FRIDAY, JUNE 23, 2023; 8:40 A.M.
VISALIA, CALIFORNIA

CALL TO ORDER

DEPARTMENT PRESIDENT WILLIAMS: This session is now reconvened and we will proceed with our memorial -- oh, no. I'm sorry. The convention session is now reconvened. I request everyone to have their own cell phones turned off. If your phone rings, you will be fined \$5 which will go toward the Department President's Special Project, veterans with PTSD. And I -- and our veterans thank you for your generosity, they really do.

Grace, our Department Chaplain, will offer the invocation. May we observe a moment of silence in honor of our veterans.

Sorry, Grace.

DEPARTMENT CHAPLAIN HUSTON: I need a microphone.

DEPARTMENT PRESIDENT WILLIAMS: You need a microphone.

INVOCATION

1 DEPARTMENT CHAPLAIN HUSTON: Good morning,
2 everybody.

3 DEPARTMENT PRESIDENT WILLIAMS: Good morning.

4 DEPARTMENT CHAPLAIN HUSTON: Dear Lord, as we
5 continue with our convention today, let us be ever mindful
6 of the sacrifices made by our veterans, our military, and
7 their families as we continue to learn of the great
8 American Legion Auxiliary programs' accomplishments and
9 make plans for the future. Let us work on growing our
10 numbers. Amen.

11 DELEGATES: Amen.

12 DEPARTMENT PRESIDENT WILLIAMS: Our Department
13 Secretary will call the roll of Officers, Chairmen, and
14 District Presidents.

15

16 ROLL CALL

17

18 DEPARTMENT SECRETARY DOIDGE: Good morning,
19 everybody.

20 DEPARTMENT PRESIDENT WILLIAMS: Good morning.

21 DEPARTMENT SECRETARY DOIDGE: Department
22 President Gloria Williams.

23 DEPARTMENT PRESIDENT WILLIAMS: Present.

24 DEPARTMENT SECRETARY DOIDGE: Vice President
25 Glenda Schultz.

1 DEPARTMENT VICE PRESIDENT SCHULTZ: Good morning.
2 DEPARTMENT SECRETARY DOIDGE: Secretary Elizabeth
3 Doidge. Today I'm here. I forgot to answer for myself
4 yesterday.
5 Treasurer Susie Tozier.
6 DEPARTMENT TREASURER TOZIER: Yes.
7 DEPARTMENT SECRETARY DOIDGE: NEC Joan Cannon.
8 NEC CANNON: Here.
9 DEPARTMENT SECRETARY DOIDGE: Alternate NEC
10 Person Kathie Martinez.
11 ALTERNATE NEC MARTINEZ: Good morning.
12 DEPARTMENT SECRETARY DOIDGE: Good morning.
13 Chaplain Grace Huston.
14 DEPARTMENT CHAPLAIN HUSTON: Here.
15 DEPARTMENT SECRETARY DOIDGE: Historian Valerie
16 Hill.
17 DEPARTMENT HISTORIAN HILL: Good morning, Liz.
18 DEPARTMENT SECRETARY DOIDGE: Good morning.
19 Parliamentarian Anita Biggs.
20 DEPARTMENT PARLIAMENTARIAN BIGGS: Good morning.
21 DEPARTMENT SECRETARY DOIDGE: Sergeant-at-Arms
22 Phyllis Meyi.
23 DEPARTMENT SERGEANT-AT-ARMS MEYI: Phyllis is
24 here.
25 DEPARTMENT SECRETARY DOIDGE: Good morning.

1 Assistant Sergeant-at-Arms Alberta Cummings.

2 DEPARTMENT ASSISTANT SERGEANT-AT-ARMS CUMMINGS:

3 Present.

4 DEPARTMENT SECRETARY DOIDGE: Finance Committee

5 Linda Workman.

6 DEPARTMENT FINANCE CHAIR WORKMAN: Here.

7 DEPARTMENT SECRETARY DOIDGE: Katherine Tellyer.

8 DEPARTMENT FINANCE SR. MEMBER TELLYER: Here.

9 DEPARTMENT SECRETARY DOIDGE: And Teresa

10 Lugo-Nunez.

11 DEPARTMENT FINANCE JR. MEMBER LUGO-NUNEZ: Here.

12 DEPARTMENT SECRETARY DOIDGE: Advisory Committee

13 Diane DeLashmit.

14 ADVISORY COMMITTEE CHAIR DeLASHMIT: Here.

15 DEPARTMENT SECRETARY DOIDGE: Ruby Kapsalis is

16 excused. And Madeline Lee.

17 ADVISORY COMMITTEE LEE: Here.

18 DEPARTMENT SECRETARY DOIDGE: Americanism Suzanne

19 Winters.

20 AMERICANISM CHAIR WINTERS: Americanism is in the

21 house and it's working.

22 DEPARTMENT SECRETARY DOIDGE: Auxiliary Emergency

23 Fund Marion Rocha-Carlos.

24 AEF CHAIR ROCHA-CARLOS: Good morning.

25 DEPARTMENT SECRETARY DOIDGE: Good morning,

1 Marion. Children and Youth Susan Baker.
2 CHILDREN AND YOUTH CHAIR BAKER: (Whistle.)
3 DEPARTMENT SECRETARY DOIDGE: Community Service
4 Sharon Moore.
5 COMMUNITY SERVICE CHAIR MOORE: Good morning,
6 Liz.
7 DEPARTMENT SECRETARY DOIDGE: Good morning,
8 Sharon. Constitution & Bylaws Glenda Schultz.
9 CONSTITUTION & BYLAWS CHAIR SCHULTZ: Here.
10 DEPARTMENT SECRETARY DOIDGE: Convention Chairman
11 Debra Hurado.
12 CONVENTION CHAIR HURADO: (Whistle.)
13 DEPARTMENT SECRETARY DOIDGE: Convention
14 Co-Chairman Gloria Sinopoli.
15 CONVENTION CO-CHAIR SINOPOLI: Present.
16 DEPARTMENT SECRETARY DOIDGE: Convention
17 Commission Chairman Anita Biggs.
18 CONVENTION COMMISSION CHAIR BIGGS: Good morning
19 again, Liz.
20 DEPARTMENT SECRETARY DOIDGE: Good morning again.
21 Convention Commission Two Year Linda Fercho.
22 CONVENTION COMMISSION TWO YEAR FERCHO: Here.
23 DEPARTMENT SECRETARY DOIDGE: Convention
24 Commission One Year Gloria Sinopoli.
25 CONVENTION COMMISSION ONE YEAR SINOPOLI:

1 Present.

2 DEPARTMENT SECRETARY DOIDGE: Credentials

3 Patricia Galatioto.

4 CREDENTIALS CHAIR GALATIOTO: Here.

5 DEPARTMENT SECRETARY DOIDGE: Distinguished Guest

6 Chairman Linda Workman.

7 DISTINGUISHED GUEST CHAIR WORKMAN: Still here.

8 DEPARTMENT SECRETARY DOIDGE: Editor Nancy

9 Heinisch. Nancy Heinisch.

10 EDITOR CHAIR HEINISCH: Here.

11 DEPARTMENT SECRETARY DOIDGE: Oh, you're right

12 there. I thought I saw you.

13 Education Tracy Varnell-Fercho.

14 EDUCATION CHAIR VARNELL-FERCHO: Hoot hoot and a

15 toot toot.

16 DEPARTMENT SECRETARY DOIDGE: Elections Rebecca

17 Glenny. Rebecca? She's here. I saw her. She's right in

18 front of me.

19 Girls State Chairman Allyn Kau.

20 GIRLS STATE CHAIR KAU: Here.

21 DEPARTMENT SECRETARY DOIDGE: Girls State

22 Advisory Nancy Brown-Park. Gloria, this is your notice

23 that Nancy had to go home. She started to feel like she

24 was getting a cold.

25 DEPARTMENT PRESIDENT WILLIAMS: Thank you.

1 DEPARTMENT SECRETARY DOIDGE: Yeah. Valerie
2 Hardy is excused.

3 Girls State Assistant Director Sherry Core.
4 Girls State Committee Three Year Member Leslie Vondra.
5 Girls State Committee Two Year Member Noella Passarelli.

6 GIRLS STATE TWO YEAR MEMBER PASSARELLI: Here.

7 DEPARTMENT SECRETARY DOIDGE: Girls State One
8 Year Member Kimberly MacKinney. Girls State Nurse
9 Elizabeth Tomlin. Girls State President's Alternate
10 Patricia Patrick. Girls State Vice President Alternate
11 Jean McGinnis.

12 GIRLS STATE VICE PRESIDENT ALTERNATE MCGINNIS:
13 Good morning.

14 DEPARTMENT SECRETARY DOIDGE: Good morning.
15 Girls State Chief Counselor Kimberly MacKinney. Junior
16 Activities Jackie Cleveland.

17 JUNIOR ACTIVITIES CHAIR CLEVELAND: Good morning,
18 Liz.

19 DEPARTMENT SECRETARY DOIDGE: Good morning.
20 Junior Conference Director Stacey Smith. Junior
21 Conference Committee Two Year Deloris Artis.

22 JUNIOR CONFERENCE COMMITTEE TWO YEAR ARTIS: Good
23 morning, Liz.

24 DEPARTMENT SECRETARY DOIDGE: Good morning. One
25 year Lele Dooley. Junior Conference Nurse Ann Sanchez.

1 JUNIOR CONFERENCE NURSE SANCHEZ: Here.

2 DEPARTMENT SECRETARY DOIDGE: Leadership Robin
3 Falkenberg.

4 LEADERSHIP CHAIR FALKENBERG: Leading the train
5 into the station.

6 DEPARTMENT SECRETARY DOIDGE: Legislative Dee Ann
7 Graham. I just saw her. Membership Maureen O'Brien
8 Sacco.

9 MEMBERSHIP CHAIR O'BRIEN-SACCO: Present.

10 DEPARTMENT SECRETARY DOIDGE: Membership Support
11 Area 1 Carolyn Smith. Membership Support Area 2 Cece
12 Harvey.

13 MEMBERSHIP SUPPORT AREA 2 HARVEY: Present.

14 DEPARTMENT SECRETARY DOIDGE: Membership Support
15 Area 3 Marcia Munroe.

16 MEMBERSHIP SUPPORT AREA 3 MUNROE: Present.

17 DEPARTMENT SECRETARY DOIDGE: Membership Support
18 Area 4 Diana Livas.

19 MEMBERSHIP SUPPORT AREA 4 LIVAS: Present.

20 DEPARTMENT SECRETARY DOIDGE: Membership Support
21 Area 5 Donna Mattox.

22 MEMBERSHIP SUPPORT AREA 5 MATTOX: Good morning,
23 Liz.

24 DEPARTMENT SECRETARY DOIDGE: Membership Support
25 Area 6 Patricia Martinez. Music Yve Evans-Hanna.

1 MUSIC CHAIR EVANS-HANNA: Yoo-hoo.

2 DEPARTMENT SECRETARY DOIDGE: National Security
3 Joyce McLeod.

4 NATIONAL SECURITY CHAIR HENDERSON-McLEOD: Good
5 morning.

6 DEPARTMENT SECRETARY DOIDGE: Good morning. PPP
7 Joan Cannon.

8 PPP CHAIR CANNON: Present.

9 DEPARTMENT SECRETARY DOIDGE: Poppy Martha
10 Romano.

11 POPPY CHAIR ROMANO: Poppies are fully in bloom.

12 DEPARTMENT SECRETARY DOIDGE: Public Relations
13 Donna Smith.

14 PUBLIC RELATIONS CHAIR SMITH: Good morning, Liz.

15 DEPARTMENT SECRETARY DOIDGE: Good morning.
16 Resolutions Linda Fercho.

17 RESOLUTIONS CHAIR FERCHO: Still here.

18 DEPARTMENT SECRETARY DOIDGE: Rules Linda Diebel

19 RULES CHAIR DIEBEL: Present.

20 DEPARTMENT SECRETARY DOIDGE: Veterans Affairs &
21 Rehabilitation Linda Hayes.

22 VA&R CHAIR HAYES: I'm here. Good morning.

23 DEPARTMENT SECRETARY DOIDGE: Good morning. Ways
24 & Means Chairman Mahala Beery.

25 WAYS & MEANS CHAIR BEERY: Present. Good

1 morning.

2 DEPARTMENT SECRETARY DOIDGE: Ways & Means
3 Committee Marcia Munroe.

4 WAYS & MEANS COMMITTEE MUNROE: Present.

5 DEPARTMENT SECRETARY DOIDGE: Personal Page
6 Taadhimeka Stoval. She's here. Michiel Porter.

7 PERSONAL PAGE PORTER: Present.

8 DEPARTMENT SECRETARY DOIDGE: And Pat Davis.

9 PERSONAL PAGE DAVIS: Present.

10 DEPARTMENT SECRETARY DOIDGE: Mid-Year Chairman
11 Anita Biggs. She's there. Mid-Year Co-Chairman Sharon
12 Moore.

13 MID-YEAR CO-CHAIR MOORE: I'm still here.

14 DEPARTMENT SECRETARY DOIDGE: Clovis Workshop
15 Debbie Hurado.

16 CLOVIS WORKSHOP CHAIR HURADO: Here.

17 DEPARTMENT SECRETARY DOIDGE: Clovis Workshop
18 Co-Chairman Gloria Sinopoli.

19 CLOVIS WORKSHOP CO-CHAIR SINOPOLI: Here.

20 DEPARTMENT SECRETARY DOIDGE: Northern California
21 Workshop Madeline Reed.

22 NORTHERN CALIFORNIA WORKSHOP REED: Here.

23 DEPARTMENT SECRETARY DOIDGE: Southern California
24 Workshop Rebecca Stewart-Wilson. And Webmaster Rebecca
25 Glenny.

1 WEBMASTER GLENNY: Present.

2 DEPARTMENT SECRETARY DOIDGE: District

3 Presidents. District 1 we have nobody. District 2 Judy

4 Henderson.

5 DISTRICT 2 PRESIDENT HENDERSON: Present.

6 DEPARTMENT SECRETARY DOIDGE: District 3 Lola

7 Ramey.

8 DISTRICT 3 PRESIDENT RAMEY: Present.

9 DEPARTMENT SECRETARY DOIDGE: District 4 Nancy

10 Brown.

11 DISTRICT 4 PRESIDENT BROWN: District 4 is

12 rolling to the train station, whoo-who.

13 DEPARTMENT SECRETARY DOIDGE: District 5 Linda

14 Karnstedt.

15 DISTRICT 5 PRESIDENT KARNSTEDT: Here.

16 DEPARTMENT SECRETARY DOIDGE: District 6 Suzanne

17 Winters.

18 DISTRICT 6 PRESIDENT WINTERS: Barely here.

19 DEPARTMENT SECRETARY DOIDGE: District 7 Melise

20 Munroe.

21 DISTRICT 7: Chugga chugga choo choo. Good

22 morning, Madam President.

23 DEPARTMENT SECRETARY DOIDGE: District 8 Teresa

24 Canonizado.

25 DISTRICT 8 PRESIDENT CANONIZADO: Here, Madam

1 President.

2 DEPARTMENT SECRETARY DOIDGE: District 9 Vicky
3 Bean.

4 DISTRICT 9 PRESIDENT BEAN: Good morning, Liz.

5 DEPARTMENT SECRETARY DOIDGE: Good morning.
6 District 10 Susan Mar.

7 DISTRICT 10: Good morning, Madam President.
8 Come aboard to our last trip on the Friendship Train from
9 District 10. Hoo-hoo.

10 DEPARTMENT SECRETARY DOIDGE: District 11 Arlene
11 Smith.

12 DISTRICT 11: We all know because we've been
13 told. We all know because we've been told. American
14 veterans are made of gold. American veterans are made of
15 gold. We're so proud we have to shout. We're so proud we
16 have to shout. Vets are what it's all about. Vets are
17 what it's all about. Sound off. Sound off. Sound off.
18 Sound off. One, two, three, four. One, two, three, four.

19 (Applause.)

20 DISTRICT 11 PRESIDENT SMITH: Madam Conductor,
21 greetings and salutations from Station 11.

22 DEPARTMENT SECRETARY DOIDGE: District 12
23 Elizabeth Estavillo.

24 DISTRICT 12: Good morning, Madam President. All
25 aboard the District 12 Friendship Train. Shake a hand,

1 make a friend.

2 (Applause.)

3 DEPARTMENT SECRETARY DOIDGE: District 13 Cindy

4 -- or Helen Hymes.

5 DISTRICT 13: Good morning, Madam President.

6 District 13 is ready to roll the freedom train.

7 DEPARTMENT PRESIDENT WILLIAMS: Thank you.

8 DEPARTMENT SECRETARY DOIDGE: District 14 Debbie

9 Hurado.

10 DISTRICT 14: Down by the station early in the

11 morning District 14 is ready to go.

12 DEPARTMENT SECRETARY DOIDGE: District 15 Zana

13 Chaney.

14 DISTRICT 15: Good morning, Madam President.

15 DEPARTMENT PRESIDENT WILLIAMS: Good morning.

16 DEPARTMENT SECRETARY DOIDGE: District 16 Terry

17 Oclaray.

18 DISTRICT 16: Good morning, Madam President.

19 District 16 Friendship Train is at local station and

20 arriving at the convention.

21 DEPARTMENT PRESIDENT WILLIAMS: Thank you.

22 DEPARTMENT SECRETARY DOIDGE: District 17 Teresa

23 Lugo-Nunez.

24 DISTRICT 17 PRESIDENT LUGO-NUNEZ: Here.

25 DEPARTMENT SECRETARY DOIDGE: District 18 Yolanda

1 Zuniga.

2 DISTRICT 18: Good morning, Madam President.

3 DEPARTMENT PRESIDENT WILLIAMS: Good morning.

4 DEPARTMENT SECRETARY DOIDGE: District 19 Becky

5 Bullard.

6 DISTRICT 19: District 19 is all aboard.

7 Toot-toot.

8 DEPARTMENT SECRETARY DOIDGE: District 20 Carol

9 Harville.

10 DISTRICT 20: We've been working on the railroad

11 all the live long year. We've been working on the

12 railroad just to help the ALA. Can't you hear the whistle

13 blowing, rising up so early in the morn. Can't you hear

14 Gloria shouting: Chairmen, make your reports.

15 (Applause.)

16 DEPARTMENT PRESIDENT WILLIAMS: Thank you.

17 That's beautiful.

18 DEPARTMENT SECRETARY DOIDGE: District 21 Ellen

19 Federowski.

20 DISTRICT 21: All aboard.

21 DEPARTMENT PRESIDENT WILLIAMS: All aboard.

22 DEPARTMENT SECRETARY DOIDGE: District 22 Maureen

23 Giacalone.

24 DISTRICT 22: Choo-choo. Good morning, Madam

25 President.

1 DEPARTMENT PRESIDENT WILLIAMS: Good morning.

2 DEPARTMENT SECRETARY DOIDGE: District 23

3 Cassandra Brown.

4 DISTRICT 23: Good morning, Madam President. And
5 we're rolling and we're rolling and we're rolling by the
6 river.

7 DEPARTMENT SECRETARY DOIDGE: District 24 Martha
8 Romano.

9 DISTRICT 24 PRESIDENT ROMANO: Present. Good
10 morning. Yeah, good morning.

11 DEPARTMENT PRESIDENT WILLIAMS: Good morning.

12 DEPARTMENT SECRETARY DOIDGE: You're like me
13 yesterday. District 25 Cindy Rogers.

14 DISTRICT 25: All aboard the Friendship Train to
15 start a brand-new reign. The gals from Station 25 are
16 happy to be here. Good morning, Madam President.

17 DEPARTMENT PRESIDENT WILLIAMS: Thank you.

18 DEPARTMENT SECRETARY DOIDGE: District 26 Peggy
19 Toye.

20 DISTRICT 26: All aboard. Hoo-hoo.

21 DEPARTMENT SECRETARY DOIDGE: District 27
22 Danielle White.

23 DISTRICT 27: Rings are on the ground. Good
24 morning, Madam President.

25 DEPARTMENT PRESIDENT WILLIAMS: Good morning.

1 DEPARTMENT SECRETARY DOIDGE: District 28 Esther
2 LePore.
3 DISTRICT 28: District 28 is in the house.
4 Hoo-hoo.
5 DEPARTMENT PRESIDENT WILLIAMS: Wonderful.
6 You've got your whistles.
7 DEPARTMENT SECRETARY DOIDGE: District 29 Carol
8 Borgman.
9 DISTRICT 29: Good morning, Madam President.
10 DEPARTMENT PRESIDENT WILLIAMS: Good morning.
11 DEPARTMENT SECRETARY DOIDGE: And District 30
12 Irene Imhoff.
13 Past Department Presidents. 1989-1990 Beverly
14 Sparks. 1992-'93 Willie Burke. 1995-'96 Judy Lloyd.
15 1996-'97 Ruby Kapsalis. 1998-'99 Linda Workman. She's
16 here somewhere. 1999-2000 Diane DeLashmit.
17 PAST DEPARTMENT PRESIDENT DeLASHMIT: Present.
18 DEPARTMENT SECRETARY DOIDGE: 2001-2002 Madeline
19 Lee.
20 PAST DEPARTMENT PRESIDENT LEE: Here.
21 DEPARTMENT SECRETARY DOIDGE: 2001-2002 -- oh.
22 2002-2003 Nancy Brown-Park is excused. 2003-2004 Linda
23 Caples. 2004-2005 Melanie Taylor.
24 PAST DEPARTMENT PRESIDENT TAYLOR: I'm here.
25 DEPARTMENT SECRETARY DOIDGE: 2005-'6 Bonnie

1 Christner.

2 PAST DEPARTMENT PRESIDENT CHRISTNER: Still
3 rocking and rolling, Madam President.

4 DEPARTMENT SECRETARY DOIDGE: 2006-'7 Sandy
5 Jacobs. 2007-'8 Shelby Hitch. 2010-2011 Pilar Reyes.
6 2011-'12 Linda Fercho.

7 PAST DEPARTMENT PRESIDENT FERCHO: Here.

8 DEPARTMENT SECRETARY DOIDGE: 2013-'14 Anita
9 Biggs.

10 PAST DEPARTMENT PRESIDENT BIGGS: Still shooting
11 hoops.

12 DEPARTMENT PRESIDENT WILLIAMS: 2015-'16 Susie
13 Tozier.

14 DEPARTMENT TREASURER TOZIER: Present.

15 DEPARTMENT SECRETARY DOIDGE: 2016-'17 Wendy
16 O'Brien. 2017-'18 Loretta Marsh. 2018-'19 Joan Cannon.

17 PAST DEPARTMENT PRESIDENT CANNON: I'm still in
18 my seat.

19 DEPARTMENT SECRETARY DOIDGE: 2019-'21 Kathie
20 Martinez.

21 PAST DEPARTMENT PRESIDENT MARTINEZ: Eagle One is
22 soaring.

23 DEPARTMENT SECRETARY DOIDGE: 2021-'22 Dee Ann
24 Graham.

25 PAST DEPARTMENT PRESIDENT GRAHAM: Let's go

1 surfing.

2 DEPARTMENT SECRETARY DOIDGE: Hospital reps and
3 deps. Fresno Rep Cynthia Oliphant.

4 HOSPITAL REP OLIPHANT: Present.

5 DEPARTMENT SECRETARY DOIDGE: Fresno Deputy
6 Sandra Dowell. Loma Linda Representative Sandy Kurkoske.

7 HOSPITAL REP KURKOSKE: Present.

8 DEPARTMENT SECRETARY DOIDGE: Loma Linda Deputy
9 Leslie Vondra. Long Beach Representative Pat Alvarez.

10 PAST DEPARTMENT PRESIDENT CHRISTNER: Madam
11 Secretary, I beg your pardon. I've got a text from Pat
12 Alvarez and she is stuck on the third floor with Carol at
13 the Best Western and the elevator is out of service.

14 DEPARTMENT SECRETARY DOIDGE: They're not in the
15 elevator, are they?

16 PAST DEPARTMENT PRESIDENT CHRISTNER: They are on
17 the elevator.

18 DEPARTMENT PARLIAMENTARIAN BIGGS: Oh, no.

19 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Let's go rescue them.

20 DEPARTMENT SECRETARY DOIDGE: Thank you. Wait.
21 Carol Borgman?

22 PAST DEPARTMENT PRESIDENT CHRISTNER: With Carol
23 Borgman.

24 DEPARTMENT SECRETARY DOIDGE: Okay. Long Beach
25 Deputy Becky Bullard.

1 HOSPITAL DEP BULLARD: Here.

2 DEPARTMENT SECRETARY DOIDGE: Long Beach Deputy
3 Cynthia Mayfield.

4 HOSPITAL DEP MAYFIELD: Here.

5 DEPARTMENT SECRETARY DOIDGE: Long Beach Deputy
6 Debbie Butler.

7 HOSPITAL DEP BUTLER: Yay, Long Beach.

8 DEPARTMENT SECRETARY DOIDGE: Cabrillo OPC Deputy
9 Jean Cooley-Desmuelles. Los Angeles Representative Ellah
10 Wallace. LA VA Outpatient Deputy Patricia Jackson-Kelley.

11 DEPARTMENT PRESIDENT WILLIAMS: Excused. And
12 Ellah Wallace is excused also.

13 DEPARTMENT SECRETARY DOIDGE: Okay. No problem.
14 West LA Ambulatory Care Clinic Deputy Diana Williams.
15 Downtown East LA OPC Deputy Clinic Pam Hicks. Bakersfield
16 OPC Deputy Barbara Goodlow. Santa Maria Community-based
17 OPC Deputy Dorothy Davis. Sierra Nevada Deputy Bonnie
18 Chavoya. Northern California Mather Representative
19 Suzanne Winters.

20 HOSPITAL REP WINTERS: Present.

21 DEPARTMENT SECRETARY DOIDGE: Redding OPC Deputy
22 Barbara Dailey. Fairfield OPC Deputy Kelly Germeraad.
23 Palo Alto Representative Connie Raya.

24 HOSPITAL REP RAYA: Arriving at the station.

25 DEPARTMENT SECRETARY DOIDGE: Palo Alto Deputy

1 Arlene Muller. Last page. Menlo Park Deputy Joyce
2 Henderson-McLeod.

3 HOSPITAL DEP McLEOD: Still here.

4 DEPARTMENT SECRETARY DOIDGE: Livermore
5 Representative Grace Huston.

6 HOSPITAL REP HUSTON: Still here.

7 DEPARTMENT SECRETARY DOIDGE: San Diego
8 Representative Susie Tozier.

9 HOSPITAL REP TOZIER: Present. Toot-toot.

10 DEPARTMENT SECRETARY DOIDGE: San Diego Deputy
11 Irma Mathai.

12 HOSPITAL DEP MATHAI: Present.

13 DEPARTMENT SECRETARY DOIDGE: San Diego
14 Representative Donna Smith.

15 HOSPITAL REP SMITH: Still here.

16 DEPARTMENT SECRETARY DOIDGE: Poppy Production
17 Manager Lois Cornish.

18 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: She's here working.

19 DEPARTMENT SECRETARY DOIDGE: Always. San
20 Francisco Fort Miley Representative Laurie Sullivan.

21 California Veterans Home Reps and Deps. Barstow
22 Veterans Home Representative Angie Acosta. Barstow
23 Veterans Home Deputy Judy Samples.

24 Thank you, baby.

25 Chula Vista Veterans Home Lois Cornish. Fresno

1 Veterans Home Representative Gloria Sinopoli.
2 HOSPITAL REP SINOPOLI: Present.
3 DEPARTMENT SECRETARY DOIDGE: Lancaster
4 Representative Linda Hayes.
5 HOSPITAL REP HAYES: I'm here.
6 DEPARTMENT SECRETARY DOIDGE: Ventura
7 Representative Madeline Lee.
8 HOSPITAL REP LEE: I'm here.
9 DEPARTMENT SECRETARY DOIDGE: West LA
10 Representative Lois Artis.
11 HOSPITAL REP ARTIS: Always representing West LA.
12 DEPARTMENT SECRETARY DOIDGE: West LA Deputy
13 Marisa Naylor-Jones.
14 Honorary -- for the Honorary Juniors should I
15 call Shakira and her group or should I call Olivia and her
16 group?
17 DEPARTMENT PRESIDENT WILLIAMS: Olivia.
18 DEPARTMENT SECRETARY DOIDGE: Okay. That's what
19 I figured, but -- Honorary Junior President Olivia Thuney.
20 HONORARY JUNIOR PRESIDENT THUNEY: Present.
21 DEPARTMENT SECRETARY DOIDGE: Honorary Junior
22 Vice President Alyssa Alcaraz? Honorary Junior Secretary
23 Lexi Gigi.
24 HONORARY JUNIOR SECRETARY: Here.
25 DEPARTMENT SECRETARY DOIDGE: Is she back there?

1 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: She said here.

2 DEPARTMENT SECRETARY DOIDGE: Okay. Honorary
3 Junior Chaplain Kailie Williams.

4 DEPARTMENT PRESIDENT WILLIAMS: Excused.

5 DEPARTMENT SECRETARY DOIDGE: Honorary Junior
6 Historian Annie Mae Edson. And Honorary Junior
7 Sergeant-at-Arms Hailey Doidge. She's busy.

8 You definitely have a quorum. And here's notice
9 that I didn't forget my children this morning.

10 (Applause.)

11 DEPARTMENT PRESIDENT WILLIAMS: Okay. Our Rules
12 Chairman Linda Diebel will now read the convention rules.
13 Go ahead, Linda.

14

15 READING OF CONVENTION RULES

16

17 RULES CHAIR DIEBEL: Madam President, since the
18 rules are printed in the Book of Reports on page 19
19 through 22, I move that we dispense with the reading of
20 the rules of the convention.

21 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Second.

22 DEPARTMENT PRESIDENT WILLIAMS: Seconded for
23 dispensing of the reading of the rules. Are there any
24 questions?

25 (No response.)

1 DEPARTMENT PRESIDENT WILLIAMS: All in favor say
2 aye.

3 ALL DELEGATES: Aye.

4 DEPARTMENT PRESIDENT WILLIAMS: All opposed.

5 (No response.)

6 DEPARTMENT PRESIDENT WILLIAMS: The motion is
7 carried.

8 RULES CHAIR DIEBEL: Madam President, I want to
9 thank you for this appointment. It was short and sweet
10 and I wish for you a very successful convention.

11 DEPARTMENT PRESIDENT WILLIAMS: Thank you very
12 much.

13 Okay. At this time I will designate the doors
14 for entry and exiting the hall. Please use the rear door,
15 keep the disruption down, and be as courteous as possible.

16 I will be providing -- we will now have the
17 reports of the Department Officers. Will all officers not
18 already on the stage please come up quickly and be ready
19 to give your reports. All the -- we will have the reports
20 of the Department Officers. Will all officers not
21 ready -- already on stage please come up quickly and be
22 ready to read your reports.

23 Just a reminder to the Department Officers and
24 Chairmen, all the reports excluding Americanism,
25 Education, Membership, Children and Youth, Poppy,

1 Resolutions, and Veterans Affairs & Rehabilitation per the
2 Department policy code are to be limited to five minutes.
3 This includes your committee reports, supplemental, first
4 place award presentations.

5 We'll now hear from the Department Vice President
6 Glenda Schultz.

7 (Applause.)

8

9 DEPARTMENT VICE PRESIDENT CONVENTION REPORT

10

11 DEPARTMENT VICE PRESIDENT SCHULTZ: Madam
12 President, if I may before I start my report, since I was
13 remiss yesterday in doing this, I would like to say on
14 behalf of all of your Officers and Chairmen, Hospital Reps
15 and Deps, we proudly present this to you as a token of our
16 appreciation for all that you've done for us this year and
17 for your great leadership. Thank you.

18 (Applause.)

19 DEPARTMENT PRESIDENT WILLIAMS: Thank you. How
20 sweet.

21 DEPARTMENT VICE PRESIDENT SCHULTZ: The best part
22 is inside. I want you to open the card, please.

23 DEPARTMENT PRESIDENT WILLIAMS: That is too much.
24 It's too full. It's money.

25 DEPARTMENT VICE PRESIDENT SCHULTZ: And thank you

1 all so so much who donated.

2 DEPARTMENT PRESIDENT WILLIAMS: Thank you so
3 much. It's \$1200.

4 (Applause.)

5 DEPARTMENT PRESIDENT WILLIAMS: I told Glenda to
6 watch her.

7 DEPARTMENT PARLIAMENTARIAN BIGGS: She's going to
8 be watching her run the other way.

9 DEPARTMENT PRESIDENT WILLIAMS: You're the keeper
10 of me.

11 DEPARTMENT VICE PRESIDENT SCHULTZ: Madam
12 President Gloria, it's been my honor to be by your side on
13 the Friendship Train this year. Our first stop was in
14 August at the Department Workshop in Clovis. It was full
15 of wonderful information by our new Department Chairmen
16 and great leadership from our Past Department Presidents.

17 Thank you, Debbie Hurado -- sorry -- and Gloria
18 Sinopoli and their capable crew for taking care of us.

19 At the beginning of September it was my pleasure
20 to represent you at the District 12 visitation. Walking
21 into their post took my breath away. They put in
22 countless hours making sure that your theme was
23 beautifully presented. They made you proud. I loved
24 hearing about all their hard work and dedication for our
25 veterans and their communities. Thank you, President

1 Arlene Smith, and your crew for the hospitality.

2 At the end of September we were off to District
3 10 for a fantastic Northern California workshop. Again,
4 it made me proud to hear from our great chairmen and
5 leaders. Thank you Madeline Reed and your crew.

6 In November I was honored to represent Unit 169,
7 District 7 and the Department of California by riding on a
8 beautiful 1948 Buick Roadster owned and driven by a local
9 veteran in the Auburn Veterans' Day Parade. It was
10 followed by a beautiful ceremony honoring our veterans at
11 the Gold Country Fairgrounds.

12 In January it was my honor to ride by your side
13 at our mid-year DEC in Orange. It was enlightening to
14 listen to our officers and chairmen tell us about the
15 great things they are doing for our veterans. The
16 membership payoff party and presentation of awards was a
17 perfect example of how we work hard, get the job done, and
18 then have lots of fun. Great job, Maureen. The banquet
19 was another great example of how much fun we have once our
20 job is done. Thank you, Anita Biggs and Sharon Moore.

21 Also in January I attended our mission training
22 in Las Vegas. Lots of great information was shared from
23 our National Chairmen, Officers and Chairmen.

24 In March I had the privilege of helping escort
25 our National President Vickie Koutz on her visit to

1 California. I spent 11 hours in the back seat of a car
2 with her. What an amazing woman. She is the epitome of
3 what an American Legion Auxiliary member should be. And
4 we scared her to death in Los Angeles. We did.

5 DISTINGUISHED GUEST CHAIRMAN WORKMAN: She said,
6 "I don't want to go through LA anymore."

7 DEPARTMENT VICE PRESIDENT SCHULTZ: No. When we
8 first came off the hill, I said, oh, here we are, Downtown
9 Los Angeles, and she said, "We're in LA?" And then we got
10 stuck in an alley. Our GPS took us the wrong way and so
11 we had to make a quick turn. We thought it was
12 redirecting us and we wound up stuck in an alley between
13 a -- she was scared to death. And then we got scared
14 because it was like there was a tow truck in front of us
15 with a car on it trying to take it away and it had the
16 alley blocked and a homeless camp on one side that she's
17 not used to seeing. So it was pretty scary.

18 DEPARTMENT PARLIAMENTARIAN BIGGS: Avoid those
19 roads.

20 DISTINGUISHED GUEST CHAIRMAN WORKMAN: We didn't
21 know, Anita. We didn't know.

22 DEPARTMENT VICE PRESIDENT SCHULTZ: Linda
23 Workman's GPS took us the wrong way and that was supposed
24 to be a shortcut.

25 In April I attended the Junior Conference in

1 Bakersfield. After missing a couple years, our great team
2 of leaders put together a wonderful conference for our
3 future leaders. Thank you Jackie Cleveland and Stacey and
4 Lucy Hunt. And I'm sorry if I missed anybody. I know you
5 guys put a great, great workshop together for those young
6 ladies.

7 In May I flew to Indianapolis for the
8 action-packed Department Leadership National Conference.
9 Next year should be great with the leadership of our
10 incoming National President Lisa Williamson and National
11 Vice President Trish Ward. I can't wait to work with
12 them.

13 Madam President Gloria, we are now in June and
14 I'm a nervous wreck trying to fill your shoes. I will do
15 my best to make you and all of our members proud. My love
16 and respect to you.

17 (Applause.)

18 DEPARTMENT PRESIDENT WILLIAMS: She's been a
19 beautiful vice president. We work well together and I
20 have a new friend. I have a new friend in Glenda.
21 Somebody said they couldn't hear me. She's been wonderful
22 to work with.

23 Okay. We will now hear from our Department --
24 our National Executive Committee Person Joan Cannon.

25

1 NATIONAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE CONVENTION REPORT

2

3 NEC CANNON: Good morning. I'm glad the NEC is
4 early so that way you won't fall asleep. I attended the
5 National Executive NEC virtual meeting Saturday, February
6 25th, 2023 at 11:00 p.m. Pacific standard time. There
7 were three units from the Department of California that
8 were on the charter cancellation: Edward H. Lorensen,
9 Unit 121, Tustin Unit 227, and Los Angeles Sheriff's Star
10 Unit 309, all part of the consent agenda. The Department
11 of Pennsylvania moved to adopt the consent agenda and the
12 consent agenda was adopted.

13 Some National numbers from August 2022 through
14 February 2023. Active units as of August 22, 2022, 7,620.
15 New charters since the NEC meeting in August was 12.
16 Charters reinstated since NEC again August 22 was 12. So
17 that gave us a subtotal nationally of 7,644. Charters to
18 be cancelled at the NEC meeting February 2023 was 52.
19 That gave us a total active unit of 7,592.

20 Vickie Koutz, our National President, gave her
21 report. She had at that point visited 21 departments with
22 19 to go. National Secretary Coral May Grout gave her
23 report. National Secretary Grout reminded all the ALA
24 that the emblem/wordmarks/logos are owned by the National
25 Legion, therefore, they are under the control of the

1 American Legion Judge Advocate. She with the National
2 headquarters staff were participating in the wordmark
3 training hosted by the TAL, The American Legion Auxiliary
4 marketing division. The newly elected Executive Director
5 Sarah Riegel gave her report. She reported that the
6 communications and membership division have been
7 brainstorming new ideas for the annual membership renewal
8 process, notification process. With the Legion's
9 announcements of the new ALA wordmarks, the communications
10 division will be working on a new ALA branding guide.

11 Development Director Carley Shultz gave her
12 report. She has been working on applying for a special
13 group recognition license plate for the State of Indiana.
14 The goal of obtaining the special group recognition
15 license plate is to not only increased brand awareness,
16 but to diversify revenue for the Auxiliary Emergency Fund.
17 Each license plate will cost \$40 to the consumer and the
18 ALA will receive \$10 of the 40. The Indiana DMV requires
19 documentation for approval, so the National Treasurer
20 Marybeth Revoir moved that the board request a special
21 group recognition license plate be issued by the Indiana
22 DMV to be designated to AEF fund. The motion was adopted.

23 The National Treasurer Marybeth gave her report
24 and Carol Westergren moved that the Risk & Compliance
25 Committee adopt the external auditor's report for FY '22

1 for both the American Legion Auxiliary and the American
2 Legion Auxiliary Foundation. At the close of the meeting
3 we went into executive session.

4 June 16th, 2023 there was a NEC executive session
5 Zoom meeting. I was unable to attend. I was in flight
6 with no Internet. Alternate NEC Kathie Martinez for the
7 Department of California attended in my absence. I
8 contacted National headquarters in advance to report my
9 absence and provided them with our Alternate NEC's name
10 and information as per our instructions.

11 My last act as Department of California's NEC
12 will be attending the scheduled NEC meeting at the
13 National Convention August 26th, 2023 from 8:00 to 10:00
14 a.m. Thank you for your confidence in allowing me to
15 serve you as your 2021-2023 NEC for the Department of
16 California. Thank you.

17 (Applause.)

18 DEPARTMENT PRESIDENT WILLIAMS: Thank you, Joan,
19 very much.

20 Officers' reports. Secretary Elizabeth Doidge,
21 are you ready, Madam Secretary? We stay ready.

22

23 DEPARTMENT SECRETARY CONVENTION REPORT

24

25 DEPARTMENT SECRETARY DOIDGE: Good morning,

1 everybody.

2 DEPARTMENT PRESIDENT WILLIAMS: Good morning.

3 DEPARTMENT SECRETARY DOIDGE: What a year it's
4 been. We've been making changes in the department office
5 I think for good. We eliminated AT&T and the \$500 monthly
6 bill that came with it. We've upgraded our phone to
7 OpenPhone that is always with me as a second line on my
8 cell phone. We've got a fax that goes straight to my
9 e-mail instead of the machine in the office, and we
10 started using Mailchimp to get more communications out to
11 my members. We currently have about 700 email addresses
12 in Mailchimp, and I'm not really looking forward to adding
13 all the District Officers, Department Officers, and
14 Chairmen in the next couple weeks.

15 Increasing communication from the Department was
16 one of my main goals this year. Since DEC Susie and I
17 have been working with units to fix tax information. Many
18 units have filed with the Attorney General, corrected
19 their filings with the Franchise Tax Board, and we've even
20 had a couple units get off the revocation list. Yay.

21 Thank you to all the members who have stepped up
22 to verify tax information and get paperwork in. I know
23 working with the IRS, the tax people, can be extremely
24 cumbersome and frustrating, but we need to make sure that
25 we are legit so that we can accept donations. Because we

1 cannot if you're not -- if you're remote or you've lost
2 your tax status.

3 We've continued to add units to full ALAMIS
4 access. We currently have 111 units participating. And
5 all I ever hear is good news. The process is super easy.
6 It's much faster than waiting for somebody at the
7 Department to process and there's no wait time for the
8 mail. I highly recommend that the rest of our units look
9 into being full access ALAMIS users this year. We've had
10 continuous issues with checks and mail getting lost this
11 year. That doesn't happen if you're processing your own
12 membership.

13 At DEC we told you about our investigative task
14 force. We've been meeting monthly reviewing some of the
15 issues that are going on throughout the Department and
16 assisting units in refocussing. We all need to take a
17 moment to remember why we're here and what we want to do
18 for veterans. How does whatever situation is going on
19 affect what we're here for. Remember to put service
20 before self, talk to one problem member, work with another
21 with one troubled unit, get your youth involved.

22 Last night working in the office, our Juniors,
23 they want something to do. They started putting together
24 a list to be able to track the Juniors so they can
25 communicate outside of convention and so they can put

1 together like a game night for themselves for next year.
2 So it was really cool to watch them work last night.

3 (Applause.)

4 DEPARTMENT SECRETARY DOIDGE: And last, but not
5 least, instead of calling me two or three times back to
6 back, leave me a voicemail. I will call you back; I
7 promise. I'm usually on the phone or at lunch or in the
8 restroom and I get people calling me back to back, and
9 it's like sorry.

10 And then last one, Pat Alvarez and Carol Borgman
11 have made it out of the elevator and are here.

12 (Applause.)

13 DEPARTMENT PRESIDENT WILLIAMS: Thank you, Liz.
14 We'll hear from our Treasurer Susie Tozier.

15

16 DEPARTMENT TREASURER CONVENTION REPORT

17

18 DEPARTMENT TREASURER TOZIER: Good morning,
19 everybody. This year has been a very productive year.
20 Units and Districts along with Liz, Secretary Liz, and
21 myself have worked hard to bring the units and districts
22 compliant with tax laws. We have made an impact on IRS
23 because we have been able to provide documentation
24 required to show that we are a nonprofit. Please remember
25 to keep current. It will be easier next year.

1 Donations are an important resource for the
2 Department so that we can perform our mission to support
3 the veterans, active duty, and their families. Look at
4 the Book of Reports and see all the blank spots. Help us
5 to be able to fund scholarships or TFA for veterans and
6 their families.

7 Look at all of the checks that were processed
8 last year. Maybe it is time for the Department to look
9 into a point of sale system. Point of sale is a system
10 that connects with QuickBooks that will allow the units to
11 use their debit cards since they're now using it for
12 membership to pay for their donations, Girls State fees,
13 and any other fees. Point of sale is an automated
14 transaction processing and tracks the donation data and it
15 will lower the need to go to the bank and make deposits.
16 No need to worry if your check is lost or misplaced.

17 I want to thank everyone who is patient with me.
18 I have had two years providing the interim support for you
19 and the Department. You have been my teachers and
20 partners on this journey. Keep up the good work.

21 (Applause.)

22 DEPARTMENT PRESIDENT WILLIAMS: Thank you, Susie.

23 Grace, are you ready? Our Chaplain, our
24 marvelous chaplain. Marvelous, just marvelous.

25 Reminder, members, if you're having any code

1 changes, get them to me in advance. Thank you.

2 DEPARTMENT CHAPLAIN HUSTON: What's that?

3 DEPARTMENT PRESIDENT WILLIAMS: Any code changes,
4 I'm reminding the chairmen, please get them to me in
5 advance.

6 DEPARTMENT CHAPLAIN HUSTON: Well, I have --

7 DEPARTMENT PRESIDENT WILLIAMS: No, you go right
8 ahead. We're going to get through this. You go right
9 ahead, Madam Chaplain.

10 DEPARTMENT CHAPLAIN HUSTON: I'm sorry. I'm
11 asking for forgiveness.

12 DEPARTMENT PRESIDENT WILLIAMS: You are forgiven,
13 my child.

14 DEPARTMENT CHAPLAIN HUSTON: Thank you. From
15 your mouth to God's ears. How's that?

16 DEPARTMENT PRESIDENT WILLIAMS: Yes.

17 DEPARTMENT CHAPLAIN HUSTON: I'd also like to say
18 that I do not have my -- I do not have with me my awards
19 today.

20 DEPARTMENT PARLIAMENTARIAN BIGGS: Speak into the
21 microphone.

22 DEPARTMENT CHAPLAIN HUSTON: I do not have my
23 awards with me at this meeting, so these of you who I
24 asked to come forward, you can wait and I'll ask for
25 permission to do that later.

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DEPARTMENT CHAPLAIN CONVENTION REPORT

DEPARTMENT CHAPLAIN HUSTON: So we should probably start with our committee met yesterday at -- I'm sorry? Our committee met -- our committee met Thursday, Thursday morning at 10:00 o'clock. And we had a total of 17 district delegates answer roll call and four visitors were present. And the committee read the current Chaplain code, and therein lies the change.

So it currently reads: "5. Mid-year report forms for all committee programs shall conform with standard time frames. Unit report forms are to be sent to the District Chairman by December 1st. District report forms are to be sent to the Department Chairman by December 15th. Department Chairmen reports are to be sent to their Division Chairman and the National Committee Chairman by January 5th (2019). End of year report forms for all committee programs shall conform with standard time frames. Unit report forms are to be sent to the District Chairman by the second Friday in April. District report forms are to be sent to the chairman by May 1st. Department Chairman reports are to be sent to their Division Chairman of the committee chairman by May 15th."

Below is the proposed change.

1 DEPARTMENT PARLIAMENTARIAN BIGGS: Excuse me,
2 Madam President, point of order.

3 DEPARTMENT PRESIDENT WILLIAMS: Code number 5 is
4 for midyear reports -- code number 5 is for midyear
5 reports and code number 6 for the end of the year.
6 They're combined, Grace.

7 DEPARTMENT PARLIAMENTARIAN BIGGS: Okay. I'll
8 talk. Code number 5 is regarding midyear reports. Code
9 number 6 is regarding end-of-year reports. You've
10 combined these two.

11 DEPARTMENT CHAPLAIN HUSTON: I must have.

12 DEPARTMENT PARLIAMENTARIAN BIGGS: There is a
13 sixth code. There are six codes under Chaplain.

14 DEPARTMENT CHAPLAIN HUSTON: I apologize.

15 DEPARTMENT PARLIAMENTARIAN BIGGS: It's two
16 separate codes.

17 DEPARTMENT CHAPLAIN HUSTON: Okay. You want me
18 to read it again?

19 DEPARTMENT PRESIDENT WILLIAMS: She said it was
20 combined. Can you separate it now or do you need time to?

21 DEPARTMENT CHAPLAIN HUSTON: The new proposal is
22 a 5(a) and 5(b).

23 DEPARTMENT PRESIDENT WILLIAMS: What I'm
24 understanding, Grace, is that all the codes have the same
25 basic read. If you're changing -- you'll be changing all

1 the codes and that -- you can't do that.

2 DEPARTMENT CHAPLAIN HUSTON: Okay. I can ask.

3 DEPARTMENT PARLIAMENTARIAN BIGGS: All you need
4 to do is put a "6" in front of the, "End of year." Make
5 them two separate codes and then you can go with your
6 proposal.

7 DEPARTMENT CHAPLAIN HUSTON: Okay. So our code
8 are -- you want me to just read it that way, what you just
9 said?

10 DEPARTMENT PRESIDENT WILLIAMS: Yes. Six.

11 DEPARTMENT CHAPLAIN HUSTON: But put a 6 in front
12 of it.

13 DEPARTMENT PRESIDENT WILLIAMS: Yes.

14 DEPARTMENT CHAPLAIN HUSTON: Okay. So number 6
15 would be: "End of year reports for all committee programs
16 shall conform with standard time frames. Unit report
17 forms are to be sent to the District Chairman by the
18 second Friday in April. District report forms are to be
19 sent to the Chairman by May 1st. Department Chairman
20 reports are to be sent to their Division Chairman of the
21 Committee Chairman by May 15th (2019)."

22 So below is the proposed code change. So I --

23 DEPARTMENT PRESIDENT WILLIAMS: I didn't hear
24 you. What was your question?

25 DEPARTMENT CHAPLAIN HUSTON: I move.

1 DEPARTMENT PRESIDENT WILLIAMS: Oh, okay.

2 DEPARTMENT CHAPLAIN HUSTON: Okay. So below is
3 the proposed changes.

4 DEPARTMENT PRESIDENT WILLIAMS: You say below is
5 proposed code changes?

6 DEPARTMENT PARLIAMENTARIAN BIGGS: You have to
7 read it.

8 DEPARTMENT CHAPLAIN HUSTON: I will. I'm just
9 slow.

10 DEPARTMENT PRESIDENT WILLIAMS: That's okay.

11 DEPARTMENT CHAPLAIN HUSTON: So there was a 5 --
12 I'm now going to have an A now. Because I have 6 on your
13 papers so it's going to read differently.

14 "5. Mid-year report forms for all committee
15 programs shall conform with standard time frames. Unit
16 report forms are to be sent to the District Chairman by
17 December 1st. District report forms are to be sent to the
18 Department Chairman by December 15th. (2023)."

19 Six now?

20 DEPARTMENT PRESIDENT WILLIAMS: Six now.

21 DEPARTMENT PARLIAMENTARIAN BIGGS: You have to do
22 one at a time.

23 DEPARTMENT PRESIDENT WILLIAMS: One at a time.

24 DEPARTMENT CHAPLAIN HUSTON: And the rationale
25 for this is that National --

1 DEPARTMENT PARLIAMENTARIAN BIGGS: So you have to
2 take them one at a time.

3 DEPARTMENT CHAPLAIN HUSTON: The rationale for
4 that is that National does not have awards for departments
5 and districts. They don't -- they don't do anything for
6 Chaplain.

7 DEPARTMENT PRESIDENT WILLIAMS: Okay.

8 DEPARTMENT CHAPLAIN HUSTON: They pray for us,
9 and God knows I need that, but there's no place to send it
10 beyond our Department, so we're taking that out of the
11 code.

12 DEPARTMENT PRESIDENT WILLIAMS: Is there a
13 motion?

14 DEPARTMENT CHAPLAIN HUSTON: So I move that we
15 accept this code change 5. "Mid-year report forms for all
16 committee programs shall conform with standard time
17 frames. Unit report forms are to be sent to the District
18 Chairman by December 1st. District report forms are to be
19 sent to the Department Chairman by December 15th."

20 DEPARTMENT PRESIDENT WILLIAMS: I will ask for
21 questions.

22 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Second.

23 DEPARTMENT PRESIDENT WILLIAMS: It's been moved
24 and seconded. Can everyone hear? Can you hear me now?

25 Okay. "Mid-year report forms for all committee

1 programs shall conform with the standard time frames.
2 Unit report forms are to be sent to the District Chairman
3 by December 1st. District report forms are not to be sent
4 to the Department Chairman by December 15th."

5 DEPARTMENT PARLIAMENTARIAN BIGGS: You said
6 "not."

7 DEPARTMENT PRESIDENT WILLIAMS: "District report
8 forms are to be sent to the Department Chairman by
9 December 15th." Excuse me. Are there any questions?

10 DEPARTMENT PARLIAMENTARIAN BIGGS: You have a
11 question. The question was are we just deleting the last
12 line?

13 DEPARTMENT PRESIDENT WILLIAMS: The question was
14 are we deleting the last line in the present code. It is,
15 yes, we're deleting it.

16 Now we'll call for the vote. All in favor.

17 ALL DELEGATES: Aye.

18 DEPARTMENT PRESIDENT WILLIAMS: All opposed.

19 (No response.)

20 DEPARTMENT PRESIDENT WILLIAMS: Motion is
21 carried.

22 DEPARTMENT CHAPLAIN HUSTON: Thank you. Code 6:
23 "End of year forms for all committee programs shall
24 conform with time frames. Unit report" --

25 DEPARTMENT PRESIDENT WILLIAMS: It's "standard

1 time frame."

2 DEPARTMENT CHAPLAIN HUSTON: "Standard time
3 frames. Unit report forms are to be sent to the District
4 Chairman by the second Friday in April. District report
5 forms are to be sent to the Department Chairman by May
6 1st."

7 I move to accept this change.

8 DEPARTMENT PRESIDENT WILLIAMS: It has been moved
9 and seconded. "End of the year report forms for all
10 committee programs shall conform with standard time
11 frames. Unit report forms are to be sent to the District
12 Chairman by the second Friday in April. District report
13 forms are to be sent to the District Chairman by May 1st."

14 Are there any questions?

15 (No response.)

16 DEPARTMENT PRESIDENT WILLIAMS: All in favor, say
17 aye.

18 ALL DELEGATES: Aye.

19 DEPARTMENT PRESIDENT WILLIAMS: All opposed.

20 (No response.)

21 DEPARTMENT PRESIDENT WILLIAMS: Motion is
22 carried.

23 DEPARTMENT CHAPLAIN HUSTON: Thank you. Thank
24 you for the help too. So I'll go to the Chairman's
25 report.

1 In life there are those that step forward and
2 offer and those that sit back and wait to be asked. Madam
3 President, your American Legion District and Unit
4 Chaplains reside in that first group. This was very
5 apparent in the unit and district reports and
6 supplementals.

7 Last year at our committee meeting at convention,
8 I asked if there would be any interest in participating in
9 a Zoom gathering, nothing mandatory and very informal.
10 There was some interest so we held two this past year, one
11 in October and one in January. They were an opportunity
12 to share some of the things they are involved with at the
13 Unit and District level. Many chaplains don't make it to
14 the DEC in January for convention in June, so it was a
15 very informal way of meeting and sharing information
16 without having to write a report.

17 The number of districts with 100 percent
18 reporting went from six last year to 15 this year. That's
19 quite an increase. Your Unit and District Chaplains rock
20 and I hope that many of you are attending this convention.
21 Some of the chaplains in this department have held the
22 position for many years. They have written how much they
23 are honored to hold the assignment and how much they have
24 grown as members with their Chaplain duties. For some
25 it's been their first leadership role.

1 Their duties don't just include opening and
2 closing a meeting reading a prayer. They lead and
3 participate in all the ALA programs. They often chair ALA
4 programs and serve on program committees. They are the
5 cooks, servers, and cleanup members at many Legion Family
6 events. They ride on floats or walk in parades at many
7 patriotic celebrations and they are riders on motorcycles.
8 They actively search for homeless veterans living on the
9 streets and under -- and under bridges, in shelters and in
10 our hospitals and nursing homes.

11 They mentor our Juniors teaching them by example
12 how to become senior compassionate members and leaders.
13 St. Francis of Assisi said: Go out and preach the gospel,
14 and when necessary, use words. Be a good example in life.
15 Be the one.

16 Your Chaplains were working with all of you side
17 by side as VA reps and depts. They led prayers at 9/11
18 memorials. They helped with trunk and treat events,
19 Veteran's Day celebrations, organized Christmas parties,
20 worked Stand Downs, participated in Four Chaplains events.

21 Chaplains care for others. Some of those others
22 are husbands, partners, sons, and daughters. Even
23 grandchildren that are veterans with wounds, some seen and
24 often many unseen.

25 Your Chaplains visit cemeteries laying wreaths at

1 Christmastime and placing flags on Memorial Day. When an
2 ALA member passes, they often speak at their services.
3 They drape their unit's charter. They lead and
4 participate in memorial services at the Unit, District,
5 and Department level. Thank you.

6 They can prepare a care basket for a family in
7 need at a moment's notice. Your Chaplains send out cards.
8 Lots and lots of cards. Thousands of cards. They
9 celebrate, encourage, and sympathize with our members
10 every day.

11 Your Chaplains write reports and supplementals.
12 And, oh, by the way, one of the duties of a Chaplain is to
13 open and close a meeting with a prayer.

14 Thank you, Madam President, for this assignment.
15 It has been my distinct honor to serve as the Department
16 Chaplain for the great State of California. Thank you.

17 (Applause.)

18 DEPARTMENT PRESIDENT WILLIAMS: You're welcome.
19 And you can continue to your awards.

20 DEPARTMENT CHAPLAIN HUSTON: I will ask, Madam
21 President, if I can give my awards --

22 DEPARTMENT PRESIDENT WILLIAMS: Yes.

23 DEPARTMENT CHAPLAIN HUSTON: -- a little later.

24 DEPARTMENT PRESIDENT WILLIAMS: Oh, you want to
25 do it later? You can.

1 DEPARTMENT CHAPLAIN HUSTON: I can state who they
2 are.

3 DEPARTMENT PRESIDENT WILLIAMS: Okay. She will
4 give out awards later today or tomorrow.

5 DEPARTMENT CHAPLAIN HUSTON: Thank you.

6 DEPARTMENT PRESIDENT WILLIAMS: All right. Ms.
7 Parliamentary Anita Biggs.

8

9 DEPARTMENT PARLIAMENTARIAN CONVENTION REPORT

10

11 DEPARTMENT PARLIAMENTARIAN BIGGS: Good morning.
12 Okay. I urge all Chairmen to talk this loud. Talk to the
13 mic. Eat the mic.

14 As delegates -- this is noted. This is an
15 announcement before my report because that little vote
16 went so fast, I was not able to get in there and say
17 something about it. But I want you as delegates to know,
18 please pay attention to what you're voting on. I urge
19 you, each and every one of you to take out your Book of
20 Reports and read the rules. Rules are important. If you
21 question any of those rules that you see printed, please
22 bring it up.

23 This is the first time in convention I did not
24 hear the rules read, very first time. So it's really
25 important to hear so you know, but please just read it and

1 make sure you understand the rules. Because if you break
2 them, you're going to get -- you're going to be in
3 trouble.

4 Okay. So good morning, Madam President. We've
5 made it to our final station on your Friendship Train. I
6 should have brought my whistle. The train track has been
7 winding up and down the hills and valleys of California.
8 This ride was very informative and most of the time
9 enjoyable.

10 While I fielded several questions pertaining to
11 our ruling documents, bylaws, and standing rules, most
12 inquiries were from members who questioned the behaviors
13 and protocols of other members. I am very grateful to
14 you, Department President Gloria, for assembling a group
15 of Department leaders who served on a committee to review
16 these inquiries at my request. Because it's hard on a
17 parliamentarian, trust me.

18 The investigative task force was born. What's in
19 a name. Although some members did not like the name of
20 that committee, they complained about the name, it is the
21 result of the committee that mattered. Many of the issues
22 presented have been solved, usually by the members of the
23 unit with advice from the committee. We are finding most
24 issues at units are personal between members, while others
25 are not following protocol.

1 It is always good to remind members to follow
2 their unit bylaws and standing rules. If you as a member
3 or you know members who do not have a copy, make sure your
4 members are offered copies. It is their right. Even if
5 you charge them for it, make sure they can get a copy.

6 As a reminder to you all, it is a good idea to
7 add a disciplinary process section to your unit's standing
8 rules. Per our National and Department Standing Rules,
9 all discipline must be imposed in accordance with the
10 principal of fundamental fairness which includes notice
11 and an opportunity to be heard. That's all they say.

12 The Department -- thank you -- may discipline a
13 unit for failure to discipline a member. Did you all know
14 that? It's true. It serves the unit as well as
15 individual members to know in advance consequences to
16 actions that they are not in accordance with the rules.

17 Social media such as Facebook, Instagram, et
18 cetera should reflect the good of the American Legion
19 Auxiliary. It is wise to have more than one administrator
20 approved by the unit members to remove harmful posts and
21 harmful people. All comments should be approved by an
22 administrator prior to posting. That's a good idea.
23 Preview, review. There have been some isolated instances
24 of unacceptable comments. Remember, we represent the
25 American Legion Auxiliary and when making comments on

1 Auxiliary social media pages, they should be of good
2 nature.

3 So in closing as a reminder, follow the
4 constitution, bylaws, standing rules to put the mission
5 above your personal desires. As you heard earlier, in the
6 spirit of service, not self. The mission of the American
7 Legion Auxiliary is to support the American Legion and to
8 honor the sacrifice of those who serve by enhancing the
9 lives of veterans, military, and their families both at
10 home and abroad.

11 We advocate for veterans, educate our citizens,
12 mentor youth and promote patriotism, good citizenship,
13 peace, peace, and security. Let us bring our best
14 behavior and our best self forward when we are
15 volunteering to help others and representing the American
16 Legion Auxiliary.

17 Madam President, thank you. That concludes my
18 report.

19 DEPARTMENT PRESIDENT WILLIAMS: Thank you, Madam
20 Parliamentarian.

21 (Applause.)

22 DEPARTMENT PRESIDENT WILLIAMS: We will now hear
23 from our Historian if she is ready. Valerie Hill. I
24 thought I saw -- okay. We'll come back to Valerie in a
25 minute.

1 Sergeant-at-Arms and Assistant Sergeant-at-Arms,
2 would you like to give your report now?

3 SERGEANT-AT-ARMS MEYI: Blow the whistle.

4 DEPARTMENT PRESIDENT WILLIAMS: Okay. Stop.
5 Keep blowing.

6 SERGEANT-AT-ARMS MEYI: Okay. Keep blowing. Who
7 wants to go behind Anita?

8 DEPARTMENT PARLIAMENTARIAN BIGGS: You do.

9
10 SERGEANT-AT-ARMS AND ASSISTANT SERGEANT-AT-ARMS

11 CONVENTION REPORT

12

13 SERGEANT-AT-ARMS MEYI: Madam President, thank
14 you for this appointment even though it's not over yet. I
15 didn't write a report because I like to talk from the
16 heart. And what I really wanted to say is that please,
17 can you guys please refrain from walking and give each
18 other respect when someone is up here talking. It's been
19 going on. I'm running from both doors to stop somebody
20 from walking.

21 And enough water. If you have to use the
22 bathroom, I understand you go out, but when you come back
23 in, please stop right there if someone is at this podium
24 talking.

25 And I really appreciate my appointment. Back to

1 you, Madam President, because you know I like
2 Sergeant-at-Arms. You know I like catering to you so I
3 like being your Sergeant-at-Arms. And, you know, I'm
4 going to tell the story, I'm going to say this because she
5 forgot me. She forgot me. And I was at work, blew my
6 phone up because she left her clothes. Because she didn't
7 tell you all she left her clothes. She said her
8 underwear, but not her clothes. I had to leave work to go
9 get her clothes to bring here. But I don't mind catering
10 to her because I love her.

11 DEPARTMENT PRESIDENT WILLIAMS: I owe you big
12 time.

13 (Applause.)

14 SERGEANT-AT-ARMS MEYI: No, no, but I really
15 enjoy the American Legion Auxiliary. I've been a
16 president long time and district president, but I continue
17 to come back because I love my veterans. And everywhere I
18 go, I see somebody with a hat on and I tell them thank you
19 for your service. And they going how do I know, but you
20 got the hat on.

21 But you want to say something?

22 DEPARTMENT PRESIDENT WILLIAMS: I didn't hear
23 you.

24 SERGEANT-AT-ARMS MEYI: She can't hear you.

25 ASSISTANT SERGEANT-AT-ARMS CUMMINGS: Thank you,

1 Madam President also.

2 (Applause.)

3 SERGEANT-AT-ARMS MEYI: And have a wonderful
4 convention.

5 DEPARTMENT PRESIDENT WILLIAMS: Thank you. Madam
6 Sergeant-at-Arms, are there any distinguished guests
7 awaiting in the hallways?

8 SERGEANT-AT-ARMS MEYI: I'm going to go check in
9 the hallways. Nobody was here.

10 ASSISTANT SERGEANT-AT-ARMS CUMMINGS: No one is
11 here.

12 DEPARTMENT PRESIDENT WILLIAMS: Okay. We will
13 continue with reports for the Department Chairmen. The
14 Convention Chairmen, Debbie Hurado and Gloria Sinopoli,
15 are you ready to give your reports?

16 We'll have recess at 11:45 so you can stretch
17 and -- recess is lunch. I don't know why they're calling
18 it recess. It's lunch.

19

20 CONVENTION COMMITTEE CONVENTION REPORT

21

22 CONVENTION CHAIR HURADO: Good morning, Madam
23 President. Thank you for this appointment.

24 DEPARTMENT PRESIDENT WILLIAMS: Don't sound too
25 enthusiastic.

1 CONVENTION CHAIR HURADO: Thank you for this
2 appointment.

3 DEPARTMENT PRESIDENT WILLIAMS: You're welcome.

4 CONVENTION CHAIR HURADO: This is a job, but one
5 of the biggest things and people have talked to is because
6 of the way things are, we need -- we need help from
7 districts on everything. Now I will say -- well, first,
8 I'll ask. What did you think of the ditty bags?

9 (Applause.)

10 CONVENTION CHAIR HURADO: We had, now I can't
11 remember, 16 or 17 districts participate in those. And
12 some districts participated and their units. I mean it
13 wasn't just one district thing. It was district and
14 multiple units did this, did something. So that really
15 helped. It didn't put the burden on one person and it
16 came along. Well, we also had people that sent in checks.
17 And some of it I then chose something to go in that I
18 thought everybody would like that wouldn't be a duplicate.

19 But if you looked at the banner, the screen
20 banner out there where all was talking about branding, and
21 I thought, you know, when we go to DC conventions,
22 workshops, we should put it out there. If there's other
23 public looking at who's here, we need to tell them who we
24 are a little bit better. So that was purchased with some
25 of the money that you guys sent in for that.

1 Okay. Now I have been -- it has been requested
2 of me, some people want to take their banner down because
3 they're having a problem seeing. I did the best I could.
4 And we were here until after midnight setting this up. So
5 if you're trying to make something -- I asked for help at
6 DEC on this particular job and I got exactly no takers.
7 So you do what you can do and I am -- I apologize for that
8 if it doesn't work for you, but I have -- and a couple
9 people I just couldn't get there before the start that I'm
10 going to change your sign to another chair. I have wire
11 cutters and zip ties and I can do that, but I was waiting
12 for a break.

13 So if we go from here on, we need -- there are
14 many jobs in this. I mean just setting up the numbers,
15 doing the numbers for the pre-convention meetings. Doing
16 the registration. Registration, we had registration
17 secretaries, but because of the ditty bags, it used to be
18 that, you know, that registration secretaries would do
19 that too, but that became a burden on them because it was
20 taking too much time and people couldn't get registered if
21 there was a problem or something. So we've kind of moved
22 that to two different things, but we have to have people
23 to man that. I thank my sisters for manning it for the
24 most of the time the last couple days. So they stepped up
25 to help me in that.

1 You -- but they -- I can't think off the top of
2 my head. Corsages, the banquet, PPP, those have gone well
3 with the people. The luncheons and the banquet, you know,
4 the districts that are taking over there, thank you so
5 much because that's a huge burden. There's also -- it
6 just left my head, but there's -- oh, the flag, flag
7 groups, signing in flags, signing in chaplain books. You
8 know, everybody wants to drop them off. And that's fine,
9 but we need people to man those. And, you know, we just
10 have people that say -- you know, they say let me know
11 what I can do to help, but then they're not around when we
12 need the help so it becomes -- and I know as a person, you
13 know, I don't have someone ask me, I don't have a job
14 right then, but we are trying to make a book that says in
15 this you need this. You know, you need to have a
16 microphone at the DEC meeting. We ask -- we have asked
17 for microphones on the floor, and so at break we'll try to
18 see if we can get those. But it's not that we're
19 forgetting some of these things, but some of the things
20 that we have put in our contract that we wanted have not
21 been provided, you know, shown up when we thought they
22 should.

23 So thank you again, Madam President, for this
24 opportunity. Did you want to say something?

25 CONVENTION ASSISTANT CHAIR SINOPOLI: Thank you,

1 everybody. Madam President, I personally would like to
2 thank Debbie. She's done a phenomenal job.

3 (Applause.)

4 CONVENTION ASSISTANT CHAIR SINOPOLI: She has
5 worked very, very hard since January. And I also want to
6 thank her sisters, Diane and Doreen, the Melgard girls.
7 They really have been a tremendous help. Thank you, Madam
8 President.

9 (Applause.)

10 DEPARTMENT PRESIDENT WILLIAMS: Thank you very
11 much for all of your hard work. Okay. We have a -- I
12 need the Sergeant-at-Arms and our Assistant
13 Sergeant-at-Arms to escort Connie Raya to the microphone.
14 Yes, you, Connie. Stand. She needs her phone. For an
15 award?

16 Sergeant-at-Arms and Assistant Sergeant-at-Arms?
17 Where are they? Please escort -- you were outside looking
18 for her. She's here.

19 (Processional.)

20 DEPARTMENT PRESIDENT WILLIAMS: Bring her to the
21 stage, please.

22 Connie, my friend and many of ours, she's
23 received a very special award. Would you like to tell
24 them? Anita will hold it up. I know you can't read it.

25 DEPARTMENT PARLIAMENTARIAN BIGGS: This is a

1 Lifetime Achievement Award. With grateful recognition,
2 the AmeriCorps and the Office of the President of the
3 United States honors Connie Raya with the President's
4 Lifetime Achievement Award for her lifelong commitment to
5 building a stronger nation through volunteer service.
6 President Joseph R. Biden, Jr. 2023 award.

7 (Applause.)

8 HOSPITAL REP RAYA: First of all, I want to thank
9 my district. Through all these years the American Legion
10 Family, I don't have family, but I have them. I have you
11 and I have God.

12 (Applause.)

13 HOSPITAL REP RAYA: And I wouldn't be here today
14 if I wasn't trained by the ladies through the years. And
15 some of them I gave headaches to, but, you know, that's
16 what families are for. We may not all agree on things,
17 but thank God I've been blessed with all of everybody here
18 and I love you all.

19 (Applause.)

20 HOSPITAL REP RAYA: So my death wish is that, and
21 I say it all the time, to the veterans, but for God first
22 and for veterans and for all of you as relatives and
23 service. I just can't thank you enough. And Diane had
24 talked me first into coming up here, and I thank you
25 Diane. And my District 28, would you please stand up?

1 (Applause.)

2 HOSPITAL REP RAYA: And I'm shaking back here
3 because my legs are going like this. But everybody, I
4 didn't mean to forget everybody, but -- oh, yeah,
5 everybody, I didn't mean to forget you over there. But
6 thank you again and thank you, Madam President, for doing
7 this.

8 DEPARTMENT PRESIDENT WILLIAMS: You're welcome.
9 It's a pleasure to have you. Sergeant-at-Arms and Marshal
10 will escort her off. Connie? She's getting hugs right
11 now.

12 PAST DEPARTMENT PRESIDENT TAYLOR: Time to exit
13 the stage.

14 DEPARTMENT PRESIDENT WILLIAMS: Will our
15 Americanism Chairman approach the podium. Americanism.

16 (Processional.)

17

18 AMERICANISM CONVENTION REPORT

19

20 AMERICANISM CHAIR WINTERS: Good morning, Madam
21 President. I do have some code changes. I did not get
22 them up to you before now. Sorry.

23 DEPARTMENT PRESIDENT WILLIAMS: She has code
24 changes. Any other chairman out there has code change,
25 please bring them up to the stage before your report so we

1 can review them. Thank you.

2 AMERICANISM CHAIR WINTERS: I apologize for that,
3 Madam President. I was thinking I had more time to get up
4 here, but that's okay. I want to take a moment to thank
5 Madam President Gloria for this great assignment as your
6 Americanism Chairman this year. It was a little daunting
7 and overwhelming. I learned a lot. I would like to thank
8 all of you who were District Chairmen with me with
9 Americanism. You guys made me a better chairman.

10 My preassignment or my precaucus or my
11 preconvention meeting yesterday took place in the Redwood
12 Room. The statistical report appears in the Book of
13 Reports. Ann Kelly was so graciously our secretary.
14 Arlene Smith offered prayer as our chaplain. Donata --
15 oh, I'm going to mess your name up, sweetheart -- Faltasek
16 was appointed Sergeant-at-Arms. We had a total of 15
17 delegates and four guests in attendance.

18 At the meeting I passed out my 100 percent
19 reporting certificates. There was 18 of them. Good job,
20 everybody. And I passed out my second and third place
21 essay certificates.

22 The committee code changes. Do you need another
23 minute to look at those code changes? Okay.

24 DEPARTMENT PRESIDENT WILLIAMS: I'm -- we're
25 going through all the pages.

1 AMERICANISM CHAIR WINTERS: Just go ahead. The
2 first one was just a housekeeping. It was on page 10 of
3 the code.

4 DEPARTMENT PRESIDENT WILLIAMS: Okay.

5 AMERICANISM CHAIR WINTERS: And it says, "Shall
6 insure." "The chairman shall insure that information
7 pertaining to National awards have been forwarded to the
8 Units including rules and deadline dates." We changed
9 that word "insure" to "assure." We thought that it was
10 better grammar. So that was a housekeeping.

11 DEPARTMENT PRESIDENT WILLIAMS: That's
12 housekeeping.

13 AMERICANISM CHAIR WINTERS: Housekeeping. The
14 change that we have on page 11, the code reads: "The
15 \$1,000 Educational Grant will be awarded \$100 at the time
16 of winning Essay Contest and the balance of \$900 credited
17 to an accredited college/university in the U.S. and its
18 territories/possessions. All or any part of the remaining
19 \$900 not used by the student shall be returned to the
20 Department of California and credited to an Americanism
21 Essay Education Grant Fund. The Education Grant must be
22 claimed within two years following graduation from high
23 school. The winning student is prohibited from further
24 competition on Department level under the Americanism
25 contest."

1 The proposed change is we want to remove the
2 paragraph in there that says, "The \$1,000 Education Grant
3 will be awarded \$100 at the time of winning essay contest
4 and the balance of the \$900 credited to any accredited
5 college/university in the U.S. and
6 territories/possessions."

7 The previous code for the other two essay awards
8 don't have that in there so this makes this consistent by
9 taking that out. We want to take that out, but we're --
10 we're going to -- on the back page we're going to add a D.
11 So I would like to move to have that paragraph removed,
12 and then it will read like the two previous.

13 DEPARTMENT PRESIDENT WILLIAMS: You want the
14 entire paragraph removed?

15 AMERICANISM CHAIR WINTERS: Yes, please, is what
16 I'm asking for. So we're asking to have the \$1,000
17 Education Grant will be awarded \$100 at the time of
18 winning essay contest and the balance of the \$900 credited
19 to any accredited college/university in the U.S. and its
20 territories. We would like to remove that and that will
21 make it consistent with the other two awards. I would
22 like to move to have that paragraph removed.

23 DEPARTMENT PRESIDENT WILLIAMS: Okay. It has
24 been moved to remove the paragraph that states: "The
25 \$1,000 Education Grant will be awarded \$100 at the time of

1 winning essay contest and the balance of \$900 credited to
2 any accredited college/university in the U.S. and its
3 territories/possessions."

4 Is there a second?

5 DISTRICT 19 FIRST VICE PRESIDENT LIVAS: Second.

6 DEPARTMENT PRESIDENT WILLIAMS: It's been moved
7 and seconded. Is there any -- who seconded?

8 DISTRICT 19 FIRST VICE PRESIDENT LIVAS:

9 Nineteenth District Diana Livas.

10 DEPARTMENT PARLIAMENTARIAN BIGGS: Okay. So,
11 Chairmen, if you're reading code changes that went through
12 your committee and they voted to change the code, you
13 should state "by direction of the committee I move," then
14 we don't need that second.

15 AMERICANISM CHAIR WINTERS: Perfect. Thank you.
16 I'm new at this. Still learning. So per the committee, I
17 move that we remove that paragraph. Do you want me to
18 read the paragraph again?

19 DEPARTMENT PRESIDENT WILLIAMS: No.

20 AMERICANISM CHAIR WINTERS: Okay. Thank you.

21 DEPARTMENT PRESIDENT WILLIAMS: There's a
22 question. Yes, Linda.

23 PAST DEPARTMENT PRESIDENT FERCHO: Linda Fercho,
24 Past Department President, District 16, Unit 741. How is
25 the plan going to be --

1 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: We can't hear.

2 DEPARTMENT PRESIDENT WILLIAMS: We don't have
3 another microphone.

4 AMERICANISM CHAIR WINTERS: Linda's question is
5 valid. We've put another amendment in there. There's
6 another paragraph that we're going to make a motion on of
7 where the money is going to.

8 PAST DEPARTMENT PRESIDENT FERCHO: Okay.

9 AMERICANISM CHAIR WINTERS: What this does is it
10 makes the previous paragraphs that -- they're all
11 consistent now. And I should have had the whole code
12 there for you guys to read. Sorry. This is really
13 confusing. Like I said, I'm new at this.

14 The first ones before that, they talk about the
15 previous essays and the money going. That paragraph is
16 not in either one of those sentences. That sentence isn't
17 in there, and so we just want to remove that and we'll
18 make the other codes in there consistent. And so --

19 DEPARTMENT PRESIDENT WILLIAMS: Okay. Why don't
20 you read it again and we'll get a motion from the body.

21 AMERICANISM CHAIR WINTERS: Okay. So per the
22 committee, we would like to take out the statement, the
23 code reads right now: "The \$1,000 Educational Grant will
24 be awarded \$100 at the time of winning Essay Contest and
25 the balance of \$900 credited to an accredited

1 college/university in the U.S. and its
2 territories/possessions. All or any part of the remaining
3 \$900 not used by the student shall be returned to the
4 Department of California and credited to an Americanism
5 Essay Education Grant Fund. The Education Grant must be
6 claimed within two years following graduation from high
7 school. The winning student is prohibited from further
8 competition on Department level under the Americanism
9 contest."

10 We just want to remove the paragraph that states
11 that the \$1,000 Education Grant will be awarded \$100 at
12 the time of the essay contest and the \$900 credit to any
13 accredited college/university in U.S. and its
14 territories/possessions. So the committee moves to remove
15 that statement because it is not consistent with the other
16 two scholarship awards.

17 DEPARTMENT PARLIAMENTARIAN BIGGS: Okay. Madam
18 President, Madam Chair, I believe you -- because the other
19 awards don't state anything about going to an accredited
20 college --

21 AMERICANISM CHAIR WINTERS: That's correct.

22 DEPARTMENT PARLIAMENTARIAN BIGGS: -- this \$1,000
23 -- I don't know what the rationale was behind this at this
24 time because, you know, I've been on Americanism. I was
25 Americanism Chairman, but I don't know why the (c) with

1 the thousand dollar award had to go to a college and the
2 other awards did not. So --

3 AMERICANISM CHAIR WINTERS: Right.

4 DEPARTMENT PARLIAMENTARIAN BIGGS: But you want
5 to take that out so it goes to the student?

6 AMERICANISM CHAIR WINTERS: Correct. Well, what
7 we're going to do, Anita, to address that so it's maybe
8 less confusing is we are going to add a (d). And (d) will
9 cover all three of those scholarships. That says the
10 remaining balance of the American Essay Educational Grant
11 fund must be credited to any accredited college/university
12 in the U.S. and its territories/possessions. So when we
13 get to that one, that will clarify and we'll cover all
14 three of the scholarship essay awards. Because it wasn't
15 in the other two, so we're taking the one out and then
16 we're going to add another line that will cover the other.
17 I know this is confusing.

18 DEPARTMENT PRESIDENT WILLIAMS: I'm sorry. Yes,
19 yes, ma'am.

20 DISTRICT 20 SECOND VICE PRESIDENT TUNGATE: Madam
21 President, Elizabeth Tungate, District 20, Unit 17
22 Americanism Chairman for the district. I was in the
23 meeting yesterday. The sentence is supposed to be removed
24 after the first \$900 until the last \$900 in its entirety.
25 The whole paragraph is not being removed. That sentence

1 will be added as section (d) underneath. It's going to be
2 moved down. So the first part is not being removed of
3 that paragraph, to clarify how it's supposed to be. Thank
4 you, Madam President.

5 DEPARTMENT PRESIDENT WILLIAMS: Yes, Susie.

6 DEPARTMENT TREASURER TOZIER: I have a question.
7 Doesn't the previous group include sophomores?

8 AMERICANISM CHAIR WINTERS: Yeah.

9 DEPARTMENT TREASURER TOZIER: Two years is not
10 enough. They're not in college in two years. So it's
11 just -- I move to amend the motion to make it three years.
12 Oh, okay. I apologize. I take that back.

13 AMERICANISM CHAIR WINTERS: Thank you, Susie.

14 DEPARTMENT PRESIDENT WILLIAMS: Suzanne, there
15 seems to be some discrepancy. Would you like to take some
16 time and come back?

17 AMERICANISM CHAIR WINTERS: Oh. No. I just --
18 we just need to -- I'm sorry. We just want to take that
19 paragraph out to make it consistent and we're going to add
20 a (d) to it. Take the sentence, the sentence out.

21 DEPARTMENT PRESIDENT WILLIAMS: Not the whole
22 paragraph out.

23 AMERICANISM CHAIR WINTERS: We're taking the
24 paragraph out.

25 DEPARTMENT PRESIDENT WILLIAMS: Okay. We have

1 another question. Linda?

2 PAST DEPARTMENT PRESIDENT FERCHO: Chairman,
3 Linda Fercho again, Past Department President. What is
4 the amount of the other two listed? Is it because they
5 are not as large?

6 AMERICANISM CHAIR WINTERS: No.

7 PAST DEPARTMENT PRESIDENT FERCHO: Okay.

8 AMERICANISM CHAIR WINTERS: That whole sentence.

9 PAST DEPARTMENT PRESIDENT FERCHO: No, no, no.
10 The two that you're addressing --

11 AMERICANISM CHAIR WINTERS: Right.

12 PAST DEPARTMENT PRESIDENT FERCHO: -- that
13 sentence that is in the one is not in the other two.

14 AMERICANISM CHAIR WINTERS: Right.

15 PAST DEPARTMENT PRESIDENT FERCHO: But what is
16 the amount of the other two for the audience? Because if
17 there's a lesser amount, that could be the reason.

18 AMERICANISM CHAIR WINTERS: So the one is for
19 \$2500, the other one is for \$1500.

20 PAST DEPARTMENT PRESIDENT FERCHO: Oh, okay.

21 AMERICANISM CHAIR WINTERS: So the one for the
22 \$2500, they get \$500. The one for the \$1500, they get
23 250. And the \$1,000, the discrepancy here --

24 PAST DEPARTMENT PRESIDENT FERCHO: Yeah.

25 AMERICANISM CHAIR WINTERS: -- is when it says

1 the balance is not in the other -- in the other --

2 PAST DEPARTMENT PRESIDENT FERCHO: Right. Okay.

3 AMERICANISM CHAIR WINTERS: Is not there.

4 PAST DEPARTMENT PRESIDENT FERCHO: Right. No, I
5 agree with you. I'm just saying that for the audience,
6 that could have been a reason. And we don't all have the
7 code in front of us, so --

8 AMERICANISM CHAIR WINTERS: Okay. Yes.

9 PAST DEPARTMENT PRESIDENT FERCHO: Yes.

10 AMERICANISM CHAIR WINTERS: We're just trying to
11 make it consistent between the three scholarships that are
12 being awarded, that that wasn't in the other two stating
13 where it was going to go. So we want to remove that
14 sentence, and then the three paragraphs taking about the
15 scholarships will all be consistent. And then we want to
16 add a (d) that states that the money that is left over
17 that the students did not receive will be going to a
18 credit to an accredited school or college. That's all I'm
19 discussing. It just seems confusing.

20 DEPARTMENT PRESIDENT WILLIAMS: It is confusing,
21 so it's got to be worded properly so that everyone
22 understands. And I think you need to come back with it so
23 it's clearer.

24 AMERICANISM CHAIR WINTERS: Well, I think if
25 everyone had the code in front of them and they were

1 reading it, I realize that it would make it clear. And
2 this is -- again, this is the recommendation of the
3 committee to take that sentence out. So we want to just
4 remove that sentence.

5 DEPARTMENT PRESIDENT WILLIAMS: I understand.
6 Hold on. There is a question.

7 DISTRICT 7 DELEGATE WARD: Maryann Ward.

8 PAST DEPARTMENT PRESIDENT TAYLOR: Stand up,
9 please.

10 DEPARTMENT PRESIDENT WILLIAMS: She is standing.

11 PAST DEPARTMENT PRESIDENT TAYLOR: She's behind
12 the Station 12 sign.

13 DISTRICT 7 DELEGATE WARD: Maryann Ward, Unit
14 587. And I attended the committee meeting. Thank you,
15 Suzanne, for trying to explain what we proposed. We are
16 not deleting this paragraph. We are deleting or
17 recommending that the statement or the piece in item (c)
18 of the department code for Americanism that states:
19 Accredited to a college or university in the United
20 States -- sorry. Let me back up.

21 That the balance will be accredited to the
22 college/university in the United States and its
23 territories and possessions. The previous identification
24 of the educational awards does not have that statement.
25 In order for the code to read consistently, the committee

1 asks that that statement be removed and put in as an
2 additional item (d) to the code, which will read for all
3 of the educational balances of the Americanism Essay
4 Educational Grant Fund must be credited to an accredited
5 college/university in the United States and its territory
6 and possessions. So that it's a standalone and does not
7 sit in this one particular part of the code. It
8 encompasses all of the educational fund monies. Thank you
9 for the opportunity.

10 DEPARTMENT PRESIDENT WILLIAMS: Thank you for the
11 read. That isn't what we have up here. What we're
12 looking at up here is different. I think you understand
13 what she's saying now. What was read is not the same as
14 what --

15 AMERICANISM CHAIR WINTERS: So we're just taking
16 that one statement, that one sentence out of there and
17 moving it to a (d).

18 DEPARTMENT PARLIAMENTARIAN BIGGS: Madam
19 President, to clarify for the -- well, you're not at (d)
20 yet; right?

21 AMERICANISM CHAIR WINTERS: Correct.

22 DEPARTMENT PARLIAMENTARIAN BIGGS: All right. So
23 let me --

24 DEPARTMENT PRESIDENT WILLIAMS: Yes, Kathie.

25 PAST DEPARTMENT PRESIDENT MARTINEZ: Kathie

1 Martinez, Past Department President, Unit 46, District 24.
2 Perhaps it would help clarify if Madam Chairman would do
3 as we normally do. You read the code as it is and then
4 read the code as you are proposing. So you would read
5 that paragraph in its entirety and then read the proposed
6 without that first sentence. It might make it a little
7 bit clearer. And then when you get to (d), you'll be
8 adding it back in.

9 DEPARTMENT PRESIDENT WILLIAMS: Thank you.

10 AMERICANISM CHAIR WINTERS: I can do that. So
11 what the code -- Madam President, you want me to read that
12 as it -- okay. The code reads: "The \$1,000 Educational
13 Grant will be awarded \$100 at the time of winning Essay
14 Contest and the balance of \$900 credited to an accredited
15 college/university in the U.S. and its
16 territories/possessions. All or any part of the remaining
17 \$900 not used by the student shall be returned to the
18 Department of California and credited to an Americanism
19 Essay Education Grant Fund. The Education Grant must be
20 claimed within two years following graduation from high
21 school. The winning student is prohibited from further
22 competition on Department level under the Americanism
23 Essay Contest."

24 It will now read: "The \$1,000 Educational Grant
25 will be awarded \$100 at the time of the winning essay

1 contest. All or any part of the remaining \$900 not used
2 by the student shall be returned to the Department of
3 California and credited to the Americanism Essay
4 Educational Grant Fund. The Educational Grant Fund must
5 be claimed within two years following graduation from high
6 school. The winning student is prohibited from further
7 competition on the department level until the American
8 essay contest" -- "level in the American essay contest."
9 That's how it would read.

10 DEPARTMENT PRESIDENT WILLIAMS: Is there any
11 second?

12 DEPARTMENT PARLIAMENTARIAN BIGGS: There's no
13 motion.

14 DEPARTMENT PRESIDENT WILLIAMS: By the direction
15 of the committee. So any further discussion?

16 (No response.)

17 DEPARTMENT PRESIDENT WILLIAMS: All in favor.

18 ALL DELEGATES: Aye.

19 DEPARTMENT PRESIDENT WILLIAMS: All opposed.

20 (No response.)

21 DEPARTMENT PRESIDENT WILLIAMS: Motion approved.

22 AMERICANISM CHAIR WINTERS: Thank you. That was
23 painful. So the next code change is we're going to add an
24 (e) -- a (d). So we're adding (d) per the committee that
25 says: "Remaining balance in the American Essay

1 Educational Grant Fund must be credited to any accredited
2 college/university in the U.S. and its
3 territories/possessions."

4 So I would like to move per the committee that we
5 add that (d) to our code.

6 DEPARTMENT PRESIDENT WILLIAMS: There's a
7 question.

8 DEPARTMENT PARLIAMENTARIAN BIGGS: Go ahead.

9 DEPARTMENT PRESIDENT WILLIAMS: There is the
10 addition: "Remaining balance in the Americanism Essay
11 Educational Grant Fund must be credited to any accredited
12 college/university in the U.S. and its
13 territories/possessions."

14 Discussion?

15 DEPARTMENT PARLIAMENTARIAN BIGGS: Madam
16 President, just to clean this up as far as grammar, I move
17 to amend the way it's read or it's stated to state: "The
18 remaining balance in all Americanism Essay Educational
19 Grant Funds be credited to any accredited
20 college/university in the U.S. and its
21 territories/possessions."

22 PAST DEPARTMENT PRESIDENT MARTINEZ: Seconded.

23 DEPARTMENT PRESIDENT WILLIAMS: It's been moved
24 and seconded to say: "The remaining balance in all
25 Americanism Essay Educational Grant Funds be credited to

1 any accredited college/university in the U.S. and its
2 territories/possessions."

3 Is there a second? Any questions?

4 (No response.)

5 DEPARTMENT PRESIDENT WILLIAMS: All those in
6 favor.

7 ALL DELEGATES: Aye.

8 DEPARTMENT PRESIDENT WILLIAMS: All those
9 opposed.

10 (No response.)

11 DEPARTMENT PRESIDENT WILLIAMS: Motion approved.

12 AMERICANISM CHAIR WINTERS: Thank you. So per
13 the committee, there was a lot of discussion. This would
14 be on page 12 that we would like to add into the code that
15 if a unit declines to participate in the American essay
16 contest where a school is in their unit area, that that
17 unit gives up any right to work the program and any school
18 in that area can be worked by another unit in that
19 District. Per the committee.

20 DEPARTMENT PRESIDENT WILLIAMS: Is this code (g)?

21 AMERICANISM CHAIR WINTERS: Yes, code (g). The
22 committee would like to add that into the code.

23 DEPARTMENT PRESIDENT WILLIAMS: Did she move?

24 AMERICANISM CHAIR WINTERS: What they want to add
25 -- somebody asked me to read it again. Can I or not?

1 DEPARTMENT PRESIDENT WILLIAMS: Yes.

2 DEPARTMENT PARLIAMENTARIAN BIGGS: I'm sorry,
3 Madam President. We need to know the -- we need the code
4 number, not the page. We need the code number for the
5 recorder. She needs to put that in. The Secretary has to
6 make sure it's changed. Which code is this that you want
7 to add a (g)?

8 AMERICANISM CHAIR WINTERS: Okay. It's -- it was
9 under --

10 DEPARTMENT SECRETARY DOIDGE: Number 6.

11 AMERICANISM CHAIR WINTERS: Six. It was under 6.
12 It's on page 12.

13 DEPARTMENT SECRETARY DOIDGE: Number 6 is on page
14 11, but it will be --

15 AMERICANISM CHAIR WINTERS: Well, it was --

16 DEPARTMENT SECRETARY DOIDGE: It goes to the next
17 page, yeah.

18 AMERICANISM CHAIR WINTERS: It would be added as
19 (g). So on page 12 under the code under 6, there's (e),
20 (f), and it talks about -- (f) they talk about home
21 schools, Girl Scouts, Boy Scouts, blah, blah, blah. The
22 discussion came up -- the way this came about is
23 apparently there was a school that wanted to do the
24 American Legion contest and the unit didn't want to do it.
25 So another unit came in and said, well, can we do it, and

1 then the unit said no.

2 So there was a lot of talk about this yesterday
3 that that wasn't particularly maybe fair to the children
4 if there was another unit that wanted to pick up a school.
5 So they felt like we should add this to the code stating
6 that if there's a unit that isn't working the American
7 Legion contest and there was another unit in that district
8 that wants to do the essay contest, that that unit within
9 that district could then do the contest so that that
10 student could participate.

11 DEPARTMENT PARLIAMENTARIAN BIGGS: I'm sorry,
12 Madam Chairman. What American Legion contest are you
13 talking about?

14 AMERICANISM CHAIR WINTERS: The American essay
15 contest.

16 DEPARTMENT PARLIAMENTARIAN BIGGS: Are you
17 talking about Americanism essay?

18 AMERICANISM CHAIR WINTERS: Yes.

19 DEPARTMENT PARLIAMENTARIAN BIGGS: Because you
20 keep saying "American Legion."

21 AMERICANISM CHAIR WINTERS: Oh, I'm sorry.

22 DEPARTMENT PARLIAMENTARIAN BIGGS: I'm trying to
23 figure out where we are with this.

24 AMERICANISM CHAIR WINTERS: I'm a little nervous.
25 It's my first time.

1 DEPARTMENT PARLIAMENTARIAN BIGGS: That's okay.
2 I'm just trying to figure out what we're talking about.
3 We're talking about the Americanism Essay Contest.

4 AMERICANISM CHAIR WINTERS: Yes.

5 DEPARTMENT PARLIAMENTARIAN BIGGS: And you're
6 saying that there are units that they -- other units will
7 decline them from allowing them to have an Americanism
8 contest in their area?

9 AMERICANISM CHAIR WINTERS: Yes.

10 DEPARTMENT PARLIAMENTARIAN BIGGS: Okay. I
11 didn't know that was happening.

12 DEPARTMENT PRESIDENT WILLIAMS: Do I have another
13 hand somewhere? Is there a hand?

14 DISTRICT 4 DELEGATE DOWDEN: I'm the one that
15 brought that up if you want some information on it.

16 DEPARTMENT PRESIDENT WILLIAMS: Give us your
17 name.

18 DISTRICT 4 DELEGATE DOWDEN: Mirinda Dowden,
19 District 4.

20 DEPARTMENT PRESIDENT WILLIAMS: Yes.

21 DISTRICT 4 DELEGATE DOWDEN: Yes, and there's a
22 school not too far from me but it's -- but it's in the
23 area of another unit. They have not done the Americanism
24 -- I've been District Chairman for 15 years for both Poppy
25 and Americanism and this unit has not participated in

1 either one for several years since their Americanism
2 Chairman passed away six or seven years ago. I was
3 approached by some parents and teachers from that school
4 because I'm the District Chairman and wanted to know if
5 they could do it.

6 Well, I couldn't find anything in the code that
7 said I could do that, so I contacted Department and I was
8 told I had to get permission from that unit. I went to a
9 meeting. I explained it. I told them, you know, that
10 they were interested. One of the teachers is a veteran
11 and he really wanted to get them in it. And I explained
12 and, you know, it would be -- the teachers would do it, it
13 would be open to everyone in different groups.

14 And the first question they said is, well, who
15 gets the credit. I said, well, the unit that does the
16 work would get the credit, but I could -- you could be
17 judges and you could help out, you know, that way. I
18 could involve them. And they flat said no. They said
19 they don't need to participate. And I just felt that was
20 so unfair to those teachers and those kids. I mean I
21 didn't want to step on anybody's toes. I just wanted the
22 kids to participate.

23 DEPARTMENT PRESIDENT WILLIAMS: Thank you for
24 that.

25 DISTRICT 4 DELEGATE DOWDEN: And I -- so is there

1 any way that we can do something that said if they haven't
2 participated for a couple years or something, that another
3 unit can or something?

4 DEPARTMENT PRESIDENT WILLIAMS: I stated this
5 earlier. I need you to take this back to the committee
6 because there's some wording that is not correct and come
7 back later with it. Thank you.

8 AMERICANISM CHAIR WINTERS: We can bring that
9 back.

10 DISTRICT 13 2ND VICE PRESIDENT BUTLER: Madam
11 President, I have a question. Do we own cities in the
12 American Legion Auxiliary? I'm sorry. Debbie Butler,
13 District 13. This is for Americanism before you finish
14 that. Do we own any cities?

15 DEPARTMENT PRESIDENT WILLIAMS: No.

16 DISTRICT 13 2ND VICE PRESIDENT BUTLER: So I
17 don't even know why that would be an issue with anybody if
18 another unit wanted to pick it up and/or if it was another
19 district. Why? We're here for them. That's our goal.
20 So I don't know why that's an issue.

21 DEPARTMENT PRESIDENT WILLIAMS: Thank you.

22 (Applause.)

23 DISTRICT 25 DELEGATE POWERS: Hi, Madam
24 President. Hi. My name is Vanessa Powers, District 25.

25 DEPARTMENT PRESIDENT WILLIAMS: Yes.

1 DISTRICT 25 DELEGATE POWERS: Post 112, Ontario,
2 California. Okay. Now I am helping the Chairman, the
3 Chairwoman, and she's been given this -- this task of
4 Americanism and -- so I just joined the Auxiliary late
5 last year, so I'm helping her out. There's a lot of
6 schools in our district. Okay? We have Chaffey Joint
7 Union, we got the high school, and we've got
8 Ontario-Montclair. We've got lots of school. We've got
9 to choose a couple schools, but we can't do it all. So
10 we're doing them.

11 Now I'm suggesting that I don't know what the
12 issue is with that particular unit. Okay? But -- so
13 we're going to choose a couple of schools, however, I
14 understand that there are some other posts that are having
15 difficulties, and so when we come to our District meeting
16 I went to the first time, if another unit is having a
17 problem, then they're going to say, you know what, can we
18 join you. Can we help out. Can we do something together
19 as opposed to one person taking it over and feeling like
20 -- you know, just help each other. Because it could be an
21 issue of staff. You know, we've got a lot of members, but
22 then a lot of people don't show up to do things. Okay?
23 So it's just like one, maybe one or two people trying to
24 do it all to represent the unit.

25 But I'm just saying let's just -- if they want to

1 do it, that's good. It's not about your unit and this
2 unit. If you really do feel that way about the kids
3 having the Americanism in the school, let's just do it as
4 a -- as a unit, as -- you know, come together.

5 DEPARTMENT PRESIDENT WILLIAMS: All right. Thank
6 you very much for your comment.

7 (Applause.)

8 DEPARTMENT PRESIDENT WILLIAMS: She's going --
9 the Chairman is going to reword it and come back to us.

10 Is that okay? Your question was about that?

11 SERGEANT-AT-ARMS MEYI: She says she has a
12 comment, Madam President.

13 DEPARTMENT PRESIDENT WILLIAMS: Yes. Go ahead.
14 We're not going to have any comments after this because
15 she's going to work with her committee and come back and
16 give it to us. Yes, ma'am.

17 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: I think this is a simple
18 issue that needs to state because if there's a school
19 where the -- in the area of a unit is not going to
20 participate in the Americanism Essay Contest, other units
21 in that area shall have the opportunity to go in and
22 fulfill that unit. It shouldn't just be up to the unit.

23 DEPARTMENT PRESIDENT WILLIAMS: Great. Thank you
24 very much.

25 AMERICANISM CHAIR WINTERS: We'll get back to

1 that.

2 DEPARTMENT PRESIDENT WILLIAMS: Yes, get back to
3 it.

4 AMERICANISM CHAIR WINTERS: We'll reword it.

5 DEPARTMENT PRESIDENT WILLIAMS: Thank you.

6 AMERICANISM CHAIR WINTERS: There's -- one of the
7 code changes that was already taken care of when Grace was
8 up here about the mid-year reports taking out the -- so
9 that one was covered because National does not do mid-year
10 reports. So we're going to take out that whole statement.
11 And it sounded like when we were talking earlier in the
12 code, that that statement could be taken out of all
13 committees or do we have to each one of them do them?

14 Okay. So my next code change would be on page 13
15 talking be about mid-year reports. The code number --

16 DEPARTMENT PRESIDENT WILLIAMS: No. What I was
17 saying is I thought you were coming back with all of
18 them --

19 AMERICANISM CHAIR WINTERS: I can do that.

20 DEPARTMENT PRESIDENT WILLIAMS: -- after the
21 review.

22 AMERICANISM CHAIR WINTERS: Okay.

23 DEPARTMENT PRESIDENT WILLIAMS: So we won't go
24 through no more at this time. Thank you.

25 AMERICANISM CHAIR WINTERS: Do you want me to

1 finish my floor report or just come back later?

2 DEPARTMENT PRESIDENT WILLIAMS: Come back.

3 AMERICANISM CHAIR WINTERS: Bye-bye.

4 DEPARTMENT PRESIDENT WILLIAMS: Come back.

5 Bey-bye. Thank you, Suzanne. It will be all right.

6 AMERICANISM CHAIR WINTERS: It was an interesting
7 meeting.

8 DEPARTMENT PRESIDENT WILLIAMS: It's going to be
9 okay.

10 Okay. We'll now hear from Joan Cannon, Past
11 President, and she will speak on the Past President Parley
12 and the luncheon today.

13 PPP CHAIR CANNON: Are you ready, Madam
14 President?

15

16 PAST PRESIDENTS PARLEY CONVENTION REPORT

17

18 PPP CHAIR CANNON: The convention committee on
19 Past Presidents Parley met on June 22nd, 2023 in the Pine
20 Room of the Wyndham Hotel, Visalia, California. The
21 statistical report of this chairman appears on page 16 in
22 the Book of Reports.

23 Gloria Jean Sinopoli was appointed secretary from
24 District 14, Roberta Cummings, District 23, offered
25 prayer, and Gayle Stewart was appointed Sergeant-at-Arms.

1 There was one visitor present.

2 The committee agreed upon the following report.

3 The code was read with the following code changes. Code 2
4 currently reads: "The Past Presidents' Scholarship has
5 been designated as a nursing scholarship by the Past
6 Presidents Parley and should be awarded annually in the
7 amount of \$4,000 to a veteran or a veteran's wife or
8 husband or widow or widower or child of a veteran. The
9 veteran's period of service and eligibility is April 16,
10 1917 through November 11th, 1918 or any time after
11 December 7th, 1941, to the date of cessation of
12 hostilities as determined by the government of the United
13 States. (2022)."

14 Code 2 to read: "The Past Presidents'
15 Scholarship has been designated as a nursing scholarship
16 by the Past Presidents Parley and should be awarded
17 annually in the amount of \$4,000 to a veteran or a
18 veteran's wife or a husband, widow or widower, child or
19 grandchild or great grandchild if grandfathered of a
20 veteran. The veteran's period of service eligible April
21 16th, 1917 to November 11th, 1918 or any time after
22 December 7, 1941 to the date of cessation of hostilities
23 as determined by the government of the United States.
24 (2023)."

25 At the direction of the committee, I move to

1 adopt this code change 2.

2 DEPARTMENT PRESIDENT WILLIAMS: Is there a
3 second?

4 DEPARTMENT PARLIAMENTARIAN BIGGS: It's direction
5 of the committee.

6 DEPARTMENT PRESIDENT WILLIAMS: There is a
7 question. You had a question?

8 DEPARTMENT TREASURER TOZIER: Did you get your
9 second?

10 DEPARTMENT PRESIDENT WILLIAMS: It's the
11 direction of the committee.

12 DEPARTMENT TREASURER TOZIER: I have a question
13 about adding the great, great grandchild.

14 PPP CHAIR CANNON: The reason why we're adding
15 the great grandchild and that's why it's grandfathered,
16 remember when National changed because IRS said we had to
17 take great grandchildren out, it's just anybody that
18 belonged to -- that had already joined were grandfathered
19 in and they were members. So it's only those great
20 grandchildren that were -- all Auxiliary members before
21 the IRS changed, that removed them through National.

22 DEPARTMENT SECRETARY DOIDGE: So it should be
23 grandfathered.

24 DEPARTMENT TREASURER TOZIER: But this
25 scholarship is open to everybody.

1 PPP CHAIR CANNON: No, it is not.

2 DEPARTMENT TREASURER TOZIER: The nurses
3 scholarship is.

4 PPP CHAIR CANNON: No, it is not. Nor has it
5 ever been.

6 DEPARTMENT TREASURER TOZIER: Yes, it has.

7 PPP CHAIR CANNON: Well, this is the one I had
8 last year.

9 DEPARTMENT TREASURER TOZIER: We have given
10 scholarships to nonmembers for the nurses scholarship.
11 This is open to any college or person that is eligible.

12 PPP CHAIR CANNON: I can only say from my code
13 that's --

14 DEPARTMENT TREASURER TOZIER: Yeah, this has
15 always been open to everybody. Somebody must have changed
16 it or something, but this is a scholarship that's open to
17 the public who qualifies as a veteran, veteran's child, or
18 family members.

19 PPP CHAIR CANNON: Well, that's what we're
20 saying. That's not everybody. They have to be a veteran
21 family.

22 DEPARTMENT TREASURER TOZIER: Yes.

23 PPP CHAIR CANNON: That's what I'm saying, this
24 grandchild has to be a veteran or the veteran.

25 DEPARTMENT TREASURER TOZIER: You're saying great

1 grandchild.

2 PPP CHAIR CANNON: Yes.

3 DEPARTMENT TREASURER TOZIER: No.

4 PPP CHAIR CANNON: Because they're grandfathered
5 in.

6 DEPARTMENT TREASURER TOZIER: They're not
7 grandfathered in.

8 PPP CHAIR CANNON: National said they were,
9 Susie.

10 DEPARTMENT TREASURER TOZIER: Oh, is this
11 something new?

12 PPP CHAIR CANNON: No, it's not new. It happened
13 when the IRS change made -- when the IRS came to
14 National --

15 DEPARTMENT TREASURER TOZIER: But --

16 PPP CHAIR CANNON: -- and we had to drop --

17 DEPARTMENT TREASURER TOZIER: Let me finish. Is
18 this based on our membership or -- because this is a
19 scholarship open to people that are non-members.

20 PPP CHAIR CANNON: Not by my code it is not.

21 DEPARTMENT TREASURER TOZIER: It used to be.

22 PPP CHAIR CANNON: I can only go by my code.

23 DEPARTMENT PARLIAMENTARIAN BIGGS: Madam
24 President, just for clarification, no, they do not have to
25 be a member of the organization. They have to be related

1 to a veteran.

2 PPP CHAIR CANNON: That's what I'm saying.

3 DEPARTMENT PARLIAMENTARIAN BIGGS: Right, that's
4 what she's saying. That's what I think Susie is saying.
5 They don't need to be a member.

6 DEPARTMENT TREASURER TOZIER: That's what I'm
7 saying.

8 DEPARTMENT PARLIAMENTARIAN BIGGS: Oh, I thought
9 you said they --

10 PPP CHAIR CANNON: That has nothing to do with
11 it.

12 DEPARTMENT PARLIAMENTARIAN BIGGS: But they don't
13 have to be a member. They have to be related to a
14 veteran, and that's what this states. She's just trying
15 to expand it to grandchildren and great grandchildren of
16 the veteran, but it must be grandfathered period, the
17 grandfathered period. So it needs to be clarified that
18 not grandfather, if grandfather. It has been
19 grandfathered.

20 PPP CHAIR NEC CANNON: Okay. Since that's a code
21 change, E-R to grandfather, I think is that good enough or
22 do we need an amendment?

23 DEPARTMENT PRESIDENT WILLIAMS: One moment. Is
24 there any other questions out here? Someone has to stand
25 up and get you a microphone. Is there a question?

1 CONVENTION CHAIR HURADO: Debbie Hurado from
2 District 14, Unit 191. Our unit did try to do this
3 scholarship. We had a candidate for the nurses
4 scholarship, and we looked into it and read the rules and
5 that's when we found out that it had -- they had to have a
6 veteran relation. It wasn't somebody that was a member of
7 the Auxiliary or related to a -- you know, in the Legion
8 or something. It had -- it can be, you know, a regular
9 citizen with no ties, but they have to have a pretty close
10 relationship. But now they seem to be adding those extra
11 ones.

12 And yes, there was a time where or a few years
13 ago the great granddaughters were eligible to be members.
14 We -- our family has a lot of them, but they're
15 grandfathered in. As long as their dues are paid up, they
16 are, you know, full-fledged member of the American Legion
17 Auxiliary and they -- they can apply for that scholarship.
18 That's an appliee, but they -- because if they're already
19 in the organization, you know, they're related to a
20 veteran so that's the only thing. But we went through
21 that a lot so I know what people are saying.

22 DEPARTMENT PRESIDENT WILLIAMS: Okay. Thank you.

23 Joan, do you have another question.

24 PPP CHAIR CANNON: I don't know. My only
25 question --

1 DEPARTMENT PRESIDENT WILLIAMS: Liz.

2 DEPARTMENT SECRETARY DOIDGE: Sorry. I was
3 reading.

4 DEPARTMENT PRESIDENT WILLIAMS: Go to the
5 microphone.

6 DEPARTMENT SECRETARY DOIDGE: So the scholarship
7 is open to every child or every scholarship applicant as
8 long as they're related to a veteran. It does not have
9 any restrictions based on our membership. So I think your
10 code should say husband, widow -- husband, widow, widower,
11 child or grandchild or great grandchild. We don't need
12 the grandfathered because it has no relation to our
13 membership. My children are grandfathered. If one of
14 them, whether they're members or not, they can apply to
15 the scholarship.

16 PPP CHAIR CANNON: Well, that's okay with me
17 because they weren't allowed to before. So if that's all
18 we need to do is not -- okay. So do you want me to amend
19 it?

20 DEPARTMENT PRESIDENT WILLIAMS: Just a moment.

21 ADVISORY CHAIR DeLASHMIT: She's going to speak
22 for me. It's too difficult for me to get up in there.

23 MEMBERSHIP CHAIR O'BRIEN-SACCO: Maureen
24 O'Brien-Sacco, District 18, Unit 13. The proposal that we
25 were discussing is under the great grandchild. If you put

1 in quotes "if a member of the American Legion Auxiliary,"
2 because they would already have to be grandfathered in
3 that way. Only under the great grandchild because they're
4 no longer eligible.

5 PPP CHAIR CANNON: All right. Any more
6 questions?

7 DEPARTMENT TREASURER TOZIER: We have a comment
8 from Diane DeLashmit.

9 ADVISORY CHAIR DeLASHMIT: Okay. The only thing
10 that I am seeing here is that we need to notify that or
11 put something in here that if we're using great
12 grandchild, they have to be members of the Auxiliary
13 unless they are grandfathered in. If it's just a
14 grandchild out in the public, they cannot apply for this.
15 Now if they're a member of the Auxiliary, they can because
16 they're grandfathered in.

17 PPP CHAIR CANNON: So just to make everybody
18 clear, we all know that any child -- what I heard is any
19 child as long as they have a veteran in the family. It
20 doesn't matter what they are as long as it's a veteran
21 within the time frame of the period. So we don't even
22 need grandfathered anymore. We don't even need -- just
23 say child -- I would think just child -- I don't know.

24 DEPARTMENT SECRETARY DOIDGE: A veteran or their
25 relative.

1 DISTRICT 19 2ND VICE PRESIDENT BUTLER: I have a
2 question. Debbie Butler, Unit 496, District 19. I think
3 the whole issue is that great grandchild. And if the IRS
4 is going to effect us as the Auxiliary and we can't have
5 great grandchild anymore except for those that are
6 existing, then we wouldn't be able to have that in that
7 statement unless you add Auxiliary existing great
8 grandchildren could apply for it, but not outside even
9 though they're related to a veteran. Because the IRS is
10 still going to look at that and say no.

11 DEPARTMENT PRESIDENT WILLIAMS: There's another
12 hand.

13 DISTRICT 25 PRESIDENT ROGERS: Cindy Rogers,
14 District 25, Unit 421. This is open to anybody. It
15 doesn't matter if you are a member of the American Legion.
16 Okay? So great grandfather or fathered in, it wouldn't
17 matter. You see what I'm saying?

18 PPP CHAIR CANNON: Yeah, I understand what you're
19 saying.

20 DISTRICT 25 PRESIDENT ROGERS: Because the IRS
21 has nothing to do with this.

22 PPP CHAIR CANNON: I understand what you're
23 saying. The reason why we're adding it is because in the
24 current code they have them all listed. They have every
25 one of them listed who can apply annually for the

1 scholarship. A veteran, a veteran's wife, or a veteran's
2 husband, widower, widow or child. That's why we added
3 grandfather, great grandfather, and then we added great
4 grandfather, great grandchildren and great -- great
5 grandchildren and grandchildren and then the little thing
6 for the grandfathered in because all the rest of them are
7 listed.

8 DEPARTMENT PARLIAMENTARIAN BIGGS: Madam
9 President, I move to table this --

10 PPP CHAIR CANNON: Good.

11 DEPARTMENT PARLIAMENTARIAN BIGGS: -- to
12 determine if this is violating the IRS code. Because we
13 do need to verify why we have this code stated this way.
14 If there is a reason for it, we need to find that out.
15 So, Madam President, I move to table it.

16 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: I second that.

17 DEPARTMENT PRESIDENT WILLIAMS: It's been moved
18 to tabled. Is there a second?

19 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: I seconded it.

20 DEPARTMENT PRESIDENT WILLIAMS: All in favor.

21 ALL DELEGATES: Aye.

22 DEPARTMENT PRESIDENT WILLIAMS: All opposed.

23 (No response.)

24 DEPARTMENT PRESIDENT WILLIAMS: This has been
25 tabled.

1 PPP CHAIR CANNON: No.

2 DEPARTMENT PRESIDENT WILLIAMS: Don't be mad.

3 PPP CHAIR CANNON: I'm not mad. I was just
4 trying to make it clear. Because I was told they were not
5 allowed to apply last year because it didn't say great
6 grandchild and I know they are members and they have a
7 veteran in the family so why can't they apply. I was just
8 trying to get it so more kids can apply.

9 And just so you know, last year there wasn't one
10 \$4,000 scholarship applicant. This year I had one. Now
11 is that because we need grand -- you know, grandchildren
12 and great grandchildren in there?

13 Do you want me to do everything later? Okay.
14 I'll just tell you about the luncheon. So for those of
15 you that are attendees of the PPP luncheon, it's in the --

16 DEPARTMENT PRESIDENT WILLIAMS: Go ahead and do
17 the rest of your report.

18 PPP CHAIR CANNON: Do the rest of the report?

19 DEPARTMENT PRESIDENT WILLIAMS: Yes.

20 DEPARTMENT PARLIAMENTARIAN BIGGS: You have
21 another code also, don't you?

22 PPP CHAIR CANNON: Code 13 currently reads: "The
23 corsages and Past Presidents Parley Luncheon tickets for
24 the \$4,000 scholarship winner and/or the Auxiliary Member
25 of the Year who attend the luncheon will be paid out of

1 the Convention Expenses. The Women Veteran Honorees who
2 attend the luncheon will also be paid out of the
3 Convention Expenses. As a courtesy for the recognition a
4 Past National President brings to California, her Past
5 Presidents Parley Luncheon ticket will be paid out of the
6 Convention Expenses. (2018)."

7 Code 13 to read: "The corsage and Past
8 Presidents Parley Luncheon ticket for the \$4,000
9 scholarship winner who attends the luncheon will be paid
10 out of the Convention Expenses. As a courtesy for the
11 recognition a Past National President brings to
12 California, her Past Presidents Parley Luncheon ticket
13 will be paid out of the Convention Expenses."

14 By the direction of the committee, I move to
15 adopt this code change.

16 DEPARTMENT PRESIDENT WILLIAMS: Is there any
17 discussion on the motion? This is a code change. I'll
18 read it again. Where is the hand? I have a question
19 right now. I'll restate the motion. "The corsage and
20 Past Presidents Parley Luncheon ticket for the \$4,000
21 scholarship winner who attend the luncheon will be paid
22 out of the Convention Expenses. As a courtesy for the
23 recognition a Past National President brings to
24 California, her Past Presidents Parley Luncheon ticket
25 will be paid out of the Convention Expenses."

1 DEPARTMENT TREASURER TOZIER: Susie Tozier,
2 District 22, Unit 255. What -- do the other committees
3 since they moved the Woman of the Year and the Veteran of
4 the Year, are they adding in their codes this so that
5 their luncheon is paid for?

6 PPP CHAIR CANNON: Yes. Just for those of you
7 that know, National got rid of the Past President Parley
8 program, but we have it in California. So when they did
9 that, they moved -- because in the original, you know,
10 before last year, all of those programs, the Salute to
11 Service Woman, the Unit Member of the Year and the Nurses
12 Scholarship belonged to the Past President Parley program.
13 Once National moved the Past President Parley program from
14 their -- from National, they moved the Salute to Service
15 Woman to National Security and they moved Unit Member of
16 the Year to Leadership. They have code changes to add
17 that into their code.

18 DEPARTMENT TREASURER TOZIER: Okay. Thank you.
19 I just needed the information so the Treasurer can make
20 sure they cover the cost.

21 DEPARTMENT PRESIDENT WILLIAMS: All in favor.

22 ALL DELEGATES: Aye.

23 DEPARTMENT PRESIDENT WILLIAMS: All opposed.

24 (No response.)

25 DEPARTMENT PRESIDENT WILLIAMS: Motion carried.

1 Thank you.

2 PPP CHAIR CANNON: Thank you. Madam President,
3 can I continue with my floor report?

4 DEPARTMENT PRESIDENT WILLIAMS: Yes.

5 PPP CHAIR CANNON: Past President Parley chairmen
6 reported they were working within their units mentoring,
7 training Auxiliary members, new and old on American Legion
8 Auxiliary programs, how to achieve goals, encouraging
9 questions, participation in workshops, donating to
10 department, and most important cultivating a culture of
11 goodwill for all.

12 District 28's PPP Chairman Molly Smith reported
13 they have ten presidents that meet two times a year to
14 discuss future events, plan new activities, find solutions
15 for unit problems, review standing rules, provide
16 donations to Department and District 28's nursing
17 scholarship fund. In Molly's words because of this
18 collaboration District 28 becomes more productive while
19 promoting goodwill and inclusivity to all members.

20 District 22's Chairman Gigi Manno reported they
21 had 500 senior and four juniors volunteer 1500 hours
22 sorting and distributing 130 associated brochures and 150
23 nurses scholarship applications which were delivered to
24 local high schools. To earn money for department PPP
25 donations, they recycled glass bottles, cans, and

1 cardboard.

2 District 19 Chairman Linda Fariss reported that
3 the Past Presidents Parley remains one of the most popular
4 programs.

5 One unit's PPP chairman and National Security
6 chairman co-sponsored a fundraiser auction honoring
7 Chinese New Year. Monies raised was split between the two
8 chairmen for their programs' use. More about that later.

9 Past President Parley Chairman Tami Wilkening
10 from District 16 reported they have a PPP group that meets
11 four times a year in different locations. Tami reported
12 they are blessed with 12 Past District Presidents, 16
13 Presidents that attend their district meetings of those
14 Past District Presidents. They are fortunate to have this
15 level of knowledge mentoring the 1,011 plus members in
16 their district.

17 District 18 Chairman Betty Ramos reported on
18 their PPP's special project Honoring Former Service Women
19 with a luncheon. Their district worked together to
20 provide meals and gifts. They provided each veteran with
21 a pin with the image of a military woman printed with
22 "Honor Courage Sacrifice Women Veterans." Two of the
23 veterans shared their experiences in the Air Force and
24 Navy explaining why they enlisted, their happy, and not so
25 happy times.

1 Thank you to Auxiliary members that made the Past
2 President Parley a part of your unit and district this
3 year. With Department President Gloria's theme "All
4 Aboard The Friendship Train - Serving Veterans," a great
5 reminder with all of us on board, we do anything as we
6 share our knowledge, skills, talents and respect for each
7 of us.

8 Madam President Gloria, this concludes my report.
9 May I present my first place awards?

10 DEPARTMENT PRESIDENT WILLIAMS: Yes.

11 PPP CHAIR CANNON: First place district
12 supplemental for Past Presidents Parley goes to District
13 28 Molly Smith, Chairman.

14 (Applause.)

15 PPP CHAIR CANNON: First place best unit
16 supplemental for Past Presidents Parley goes to Unit 694,
17 District 28 Susan Baker, Chairman.

18 (Applause.)

19 PPP CHAIR CANNON: Okay. This is -- this is the
20 part with the later. Unit with the largest donation to
21 the department nurses scholarship goes to Lakewood Unit
22 496, District 19, Gayle Stewart, Chairman.

23 (Applause.)

24 PPP CHAIR CANNON: I just wanted to report that
25 Unit 476's donation was \$600 -- 496. I'm sorry. 496.

1 I'm dyslexic for all of you who don't know. District 19,
2 and their total district total for the entire district was
3 \$753 to our Department Nurses Scholarship Fund.

4 (Applause.)

5 PPP CHAIR CANNON: Okay. So, Madam President,
6 thank you for this appointment and I wish you a most
7 successful convention. And this ends my report.

8 DEPARTMENT PRESIDENT WILLIAMS: Thank you, Joan.

9 (Applause.)

10 DEPARTMENT PRESIDENT WILLIAMS: I would like
11 our --

12 PPP CHAIR CANNON: So now we'll talk about the
13 PPP Luncheon. It's in the Redwood Room, you know where we
14 all registered. It's right across on this side and it
15 starts at 12:00. It's open seating except for a couple
16 reserved tables. They'll have a little tab on there, but
17 otherwise sit anywhere you want. And for those of you
18 that are at the head table, I have your tickets so don't
19 worry about that. Thank you very much for all your
20 support this year in the PPP program.

21 DEPARTMENT PRESIDENT WILLIAMS: Thank you, Joan.

22 I'd like to call Community Service Sharon Moore.

23

24 COMMUNITY SERVICE CONVENTION REPORT

25

1 COMMUNITY SERVICE CHAIR MOORE: Good morning,
2 Madam President, members and guests.

3 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Good morning, Sharon.

4 COMMUNITY SERVICE CHAIR MOORE: Somebody heard
5 me. The convention committee on Community Service met on
6 June 22nd in the red room -- Redwood Room. The
7 statistical report of this chairman appears on what would
8 be page 26, because it's not numbered, page 26 in the Book
9 of Reports. Gabriela Ramos was appointed secretary,
10 District 18. Arlene Smith offered prayer, District 11,
11 and Tracy Varnell-Fercho was appointed Sergeant-at-Arms,
12 District 16. A total of 16 district delegates answered
13 roll call. There were nine visitors present.

14 The committee agreed upon the following report.
15 The department code was read and there were no code
16 changes.

17 (Applause.)

18 DEPARTMENT PRESIDENT WILLIAMS: Sharon?

19 COMMUNITY SERVICE CHAIR MOORE: I knew you guys
20 would like that.

21 Yes, ma'am.

22 DEPARTMENT PRESIDENT WILLIAMS: Sharon, do have a
23 copy of your committee report?

24 COMMUNITY SERVICE CHAIR MOORE: No, I didn't get
25 a chance to get it. We'll get it to you later. You're

1 talking about the statistical report? I mean the --

2 DEPARTMENT PARLIAMENTARIAN BIGGS: For the
3 reporter.

4 COMMUNITY SERVICE CHAIR MOORE: The reporter
5 needs it. Okay. I'll get it to her.

6 Second and third place awards as well as 100
7 percent certificates were given in committee.

8 Madam President, can I go on with my report?

9 DEPARTMENT PRESIDENT WILLIAMS: Yes.

10 COMMUNITY SERVICE CHAIR MOORE: The Conductors of
11 the Friendship Train have been busy promoting the
12 Community Service program making many stops along the way
13 providing assistance to veterans, their families, and the
14 community. Twenty-five districts have submitted reports
15 detailing events and activities from 151 units across the
16 state. A total of 89 units reported participating in
17 national recognized days of service including Patriots
18 Day, Gold Star Mother's Day, Independence Day, 9/11,
19 Veterans' Day, Pearl Harbor Day, and Make a Difference
20 Day, just to name a few.

21 They also participated in Wreaths Across America,
22 Memorial Day, Four Chaplains, and Welcome Vietnam Vets
23 Day. Eighty-four units participated in homeless veterans
24 activities and 33 units participated in job or career
25 fairs. A total of 1,827 volunteers, seniors and juniors

1 have spent over 91,000 hours developing, implementing
2 and/or monitoring community events that aided veterans or
3 active duty service members and their families. Units
4 reported nearly \$26,000 spent promoting homelessness
5 prevention for nearly 3,000 family members of veterans.
6 They reported nearly \$500,000 in in-kind donations with
7 one unit reporting over 325,000 themselves alone.

8 Many units reported participating in or hosting
9 Stand Downs, delivering meals to the homeless at Christmas
10 and Easter, participating in Neighborhood Watch programs,
11 assisting with local Toys For Tots programs, helping
12 neighbors maintain their yards and even painting their
13 homes. Several units host monthly and some weekly
14 bingo -- I'm sorry. Bingo at veterans facilities and also
15 host military branch birthdays.

16 One unit hosted a 5K run at the local airport,
17 and this same unit reported they assisted the local police
18 department count and bag the toys that were collected at
19 their toy drive.

20 Another unit reported working with the community
21 on Toys For Tots to fill 630 60-gallon bags of toys and
22 other items to give to local low income families. This
23 unit also organized a Toys For Tots run where volunteers
24 rode motorcycles to collect the donated toys.

25 One unit hosted a homeless veterans resource fair

1 costing the unit \$429. Another unit reported 36 hours of
2 volunteer service to Police Explorers and 36 hours
3 assisting with youth sports. One unit had three members
4 to volunteer over 900 hours just between them. One unit
5 showcased over 250 laminated photos in the local park of
6 veterans from the community that have passed.

7 In addition to volunteer hours, one unit donates
8 450 boxes of food monthly valued at \$12,372. They also
9 donated small appliances, bedding, towels, alcohol wipes,
10 boots, and dress shirts. Other activities include
11 volunteering at food banks, senior centers, homeless
12 shelters, nursing homes, medical clinics, libraries,
13 public and private schools as tutors, teachers' aides, and
14 library assistance, volunteering with Habitat For Humanity
15 and at the various VA medical centers.

16 Eight members of one unit provided 186 volunteer
17 hours to the local fire station. Another had members and
18 community volunteers assist with the clean up and of a
19 local cemetery and provided lunch to each participant.
20 Various members provided over 640 hours as caregivers to
21 veterans and made quilts for veterans in nursing homes
22 totaling \$1,850. One unit even hosted a birthday party
23 for a 100-year-old veteran and granted him items that were
24 on his bucket list.

25 Many units host monthly dinners and breakfasts to

1 assist in funding their volunteer service. One unit hosts
2 a weekly Taco Tuesday and they make over 25,000 tacos over
3 the year. They also have outreach programs to assist
4 veterans who have no family. Many reported partnering
5 with local shelters and their local VA providing clothing,
6 toiletries, and companionship.

7 Units also participated in holiday parades to
8 promote patriotism and bring awareness of our
9 organization. One unit volunteers yearly to build and
10 decorate a float for their city and won the Bob Hope Humor
11 Award again this year for the fifth time.

12 Another unit volunteers their services posting
13 and presenting colors, which are flags, at various events
14 throughout the state including West LA VAMC, U.S. Vets,
15 national Vietnam War Veterans programs, local sororities,
16 local councils, civic events and Department Convention.

17 Several units participated in Memorial Day events
18 providing food, entertainment, distribution of flags and
19 brochures and had guest speakers from dignitaries in their
20 communities.

21 The Department of California Friendship Train has
22 made its final stop here in Visalia. Thank you to all
23 that continue to keep their eyes on the prize which is
24 serving our veterans, their families, and the community.

25 Madam President, that ends my report. May I move

1 on with my awards?

2 DEPARTMENT PRESIDENT WILLIAMS: Yes, you may.

3 (Applause.)

4 COMMUNITY SERVICE CHAIR MOORE: First I will have
5 for district, we have best overall district program.

6 First place goes to District 16 Tami Wilkening, Chairman.

7 (Applause.)

8 COMMUNITY SERVICE CHAIR MOORE: Do we have
9 someone up here for District 17? First place unit program
10 goes to Allied Unit 302, Rodi Andressci, Chairman.

11 (Applause.)

12 COMMUNITY SERVICE CHAIR MOORE: Madam President,
13 that ends my report and thank you so much for this
14 assignment.

15 DEPARTMENT PRESIDENT WILLIAMS: Thank you,
16 Sharon.

17 (Applause.)

18 DEPARTMENT PRESIDENT WILLIAMS: Those of you who
19 are making nominations for the offices -- okay. Excuse
20 me. You don't need to come up.

21 Legislative Chairman Dee Ann, are you still in
22 the house? Okay. Would you like to give your report,
23 Madam Dee Ann? She's whistling. She's ready.

24 LEGISLATIVE CHAIR GRAHAM: You all know I'm the
25 whistle stop; right?

1 DEPARTMENT PRESIDENT WILLIAMS: Yes, we do.

2 LEGISLATIVE CHAIR GRAHAM: How are you doing,
3 Madam President?

4 DEPARTMENT PRESIDENT WILLIAMS: Fine, Dee Ann.

5 LEGISLATIVE CHAIR GRAHAM: I just want you to
6 know it's nice being on the wrong side of the tracks. I
7 mean on this side of the tracks, not the wrong side.

8 DEPARTMENT PRESIDENT WILLIAMS: I'm coming with
9 you soon.

10 LEGISLATIVE CHAIR GRAHAM: Goodness gracious.
11 Are we having fun now?

12

13 LEGISLATIVE CONVENTION REPORT

14

15 LEGISLATIVE CHAIR GRAHAM: The Legislative
16 committee met in the Birch Room. We had 17 district
17 delegates and one visitor. The committee agreed on the
18 following report. No code changes.

19 (Applause.)

20 LEGISLATIVE CHAIR GRAHAM: The committee -- Madam
21 President, your Friendship Train has reached its final
22 destination and we are so honored to have you come aboard
23 the PPP train later tonight.

24 Auxiliary members reported volunteering at their
25 local voting polls, hosting candidates night which allow

1 members to get to know their candidates and current
2 legislative issues. Members either wrote, called, or
3 emailed their representatives about issues which were
4 important in the lives of our veterans.

5 Two important bills passed this year. The PACT
6 Act and the Camp Lejeune, benefits which were long overdue
7 for many of our veterans and families. A great example of
8 the Legion Family voices being heard when they were called
9 upon for immediate action through our grassroots website
10 votervoice.net. Everybody should be on that. I'm
11 encouraging -- it encourages representatives to pass the
12 PACT Act. This system occurred several times this year.
13 As alerts went out, the Family Legion provided the message
14 to their representatives to pass the bill. I named this
15 program the Quiet Giant. Why? Because you could
16 participate in your own home and yet have a big impact on
17 supporting our veterans, our female veterans, and those
18 currently serving and their families.

19 My year has ended so I'm asking our members to
20 continue to be advocates for our veterans. Like our
21 military, we must remain vigilant, take action when we're
22 called upon.

23 Madam President, that concludes my report, but
24 may I announce my first place winners?

25 DEPARTMENT PRESIDENT WILLIAMS: Yes, you may.

1 LEGISLATIVE CHAIR GRAHAM: The second place and
2 third place were announced at our committee meeting.
3 District 25, first place district.

4 (Applause.)

5 LEGISLATIVE CHAIR GRAHAM: First place -- my
6 certificates are falling out of folders. First place Unit
7 award goes to Apple Valley 256 Patty Galatioto. Patty G.

8 (Applause.)

9 LEGISLATIVE CHAIR GRAHAM: We love to give.
10 Thank you, Madam President.

11 (Applause.)

12 DEPARTMENT PRESIDENT WILLIAMS: Thank you very
13 much. Joan, do you want to go through that?

14 Those of you who are making nominations for the
15 office for 2023-'24, please be on the stage when you
16 return from lunch. Did everyone hear me?

17 Those of you who are making nominations for the
18 offices for 2023-'24, please be on the stage when we --
19 when we return from lunch.

20 At this time Elizabeth has some train whistles.
21 Elizabeth -- I call her Liz all year, but now it's
22 Elizabeth. Do you have any train whistles?

23 DEPARTMENT SECRETARY DOIDGE: Yes, I do. So
24 first we have Susie's Farmers, Dee Ann's Surfers meet in
25 the back of the room at the close of business today.

1 Henry's not in here today, but we want to do a
2 shout out to Henry Sanchez for all his amazing photography
3 and just hanging out with us.

4 (Applause.)

5 DEPARTMENT SECRETARY DOIDGE: Susie, Odette's
6 daughter, has donated Odette's District 18 Department
7 President History Book and for her Department President
8 History Book to the Department. They are both in the back
9 of the room for viewing pleasure if anyone would like to
10 check those out.

11 The Constitution & Bylaws committee will meet at
12 the right side of the stage at the beginning of the lunch
13 break, please.

14 Sue's Lighthouses and Melanie's Balloon Pilots
15 will meet in the hallway and meet with Melanie in the
16 hallway after convention today.

17 If you've ordered corsages, they will be
18 available in the registration area from 12:00 to 1:30 and
19 from 4:00 to 5:00.

20 Are there any more? No, that one I reported on.
21 Madam -- please have Bonnie's Prom Princesses and Sandy's
22 Colonels meet at the back of the convention room after
23 session today. And that's it.

24 DEPARTMENT PRESIDENT WILLIAMS: That's it. Okay.
25 We will now recess for lunch and reconvene at 2:00. Did

1 you hear me? We will reconvene at 2:00 o'clock.

2 (Lunch recess taken: 11:23 a.m.)

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AFTERNOON SESSION - 2:01 P.M.

DEPARTMENT PRESIDENT WILLIAMS: This convention is reconvened. May we have it quiet, please. The chairmen giving reports after the nominations will be -- listen up -- Girls State, Education, Children and Youth Poppy, Membership, Editor, Education, and National Security.

Sergeant-at-Arms and Marshal -- Sergeant-at-Arms, please -- please bring up to this -- okay. Ashlin and Diana, please meet the Sergeant-at-Arms in the rear.

PPP Nursing Scholarship winner Ashlin Habes, Unit Member of the Year is Diana Reymundo from Unit 272, District 19. Would you please bring them forward.

(Processional.)

DEPARTMENT PRESIDENT WILLIAMS: Thank you.

PPP CHAIR CANNON: For those of you who weren't at the PPP Luncheon today, we wanted you to be able to see and meet our \$4,000 scholarship winner Ashlin Habes.

(Applause.)

PPP CHAIR CANNON: And would you like to say a few words?

SCHOLARSHIP WINNER HABES: Hi, everybody. How are you doing? Great. I hope you're -- I hope you're feeling pretty energized from lunch because this is going

1 to be a repeat if you were at the luncheon.

2 I just want to take a moment to thank District 28
3 for the nomination and this amazing honor. I'm supported
4 on this journey into nursing by my mother who was an
5 incredible neonatal intensive care unit nurse. I hope to
6 follow in her footsteps. Thank you for this scholarship
7 to obtain my BSN and I hope to go on to my master's and
8 become a nurse practitioner.

9 I wanted to thank my mom and dad also, who are up
10 here in the front, for driving the three hours this
11 morning here with me. It only shows a small portion of
12 the support they've shown me throughout my nursing program
13 and all of its challenges.

14 Speaking of challenges, I wanted to talk on how
15 in nursing we're taught a lot about resilience, what it
16 takes to bounce back and serve our patients and continue
17 on no matter the obstacles and difficulties we face. But
18 something we don't talk about too often is what it takes
19 to build that resilience, and that is the amazing
20 community especially the one that you have here. And I
21 feel so honored to be a part of that.

22 (Applause.)

23 SCHOLARSHIP WINNER HABES: It's always been my
24 dearest belief that no barrier is insurmountable. As long
25 as we have the community behind us, we can break past it

1 and obtain any goal that we set our mind to. So thank you
2 for helping me achieve my academic goals and supporting so
3 many of our amazing students. Thank you.

4 PPP CHAIR CANNON: And at the luncheon President
5 Gloria presented her with her certificate. Thank you.

6 (Applause.)

7 PPP CHAIR CANNON: And we also wanted to, for
8 those who weren't at the luncheon, to introduce our Unit
9 Member of the Year Diana Reymundo.

10 (Applause.)

11 PPP CHAIR CANNON: And she's going to say a few
12 words.

13 UNIT MEMBER OF THE YEAR REYMUNDO: It's an honor
14 to be recognized by Ms. Gloria Williams. Thank you. I
15 appreciate it. I'd like to thank my President Matthew
16 Lario for always approving everything I do. So thank you.

17 (Applause.)

18 DEPARTMENT PRESIDENT WILLIAMS: Thank you very
19 much. Sergeant-at-Arms and Marshal -- Assistant
20 Sergeant-at-Arms, please take them back to their seats.

21 (Processional.)

22 DEPARTMENT PRESIDENT WILLIAMS: Before we start,
23 Sharon Moore, are you here?

24 COMMUNITY SERVICE CHAIR MOORE: Thank you, Madam
25 President and ladies. And this is just really for the

1 court reporter. I mean for your knowledge as well, of
2 course, but I just neglected to mention that for Community
3 Service, the first place unit award for Allied Unit 302
4 has been submitted to National for competition.

5 (Applause.)

6 DEPARTMENT PRESIDENT WILLIAMS: Thank you,
7 Sharon. At this time we will proceed with the nomination
8 for the Department Officers, Junior Member of Finance,
9 Delegates and Alternates to National Convention. If
10 there's no objections, the Chair will open for
11 nominations.

12

13 NOMINATIONS FOR DEPARTMENT OFFICERS 2023-2024

14

15 DEPARTMENT PRESIDENT WILLIAMS: Now nominations
16 are open for the office of Department President. The
17 Chair recognizes Melise Munroe from District 7.

18 DISTRICT 7 PRESIDENT MUNROE: First I want to say
19 it's a real honor to be able to nominate Glenda Schultz.
20 Glenda joined the American Legion Auxiliary Unit 521 Rio
21 Linda, District 6 in 2007. Her eligibility is through her
22 brother Harold Schultz, a Vietnam Army veteran who served
23 in the U.S. Navy during World War II and in the U.S. Navy
24 during Vietnam. Glenda is very proud of her brother's
25 service to our community.

1 After graduating from high school, Glenda started
2 working for AT&T advancing her way to control center
3 manager in Auburn, retiring after 25 years. Then Glenda
4 became a corporate escrow officer for five years. Glenda
5 ended up her working career as a site acquisition
6 specialist for Pacific Group Engineering. Glenda has one
7 son, one grandson, one great grandson, all members of SAL.

8 In 2020 Glenda moved to Roseville and transferred
9 to Unit 169, District 7. She has strongly supported and
10 participated in Unit 169 and District 7 activities. We
11 have been blessed to have Glenda join us.

12 On the unit level, Glenda has held all major
13 chairmanships. She served five consecutive terms as Unit
14 521 president. She served four years as District 6
15 president. For the Department Glenda served as Mid-Year
16 DEC Chair, Deputy for VA North California Healthcare
17 System Mather. For five years Glenda served as Northern
18 California Department Workshop Chair.

19 Other chairmanships include Convention Rules,
20 Americanism, Community Service, Children and Youth, VA&R,
21 Constitution & Bylaws, and Department Vice President
22 '22-'23.

23 District 7 proudly nominates Glenda Schultz for
24 the office of American Legion Auxiliary Department of
25 California President for 2023-'24.

1 (Applause.)

2 DEPARTMENT PRESIDENT WILLIAMS: Thank you. Are
3 there any further nominations for the Department
4 President?

5 (No response.)

6 DEPARTMENT PRESIDENT WILLIAMS: Hearing none,
7 nominations for the Department President are now closed.

8 Nominations are now open for the office of
9 Department Vice President. The Chair recognizes Bonnie
10 Christner, Past Department President, of District 20 for
11 the purpose of a nomination.

12 PAST DEPARTMENT PRESIDENT CHRISTNER: Thank you,
13 Madam President. Linda Hayes joined the American Legion
14 Auxiliary in 1992 under her father who was a Marine in
15 World War II. Since then she has been a member of
16 Palmdale Unit 348 in District 20.

17 After belonging to the Unit 348 for a few years,
18 she started wondering what this thing called District
19 meetings was all about. When she asked her fellow members
20 about it, they told her: Oh, we don't go to that. It's
21 not mandatory so you don't have to go to that. Sound
22 familiar, ladies?

23 Well, Linda being the person that she is and
24 really having a love for the American Legion Auxiliary,
25 she wanted to know more. So she decided to find out for

1 herself what the 20th District was all about and started
2 to attend district meetings. This is where a whole new
3 part of the American Legion Auxiliary opened up to her.
4 There was so much to learn, and to her surprise there were
5 members in the district who were more than willing to
6 answer any questions that she had.

7 She then took all of this information and shared
8 it with her members in her unit, which was a blessing.
9 Since she had already served as president and had numerous
10 chairmanships for her unit, she decided she wanted to
11 serve in a higher capacity. And, boy, was District 20
12 glad she did.

13 As you can see in the brochures that were handed
14 out last night and some at the door this morning, she has
15 held many chairmanships in the District 20. But she
16 didn't stop there. After serving as District President in
17 2011-2012 she was asked by the incoming Department
18 President Terry Mikesell to be her Junior Activities
19 Chairman. And as you can see by the brochures, she just
20 went on and on from there serving the Department of
21 California in many different capacities.

22 So now that I've refreshed your memory about what
23 Linda has done for the American Legion Auxiliary, I'm
24 going to tell you about some things you might not know
25 about Linda. In 2018 she was diagnosed with COPD, which I

1 would like to add is now controlled with medication and
2 has not slowed Linda down one bit as she has continued to
3 serve her veterans.

4 I'm also sure you've heard about the -- about
5 Linda missing a meeting in Washington D.C. And I'm here
6 to tell you yes, she did, she missed that meeting. Did
7 she miss it because of her COPD? No. It was because of
8 the wrong test results from a doctor she thought that she
9 could trust.

10 Can you imagine going in for a procedure and then
11 having the doctor tell you that they think you have cancer
12 of your bile duct and your liver? Then come to find out
13 she couldn't get ahold of that doctor, so they told her to
14 go to the ER at the hospital to speak with him. After
15 hours and hours of waiting there, she finally got to speak
16 to his assistant and he told her that they were going to
17 admit her in the hospital for testing. Just like that,
18 you're in the hospital.

19 So now Linda is in the hospital for two days not
20 really knowing what is going on with her. And when all
21 was said and done, Linda found out that the doctor gave
22 her the test results of another person, not her test
23 results. So she didn't have liver cancer, thank goodness.
24 We don't know about the other person. We pray for him.
25 But now that doctor no longer works for that hospital. Go

1 figure.

2 (Applause.)

3 PAST DEPARTMENT PRESIDENT CHRISTNER: But it
4 didn't really matter because Linda had now missed her
5 chance to go to Washington D.C. and represent the
6 Department of California, which really broke her heart
7 because I know, I was there talking with her and she was
8 just heartbroken because she couldn't go. But what are
9 you going to do when you're in the hospital and someone
10 tells you within a few hours that you have to be admitted.
11 So there wasn't really time for her to get a replacement
12 to go.

13 So my thought here today is we have this amazing
14 person who has gone through many chairmanships in the
15 unit, the district, and the department. And she has done
16 a wonderful job for the Department of California. Just
17 last year she received a National award for her Poppy
18 report from our National Chairman, which happens to be
19 sitting here on this stage.

20 But she missed that meeting, and now all of a
21 sudden she isn't healthy enough to do the job of
22 Department Vice President and Department President and all
23 the work that she has done for the past 31 years is for
24 nothing?

25 I ask you, ladies, is this the kind of an

1 organization we want to be? I think not. Being a Past
2 Department President myself, I too want to do what's best
3 for the Department of California, and I have to tell you
4 with all my heart and soul, I truly think that Linda Hayes
5 is what's best for the Department of California and I hope
6 you all will join me in thinking so too.

7 (Applause.)

8 PAST DEPARTMENT PRESIDENT CHRISTNER: Madam
9 Department President Gloria and members, I would like to
10 nominate Linda Hayes for the Department Vice President
11 office for the Auxiliary for the year 2023-2024.

12 (Applause.)

13 DEPARTMENT PRESIDENT WILLIAMS: The Chair now
14 recognizes Linda Workman, Past Department President, from
15 District 9 for the purpose of a nomination of Department
16 Vice President.

17 PAST DEPARTMENT PRESIDENT WORKMAN: Good
18 afternoon. On behalf of Pasadena Unit 13 in the 18th
19 District, it is my honor to place a nomination, an
20 outstanding Auxiliary member. She's been a member for 53
21 years of this great organization through the eligibility
22 of her father, a World War II Army Air Force veteran.

23 Starting out as a leader in our Junior group in
24 Florida and serving on the Department Junior level, she
25 was then one of the first delegates to attend the National

1 Junior Conference.

2 When moving to California, her dedication not
3 only to the Auxiliary but to the Legion, Sons, and Riders
4 followed her. Being the type of person who never looks
5 for accolades for herself, she has shown her leadership
6 skills to incorporate others to chair and participate in
7 fundraising functions and community donations for all
8 groups within her community. Helping others is her main
9 goal and making life better for veterans, children, and
10 her community is her only goal.

11 Her dedication did not go unnoticed when she
12 received National divisional chairmanships and her
13 projects were highlighted in the National Auxiliary News.
14 A strong leader with a go-to attitude and making changes
15 to better our organization is one of her only goals she
16 has set for herself.

17 It is my sincere honor to place a nomination for
18 the office of Department Vice President for the year
19 2023-'24 the name of Maureen Sacco -- I'm sorry. Maureen
20 O'Brien-Sacco. Let's get it right here.

21 (Applause.)

22 DEPARTMENT PRESIDENT WILLIAMS: Are there any
23 further nominations for the office of Vice President?

24 (No response.)

25 DEPARTMENT PRESIDENT WILLIAMS: Hearing none,

1 nominations for the Department Vice President are now
2 closed.

3 As we have two candidates for the office of Vice
4 President, each candidate will have three minutes to
5 address the delegates starting with Linda Hayes.

6 VICE PRESIDENT CANDIDATE HAYES: Good afternoon.
7 My name is Linda Hayes and I'm running for Vice President
8 of the American Legion Auxiliary Department of California
9 for '23-'24.

10 Having 20 years of budgeting experiences as well
11 as HR, I feel like I'm qualified for the job. I've work
12 six Department chairmanships and spent three years on the
13 Finance Committee. I have specific ideas to make each
14 program work more efficiently and smoothly. I would love
15 to bring these ideas to our American Legion Family,
16 Auxiliary family. Not a single member in this room is
17 unaware of the obstacles the American Legion Auxiliary is
18 facing. That being noted, I believe I possess a unique
19 skillset that can move this organization forward.

20 The changes I am proposing will affect every
21 member positively. Finances are the sole of any
22 nonprofit. Having served three years on the finance
23 committee, I have committed to finding alternate forms of
24 revenue. I will appoint a special committee and task them
25 with providing support to units and districts in the area

1 of fundraising, applying for grants, overseeing and
2 identifying businesses that would partner with Auxiliary
3 programs.

4 Realizing that approximately 89 percent of the
5 United States adults use the Internet, 80 percent of
6 Internet users own a smart phone, 80 percent of social
7 media time is spent on a mobile device, Auxiliary promotes
8 100 percent online participation, I will establish a group
9 to oversee using social platforms to attract supporters in
10 membership, active volunteers, and contributors to utilize
11 social media marketing ability on Facebook, Twitter,
12 Instagram, and video marketing.

13 With my background in education, I was constantly
14 reliant of having contingency plans in place if an
15 unexpected disaster occurs.

16 I believe we are coming close to the brink of
17 war. I will create a sound plan of action to develop a
18 training program for Auxiliary members to learn how to
19 counsel and care for our sick, injured, and diseased
20 military, which will include working closely with
21 hospitals, nursing homes, and caregivers of the injured,
22 working with the military families for the fallen to
23 identify where areas of the greatest needs need to be
24 centered.

25 The Auxiliary has given me a purpose that is

1 especially dear to my heart. If I am elected, it will be
2 an honor to serve and support our ALA programs and the
3 veteran community. Look through the haze to see the
4 future with Linda Hayes.

5 (Applause.)

6 DEPARTMENT PRESIDENT WILLIAMS: We will now hear
7 from Maureen O'Brien-Sacco.

8 VICE PRESIDENT CANDIDATE O'BRIEN-SACCO: Hello,
9 ladies and gentlemen, if we have any in the room. My name
10 is Maureen O'Brien-Sacco and I am running for the high
11 office of Department Vice President.

12 I believe in the core traditions of this
13 organization and its long-held traditions. I also believe
14 we owe it to evolve and change with the needs of the
15 organization and its members. We need to remember we are
16 a group of volunteers that are here to serve our veterans
17 and our community. It is okay to disagree, but remember
18 our common goal. There is more than one way to reach a
19 goal. We need to encourage our members and work with them
20 to accomplish their goals. We need to celebrate new ideas
21 and the success that can be reached by trying something
22 different. It is about our purpose, not our
23 personalities. Service, not self.

24 We should be working across districts and help
25 each other out where we can get so much more accomplished

1 when we work together. The future of this organization is
2 in our hands. We are our future. We decide. I believe
3 in actively listening to help our members, not talking
4 down to them. We do not make ourselves look better by
5 making someone else look bad. Teach, guide, inspire.

6 We have a lot of members who would love to serve
7 this department on different levels as well as districts,
8 but are neither given the selected choice or told to wait
9 their turn. This is our organization, not a board game.

10 Members, it is our turn. There is no rank among
11 us. My father's service was my entry. My passion is my
12 seat at the table. I lead beside members and let them
13 earn the win, and then celebrate them because of it.
14 There is not only one way to do things. We need to help
15 units by helping them use resources available. And if
16 they do not figure it out, help them.

17 Communication is key and we need to make
18 improvements in this area. Our members are the lifeline
19 of this organization and we need to reach them wherever
20 they are. I have accepted many opportunities asked of me
21 and I have followed through on all of them. We have had
22 many successes along the way and I sincerely thank all of
23 you that have helped along the way.

24 I am forward focused to help units and districts
25 find their way of thinking outside the box. I am a firm

1 deliver in new ideas and helping navigate what success
2 could look like.

3 Again, my name is Maureen O'Brien-Sacco and I
4 appreciate your consideration and support.

5 (Applause.)

6 DEPARTMENT PRESIDENT WILLIAMS: The nominations
7 are now open for the office of Department Junior Member of
8 Finance. This Chair recognizes Peggy Toye from District
9 26.

10 DISTRICT 26 PRESIDENT TOYE: Good afternoon.
11 It's my honor to represent District 26 in San Mateo County
12 to nominate Brenda Ternullo as the Junior Finance
13 Committee Member. Brenda manages her own bookkeeping
14 business. She serves as the inaugural treasurer of Unit
15 105 Redwood which we established in 2020 in the middle of
16 the pandemic. She also serves as Treasurer in District
17 26. But she's done more than that. She's been on Blue
18 Star Mothers of America's Finance Committee for 11 years,
19 she's a Blue Star Mom Treasurer for two years, Blue Star
20 Mothers of America's Finance Secretary for two years.

21 If that isn't enough, Brenda serves on the Avenue
22 of the committees -- pardon me. The Avenue of the Flags
23 committee at the Golden Gate National Cemetery and is
24 treasurer of multiple other nonprofit organizations.

25 Lastly, I want to say having worked with Brenda

1 for the last four years, I've been impressed with her
2 ethical standards and her verve for her responsibility
3 towards the unit and our district. It's my pleasure to
4 nominate Brenda Ternullo as the Junior Finance Committee
5 Member.

6 (Applause.)

7 DEPARTMENT PRESIDENT WILLIAMS: Are there any
8 further nominations for the office of Department Junior
9 Member of Finance?

10 (No response.)

11 DEPARTMENT PRESIDENT WILLIAMS: Hearing none, the
12 nominations for the Department Junior Member of Finance
13 are now closed. Nominations are now open for the office
14 of National Executive Committee Person. The Chair
15 recognizes Marie Wigham from District 24.

16 DISTRICT 24 DELEGATE WIGHAM: Good afternoon.
17 The 20 -- Culver City Community Unit 46 and the 24th
18 District proudly nominate Kathie Martinez for the National
19 Executive Committee Person. Kathie has been a member of
20 this organization for 45 years. Her eligibility is
21 through father. She has held many positions in the unit,
22 district, and department and she was Department President
23 from 2019 through 2021. It is my pleasure to nominate
24 Kathie Martinez for NEC Executive Person.

25 (Applause.)

1 DEPARTMENT PRESIDENT WILLIAMS: Are there any
2 more nominations for this office?

3 (No response.)

4 DEPARTMENT PRESIDENT WILLIAMS: Hearing none, the
5 nominations are now closed for National Executive
6 Committeewoman.

7 Nominations are now open for the office of
8 Alternative National Executive Committee Person. The
9 Chair recognizes Zana Chaney, District President of
10 District 15. I'm sorry, it should be alternate.

11 DISTRICT 15 PRESIDENT CHANEY: Good evening. I
12 mean good afternoon. It's our honor, District 15 and Unit
13 26, to nominate Dee Ann Graham for the National Executive
14 Committee. Alternate. I'm sorry. It's written here.
15 Alternate. Thank you.

16 (Applause.)

17 DEPARTMENT PRESIDENT WILLIAMS: Are there any
18 more nominations?

19 (No response.)

20 DEPARTMENT PRESIDENT WILLIAMS: I don't hear no
21 one. Nominations are now closed.

22 Are there any endorsements for the National
23 office? Chair recognizes Linda Workman from District 9,
24 National Western Division Vice President. Are you falling
25 on my train?

1 PAST DEPARTMENT PRESIDENT WORKMAN: I keep
2 tripping on your tracks, girlfriend.

3 I was fortunate to serve California's last
4 National Western Division Vice President in 2015-2016, and
5 our turn is coming up again. So it is with great honor on
6 behalf of William Russell Ledford 293 in the 5th District
7 to endorse Melanie Taylor as the Department of
8 California's National Western Division Vice President
9 Candidate.

10 (Applause.)

11 PAST DEPARTMENT PRESIDENT WORKMAN: Melanie
12 served as Department President in 2004-2005 and has
13 continued to be active in her unit while being appointed
14 to several national chairmanships. Okay, girls, here goes
15 the list including Divisional VA&R and Children and Youth
16 Chairman, Vice Chairman of Membership, Children and Youth
17 and Poppy, as well as National Chairman of Leadership,
18 Americanism, Poppy, Legislative, Girls Nation, Public
19 Relations, Constitution & Bylaws, National Security for
20 two years, Education, and Community Service.

21 She was also appointed to serve on the Human
22 Resources Ad Hoc Committee and Strategic Planning
23 Committee. She was a Goal 4-D Team Captain for the
24 National Organization.

25 Melanie is married to Bob Taylor, my boyfriend,

1 and has five children, 11 grandchildren, and four great
2 grandchildren. She is a retired legal secretary and
3 office administrator. Not only is Melanie active in the
4 Auxiliary, but she is an active member of Beta Sigma
5 Phi -- I am her sister -- and the United Methodist Church.

6 Madam President, I am asking for the unanimous
7 enforcement of Melanie Taylor for the office of National
8 Western Division Vice President.

9 (Applause.)

10 DEPARTMENT PRESIDENT WILLIAMS: I guess I don't
11 need to ask if there's any other nominations,
12 endorsements. Thank you, Melanie.

13 We'll now proceed with the nominations for
14 Delegates to National Convention. Nominations are now
15 open. Nominations are now open for delegates to the
16 National Convention.

17 Will the Secretary please read the names of the
18 nominations.

19 DEPARTMENT SECRETARY DOIDGE: I don't know why I
20 bother to bring a pen. It's not going to do a lot of
21 good. There it goes. It's napping. Turn the microphone
22 on.

23 DEPARTMENT PRESIDENT WILLIAMS: Is it on?

24 DEPARTMENT SECRETARY DOIDGE: Yes. I've just got
25 to -- so while I'm running through the districts, if you

1 hear your district and it's a pass or it's wrong, please
2 come up and line up here so we can get it corrected.
3 Don't interrupt me, please. I'll be grumpy.

4 District 1 nobody. District 2 was a pass.
5 District 3 nobody. District 4 pass. District 5 pass.
6 District 6 Suzanne Winters. District 7 nobody. District
7 8 nobody. District 9 Linda Workman.

8 District 10 pass. District 11 Grace Huston.
9 District 12 Elizabeth Estavillo. District 13 pass.
10 District 14 Debbie Hurado. District 15 Dee Ann Graham.
11 District 16 Linda Fercho. District 17 Teresa Lugo-Nunez.
12 District 18 Maureen O'Brien-Sacco. District 19 pass.

13 District 20 Linda Hayes. District 21 pass.
14 District 22 Susie Tozier. District 23 Anita Biggs.
15 District 24 Martha Romano. District 25 Cindy Rogers.
16 District 26 Peggy Toyne. District 27 Danielle White.
17 District 28 Susan Baker. District 29 I have nobody. And
18 District 30 nobody.

19 Melise?

20 DISTRICT 7 PRESIDENT MUNROE: Melise Munroe,
21 District 7. We submitted Glenda Schultz as a delegate and
22 alternate Bonnie Bradbury.

23 DEPARTMENT SECRETARY DOIDGE: One, two, three,
24 four, five, six, seven, eight, nine, ten, 11, 12. We have
25 18 delegates. We get 17 delegates. We'll start with

1 President Gloria Williams, President Elect Glenda Schultz,
2 secretary myself, and National Chairman Melanie Taylor
3 which leaves us with 13 more. So right now we have five
4 too many. Peggy?

5 DISTRICT 26 PRESIDENT TOYE: District 26 will
6 pass.

7 DEPARTMENT SECRETARY DOIDGE: Thank you.

8 DISTRICT 12 PRESIDENT ESTAVILLO: District 12
9 will pass.

10 DEPARTMENT SECRETARY DOIDGE: Thank you,
11 Elizabeth. So I'm at 20 counting before -- I don't know
12 what they're called -- delegates in their own right.

13 DEPARTMENT PARLIAMENTARIAN BIGGS: No, they're
14 delegates in our right, but we decide. We need to read
15 the Standing Rule that the President --

16 DEPARTMENT SECRETARY DOIDGE: Okay. Can I borrow
17 a Book of Report?

18 DEPARTMENT PARLIAMENTARIAN BIGGS: You can read
19 this.

20 DEPARTMENT SECRETARY DOIDGE: Okay. National
21 Convention. Number 1, delegates and alternates to
22 national convention shall be elected at Department
23 Convention as prescribed by the National Organization.
24 The Department President, Department President Elect,
25 Department Secretary, or the individual called by the

1 Department President to serve as the Department Secretary
2 to the National Convention and National Chairman shall be
3 the first nominated delegates if they are attending the
4 National Convention. Each district will present the names
5 of the -- of the elected delegates and/or alternates for
6 ratification. The privilege of further nominations
7 provided the number of delegates and/or alternates is
8 under the designated number shall be given by district
9 numerical membership strength.

10 That doesn't help us if we have too many.

11 DEPARTMENT PARLIAMENTARIAN BIGGS: Okay. Madam
12 President, if we don't have -- if we have too many, we
13 have to have an election. If any of the district
14 delegates are not attending the convention, they need to
15 pass at this time. But that's the best that we can do.

16 DEPARTMENT SECRETARY DOIDGE: Zana.

17 DISTRICT 15 PRESIDENT CHANEY: Zana Chaney,
18 District 15 President. Dee Ann Graham, pass.

19 DEPARTMENT SECRETARY DOIDGE: Okay. Thank you.
20 I'm at 19 right now. District 25 Cindy.

21 DISTRICT 19 PRESIDENT ROGERS: Hi Liz.

22 DEPARTMENT SECRETARY DOIDGE: Hi Cindy.

23 DISTRICT 19 PRESIDENT ROGERS: I want to take
24 myself off. I'm going, but I'm not going. Remember I
25 talked to you? So you can take me off if you'd like.

1 District 25, Cindy Rogers.

2 DEPARTMENT SECRETARY DOIDGE: Thank you, Cindy.

3 DISTRICT 19 PRESIDENT ROGERS: Huh?

4 DEPARTMENT SECRETARY DOIDGE: Thank you. We need
5 one more. We have 18 right now, but I think everyone else
6 wants to go, so --

7 DEPARTMENT PRESIDENT WILLIAMS: One more.

8 DEPARTMENT SECRETARY DOIDGE: Do you want me to
9 repeat them? I have Gloria Williams, Glenda Schultz,
10 Elizabeth Doidge, Melanie Taylor, Suzanne Winters, Glenda
11 Schultz -- oh, Glenda is twice. We're good.

12 (Applause.)

13 DEPARTMENT SECRETARY DOIDGE: Five, six, seven.
14 We have 17. We're okay.

15 DEPARTMENT PRESIDENT WILLIAMS: All right.

16 (Applause.)

17 DEPARTMENT SECRETARY DOIDGE: So the nominees are
18 President Gloria Williams, President Elect Glenda Schultz,
19 Secretary Elizabeth Doidge, National Chairman Melanie
20 Taylor, District 6 Suzanne Winters, District 9 Linda
21 Workman, District 11 Grace Huston, District 14 Debbie
22 Hurado, District 16 Linda Fercho, District 17 Teresa
23 Lugo-Nunez, District 18 Maureen O'Brien-Sacco, District 20
24 Linda Hayes, District 22 Susie Tozier, District 23 Anita
25 Biggs, District 24 Martha Romano, District 27 Danielle

1 White, and District 28 Susan Baker.

2 Shall I continue with the alternates?

3 DEPARTMENT PRESIDENT WILLIAMS: Yes. Nominations
4 are now open for alternates -- okay. Nominations are now
5 closed for the National Delegates to convention are now
6 closed. Nominations are now open for alternates to
7 National Convention. Will the secretary please read the
8 names.

9 DEPARTMENT SECRETARY DOIDGE: District 1 nobody.
10 District 2 pass. District 3 nobody. District 4 pass.
11 District 5 pass. District 6 Ann Sanchez. District 7
12 Bonnie Bradbury. District 8 nobody. District 9 pass.

13 District 10 pass. District 11 Marcia Munroe.
14 District 12 Ann Kelley. District 13 pass. District 14
15 Cynthia Oliphant. District 15 Zana Chaney. District 16
16 Tracy Varnell-Fercho. District 17 pass. District 18
17 Julie Morales. District 19 pass.

18 District 20 Nancy Heinisch. District 21 pass.
19 District 22 Maureen Giacalone. District 23 Cassandra
20 Brown. District 24 Kathie Martinez. District 25 Tamara
21 Bell. District 26 Cindy McReynolds. District 27 Suzanne
22 Zimmerman. District 28 pass. District 29 nobody, and
23 District 30 nobody. That leaves us at 15 right now. So
24 we need two more.

25 Zana?

1 DISTRICT 15 PRESIDENT CHANEY: I was going to put
2 Dee Ann over on my spot.

3 DEPARTMENT SECRETARY DOIDGE: Can we do that?
4 Wait, in your spot?

5 DISTRICT 15 PRESIDENT CHANEY: Yes. I decline
6 being alternate and pass to put Dee Ann Graham in my spot.

7 DEPARTMENT SECRETARY DOIDGE: So we're still at
8 15.

9 DISTRICT 26 PRESIDENT TOYE: Liz, District 26
10 will pass.

11 DEPARTMENT SECRETARY DOIDGE: No. I need more
12 people on the list.

13 DEPARTMENT PRESIDENT WILLIAMS: We need more, not
14 less. You're already --

15 DEPARTMENT SECRETARY DOIDGE: Yes, give us just a
16 second. Actually, you get to start it. Okay. So can I
17 read what we're supposed to do or should Gloria?

18 DEPARTMENT PRESIDENT WILLIAMS: You can read it.

19 DEPARTMENT SECRETARY DOIDGE: Okay. So if not
20 enough alternates are on the list, we go through each
21 district from highest to lowest membership of count. And
22 so highest membership starts with District 29. You have
23 an additional alternate. Yeah, alternate. They passed
24 originally so can they add two? I had no paperwork from
25 them.

1 DISTRICT 29 PRESIDENT BORGMAN: Debbie Schubert.

2 DEPARTMENT SECRETARY DOIDGE: Okay. That's fine.
3 Debbie Schubert.

4 Okay. So do I skip the ones that already have an
5 alternate then when I go down the membership list?

6 DEPARTMENT PARLIAMENTARIAN BIGGS: No. Go
7 through the ones with the greatest.

8 DEPARTMENT SECRETARY DOIDGE: Okay. Because they
9 didn't originally have an alternate, they have two that
10 want to attend, they're the top of our membership so --

11 DEPARTMENT PARLIAMENTARIAN BIGGS: They passed.

12 DEPARTMENT SECRETARY DOIDGE: Okay. I get it.
13 Okay. Okay. I get it.

14 Next would be District 25. District 25, do you
15 have an alternate going? Cindy. Oh, yeah, Cindy. Cindy
16 is going, but she has some other obligations while she's
17 there as well. So alternate works.

18 DEPARTMENT PRESIDENT WILLIAMS: Cindy come up
19 here to the Sergeant-at-Arms so we can hear.

20 DISTRICT 25 PRESIDENT ROGERS: The reason why is
21 because my grand- -- I'm going to have a new grandchild
22 and I might have to leave if it's born, so that's why I
23 took me off the delegate.

24 DEPARTMENT PARLIAMENTARIAN BIGGS: Do you have
25 another alternate that you all voted on?

1 DISTRICT 25 PRESIDENT ROGERS: We have Tami Bell.
2 Barbara Toth is going but as a guest. But I'm going
3 anyways no matter what.

4 ADVISORY COMMITTEE CHAIR DeLASHMIT: We did
5 nominate a third person because this happens to us often
6 that we get another chance because we're high up on the
7 list. And it was Barbara Toth if I'm not mistaken. Is
8 she going?

9 DISTRICT 25 PRESIDENT ROGERS: She's going, but
10 she just wants to go as a guest.

11 DISTRICT 25 DELEGATE TOTH: No, I was going as a
12 guest if there wasn't room for me, so that's --

13 PAST DEPARTMENT PRESIDENT WORKMAN: Madam
14 President, Madam President?

15 DEPARTMENT PRESIDENT WILLIAMS: Oh, I'm sorry.

16 PAST DEPARTMENT PRESIDENT WORKMAN: Linda
17 Workman, Past Department President. She declined or
18 passed so leave the right numbers as delegates. And I
19 think that if in the event you have a grandchild and you
20 need to leave, I would say go because you've got 16 others
21 sitting in the back of the room waiting to take your
22 place.

23 (Applause.)

24 DISTRICT 25 PRESIDENT ROGERS: I was a delegate,
25 but because she had too many I took myself off.

1 DEPARTMENT PRESIDENT WILLIAMS: Do you want to
2 go?

3 DISTRICT 25 PRESIDENT ROGERS: I'll be an
4 alternate.

5 DEPARTMENT PRESIDENT WILLIAMS: Thank you.

6 DEPARTMENT SECRETARY DOIDGE: Yes, we're good
7 now. District 6 Ann Sanchez. District 7 Bonnie Bradbury.
8 District 11 Marcia Munroe. District 14 Cynthia Oliphant.
9 District 15 Dee Ann Graham. District 16 Tracy
10 Varnell-Fercho. District 18 Julie Morales. District 20
11 Nancy Heinisch. District 22 Maureen Giacalone. District
12 23 Cassandra Brown. District 24 Kathie Martinez.
13 District 25 Tamara Bell and Cindy Rogers. District 26
14 Cindy McReynolds. District 27 Suzanne Zimmerman, and
15 District 29 Debbie Schubert.

16 DEPARTMENT PRESIDENT WILLIAMS: Nominations are
17 now closed for alternates to the National Convention.

18 (Applause.)

19 DEPARTMENT PRESIDENT WILLIAMS: We will now
20 continue with the Department Chairmen's reports. Will the
21 Girls State Chairman, Education, Children and Youth, Poppy
22 Chairmen, please come on stage and be ready to give your
23 reports. Those that have received directions from the
24 chairmen will proceed to the side of the stage as
25 directed.

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Go ahead.

GIRLS STATE CONVENTION REPORT

GIRLS STATE CHAIR KAU: Madam President, I will begin with my convention committee meeting report. The convention committee on Girls State met on June 22nd, 2023 in the Laurel Room. The statistical report of this chairman appears on page 28 in the Book of Reports.

Kathy Newlen was appointed secretary, Estella Torres de Siegrist offered prayer, and Phyllis Meyi was appointed Sergeant-at-Arms. A total of 20 district delegates answered roll call along with Department Girls State Chair and Department Girls State Advisors. There were five visitors present. The committee agreed upon the following report.

The Girls State code was read. As recommended by the Girls State committee, I move to amend School Faculty Guidelines 1(e). Jennifer Tunner seconded. The motion passed. Jean McGinnis moved to accept the Department Girls State code as amended. Tamara Duron seconded. Motion passed.

Improvements that have begun for the 2023-'24 were discussed and I expressed gratitude to everyone for their hard work throughout the year to make our 80th

1 session possible. The Girls State convention committee
2 closed with prayer at 10:15 a.m.

3 Madam President, may I now present the
4 committee's proposed department code changes.

5 DEPARTMENT PRESIDENT WILLIAMS: Just a moment.
6 You have an amendment?

7 GIRLS STATE CHAIR KAU: Yeah, I gave it earlier.
8 I gave 12 copies, and then one copy with just the code.
9 So there's one page with just the code change, and then
10 there's 12 copies of my report. My report includes the
11 code change in the middle towards the bottom. Like right
12 here.

13 DEPARTMENT PRESIDENT WILLIAMS: Faculty
14 Guidelines be amended, is that what you're speaking of?

15 GIRLS STATE CHAIR KAU: That's correct. May I
16 present the committee's proposed department code changes?

17 DEPARTMENT PRESIDENT WILLIAMS: It's more than
18 one?

19 GIRLS STATE CHAIR KAU: There's just one.

20 DEPARTMENT PRESIDENT WILLIAMS: Just one. Go
21 ahead.

22 GIRLS STATE CHAIR KAU: Thank you. School
23 Faculty Guidelines 1(e) now reads: "Schools will select
24 no more than five candidates for the Auxiliary to
25 interview."

1 The committee recommends that School Faculty
2 Guidelines 1(e) be amended to read: "Schools will select
3 no more than five candidates for the Auxiliary to
4 interview. Students must choose whether to interview for
5 an American Legion or an American Legion Auxiliary
6 program. A student may not interview for both programs.
7 A student who attends an American Legion program cannot
8 attend American Legion Auxiliary California Girls State."

9 Under direction of the committee, I move for
10 approval of this amendment.

11 DEPARTMENT PRESIDENT WILLIAMS: Is there a
12 second? Oh, by direction of -- sorry. I'll repeat it for
13 you. "Schools will select no more than five candidates
14 for the Auxiliary to interview. Students must choose
15 whether to interview for an American Legion or an American
16 Legion Auxiliary program. A student may not interview for
17 both programs. A student who attends an American Legion
18 program cannot attend American Legion Auxiliary California
19 Girls State."

20 Are there any questions?

21 (No response.)

22 DEPARTMENT PRESIDENT WILLIAMS: All in favor,
23 please say aye.

24 DELEGATES: Aye.

25 DEPARTMENT PRESIDENT WILLIAMS: All opposed.

1 DELEGATES: Nay.

2 DEPARTMENT PRESIDENT WILLIAMS: Motion is passed.

3 GIRLS STATE CHAIR KAU: Madam President, may I
4 please continue with my platform remarks?

5 DEPARTMENT PRESIDENT WILLIAMS: Yes, you may.

6 GIRLS STATE CHAIR KAU: Thank you. Our train is
7 heading full speed for our 80th session. Eighty.

8 (Applause.)

9 GIRLS STATE CHAIR KAU: Some of you know full
10 well what 80 years feels like. Our Girls State program --
11 that's a good thing. I hope I will know what 80 years
12 feels like.

13 Our Girls State program has survived two
14 pandemics, wars, and even Senate Bill 363. Despite all of
15 the confusion, misinformation and challenges, we increased
16 enrollment from this point last year by 40 delegates with
17 two more units participating than in 2022 for a total of
18 454 delegates.

19 (Applause.)

20 GIRLS STATE CHAIR KAU: We had 107 schools drop,
21 which is down from 169 drops last year. Seventy-one of
22 those were due to schools not having candidates or
23 responding to units. Twenty-five were due to lack of unit
24 resources. Eight chose to participate in the American
25 Legion co-ed Boys State program, and three did not give a

1 reason.

2 We implemented a general inquiry form on our
3 website from which we received over 150 submissions.
4 Units agreed to sponsor over 60 of these inquiries. We
5 established a department alternate application so that
6 students who attend a school not yet sponsored by a unit
7 could serve as alternates for schools that did not have
8 registered alternates.

9 We were able to place each applicant preventing
10 funds units submitted from going to waste when delegates
11 dropped out. I'm in the process of handling one more
12 right now. More improvements are in motion for next year
13 with volunteers on department candidate recruitment and
14 fundraising and leadership teams already preparing
15 additional resources for units and districts.

16 Madam President, our train has taken --

17 DEPARTMENT PRESIDENT WILLIAMS: Yes.

18 GIRLS STATE CHAIR KAU: -- some unplanned and
19 undesired stops this year with Director Tammy Sollazzo's
20 passing. The death of unit Girls State chairs, unit
21 presidents, and family members and other challenges with
22 health and life. I cannot tell you how proud and grateful
23 I am for members stepping in to lighten the load of those
24 who were mourning or dealing with other difficult
25 challenges in offering prayers, love, and support to

1 comfort aching hearts.

2 We sometimes hear of conflicts in units, but this
3 year I've experienced what I have felt in my over three
4 decades working with the Girls State program, a
5 multigenerational network of amazing people on whom I can
6 lean on during difficult times.

7 We talk about how to save our organization so
8 that we can continue to serve veterans and their families.
9 I am a member because I was introduced to the ALA through
10 Girls State 25 years before I joined. Each delegate is
11 given an honor button with the photo of a veteran, family
12 member, friend, or famous American which they wear proudly
13 throughout the week. Delegates share stories about these
14 veterans at our daily flag raising and lowering and their
15 cities. We give delegates who are part of a military
16 family the opportunity to meet with others and share their
17 struggles and joys. These Blue Star Banner delegates make
18 a photo presentation that is shared at our closing
19 ceremony that help others realize the sacrifice military
20 families make and commit to supporting them.

21 For this year's service project, we are
22 partnering with Honor Flights to provide letters from
23 home. Each delegate will make cards to be given to men
24 and women across California returning from Washington D.C.
25 Our delegates will also be invited to meet incoming Honor

1 Flights at their local airports.

2 Thank you to each one of you who support Girls
3 State, whether it be in an appointed position, on a
4 selection committee, approving the use of unit funds, or
5 saying thank you to those in your unit working with Girls
6 State. When you support Girls State, you are recruiting
7 future members and teaching hundreds of young people the
8 importance of patriotism and serving veterans and their
9 families.

10 Our deepest gratitude to the hundreds of selfless
11 volunteers who serve as unit and district chairs, city
12 liaisons, counselors, nurses, bus chaperones, and
13 department positions. It is a privilege and honor to
14 serve with all of you to continually improve the Girls
15 State program. A once-in-a-lifetime opportunity for our
16 next generation of leaders.

17 Thank you for the opportunity, Madam President.

18 (Applause.)

19 DEPARTMENT PRESIDENT WILLIAMS: Thank you.

20 GIRLS STATE CHAIR KAU: Madam President, may I
21 now present my awards?

22 DEPARTMENT PRESIDENT WILLIAMS: Yes, you may.

23 GIRLS STATE CHAIR KAU: The best district
24 supplemental first place goes to District 28 Linda
25 Lara-Guzman.

1 (Applause.)

2 GIRLS STATE CHAIR KAU: The best unit
3 supplemental first place goes to District 21, Unit 500
4 Kathy Newlen.

5 (Applause.)

6 GIRLS STATE CHAIR KAU: Madam President, that
7 ends my report.

8 (Applause.)

9 DEPARTMENT PRESIDENT WILLIAMS: Thank you very
10 much.

11 Sherry Core. Go ahead, Sherry.

12

13 GIRLS STATE DIRECTOR CONVENTION REPORT

14

15 GIRLS STATE ASSISTANT DIRECTOR CORE: Madam
16 President, Madam Vice President, Distinguished Guests and
17 Auxiliary Members, good afternoon. My name is Sherry Core
18 and I am the assistant director for the American Legion
19 Auxiliary California Girls State speaking on behalf of
20 Director Valerie Hardy who is already in Sacramento
21 preparing for our session. I've already spoken with her
22 today, and she's working on it.

23 Our team has worked very hard in preparation for
24 our 80th session week. We have a staff of 70 volunteers,
25 33 of whom are ALA members and ten more are eligible. 454

1 delegates will arrive on Monday morning for a week of
2 learning, growth, and sisterhood. We are excited to share
3 ALA California Girls State with a new class of citizens.

4 After much work to get our budget balanced, the
5 current budget was approved by the committee in April.
6 Cost for the university lodging, classrooms, and meeting
7 rooms have increased by at least 2 percent, while food
8 costs increased by 8 percent for the 2023 session.

9 This year the university increased its insurance
10 requirements causing a \$1700 increase in premiums. Costs,
11 as you know, have consistently risen, but our fees have
12 remained the same since 2015. This cannot continue. If
13 we are to present a program that we can all be proud of,
14 we must look to increase the fees. Continuing to dip into
15 our reserve account puts us at risk should we have an
16 emergency or a legal action. And I can tell you, people
17 try to sue us.

18 An increase of fees from \$425 per delegate to 550
19 would cover the actual cost of the program. Note that the
20 average cost of a week-long leadership camp is \$2,000 and
21 up. Our program cost is a fraction of that amount.

22 We will continue to look for ways to cut costs
23 without significantly impacting the integrity of the
24 program. We honor the hard work that each unit puts forth
25 in order to sponsor delegates and understand that a fee

1 increase may cause some units to struggle.

2 Our leadership team, as Allyn reported, is
3 working to present viable options for fundraising in order
4 to ease the burden of the cost increase to the units.

5 ALA California Girls State changes lives. We
6 know this because our alumni have become leaders in
7 politics, education, law, medicine, the military, and the
8 nonprofit world. Our staters serve in their communities,
9 our state, nation, and the world for the betterment of
10 all. That is the mission of the American Legion
11 Auxiliary.

12 Madam President, this concludes my platform
13 remarks.

14 (Applause.)

15 DEPARTMENT PRESIDENT WILLIAMS: Please come back.
16 Sherry, come back, please. You were moving too fast. We
17 need to have a special DEC meeting to approve the Girls
18 State budget. We suggest 8:00 a.m. Saturday morning. We
19 need to meet. You'll be gone? They would like a meeting
20 tomorrow morning at 8:00 a.m. to discuss the budget.

21 GIRLS STATE ASSISTANT DIRECTOR CORE: Tomorrow
22 8:00 a.m.

23 GIRLS STATE CHAIR KAU: That's better than 7:00
24 o'clock Thursday, so 8:00 o'clock tomorrow is great.

25 DEPARTMENT PARLIAMENTARIAN BIGGS: Madam

1 President, the Department Executive Committee, you know,
2 are the District Presidents and the standing committee
3 chairmen for the Department and those that we said
4 yesterday when we had our other special-called meeting,
5 this should have come up at that time. It did not, so we
6 have to take care of it. It shouldn't take that long.
7 But to come -- we start session at 8:30. We will convene
8 a DEC at 8:00 a.m. is what Madam President is stating. So
9 please be here because you have to vote on this to approve
10 it for Girls State.

11 DEPARTMENT PRESIDENT WILLIAMS: Only the
12 Executive Committee has to be here at 8:00 a.m., not
13 everyone, just the Executive Committee.

14 Tracy, come on up. Education Chairman.

15 EDUCATION CHAIR VARNELL-FERCHO: I'm standing up,
16 sitting down.

17 DEPARTMENT PRESIDENT WILLIAMS: You know the
18 routine.

19 EDUCATION CHAIR VARNELL-FERCHO: Okay. You guys
20 have known me long enough.

21

22 EDUCATION CONVENTION REPORT

23

24 EDUCATION CHAIR VARNELL-FERCHO: Good afternoon,
25 everyone. Well, good thing I'm not here to ask for money,

1 so thank you for that. You never know. Day's not over
2 yet. I might have a bar tab we might want to talk about
3 later.

4 All right. We'll talk about the Education
5 meeting. And we at the Education met in the Birch Room on
6 Thursday and we have 14 people -- I'm sorry. It was on
7 page 14 of the Book of Reports I think. We had a total of
8 15 people. We had one visitor. Joan Cannon from District
9 11, Unit 249 was appointed secretary. Madeline Lee,
10 District 16, Unit 741 offered prayer, and Dee Ann Graham,
11 District 15, Unit 26 was Sergeant-at-Arms.

12 We started our meeting at 9:05 a.m. And the
13 committee agreed upon the following report. No code
14 changes.

15 (Applause.)

16 EDUCATION CHAIR VARNELL-FERCHO: We did have one
17 housekeeping rule, which I will go ahead and report to the
18 Department later. Second and third place were handed out
19 and a completed list was also given to the Department. We
20 ended at 9:46.

21 Madam President, may I continue with my stage
22 remarks?

23 DEPARTMENT PRESIDENT WILLIAMS: Yes, you may.

24 EDUCATION CHAIR VARNELL-FERCHO: Thank you. Good
25 afternoon, Madam President. First of all, I'd like to

1 thank you for the opportunity of being your Education
2 Chair for 2022-2023. It was an experience. This year the
3 theme of The Friendship Train, this Education Chairman
4 with the units and districts all jumped aboard and headed
5 down the tracks.

6 At stop number one, veterans who wanted to pursue
7 a higher education. The focus -- sorry. I'm just too
8 tall. The focus was military bases within California. We
9 had 22 units that participated and we were able to contact
10 52 veterans to help them further their education.
11 Forty-five of them are now on their master's program at
12 their local colleges, thank you to the big help of
13 District 17.

14 (Applause.)

15 EDUCATION CHAIR VARNELL-FERCHO: Stop number two,
16 Give Ten. Participation was more than I could ever
17 imagine. I cannot thank everyone enough who participated
18 in this contest this year to see which unit and/or
19 district could donate the most items to our schools that
20 are in such, such need. There were 142 units that gave
21 necessary school items with the amount of \$27,841. Give
22 yourself a big hand on that one.

23 (Applause.)

24 EDUCATION CHAIR VARNELL-FERCHO: With 121 hours
25 donated. The units in District 16 said the best part

1 about Give Ten was watching the children's faces.

2 Stop three, Education Week. Education Week was
3 November 15th through the 19th, '22 in which we had 106
4 units that participated and donated over 1,235 hours to
5 read with children, help them with homework, and volunteer
6 within their libraries.

7 Stop number four, participating with veterans in
8 the community schools. The number of units participating
9 in veterans in community school projects was 14. We had
10 61 veterans participate with seven schools. The grades
11 that we were involved with pre-K through 12. The hours
12 that were donated to this project were over 555 hours.
13 The Auxiliary, Junior Auxiliary, The Sons of the American
14 Legion and the veterans hit the schools and they were
15 involved in the flag ceremony Veterans' Day and honoring
16 those who have served this great country.

17 Stop number five, well, you know, unfortunately
18 we missed that stop. We just went "whoop" right past it.
19 But we're not going to stop talking about our Poppy Seals.
20 Poppy Seals were not as much as we have had in the past,
21 but we did have 18 units with \$1400. I think
22 unfortunately with everything being sent by computer and
23 not so much by mail, we are kind of letting this drop
24 down. So please get back to your units and get some ideas
25 of the way that we can resupport this program because it

1 is a very necessary program.

2 Stop number six, Department Education Program. I
3 was so impressed by the 96 units and the donation of
4 \$9,735, and that could have changed because I didn't see
5 the Book of Reports before this, that was donated to the
6 Department of Education. I know that units have been
7 struggling with their funds, but to see them all stand
8 together and understand how important this program is to
9 higher education could not make this chairman be prouder.

10 Now we have come to the end of our travels, but
11 before we let you get off the Education train, we must
12 tell you about our scholarships. The response to
13 scholarships this year was amazing. We had over 30
14 Children of Warriors. It was almost impossible for me to
15 judge, but with the help of a committee we were able to
16 narrow them down and submit it to National.

17 We also submitted one Spirit of Youth and one
18 Junior Loyalty to National and we had six submissions
19 under our department scholarships. Give a big hand for
20 that. That was really amazing this year.

21 (Applause.)

22 EDUCATION CHAIR VARNELL-FERCHO: It was an honor
23 to be able to serve as the Department of California
24 Education Chairman, and I thank you once again.

25 Madam President, may I continue with my awards?

1 DEPARTMENT PRESIDENT WILLIAMS: Yes, you may.

2 EDUCATION CHAIR VARNELL-FERCHO: Thank you.

3 Okay. I have all the Education scholarships. I'm going
4 to mail them out with the checks, but I just thought you
5 guys might like to know who won and out of which
6 districts. So for the Education Assistance General
7 Scholarship, first place went to Sheldon Huston of
8 District 23.

9 (Applause.)

10 EDUCATION CHAIR VARNELL-FERCHO: Continuing
11 re-education -- re-enter student or students for starting
12 a higher education was Elena Gamey of District 28.

13 (Applause.)

14 EDUCATION CHAIR VARNELL-FERCHO: Spirit of Youth
15 went -- for Juniors went to Elizabeth Reed, District 16.

16 (Applause.)

17 EDUCATION CHAIR VARNELL-FERCHO: Junior Royalty
18 went to Alyssa Hurado in District 15.

19 (Applause.)

20 EDUCATION CHAIR VARNELL-FERCHO: And on the
21 Children of Warriors was a Kyra Brimstone.

22 (Applause.)

23 EDUCATION CHAIR VARNELL-FERCHO: I think she's up
24 in Melanie's area the last I checked. Yes, so it was very
25 impressive. I will be mailing their information out to

1 them. I'm not going to send it to the districts because I
2 have awards and a little gift I have for them.

3 So let's go to the fun stuff now. Yeah, more fun
4 stuff. Okay. This certificate is going to be presented
5 to West Covina Unit 790, District 18 for the largest
6 donation to the Give Ten program.

7 (Applause.)

8 EDUCATION CHAIR VARNELL-FERCHO: The next one we
9 have is to District 16 which gave the largest district
10 donation to the Give Ten program.

11 (Applause.)

12 EDUCATION CHAIR VARNELL-FERCHO: And by the way,
13 Linda, she's from my district, but she makes the most
14 amazing corsages. So if you ever need some, just hit
15 Linda up. She's great. Sorry. I guess she doesn't want
16 anybody to know that, but I have a sample if anyone wants
17 to see it later.

18 Okay. For the first place district Education
19 supplemental goes to Gayle Stirrit, District 19.

20 (Applause.)

21 EDUCATION CHAIR VARNELL-FERCHO: And last, but
22 definitely not least, this one also went on to National so
23 hopefully we keep our fingers crossed. This is the best
24 first place unit Education supplemental goes to Angela
25 Adams, District 23.

1 (Applause.)

2 EDUCATION CHAIR VARNELL-FERCHO: Madam President,
3 this concludes my report. Thank you again.

4 DEPARTMENT PRESIDENT WILLIAMS: Thank you.

5 Martha Romano. If you members need to stretch,
6 you can stretch.

7 MUSIC CHAIR EVANS-HANNA: Madam President, this
8 is your Music Chair. Can we try something?

9 DEPARTMENT PRESIDENT WILLIAMS: Where are you?

10 MUSIC CHAIR EVANS-HANNA: I'm over here. I'm the
11 black one over here.

12 DEPARTMENT PRESIDENT WILLIAMS: No, you didn't go
13 there.

14 MUSIC CHAIR EVANS-HANNA: Yes, I did. Everybody
15 on your feet, on your feet, please. Everybody on your
16 feet. Put your books down. Put your purses down. Loosen
17 your bras. This is a call-in response. I need to -- can
18 you hear me still? All right. Here we go. Repeat -- do
19 what I do and repeat after me.

20 Thumbs up. Palms together. A roosta sha, a
21 roosta sha, a roosta sha sha.

22 (Singing.)

23 MUSIC CHAIR EVANS-HANNA: Give yourself a hand.

24 DEPARTMENT PRESIDENT WILLIAMS: Thank you, Yve.

25 MUSIC CHAIR EVANS-HANNA: You're welcome, Madam

1 President.

2 POPPY CHAIR ROMANO: Okay. I don't know if I can
3 top that. I'm sorry. I was not prepared to follow that.

4

5 POPPY CONVENTION REPORT

6

7 POPPY CHAIR ROMANO: Okay. We're back. We're
8 back to work. The Poppy preconvention meeting took place
9 June 22nd, '23 in the Prime Room at the Visalia Wyndham at
10 9:00 a.m. Martha Romano, Chair. Sharon Lodenski was the
11 secretary. Erika Hernandez served as the chaplain. Roll
12 call was taken. We had 20 districts in attendance and six
13 guests.

14 The Poppy code was read and reviewed and I do
15 have lots of changes. I mean Poppy code changes. Oh,
16 sorry. They're minor, but make a significant impact,
17 so --

18 Certificate -- let me finish. Certificates were
19 presented for 100 percent reporting and the second and
20 third place. The meeting concluded at 10:05.

21 So at the direction of the committee, I would
22 like to move the code changes. Can I proceed? Number
23 6 --

24 DEPARTMENT PRESIDENT WILLIAMS: Yes, you may.

25 POPPY CHAIR ROMANO: Okay. The current code

1 reads: "That effective with the American Legion Auxiliary
2 year 2013, Poppy Week will be replaced with May being
3 Poppy Month. Units wishing to offer poppies other than
4 the scheduled month must write and receive permission from
5 the Department President. The deadline date for requests
6 for permission to change Poppy Month is April 1st."

7 The code change suggested or the -- let's go
8 back. At the direction of the committee, I move that the
9 code change 6 read: "That effective with the American
10 Legion Auxiliary year 2013, Poppy Week will be replaced
11 with May being Poppy Month." The rest be stricken.

12 DEPARTMENT PRESIDENT WILLIAMS: They would like
13 to know why.

14 POPPY CHAIR ROMANO: Okay. So discussion as I
15 remember last year we had this discussion and it continued
16 into this year and I've had a lot of inquiries why we have
17 to ask for permission to offer poppies other than the
18 month of May. National does not have that requirement.
19 Other states do not have that requirement, and this allows
20 units to offer poppies the entire year which also allows
21 them to make money, accept donations the entire year.

22 (Applause.)

23 DEPARTMENT PRESIDENT WILLIAMS: Any other
24 questions?

25 POPPY CHAIR ROMANO: None of the -- none of the

1 finance requirements change. So one of the discussions
2 items was the cycle for making poppies or requesting
3 poppies from Department is still going to continue the
4 same. So what a lot of units will do is order more than
5 they want so they keep some on reserve. But Lois is only
6 one person managing the San Diego site, so she would
7 continue -- we will continue the same cycle. Nothing has
8 changed.

9 So for the units that want to offer more, there
10 is the option since the code change last year to allow
11 them to make their own poppies. They can request supplies
12 and make their own poppies to be allowed to offer them the
13 remainder months of the year or they can purchase from
14 Emblem Sales. That's also another option.

15 DEPARTMENT PRESIDENT WILLIAMS: "That effective
16 with the American Legion year 2013, Poppy Week will be
17 replaced with May being Poppy Month."

18 Are there any questions?

19 (No response.)

20 DEPARTMENT PRESIDENT WILLIAMS: All in favor.

21 DELEGATES: Aye.

22 DEPARTMENT PRESIDENT WILLIAMS: All opposed.

23 DELEGATE: I oppose.

24 DEPARTMENT PRESIDENT WILLIAMS: Motion carried.

25 POPPY CHAIR ROMANO: Okay. The second item for

1 code change number 8 currently reads: "Units shall not
2 infringe on another Unit's local area unless prior written
3 permission has been received."

4 At the direction of the committee, I move and we
5 change it to read: "Units shall not infringe on another
6 Unit's local area unless prior written permission has been
7 received by the Department President or no other unit
8 exists in the area."

9 So one of the things that came out of the
10 discussion, it doesn't say who's giving permission so we
11 need to clarify who they need to request permission. Is
12 it the Unit President, the District President, or the
13 Department President. So WE suggest the Department
14 President since they overseeing everything in the state.

15 Or the other issue has been that there sometimes
16 are no units in areas so the Poppy program is not being
17 worked in some of the cities and this will allow for units
18 to go into those cities where there are no units working
19 the program.

20 DEPARTMENT PRESIDENT WILLIAMS: I need a complete
21 sentence that you're putting forth here. I see it in red,
22 but it starts off with the year.

23 POPPY CHAIR ROMANO: Okay. So I can put the year
24 on the end. Okay. So let me read it again. So by the
25 direction of the committee I move the code change to read:

1 "Units shall not infringe on other another Unit's local
2 area unless prior written permission has been received by
3 the Department President or no unit exists in the area.
4 (2023)."

5 DEPARTMENT PRESIDENT WILLIAMS: She's continuing
6 it. I don't have another -- does everyone understand?

7 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKERS: Yes.

8 DEPARTMENT PRESIDENT WILLIAMS: Okay. Are there
9 any questions?

10 (No response.)

11 DEPARTMENT PRESIDENT WILLIAMS: All in favor.

12 ALL DELEGATES: Aye.

13 DEPARTMENT PRESIDENT WILLIAMS: Sorry. There is
14 a question. We have two coming, Martha. Three, four.
15 Line up, please.

16 DISTRICT 20 DELEGATE COX: Ethyl Cox, Unit 520,
17 District 20. There's two units in my district that
18 there's no defined area because they have people that live
19 in Shadow Hills and we have people that live in Shadow
20 Hills, so how would that be affected? Because really
21 we're infringing on each other every year basically
22 because of that one neighborhood.

23 POPPY CHAIR ROMANO: So if you read it -- if you
24 read it, it says you still need written permission. If
25 there's no unit in the area, then you --

1 DISTRICT 20 DELEGATE COX: Well, we've always had
2 an agreement between the units, but now we have to get an
3 agreement from -- an okay from the Department? That's
4 what it says, we have to get an agreement from --

5 POPPY CHAIR ROMANO: You were supposed to get --
6 it already said you needed to get prior written
7 permission. Who were you receiving permission from? It
8 doesn't say who you're supposed to, but you're supposed to
9 get written permission already.

10 DISTRICT 20 DELEGATE COX: We've been doing it
11 forever and ever and a day.

12 PAST DEPARTMENT PRESIDENT TAYLOR: Madam
13 President?

14 DEPARTMENT PRESIDENT WILLIAMS: I recognize
15 Melanie Taylor.

16 PAST DEPARTMENT PRESIDENT TAYLOR: And if your
17 two units have been doing this and there is no gripe, then
18 don't worry about it.

19 (Applause.)

20 PAST DEPARTMENT PRESIDENT TAYLOR: If it's
21 working, don't fix it.

22 POPPY CHAIR ROMANO: Yeah. The code already said
23 that. So if you're already doing it and you're okay with
24 it, no one has a problem. But the code already -- I
25 didn't put it in there. It was already in there.

1 DISTRICT 26 DELEGATE TERNULLO: Brenda Ternullo,
2 District 26, Unit 105. I have two questions. One of
3 them, we had a virtual unit so they don't really have a
4 designated area. Are you saying they can't send out any
5 requests for donations? That's -- okay. And the other
6 thing is I'm a Blue Star Mom and I gave them our unit, the
7 list with their permission, of course, and we sent out the
8 letters, but it covers all of San Mateo County and it has
9 -- we have five units? Six units? Six units in our vet
10 area. What are you suggesting, that I have to get
11 permission from every one of those units?

12 POPPY CHAIR ROMANO: Well, the code already said
13 they need to get permission. I'm just providing clarity
14 who you need to get permission from because it was already
15 written in there.

16 PAST DEPARTMENT PRESIDENT TAYLOR: I was National
17 Poppy Chair. Okay. Would you repeat that question again
18 so I understand before I give you a wrong answer?

19 DISTRICT 26 DELEGATE TERNULLO: Yeah, if the unit
20 is given a mailing list.

21 PAST DEPARTMENT PRESIDENT TAYLOR: From the Blue
22 Star Mothers mailing list. Okay.

23 DISTRICT 26 DELEGATE TERNULLO: That covers all
24 of San Mateo County.

25 PAST DEPARTMENT PRESIDENT TAYLOR: Okay.

1 DISTRICT 26 DELEGATE TERNULLO: Because that's
2 what our chapter covers. There are six units in our
3 district, which is San Mateo County. We have to get
4 permission from all the other units to send letters out to
5 these people that --

6 PAST DEPARTMENT PRESIDENT TAYLOR: My answer
7 would be no. You are specifically sending your letters to
8 the Blue Star families.

9 DISTRICT 26 DELEGATE TERNULLO: Right.

10 PAST DEPARTMENT PRESIDENT TAYLOR: The units in
11 that area would still continue to do whatever they're
12 doing either out in the public or letters to their Legion
13 Family members.

14 DISTRICT 26 DELEGATE TERNULLO: Got it. Thank
15 you.

16 (Applause.)

17 DEPARTMENT SECRETARY DOIDGE: My recommendation
18 is that instead of it be the Department President, it
19 should be the Unit President. Only because the Department
20 President doesn't know -- Gloria doesn't know what San
21 Francisco is doing, doesn't know what Monterey is doing.
22 I think it should be a local unit who's affected by the
23 poppies.

24 POPPY CHAIR ROMANO: The only -- we had this
25 conversation, but the only thing is it wouldn't work for

1 the lady that just spoke because she's doing the whole
2 county. So to the way you're proposing --

3 DEPARTMENT SECRETARY DOIDGE: I think that would
4 go for any unit that is mailing on behalf of their own
5 unit to their mailing list, that would be fine. But if
6 it's going to a local Safeway, that's what we're talking
7 about here; right?

8 POPPY CHAIR ROMANO: Right, yeah.

9 PAST DEPARTMENT PRESIDENT TAYLOR: The whole
10 purpose is the units letting the unit president know that
11 they are going to be offering poppies other than the month
12 of May is just to let her know. It was a courtesy. It
13 wasn't asking permission may we. It's just, Madam
14 President, we are going to be offering poppies in our
15 community during the month of November for Veterans Day.
16 Or in, you know, April for Flag Day -- or May for Flag
17 Day. June for Flag Day. My, gosh. Well, Diane is
18 telling me I'm wrong.

19 DEPARTMENT SECRETARY DOIDGE: It says written
20 permission.

21 PAST DEPARTMENT PRESIDENT TAYLOR: All right. So
22 getting permission to offer them another day other than in
23 May. Okay. All right. Have I known a Past Department
24 President decline that, I don't think she has. No, no.
25 But what Martha is saying, if I understand Martha, and

1 correct me if I'm wrong, please, is that if you have two
2 or more units in the same area, that they coordinate if
3 they're going to be offering poppies in the same
4 locations.

5 POPPY CHAIR ROMANO: Correct.

6 PAST DEPARTMENT PRESIDENT TAYLOR: They should
7 coordinate, just say we are going to go out this weekend.
8 What weekend are you going to go out so that you don't
9 have two, three, or four units showing up at the same
10 location at the same time.

11 POPPY CHAIR ROMANO: So, for example, if I do it
12 Memorial Day weekend and I went to the mall I was there
13 the whole weekend, but if someone else wanted to do it,
14 you know, it's the whole month of May. So if you wanted
15 to take another weekend or weekdays in the month of May, I
16 would not be opposed and I don't think other units would
17 if you're not covering.

18 Again, this is something that impacts everyone,
19 but it provides opportunities. If you don't have enough
20 people or volunteers to do it the entire month, allow
21 other people to fill the gaps.

22 DEPARTMENT PRESIDENT WILLIAMS: Yes.

23 POPPY CHAIR ROMANO: And we should be working
24 together. This is the theme that I keep hearing. We're
25 not working together. You really don't need permission as

1 long as you are coordinating and working collegially with
2 each other. You should help each other. If there are
3 other units that can possibly get to areas that you can't
4 get to, why not let them do it.

5 DEPARTMENT PRESIDENT WILLIAMS: Okay. Would you
6 like to speak?

7 DISTRICT 8 PRESIDENT CANONIZADO: Hello, Madam
8 President. Teresa Canonizado, District 8 San Francisco
9 Unit 1. I've done the poppies at the War Memorial
10 Building in San Francisco. I didn't have to ask any
11 information. I didn't have to give any information. And
12 when I did the donations, I asked for 50 cents, a dollar,
13 but -- so the units can. So the units work together and
14 ask. I'm only one unit in one district, but I'm always --
15 I always work, and if there's anything that needs to be
16 helped with, Liz knows me very well.

17 POPPY PRODUCTION MANAGER CORNISH: I would like
18 to -- my idea if you are --

19 DEPARTMENT PRESIDENT WILLIAMS: Your name.

20 POPPY PRODUCTION MANAGER CORNISH: Excuse me.
21 I'm Lois Cornish. I'm from District 22. I happen to be
22 the Poppy Production Manager in the State of California.
23 I have been since who knows when.

24 (Applause.)

25 POPPY PRODUCTION MANAGER CORNISH: But what I

1 think is if you've got more than one unit like the one
2 that they've got six units, why not coordinate with all
3 the units. And if somebody can't -- doesn't have anybody,
4 work together. I mean, I've lived my life a long time and
5 I have two things that I live by. If it isn't -- if it
6 isn't broken -- well, that's somebody else's, but I use it
7 too. But if it isn't fun, don't do it. And you shouldn't
8 be offering things if you've got to scowl on your face.

9 So what I'm saying is -- and I do not understand
10 having to go to the Department President when you can
11 settle it between the five units in your district. That's
12 what we're supposed to be working toward, bringing more
13 unity instead of tearing people apart. And my poppy
14 makers have done --

15 (Applause.)

16 POPPY PRODUCTION MANAGER CORNISH: -- have been
17 in some adverse situations and we work everything out and
18 we have great fun doing it. Ask Susie, she's been there.
19 And my recommendation is trying to get the units to work
20 together. You do more good than you do bad.

21 (Applause.)

22 DEPARTMENT PRESIDENT WILLIAMS: Thank you, Lois.

23 VA&R CHAIR HAYES: Linda Hayes, District 20, Unit
24 348. The reason or the purpose for that was because a
25 couple years ago there was a unit that went and took a

1 mailing list for poppies that belonged to another unit and
2 worked, you know, out of their unit area. And so we were
3 trying to correct that, you know, to be courteous. If you
4 know that area is another unit area, ask them.

5 What it said before that is that if they're not
6 there by noon, you can go in. And, you know, that
7 shouldn't be the way it is. It's courteous, be courteous.
8 Thank you.

9 DEPARTMENT PRESIDENT WILLIAMS: I call for the
10 question.

11 POPPY CHAIR ROMANO: There's a call for the
12 question, ladies.

13 DEPARTMENT PRESIDENT WILLIAMS: Units should not
14 infringe on another unit's local -- yeah. "Units shall
15 not infringe on another Unit's local area unless prior
16 written permission has been received by the" -- what are
17 we voting on then?

18 PAST DEPARTMENT PRESIDENT WORKMAN: No, that's
19 correct. Diane said it first.

20 DEPARTMENT SECRETARY DOIDGE: Gloria, Diane said
21 it first.

22 DEPARTMENT PRESIDENT WILLIAMS: Okay. There's
23 been a motion.

24 POPPY CHAIR ROMANO: Okay. Ladies, quiet down.
25 Gloria is trying to read it. There's been a motion.

1 DEPARTMENT PRESIDENT WILLIAMS: There's been a
2 motion. All those in favor.

3 ALL DELEGATES: Aye.

4 DEPARTMENT PRESIDENT WILLIAMS: All opposed.
5 (No response.)

6 DEPARTMENT PRESIDENT WILLIAMS: Motion is
7 granted. Now number 8: "Units shall not infringe on
8 another Unit's local area unless prior written permission
9 has been received (2022) by the Department President
10 (2023) or no other unit exists in the area."

11 Are there any questions? You have a question?

12 POPPY CHAIR ROMANO: We already called the --

13 DEPARTMENT PRESIDENT WILLIAMS: We need to vote.
14 All in favor.

15 ALL DELEGATES: Aye.

16 DEPARTMENT PRESIDENT WILLIAMS: All opposed.
17 (No response.)

18 DEPARTMENT PRESIDENT WILLIAMS: Motion granted.

19 POPPY CHAIR ROMANO: Okay. May I proceed with my
20 platform remarks?

21 DEPARTMENT PRESIDENT WILLIAMS: Yes.

22 POPPY CHAIR ROMANO: Woo-hoo. Okay. The
23 Department of California 2022-2023 year began with our
24 annual workshops hosted at the Veterans Memorial in
25 Clovis, California. Packets were provided with Poppy

1 information and a Poppy flash drive for those in
2 attendance from the 30 districts. The packets contained
3 the Poppy Program Guide, media tool kit, proclamation
4 samples, National publications and several other resources
5 available to members from both the National and Department
6 websites.

7 Additionally, the District Presidents were
8 provided the same material and Poppy flash drive for their
9 respective districts to share with the Poppy Chairmen not
10 in attendance. Sorry.

11 Subsequently, Poppy bulletins and regular emails
12 with information on poppies, the use of Poppy funds, Poppy
13 ideas and stories including the National newsletter were
14 sent to not only the Department Chairmen but also the
15 District Presidents. New Poppy projects have been created
16 and shared with the hopes of stimulating excitement, yay,
17 and participation with not only senior members, but also
18 our junior members.

19 We had a record number of poppies ordered at over
20 145,000. We had to enlist several districts and unit
21 members to assist with Poppy production as we were still
22 down to only one Poppy production site in the entire state
23 from three prior to COVID-19. We also had to purchase
24 30,000 poppies from another department just to fill all
25 our unit orders.

1 Ms. Lois Cornish continued to work her magic at
2 the WAVE clinic in San Diego having veterans making
3 poppies along with Poppy Chairman Jean Sudbeck, Unit 327
4 District 29 who continues to volunteer and make well over
5 16,000 poppies just to assist in fulfilling all our
6 orders.

7 At the end of the year, 22 of the 30 American
8 Legion Auxiliary units in the Department of California
9 submitted their end-of-year reports. And of the 277
10 units, 137 responded. Twelve districts had 100 percent
11 reporting. From these reports volunteers were counted at
12 2,104 poppy workers of which were 1,942 seniors, 68
13 juniors, 94 others with thousands of dollars in donation
14 collected and hundreds of hours dedicated to this program.

15 From the reporting, five units indicated that
16 they would be participating in the poster contest. At
17 least seven posters were submitted or were received,
18 sorry, by the deadline date and submitted to the Western
19 Region Chair for competition.

20 I'm very happy to announce that the Western
21 Division judges selected Lacey Garden's poster submitted
22 by District 28, Unit 589.

23 (Applause.)

24 POPPY CHAIR ROMANO: Seven units indicated that
25 they would be participating in the Poppy Display at our

1 annual convention in June of 2023. The Miss Poppy contest
2 had three units participating and two units participating
3 in a Little Miss Poppy contest. One of each scrapbook was
4 received by the deadline and submitted to the Western
5 Division Chair for competition. Additionally the reports
6 also included a total of 24 units' donations to food banks
7 of \$11,100.

8 I want to share some of the activities from some
9 of the units. Some examples of Unit activities includes
10 Unit 46, District 24 obtained an American Legion National
11 Foundation grant of over \$2,400 for a Poppy branded canopy
12 and tablecloths to promote poppies in their community.
13 The unit also received two separate Poppy proclamations.

14 Unit 383, District 6 participated in a kids art
15 festival sponsored by their recreation and parks district
16 in which children planted their own poppy seeds.

17 Unit 299, District 20 obtained three separate
18 poppy proclamations, spoke at Memorial Day events, and had
19 demonstrations on how to make poppies.

20 District 92, District 2 created a field of 200
21 poppies, the Flanders Field Poem, and crosses to decorate
22 the American Legion float in the McCloud Fiesta Parade
23 Lest We Forget.

24 The Poppy mid-year reports were filled with some
25 of the regular customary activities and information that

1 units reported on for the first half of the ALA year, such
2 as Poppy mailings to members, Legionnaires, and Sons,
3 along with tabling at fairs, farmers markets, schools and
4 local stores. Several units were issued poppy
5 proclamations from either city councils and/or mayors
6 regarding National Poppy Day. In some cases some units
7 received more than one Poppy proclamation from separate
8 cities.

9 Other units reported activities which include
10 Unit 283, District 24 celebrated with a Post 100 birthday
11 decorating the inside and outside of the post with poppies
12 and reading the Flanders Field Poem during the program.

13 Unit 258, District 22 making of poppy wreaths for
14 family members and used the donations for the veterans at
15 the VA.

16 Unit 377, District 20 displays a poppy tree every
17 year with small tags in a basket to write someone's name
18 you want to honor and offer a donation in their name. The
19 unit president recites Flanders Field Poem during Memorial
20 Day as her ancestors include the Flanders in Belgium who
21 owned said field.

22 Unit 302, District 17 contacted the Royal British
23 Legion to have a poppy exchange as they share poppies
24 year-round made by family members and veteran
25 organizations.

1 The Department Executive Committee meeting was
2 held January 13 to 15, 2023. California's theme this year
3 is, "All Aboard the Friendship Train." Each chairman was
4 a conductor to promote their program. This Poppy
5 conductor had several poppy crafts including how to make
6 poppies infographic, red crepe poppy, poppy felt
7 instructions sets/templates, poppy T-shirts red and blue,
8 poppy lanyards, flash drives, also the poppy information
9 on their activities and fundraising. The finale of the
10 presentation as way Poppy Hat Contest showcasing several
11 participants and prizes were given to the winners.

12 Lastly, Poppy Production Manager Lois Cornish was
13 able to provide video content with instructions from the
14 new infographic created this year. The video content was
15 then used to produce a video on making the red paper poppy
16 for future generations. The video has been shared with
17 Unit members, District and Department along with social
18 media. It is also available on YouTube, and I put the
19 link in there. This and all the other new ideas and
20 projects created this year will continue to assist our
21 members in promoting the Poppy program well into the next
22 year.

23 Madam President, thank you for asking me to do
24 this Poppy Chairmanship. I enjoyed this assignment and I
25 hope everyone did as well.

1 (Applause.)

2 POPPY CHAIR ROMANO: May I proceed with my
3 awards?

4 DEPARTMENT PRESIDENT WILLIAMS: Yes, please.

5 POPPY CHAIR ROMANO: And I did not judge any of
6 them. I had other people judge them. There was no
7 favoritism. For first place for unit supplemental Linda
8 Ramirez Pearson, Unit 46.

9 (Applause.)

10 POPPY CHAIR ROMANO: I wish I would have received
11 more. I only had three, so -- but for what I did receive
12 it was very hard. The supplementals were outstanding for
13 district, but we only can have one first place. First
14 place, District 21 Sharon Mordetzky.

15 (Applause.)

16 POPPY CHAIR ROMANO: I don't know if we can do
17 the -- the judging has happened for the two categories for
18 the Poppy displays and I only need Madam President to do
19 hers for her choice, but I do have the others. There's a
20 few. There's -- I think there's a first, second, and
21 third place for each; right? The categories, the theme,
22 and the --

23 DEPARTMENT PRESIDENT WILLIAMS: You could
24 announce that tomorrow.

25 POPPY CHAIR ROMANO: I could. That's what I'm

1 asking, what is your preference?

2 DEPARTMENT PRESIDENT WILLIAMS: First place
3 awards now.

4 POPPY CHAIR ROMANO: Do the first place. I
5 almost forgot. I do have the certificate and \$20 for the
6 first place, also for Department certificate for Lacey
7 Garden for the poster.

8 DEPARTMENT PRESIDENT WILLIAMS: Is it possible
9 that they can wait so we can introduce somebody who's
10 here?

11 POPPY CHAIR ROMANO: Yes.

12 DEPARTMENT PRESIDENT WILLIAMS: Thank you.

13 POPPY CHAIR ROMANO: Absolutely.

14 DEPARTMENT PRESIDENT WILLIAMS: Sergeant-at-Arms,
15 escort our guests to the podium.

16 (Processional.)

17 DEPARTMENT PRESIDENT WILLIAMS: Members, this is
18 state director for the Legion Riders.

19 RIDERS DIRECTOR SMITH: Nice to see you again.
20 How are you? Yes, ma'am, we certainly did. I am doing
21 well. How are you? Excellent. I've got about five hours
22 of comments. I hope you guys are okay. Oh, I do take
23 bribes. For \$20 I'll cut this down to three minutes.

24 Well, you do get the first version. The first
25 version of what I wrote down, there's not that much. But

1 I have to write things down or I will go off script and I
2 will be talking forever. You'll drag me off stage. That
3 will be fun.

4 So I bring greeting from the Riders. And I am
5 Mike Smith. It's a real name. I have an I.D. I'm trying
6 to work the microphone as best I can. I am the State
7 Director for the Riders. That just means I'm the first
8 guy that gets blamed for things.

9 So thank you, Madam President, for allowing me to
10 come up here and take some time, and I appreciate that.
11 Thank you for letting me come speak to you ladies.

12 (Applause.)

13 RIDERS DIRECTOR SMITH: So during the past year
14 the Riders have been busy as we continue to return to our
15 normal after the pandemic. And I tell you we still are
16 fighting to get back as much as I notice things are going
17 on around the state. Some of our participation is a
18 little low, but we'll get there.

19 So April 21st of '23, the 16th Annual Legion
20 Riders Convention was held in Tulare, California at the
21 Tulare County Veterans Memorial Building. So our olympic
22 state leadership was myself. I'm from Area 3, Post 20 in
23 Porterville. Ralph Wenzinger is from Area 3, District 15
24 from Post 26, and our Sergeant-at-Arms was Marc Lawrie
25 from Area 5, District 21 and Post 951.

1 So I do have our state membership officer right
2 here. She's not in my notes, but I'm going to nod my way
3 over to her because every time I call and say I need my
4 numbers, I need this, I need that, Rochelle is on top of
5 it. She sits at our state level with us and she's been
6 our membership officer for how many years? Five years.
7 Like a lot more than I've been up there.

8 So thank you very much for all your work,
9 Rochelle.

10 (Applause.)

11 RIDERS DIRECTOR SMITH: So on here I have a
12 little thing saying thank you for Jere Romano. Where's
13 Martha? I know you're here; I heard you. Right there.
14 So I have to say it or I'll get told on, but my heart-felt
15 thanks to Jere Romano, our Department Commander. He
16 conducted our installation of officers, and to have our
17 State Commander do that for us was a big shot in the arm.

18 So a little bit more of about what we're doing.
19 May 5th through the 7th the California Legacy Run was
20 conducted. Who knows about the California Legacy Run?
21 Outstanding. So keep your hands up. Where are my Riders?
22 That's what I want to know, where are my Riders? Stand
23 and be recognized. Because that's -- that's right. We're
24 all part of the American Legion Family, every one of us.

25 So we held our Legacy Run. We started at Post

1 221 in Tehachapi. We hosted a kickoff night. I think 221
2 is over there; I'm not sure. So the meal we had and the
3 comradeship are perfect. We all had a great time. Some
4 people lost their phones. I don't know how they landed in
5 my possession, but some people had nude videos on their
6 phones. Pictures were taken. They could show them to
7 their grandchildren; I wouldn't do anything crazy.

8 So after that we visited the Ventura Veterans
9 Home on our swing up to the north. We were able to meet
10 one of our very few World War II veterans that are still
11 with us. But after our stop, the director gave -- well,
12 during the stop the director gave us a tour of the
13 facility and grounds, and I'll tell you the grounds were
14 absolutely gorgeous. They're perfect. They've got a
15 great garden out in the back for them.

16 Later on the director sent me an email and just
17 told us about the great impact that we had on those
18 veterans that were there. And so we're planning on going;
19 right, Rochelle? If you didn't know, she's also my
20 commanding chair for the Legacy Scholarship Run. This
21 lady works hard.

22 So what happened is we worked our way up to the
23 state capital where we laid our final wreath at the Purple
24 Heart monument. From our starting point in Tehachapi at
25 211, one we rode about 585 miles. That doesn't include

1 the miles that the people rode to get there to the start.
2 So many of them rode over probably a thousand miles just
3 to do the whole thing. So that was a big undertaking.

4 So if you're from 221, thank you. 507 Newhall,
5 thank you. 741 Camarillo -- there you are. How come I
6 didn't see you there. Right here. Post 66 San Luis
7 Obispo. Post 3 Hanford. You can do better than that.
8 Post 83 Merced, and Post 88 in Turlock, they supported the
9 ride by providing either a lunch, dinner, or donations and
10 both. So we were welcomed there by our Legion Family. I
11 like to use that term as opposed to just Legionnaires
12 because we're all a family and we're all one team, we're
13 all in one fight. We're all working for one thing.
14 You'll hear me say that a lot.

15 So as of this time all that talking about the
16 Legacy Scholarship Fund, at this time we have \$58,537 that
17 has been raised.

18 (Applause.)

19 RIDERS DIRECTOR SMITH: I want to -- I'm in port
20 right now. It's her fault. She is a powerhouse, but we
21 have a goal of \$80,000. So we can still use your help.
22 Pennies, dimes, and nickels are nice. The kind that fold
23 are even better. We'll take donations up until August
24 1st, but as of August 21st I'm on the road to Charlotte,
25 North Carolina to the National Convention on my bike, not

1 an airplane; I won't fly. But I'll be on two wheels for
2 you. Yeah, I won't tell you what I paid to get here.
3 Yeah. GPS said ten minutes. I said I can beat that. I
4 did.

5 So right now give you numbers. The boring stuff.
6 At this time we have 95 chapters. We have 1,975 members.
7 Of those members, here we go, 1,248 are Legionnaires. 385
8 are Sons of American Legion. Auxiliary, you're at 327.

9 (Applause.)

10 RIDERS DIRECTOR SMITH: Outstanding.
11 Twenty-three are active duty. Can you hold this? Thank
12 you. I'll put you to work. I've got to make sure I
13 had -- okay. Jere told me to do this front and back so
14 now I'm all confused. I know, I know, I know.

15 So from May 2022 to April 2023, I'll throw some
16 more numbers at you. We put in as a group, not
17 individually because that would be way too much to
18 calculate, 137,145 miles in support of our veterans.

19 (Applause.)

20 RIDERS DIRECTOR SMITH: Keep in mind that's not a
21 total. That's just as a group. I estimate it to be about
22 a billion. It's a lot when I started doing it. But this
23 year -- where's 323 out of Norco? Are you here? Did I
24 say -- 328. Sorry. Well, 328, they retained their
25 overall title again with 15,230 miles. That's a lot of

1 miles.

2 So here you go. This is my favorite one. We had
3 17,467 volunteer hours. Does anybody know how much
4 California values those numbers at? 29.95. Yeah, the
5 calculator told me we did \$523,136.65 in volunteer hours.
6 That's what that means. Just over half a million. Our
7 volunteers as a family does matter. So when you get those
8 reports and you look at those things, they do it in
9 dollars and cents and how much that goes to. Because I
10 know when I was working full-time, I did both. It's --
11 it's appreciated.

12 So as a group the Riders have been busy, but I do
13 want to close on one little observation I made. And I'm
14 going to try to stay on point with this and that's why I
15 typed things up. So last weekend June 16th I traveled to
16 Oroville Post 95. Are they represented here today? They
17 didn't make it down. That's okay. They're new. They
18 were celebrating their first anniversary by holding a
19 poker room. And what I say to you I don't want to
20 distract from anything that the other chapters are doing
21 out there, but 95 stood out to me.

22 After speaking with the post commander and the
23 director, I found the post was barely hanging on. They
24 were about to close the doors. But not only did these
25 family members start the program for the Riders, but by

1 their action, they bring life back into the entire
2 American Legion Family up there. The Legionnaires,
3 Auxiliary, and Sons are thriving right now in a matter of
4 a year because of their hard work.

5 (Applause.)

6 RIDERS DIRECTOR SMITH: I like to preach about
7 having the American Legion intertwined back into our
8 communities. And the director told me a little bit about
9 what's going on up there. He was telling me about
10 children on corners that wave at them as they go by and
11 how they become intertwined in our community.

12 The one thing I like is he told me, yeah, I'll
13 come up to a cop car, tap on it and they like to mess with
14 us back.

15 But they have complete support of their community
16 up there, and that's something we all need to be striving
17 for in our communities is getting our Legion Family back
18 into our communities. For some reason California doesn't
19 have that, but we need to work on it. Not only will we
20 strengthen our communities, but we'll strengthen our
21 Legion Family.

22 So they went out on their recruiting mission.
23 And I won't get into a lot of details, but what they did
24 is they broke away from the norms. They didn't go through
25 the old ways, but rather they forged ahead and found new

1 ways to recruit life back into their posts and put life
2 into their chapter and post.

3 So if we take a look at what they're doing up
4 there and not be afraid -- and here's my big word for the
5 year -- change. Embrace change. We can make it. But I'm
6 going to tell you -- we've all seen the new logos; right?
7 The new logos National came with. No? The new branding?
8 No.

9 DEPARTMENT PARLIAMENTARIAN BIGGS: I have.

10 RIDERS DIRECTOR SMITH: You have, yeah. I think
11 it's outside on your door, isn't it? Yeah, you've seen
12 it. It's not just our normal thing. We've got our
13 emblems and we've got our new logos. Does everyone know
14 now? Have I confused everybody? The new logos. Well,
15 I'll be honest with you -- there it is. Be The One.

16 Yeah, so I'm going to tell right now and I'm
17 going to be perfectly honest, I'm not a fan. I will say
18 I was not a fan of these logos. I was not. Talk to me
19 and I'll tell you I don't like them. However, change is
20 sometimes uncomfortable. We can't just continue to do
21 business as usual.

22 So what these logos now mean to me is change.
23 This is what it -- well, it's change. But it's breaking
24 how we've always done it. Post and Chapter 95 should be
25 our example of how we should be doing it. Stay motivated.

1 Don't let the old norms hold you back. Stay on mission
2 and don't get distracted. We must not fail in our
3 mission.

4 And on that if I can drop it, I probably would
5 break it, but thank you very much for allowing me to come
6 in here and talk.

7 DEPARTMENT PRESIDENT WILLIAMS: I would like to
8 present to you our slogan this year with the train. And
9 this is the Friendship Train - Serving Veterans.

10 RIDERS DIRECTOR SMITH: Thank you.

11 DEPARTMENT PRESIDENT WILLIAMS: And so I'll give
12 one to the lady over there. Thank you for coming and
13 speaking to us. Nice seeing you again.

14 RIDERS DIRECTOR SMITH: And I also have something
15 to you. I wasn't finished.

16 DEPARTMENT PRESIDENT WILLIAMS: Oh, excuse me.

17 RIDERS DIRECTOR SMITH: It's not your fault.
18 It's my fault because I was a little slow. But I want
19 to --

20 DEPARTMENT PRESIDENT WILLIAMS: I would say to
21 give it to --

22 RIDERS DIRECTOR SMITH: It's time to get off the
23 stage, but thank you, ladies.

24 (Processional.)

25 DEPARTMENT PRESIDENT WILLIAMS: Martha? Okay.

1 We're ready for you. You've got to come on. Just do your
2 first place awards, that's all. Just first place.

3 POPPY CHAIR ROMANO: Right, for theme and
4 freestyle because I do not have your first place, your
5 choice.

6 DEPARTMENT PRESIDENT WILLIAMS: Well, I didn't
7 know it was here.

8 POPPY CHAIR ROMANO: So for freestyle poppy
9 display contest, Unit 41, District 28.

10 (Applause.)

11 POPPY CHAIR ROMANO: For first place best
12 interpretation of president's theme, Unit 117, District
13 10.

14 (Applause.)

15 POPPY CHAIR ROMANO: Unit 117, wake up.

16 DEPARTMENT SECRETARY DOIDGE: She's coming.

17 POPPY CHAIR ROMANO: I only have the first place
18 Lacey Garden with the poster.

19 (Applause.)

20 POPPY CHAIR ROMANO: Actually, I wanted to show a
21 picture of the poster because I had to submit it to
22 Western Division and it won Western Division as well.
23 This is what it was.

24 (Applause.)

25 DEPARTMENT PRESIDENT WILLIAMS: Can you turn it

1 around this way?

2 POPPY CHAIR ROMANO: So Western Division had four
3 judges. I believe that Western Division Chair also
4 contacted the winner. And there's a monetary award that
5 was already submitted to Lacey.

6 DEPARTMENT PRESIDENT WILLIAMS: After this
7 meeting I'll go back there and judge them.

8 POPPY CHAIR ROMANO: That concludes my platform
9 remarks and my awards. Thank you.

10 DEPARTMENT PRESIDENT WILLIAMS: Can we have our
11 Music Chairman, Miss Yve?

12 MUSIC CHAIR EVANS-HANNA: Yes, ma'am.

13 DEPARTMENT PRESIDENT WILLIAMS: Front and center.
14 I want your report. Are you ready to give it?

15 MUSIC CHAIR EVANS-HANNA: Yes, I have everything
16 I need. I was prepared for tomorrow, but as you know, the
17 seconds tick by. There's no such thing as tomorrow, so we
18 have to do what we need to do today. I can't see. Oh,
19 all right.

20

21 MUSIC CONVENTION REPORT

22

23 MUSIC CHAIR EVANS-HANNA: The convention
24 committee program for Music -- oh, by the way, for those
25 of you who don't know who I am and give a good -- well,

1 you know, on the roster my name is Yvonne Evans-Hanna, but
2 most people here know me by just Yve. Just Yve.

3 Anyway, we had our meeting on the 22nd in the
4 Laurel Room. And we are, for reasons unknown, I'm just
5 learning, we're not in the Book of Records. It's okay.
6 It's okay. We will be there next year.

7 Joyce Patton was appointed secretary, Past
8 President Madeline Lee prayed over us -- God help her --
9 and Connie Raya, my bud, the Sergeant-at-Arms. She had a
10 big stick. We had a total of 11 and there were two
11 visitors.

12 The code was read very quickly. And it was moved
13 by Madeline Lee and seconded by Bonnie Bradbury to remove
14 this segment of the code. Relax. "District Report Forms
15 are to be sent to Division Chairman and National Committee
16 Chairman by May 15, 2019." That was from sections of the
17 Code 4 and 5.

18 Code originally read -- I know you're dying to
19 hear this -- "Mid-year Report Forms for all committee
20 programs shall conform with standard time frames. Unit
21 report forms are to be sent to the District Chairman by
22 December 1st. District report forms are to be sent to the
23 Department Chairman by December 15th. Department Chairmen
24 reports are to be sent to their Division Chairman and the
25 National Committee Chairman by January 5th."

1 That little last segment, nobody else is doing
2 it. It's not anybody -- it's not even in the book.

3 Section 5 -- and I know I'm supposed to do these
4 separate, but I'm reading to you once because don't ask me
5 to read them again. "End of the year report forms for all
6 committee programs shall conform with standard time
7 frames. Unit report forms are to be sent to the District
8 Chairman by the second Friday in April. District report
9 forms are to be sent to the Department Chairman by May
10 1st. Department Chairmen reports are to be sent to their"
11 -- this is the segment we're deleting -- "their Division
12 Chairman and the National Committee Chairman by May 15th."
13 We didn't even make it to the statistical report.

14 So by direction of the Music committee, we want
15 to delete in Section 4, "District report forms are to be
16 sent to the Division Chairmen and National Committee
17 Chairman by December 15th (2019)." That's in section 4,
18 Madam President.

19 DEPARTMENT PRESIDENT WILLIAMS: So moved by
20 direction of the committee. Are there any -- it's been
21 moved by the direction of this committee.

22 DEPARTMENT PARLIAMENTARIAN BIGGS: She's doing
23 like this.

24 DEPARTMENT PRESIDENT WILLIAMS: It's been moved
25 by the direction of the committee. Are there any

1 questions?

2 (No response.)

3 DEPARTMENT PRESIDENT WILLIAMS: Hearing none,
4 I'll take your vote. All in favor.

5 ALL DELEGATES: Aye.

6 DEPARTMENT PRESIDENT WILLIAMS: All opposed.

7 MUSIC CHAIR EVANS-HANNA: Don't you dare.

8 (No response.)

9 DEPARTMENT PRESIDENT WILLIAMS: By direction of
10 the committee, it's been approved.

11 MUSIC CHAIR EVANS-HANNA: Thank you, Madam
12 President for. Section 5 of the Music code, we would like
13 to negate that same line as on your report.

14 DEPARTMENT PRESIDENT WILLIAMS: I move --

15 MUSIC CHAIR EVANS-HANNA: I move. By direction
16 of the committee I move that we delete the district, dot,
17 dot, dot, district and national committee chairman by May
18 15th.

19 DEPARTMENT PRESIDENT WILLIAMS: Are there any
20 questions?

21 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: I second it.

22 DEPARTMENT PRESIDENT WILLIAMS: You don't have
23 to. All in favor.

24 ALL DELEGATES: Aye.

25 DEPARTMENT PRESIDENT WILLIAMS: All opposed.

1 (No response.)

2 DEPARTMENT PRESIDENT WILLIAMS: Granted.

3 MUSIC CHAIR EVANS-HANNA: After we got the
4 business out of the way, which incidentally we were all on
5 a schedule so our whole meeting lasted approximately 17
6 minutes, we got notification that one of our beloved had
7 passed away. And she was our musical chair not only in
8 unit, but in district and department and nationally. And
9 just -- it wasn't so much that she passed away. It's that
10 we had been looking for her for a year and we couldn't
11 find her. May I go on with my --

12 DEPARTMENT PRESIDENT WILLIAMS: Yeah.

13 MUSIC CHAIR EVANS-HANNA: I'm sorry. I just had
14 to -- greetings, Auxiliary Choir. As Chair -- you guys
15 are acting like Presbyterians. Don't start. I offer
16 sincere congratulations to each Unit and District in
17 making music an integral part of our journey. 2023 has
18 been an adventurous year for all California districts and
19 units, but we have sojourned on the Friendship Train with
20 the single purpose of serving veterans and their families.

21 Each unit has taken, it seems, every available
22 opportunity to encourage our words and our wards and each
23 other with that universal language of music at parades,
24 funerals, holiday events, special ceremonies, veterans
25 homes, hospitals, and even over the phone for people who

1 are unable to attend meetings or sick or shut in.

2 Often we think that a song is only for our
3 veterans and their families and the usual suspects,
4 however, I assure you the music is also needed and
5 welcomed by our Auxiliary sisters and brothers. I
6 attended a unit meeting where us singing together
7 encouraged visitors to join, a powerful testimony of music
8 demonstrating camaraderie.

9 We found that in discouraging times and
10 circumstances music speaks to our higher self and reminds
11 us that we are not in the frays alone. It improves the
12 mood, promotes healing and quiets the savage beast. I'm
13 standing right here.

14 The regular rhythm of the Friendship Train
15 through curves and bumps and sunshine and rain and feast
16 and famine has made beautiful music when singing together
17 and unifies us all in that grand refrain of mutual
18 helpfulness.

19 I pray we proceed and continue with a song in our
20 hearts and on our lips from the work that we have been
21 called to. Congratulations.

22 (Applause.)

23 DEPARTMENT PRESIDENT WILLIAMS: Thank you, Madam
24 Chairman.

25 MUSIC CHAIR EVANS-HANNA: Madam President, can I

1 give my awards now? I've been waiting all day.

2 DEPARTMENT PRESIDENT WILLIAMS: Yes, you may.

3 MUSIC CHAIR EVANS-HANNA: Some of you -- I know
4 I'm not the unusual bell of -- I'm not the usual bell of
5 fair and I think some of you may think that I take what I
6 do lightly, but I want to thank Madam President for
7 appointing me to this -- to this Chair because you know
8 that music is my heart. It's what I do for a living and I
9 take the American Legion Auxiliary with me to the four
10 corners of the earth on behalf of my Unit 639 and my
11 District 23 and all of you.

12 Now I didn't send out any notices to have these
13 people step forward because I kind of didn't want them to
14 know. This first award goes to District 15 to Pat Gracie.

15 (Applause.)

16 MUSIC CHAIR EVANS-HANNA: In recognition for
17 outstanding cooperation, especially for a plus one
18 supplemental. I just learned something. Ms. Gracie is 95
19 years old. You go, girl.

20 (Applause.)

21 MUSIC CHAIR EVANS-HANNA: And the next award I'd
22 like to give is for best song. Oh, yeah, she wrote a
23 song. She's done everything else in the Auxiliary, why
24 not write a song. Goes to District 15 Ms. Madeline Lee.

25 (Applause.)

1 MUSIC CHAIR EVANS-HANNA: What? What? You want
2 her to sing it?

3 (Applause.)

4 MUSIC CHAIR EVANS-HANNA: Okay. Okay. I just
5 have to tell you, I have to tell you, the last part of the
6 song you have to sing along. You get it. And don't
7 pretend because I see where you all are and I know where
8 your cars are parked.

9 (Singing.)

10 MUSIC CHAIR EVANS-HANNA: And just so you're not
11 asking, we're taking that to the studio. Oh, you laugh.
12 You laugh, but it's going to be a hit. It will be out in
13 time for the December DEC. So get your copy, don't play.

14 I thank you, Madam President. It's been fun.

15 DEPARTMENT PRESIDENT WILLIAMS: I thank you, Ms.
16 Yve. You're beautiful.

17 (Applause.)

18 DEPARTMENT PRESIDENT WILLIAMS: Now Nancy, our
19 Editor. Nancy Heinisch. Is she here? She's coming okay.

20

21 EDITOR CONVENTION REPORT

22

23 EDITOR CHAIR HEINISCH: Good evening. I am the
24 world's fastest talker. I will be done in two minutes.

25 The convention committee on Public Relations and

1 Editor are combined and we met on June 22nd 10:00 a.m. in
2 the Maple Group. Linda Fercho was the secretary, Denise
3 Warback was the chaplain, and Peggy Toye was the
4 Sergeant-at-Arms.

5 Now there might be a problem with the Public
6 Relations part. That's Donna Smith. But with my part
7 there were no code changes and nothing happened.

8 (Applause.)

9 DEPARTMENT EDITOR HEINISCH: For my platform
10 remarks, Madam President, I want to thank you for this
11 special appointment.

12 I hope that you are all reading American news --
13 The American Legion Auxiliary News Hub, our official
14 publication. If you don't, you can find it on the welcome
15 page of the Department website. The welcome page is on
16 the right-hand side. It is formatted as a magazine and it
17 showcases recent achievements, spotlights awesome
18 volunteers, and highlights past and upcoming events.

19 It also provides useful and important and unique
20 information on topics members hear about. The most
21 important thing about the Hub is that these are stories
22 and things that you can't get anywhere else. So the
23 things that appear in here, you're not going to find them
24 anywhere else.

25 The Hub is a sister publication for the

1 Legionnaires. And the other important point about The Hub
2 is that it's all voluntary. Like for the Legionnaire,
3 like for my husband, you're forced to write something.
4 Anything that comes to The Hub is a voluntary thing.

5 It has been gratifying to be part of telling the
6 story of the successes of our units. Special thanks to
7 Barb Toth, who I saw over there, for proofreading, for
8 Rebecca Glenny for posting the newsletter online, and Liz
9 Doidge who sends out email alerts.

10 Madam President, may I go ahead and present my
11 awards?

12 DEPARTMENT PRESIDENT WILLIAMS: Yes, you may.

13 DEPARTMENT EDITOR HEINISCH: This is a special
14 award for the person who has done the word search and has
15 written many first-person articles. And where are you,
16 Elizabeth? Elizabeth Estavillo.

17 (Applause.)

18 DEPARTMENT EDITOR HEINISCH: One of the last
19 articles that Elizabeth wrote was on the man who talked
20 about PTSD. It was a wonderful article and I've gotten
21 many comments on that. So keep reading it. Send me
22 things. I'll take things any time. Thank you.

23 DEPARTMENT PRESIDENT WILLIAMS: Thank you very
24 much.

25 Elizabeth, our secretary, do we have any train

1 whistles?

2 DEPARTMENT SECRETARY DOIDGE: We do. I'm going
3 to start with the confusing one. Somebody has asked
4 us to announce their caucus location for their district,
5 but you don't tell us who you are or where you're having
6 it. Oh, it's for District 23. What and where?

7 DISTRICT 23 DELEGATE: It's going to be as soon
8 as this is over in the boardroom adjacent to the
9 president's suite.

10 DEPARTMENT PARLIAMENTARIAN BIGGS: Okay. 154.

11 DEPARTMENT SECRETARY DOIDGE: And so now we need
12 a special DEC meeting to approve the Girls State budget.
13 It will be tomorrow morning at 8:00 a.m. I almost said
14 p.m. Right here.

15 Music -- Music Chair Yve Evans asks -- I don't
16 know. Does she want the Chairs to meet back there? I'll
17 go back to that one. Yve, who do you want to meet?

18 MUSIC CHAIR EVANS-HANNA: Yeah, in that corner
19 over there.

20 DEPARTMENT SECRETARY DOIDGE: Who?

21 MUSIC CHAIR EVANS-HANNA: All of you.

22 DEPARTMENT SECRETARY DOIDGE: She's going to have
23 a party in the corner.

24 MUSIC CHAIR EVANS-HANNA: District Presidents.

25 DEPARTMENT SECRETARY DOIDGE: District

1 Presidents, please meet Yve in the corner over here.
2 You're all in trouble.

3 Anita's Team Captains will meet for lunch in the
4 hotel restaurant tomorrow. Please preorder your selection
5 in the morning at the restaurant.

6 District Presidents, please check in with me --
7 because we're doing the DEC tomorrow morning, please check
8 in with me tonight regarding your delegation count. I
9 will be in the office from at least 4:00 to 6:00. If you
10 need some time after that, let me know. I'll probably be
11 there still. Whenever we're out of here until 6:00, and
12 then we'll see what happens. I'm leaving.

13 Ways & Means has asked me to tell you guys that
14 blue tickets stay over there, red tickets stay over there.
15 If you alternate them, you're not winning. There's 50/50
16 orange tickets over there. Oh, now, they have purple
17 tickets. Apparently the purple tickets are over there.

18 Department Chairmen that have already reported,
19 please make sure to send me copies of your award winners
20 so we can post them on the windows of the office.

21 Madeline's Love Princesses and Bev's Stars will
22 meet at the back of the room at the end of the meeting
23 today.

24 DEPARTMENT PARLIAMENTARIAN BIGGS: Not today.
25 Tomorrow.

1 DEPARTMENT SECRETARY DOIDGE: It just said end of
2 the meeting, so I assume today. End of the meeting
3 tomorrow.

4 Americanism Chairmen that were in the
5 preconvention this morning, please meet Suzanne at the
6 back of the room today. The Americanism delegates.

7 And then last is I have a piece of jewelry. It's
8 got a bow and a little diamond. It's like a twisty ring.
9 Anyone is missing it, come see me. And then the last one
10 is Glenda has lost an earring. It's kind of an opal shape
11 with diamonds on it. If anybody finds it, see Glenda. I
12 don't know if they're diamonds. I'm just guessing.

13 DEPARTMENT PRESIDENT WILLIAMS: Thank you. We're
14 about to be in recess. Anything --

15 ELECTIONS CHAIR GLENNY: Madam President,
16 Elections caucus delegates, could you kindly meet in that
17 corner after we recess really quickly?

18 DEPARTMENT PRESIDENT WILLIAMS: Did you hear?
19 Anyone working in the Elections --

20 DEPARTMENT SECRETARY DOIDGE: Any Election
21 delegates that were at the preconvention this morning or
22 yesterday, please meet in that corner. It's all running
23 together.

24 DEPARTMENT PRESIDENT WILLIAMS: Okay. We'll meet
25 tomorrow. We'll reconvene at 8:30 a.m.

1 (The American Legion Auxiliary Convention
2 was adjourned at 4:37 p.m.)
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1 STATE OF CALIFORNIA)
2 COUNTY OF SAN JOAQUIN) ss.

3

4

5 I, Karen A. Aufdermaur, a Certified Shorthand
6 Reporter in the State of California, holding Certificate
7 Number 10919, do hereby certify that the American Legion
8 Auxiliary - Department of California 103rd Annual
9 Convention was taken Friday, June 23, 2023, at the time
10 and place set forth on the first page hereof.

11 That upon the taking of the meeting, the words of
12 the American Legion Auxiliary - Department of California
13 103rd Annual Convention members were written down by me in
14 stenotypy and thereafter transcribed by computer under my
15 supervision; that the foregoing is a true and correct
16 transcript of the oratory given by the American Legion
17 Auxiliary - Department of California 103rd Annual
18 Convention members.

19 I further certify that I am neither counsel for
20 nor in any way related to any party to said meeting, nor
21 in any way interested in the result or outcome thereof.

22 Dated this 12th day of July, 2023, at Ripon,
23 California.

24

25

Karen A. Aufdermaur, CSR No. 10919