

AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY
93rd Annual Convention, Vol. II - 6/23/2012

AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY
DEPARTMENT OF CALIFORNIA
93rd ANNUAL CONVENTION
SATURDAY, JUNE 23, 2012
REDDING, CALIFORNIA

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

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AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY

DEPARTMENT OF CALIFORNIA

93rd ANNUAL CONVENTION

SATURDAY, JUNE 23, 2012; 8:40 A.M.

REDDING, CALIFORNIA

CALL TO ORDER

DEPARTMENT PRESIDENT FERCHO: Ladies, the 93rd National Convention dedicated to Past National President, Past Department President Josie Melgard is now in session. We will now have the invocation by our preacher.

INVOCATION

CHAPLAIN CARTER: Dear Lord, it has been our 11th year for Auxiliary members. We thank you so much for all of it. Thank you for the United States of America for the freedom of having liberty. Also for the men and women who serve this country as they protect us and give their lives for our freedom. By your holy name we pray. Amen.

AUDIENCE MEMBERS: Amen.

ROLL CALL

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1 DEPARTMENT PRESIDENT FERCHO: We will now have
2 the roll call by the secretary from -- here from the
3 ranch.

4 SECRETARY/TREASURER VOGELE: Thank you.
5 Department President Linda Fercho.

6 DEPARTMENT PRESIDENT FERCHO: I'm here.

7 SECRETARY/TREASURER VOGELE: Department Vice
8 President Terry Mikesell.

9 DEPARTMENT VICE PRESIDENT MIKESELL: Present.

10 SECRETARY/TREASURER VOGELE: Secretary/treasurer
11 Peggy Vogele. Present. NEC Woman Pilar Reyes.

12 NEC WOMAN REYES: Present.

13 SECRETARY/TREASURER VOGELE: Chaplain Alzora
14 Carter.

15 CHAPLAIN CARTER: Present.

16 SECRETARY/TREASURER VOGELE: Historian Cherie
17 Galvan.

18 HISTORIAN GALVAN: Here.

19 SECRETARY/TREASURER VOGELE: Parliamentarian
20 Diane DeLashmit.

21 PARLIAMENTARIAN DELASHMIT: Circuit judge is
22 still saddling.

23 SECRETARY/TREASURER VOGELE: Musician Theresa
24 Jacob. Theresa?

25 DEPARTMENT PRESIDENT FERCHO: Oh, I'm sorry.

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1 She's excused.

2 SECRETARY/TREASURER VOGELE: Okay. Thank you.

3 Sergeant-at-Arms Gloria Williams.

4 SERGEANT-AT-ARMS WILLIAMS: Here.

5 SECRETARY/TREASURER VOGELE: Marshal Kathy

6 Harris.

7 MARSHAL HARRIS: Here.

8 SECRETARY/TREASURER VOGELE: Finance Committee

9 Chairman Susie Tozier.

10 FINANCE COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN TOZIER: Cha-ching.

11 SECRETARY/TREASURER VOGELE: Finance Committee

12 Senior Member Norma Billings.

13 FINANCE COMMITTEE SENIOR BILLINGS: Cha-ching.

14 SECRETARY/TREASURER VOGELE: Finance Committee

15 Junior Member Kathy Martinez.

16 FINANCE COMMITTEE JUNIOR MARTINEZ: Cha-ching.

17 SECRETARY/TREASURER VOGELE: Advisory Chairman

18 Madeline Lee.

19 ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEMBER LEE: Here.

20 SECRETARY/TREASURER VOGELE: Advisory Committee

21 Person Odette Cuccaro.

22 ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEMBER CUCCARO: Present.

23 SECRETARY/TREASURER VOGELE: Advisory Committee

24 Person Sandy Jacob is excused.

25 Now let's move on to the chairmen. Americanism,

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1 Michelle Soares.
2 AMERICANISM CHAIRMAN SOARES: Here.
3 SECRETARY/TREASURER VOGELE: AEF Fund, Kat
4 Conrad. She's excused.
5 Children & Youth, Harriet Clendenin is excused.
6 Community Service, Loretta Marsh is excused.
7 Constitution & Bylaws, Esther Garcia.
8 CONSTITUTION & BYLAWS CHAIRMAN GARCIA: Here.
9 SECRETARY/TREASURER VOGELE: Convention Chairman
10 for Redding. Cassie Mikesell is excused.
11 Convention Commission Chairman, Linda Caples.
12 CONVENTION COMMISSION CHAIRMAN CAPLES: Good
13 morning.
14 SECRETARY/TREASURER VOGELE: Okay. Credentials,
15 Marge Rye.
16 CREDENTIALS CHAIRMAN RYE: Here.
17 SECRETARY/TREASURER VOGELE: Distinguished Guest
18 Chairman, Linda Workman.
19 DISTINGUISHED GUEST CHAIRMAN WORKMAN: Working it
20 hard.
21 SECRETARY/TREASURER VOGELE: Editor, Estella
22 Avina.
23 EDITOR CHAIRMAN AVINA: Here.
24 SECRETARY/TREASURER VOGELE: There she is.
25 Education, Sylvia Alcantar is excused.

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1 Elections, Melanie Taylor.
2 ELECTIONS CHAIRMAN TAYLOR: I'm here.
3 SECRETARY/TREASURER VOGELE: Girls State Chairman
4 Lou Thompson is excused. And Girls State Director Sherry
5 Schneider is excused.
6 Junior Activities Chairman, Wantu Robinson. Oh,
7 there she is.
8 JUNIOR ACTIVITIES CHAIRMAN ROBINSON: Our girls
9 are still working.
10 SECRETARY/TREASURER VOGELE: Junior Conference
11 Director, Jackie Cleveland.
12 JUNIOR CONFERENCE DIRECTOR CLEVELAND: Here.
13 SECRETARY/TREASURER VOGELE: Leadership, Linda
14 Diebel.
15 LEADERSHIP CHAIRMAN DIEBEL: We're still getting
16 into the new century.
17 SECRETARY/TREASURER VOGELE: Legislative, Pilar
18 Reyes. Here. Membership, Karen Karanickolas.
19 MEMBERSHIP CHAIRMAN KARANICKOLAS: Present.
20 SECRETARY/TREASURER VOGELE: National Security,
21 Terry Mikesell.
22 DEPARTMENT VICE PRESIDENT MIKESELL: Present.
23 MARSHAL CHANEY: She's a little tied up though.
24 SECRETARY/TREASURER VOGELE: National Security --
25 I'm sorry. Past Presidents Parley, LuAnn Capazzi.

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1 PAST PRESIDENTS PARLEY CHAIRMAN CAPAZZI: Good
2 morning.

3 SECRETARY/TREASURER VOGELE: Poppies, Jean
4 Cooley-Demeules.

5 POPPY CHAIRMAN COOLEY-DEMEULES: We've done our
6 harvesting and ready to go.

7 SECRETARY/TREASURER VOGELE: Public relations,
8 Lisa Stuart.

9 PUBLIC RELATIONS CHAIRMAN STUART: Here.

10 SECRETARY/TREASURER VOGELE: Resolutions, Pat
11 Sweeney.

12 DEPARTMENT PRESIDENT FERCHO: There she is.

13 RESOLUTIONS CHAIRMAN SWEENEY: Here we go.

14 SECRETARY/TREASURER VOGELE: Rules, Carol Fuqua.

15 RULES CHAIRMAN FUQUA: Present.

16 SECRETARY/TREASURER VOGELE: Veterans Affairs &
17 Rehabilitation, Anita Biggs.

18 VETERANS AFFAIRS & REHABILITATION CHAIRMAN BIGGS:
19 Buffalo soldiers, ready and forward.

20 SECRETARY/TREASURER VOGELE: Ways & Means, Denyse
21 Laugeson.

22 WAYS & MEANS CHAIRMAN LAUGESON: Howdy.

23 SECRETARY/TREASURER VOGELE: And we'll move on to
24 the district presidents. District 1, Kat Conrad is
25 excused. District 2, Nancy Johnson.

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1 DISTRICT 2 PRESIDENT JOHNSON: Here.

2 SECRETARY/TREASURER VOGELE: District 3, Lola
3 Ramey.

4 DISTRICT 3 PRESIDENT RAMEY: Back here in the
5 back.

6 SECRETARY/TREASURER VOGELE: Okay. In the back
7 40 there. District 4, Barbara LaDoucer.

8 DISTRICT 4 PRESIDENT LaDOUCER: Here.

9 SECRETARY/TREASURER VOGELE: Okay. District 5,
10 Virginia McQueen.

11 DISTRICT 5: It's Virginia's birthday and we'll
12 all be celebrating. Yahoo.

13 DEPARTMENT PRESIDENT FERCHO: Oh, wait. We have
14 to sing happy birthday. Virginia, come on up here.

15 SECRETARY/TREASURER VOGELE: Virginia. Come on
16 up, Virginia.

17 DEPARTMENT PRESIDENT FERCHO: We have to put you
18 up here in the place of honor. I think we have another
19 birthday. I think we have another birthday.

20 SECRETARY/TREASURER VOGELE: Frances King.

21 DEPARTMENT PRESIDENT FERCHO: Okay. Frances King
22 come forward. Happy birthday. Norma DuVall, come
23 forward. Happy birthday. Everybody who's got a birthday
24 come forward. My word. Emily, where are you? And I also
25 have -- where is our newest junior? She graduated at

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1 junior conference. There she is. Emily, where are you?
2 You're hiding. Where is Emily? Come on, Emily. Here she
3 comes. What happened nine months ago today no one wants
4 to know, but the water must have been good. We don't have
5 a lot of TV's these years. I guess that telegraph wasn't
6 keeping them busy enough, I guess. All right. What a
7 beautiful group. And I don't think we can count as high
8 as the years of membership that is represented over here.
9 And -- totaling lots. So please, please, let's all stand
10 and sing happy birthday to our beautiful, beautiful group
11 of members over here ranging from 18 to -- 18 to 99.

12 (Singing.)

13 DEPARTMENT PRESIDENT FERCHO: Thank you, ladies.
14 Happy birthday and have a wonderful, wonderful day. What
15 a great way to start the day.

16 SECRETARY/TREASURER: Okay, ladies. Back to the
17 fun and games. District 6, Wendy O'Brien.

18 DISTRICT 6: Howdy, Madam President. The chicken
19 pluckers are ready to pluck. Yee-haw.

20 SECRETARY/TREASURER VOGELE: All right then.
21 District 7, Beverly Chapman.

22 DISTRICT 7: (Singing.)

23 SECRETARY/TREASURER VOGELE: District 8, Tammy
24 Manini is excused. District 9, Dolly Rios. District 9?

25 DISTRICT 9 PRESIDENT RIOS: Here.

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1 SECRETARY/TREASURER VOGELE: Thank you. District
2 10, Susan Peters.

3 DISTRICT 10: (Singing.)

4 SECRETARY/TREASURER VOGELE: District 11, Joan
5 Cannon.

6 DISTRICT 11: (Singing.)

7 SECRETARY/TREASURER VOGELE: District 12, Jane
8 Matthews.

9 DISTRICT 12: (Singing.)

10 SECRETARY/TREASURER VOGELE: District 13, Joyce
11 Henderson-McLeod.

12 DISTRICT 13 PRESIDENT HENDERSON-McLEOD: Good
13 morning.

14 SECRETARY/TREASURER VOGELE: Good morning.
15 District 14, Martha Sweeney is excused and Barbara Davis
16 is taking her place.

17 MS. DAVIS: Yee-haw.

18 SECRETARY/TREASURER VOGELE: District 15, Karen
19 Herrera is not here, excused, but Genieca Risner is taking
20 her place.

21 DISTRICT 15: District 15 is here.

22 SECRETARY/TREASURER VOGELE: District 16,
23 Rosemary Weber.

24 DISTRICT 16: Good morning. (Singing.)

25 SECRETARY/TREASURER VOGELE: District 18, Kathy

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1 Pipkin.

2 DISTRICT 18: Yippy hi-ho.

3 SECRETARY/TREASURER VOGELE: District 19, Diana

4 Moreno.

5 DISTRICT 19: (Singing.)

6 SECRETARY/TREASURER VOGELE: District 20, Linda

7 Hayes.

8 DISTRICT 20: Good morning, Madam President.

9 DEPARTMENT PRESIDENT FERCHO: I want you all to
10 take notice of the shirt hanging here. That's a gift from
11 District 20. They created that with my emblem on it.

12 Thank you, District 20. Thank you, Linda. Thank you.

13 SECRETARY/TREASURER VOGELE: District 21, Cheryl

14 Hathaway.

15 DISTRICT 21 PRESIDENT HATHAWAY: Good morning,
16 Madam President.

17 DEPARTMENT PRESIDENT FERCHO: Good morning.

18 SECRETARY/TREASURER VOGELE: District 22, Gigi

19 Manno.

20 DISTRICT 22: (Singing.)

21 SECRETARY/TREASURER VOGELE: District 23, Denise

22 Coleman.

23 DISTRICT 23: (Singing.) Good morning, Madam
24 President.

25 DEPARTMENT PRESIDENT FERCHO: Good morning.

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1 SECRETARY/TREASURER VOGELE: District 24, Susie
2 Johansen.

3 DISTRICT 24: Good morning, Madam President.
4 (Singing.)

5 SECRETARY/TREASURER VOGELE: District 25, Donna
6 Mattox.

7 DISTRICT 25: (Singing.) Good morning, Madam
8 President Linda.

9 DEPARTMENT PRESIDENT FERCHO: Good morning.

10 SECRETARY/TREASURER VOGELE: District 26, Lou
11 Thompson is excused so who is filling in for Lou?

12 DISTRICT 26 REPRESENTATIVE KLINE: I am Pat
13 Kline.

14 SECRETARY/TREASURER VOGELE: Then District 26,
15 Pat Kline.

16 DISTRICT 26 REPRESENTATIVE KLINE: Here.

17 SECRETARY/TREASURER VOGELE: District 27,
18 Danielle White.

19 DISTRICT 27: (Horns blowing.)

20 SECRETARY/TREASURER VOGELE: District 28, Renee
21 Yaqub.

22 DISTRICT 28: Liberty Bells are up.

23 SECRETARY/TREASURER VOGELE: District 29, Tami
24 Bell.

25 DISTRICT 29: The oranges are rolling all day

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1 long.

2 SECRETARY/TREASURER VOGELE: District 30, Belen
3 Telford.

4 DISTRICT 30 PRESIDENT TELFORD: Here.

5 DEPARTMENT PRESIDENT FERCHO: Good morning.

6 SECRETARY/TREASURER VOGELE: Now our VA&R
7 Hospital Reps. Loraine Sullivan from Fort Miley is
8 excused. Mary Lou Warner, Reno.

9 VA&R HOSPITAL REP WARNER: Here.

10 SECRETARY/TREASURER VOGELE: Wendy O'Brien,
11 Sacramento?

12 VA&R HOSPITAL REP O'BRIEN: Here.

13 SECRETARY/TREASURER VOGELE: Mary Sinopoli.
14 Gloria bringing a message -- good morning. Thank you.
15 Pat Klang, Palo Alto.

16 VA&R HOSPITAL REP KLANG: Here.

17 SECRETARY/TREASURER VOGELE: Ruth Briggs,
18 Livermore?

19 VA&R HOSPITAL REP BRIGGS: Here.

20 SECRETARY/TREASURER VOGELE: Phyllis Holmberg,
21 San Diego?

22 VA&R HOSPITAL REP HOLMBERG: Here.

23 SECRETARY/TREASURER VOGELE: Mavis Kanka, Loma
24 Linda.

25 VA&R HOSPITAL REP KANKA: Here.

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1 SECRETARY/TREASURER VOGELE: Pat Alvarez, Long
2 Beach.
3 VA&R HOSPITAL REP ALVAREZ: Here.
4 SECRETARY/TREASURER VOGELE: Earlean Paige, West
5 LA.
6 VA&R HOSPITAL REP: (Inaudible.)
7 SECRETARY/TREASURER VOGELE: Hermine Fosmark,
8 Santa Barbara is excused. Evangeline Acosta, Barstow.
9 VA&R HOSPITAL REP ACOSTA: Still working for the
10 vets.
11 SECRETARY/TREASURER VOGELE: Lois Cornish, Chula
12 Vista.
13 AUDIENCE MEMBER: She's helping with
14 registration.
15 SECRETARY/TREASURER VOGELE: Thank you. Peggy
16 Grabski, Yountville.
17 VA&R HOSPITAL REP: Here.
18 SECRETARY/TREASURER VOGELE: Veronica McGough,
19 Lancaster.
20 VA&R HOSPITAL REP: Here.
21 SECRETARY/TREASURER VOGELE: Madeline Lee,
22 Ventura.
23 VA&R HOSPITAL REP: Bringing up the calvary.
24 SECRETARY/TREASURER VOGELE: Thank you, Madam
25 President. This is your roll call.

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1 DEPARTMENT PRESIDENT FERCHO: Thank you. Thank
2 you very much. Oh, the Circuit Judge is getting ready to
3 arrest somebody out there. She heard a cell phone. Be
4 sure and have them off or on vibrate.

5 At this time I would like to have the
6 Sergeant-at-Arms and Marshal along with our Distinguished
7 Guest Chairman to present a very special lady to this
8 podium. She's in District 9, Linda. Janet Wilson, please
9 stand. Where are you?

10 VETERANS AFFAIR & REHABILITATION CHAIRMAN BIGGS:
11 She went back to her convention.

12 DEPARTMENT PRESIDENT FERCHO: Oh. Well, I was
13 going to present her because she is a dual member. She is
14 from District 9 and she was given an honorary honor
15 yesterday as the Legionnaire of the Year.

16 (Applause.)

17 DEPARTMENT PRESIDENT FERCHO: I thought she was
18 going to be here at least for a little bit of our opening,
19 but she does work very hard for the Auxiliary as well. So
20 I was just going to give her an honor. Please tell her
21 congratulations when you see her. Thank you.

22 At this time I'm going to have Wantu Robinson,
23 our Junior Activities Chairman, come to the microphone for
24 a little business that we had yesterday that we need to
25 redo, go back to. Following that I'm going to ask

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1 Madeline Lee who's sitting in for Sylvia Alcantar to do
2 the Education. And following that I'm going to have our
3 Editor please come forward and be prepared. So if you've
4 got any notes from Education or our Editor, please come
5 and take your seats.

6

7 JUNIOR ACTIVITIES COMMITTEE REPORT (Continued)

8

9 DEPARTMENT PRESIDENT FERCHO: The Chair
10 recognizes Wantu Robinson.

11 JUNIOR ACTIVITIES CHAIRMAN ROBINSON: This is on
12 the -- is this mic on?

13 DEPARTMENT PRESIDENT FERCHO: Yes.

14 JUNIOR ACTIVITIES CHAIRMAN ROBINSON: This is on
15 the code again. I'm going to read the way the code is
16 written now. Then I will read again the change. You're
17 all trying to tell me I'm short or something?

18 Okay. Again, I will read it the way it's written
19 now. Then we'll do the change. Airfare -- this is on
20 paragraph 29. Airfare, \$100 per diem for two days and the
21 registration fee of \$25 will be paid for by the department
22 office for the delegates to National Convention. If the
23 alternate delegate chooses to attend National Convention,
24 she will do so at her own expense, except for \$25
25 registration fee which will be paid for by the department.

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1 In the event the Department Junior Delegate is unable to
2 attend National Convention, the allowable expenses will be
3 given to the alternate delegate. That is the way it's
4 written now.

5 The change is: Airfare, \$100 per diem for two
6 days and the registration fee will be paid for by the
7 department office for the delegate and alternate to the
8 National Convention. Should the delegate not be able to
9 attend the alternate will move up to delegate. The
10 Department President, Junior Activities Chairman, Junior
11 Conference Director, and Junior Conference Committee will
12 select a junior that attended the current year junior
13 conference to attend as the alternate. In the event that
14 both the delegate and the alternate are unable to attend
15 National Convention, the Department President, Junior
16 Activities Chairman, Junior Conference Director, and
17 Junior Conference Chairman will select two junior members
18 that attended the current year junior conference to attend
19 as the delegate and alternate.

20 Rationale: Through excellent financial decisions
21 that has benefited the junior conference and the
22 continuous success offerings of the opportunity drawing
23 tickets, junior conference has been able to pay for its
24 programs and have a little left over. It is felt that it
25 is very important that California has representation at

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1 the Junior Auxiliary National Convention. In these
2 difficult times help is needed for both the delegate and
3 alternate to attend. The registration fee was left out of
4 the revision as it changes yearly.

5 I move for this acceptance.

6 DEPARTMENT PRESIDENT FERCHO: It has been moved
7 and seconded. Any discussion?

8 (No response.)

9 DEPARTMENT PRESIDENT FERCHO: The Code 29 will
10 now read: Airfare, \$100 per diem for two days and the
11 registration fee will be paid for by the department office
12 for the delegate and alternate to the National Convention.
13 Should the delegate not be able to attend the alternate
14 will move up to delegate. The Department President,
15 Junior Activities Chairman, Junior Conference Director,
16 and Junior Conference Committee will select a junior that
17 attended the current year junior conference to attend as
18 the alternate. In the event that both the delegate and
19 the alternate are unable to attend National Convention,
20 the Department President, Junior Activities Chairman,
21 Junior Conference Director, and Junior Conference Chairman
22 will select two junior members that attended the current
23 year junior conference to attend as the delegate and
24 alternate.

25 All those in favor?

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1 ALL PRESENT: Aye.

2 DEPARTMENT PRESIDENT FERCHO: Opposed? Pass.

3 Thank you very much, Wantu.

4 JUNIOR ACTIVITIES CHAIRMAN ROBINSON: Thank you.

5 DEPARTMENT PRESIDENT FERCHO: At this time we
6 will have Past Department President Madeline Lee.

7

8 EDUCATION COMMITTEE REPORT

9

10 PAST DEPARTMENT PRESIDENT LEE: Well, good
11 morning, ladies.

12 AUDIENCE MEMBERS: Good morning.

13 PAST DEPARTMENT PRESIDENT LEE: The convention
14 committee on Education met on June 21st, 2012 in the
15 Siskiyou Room in the Holiday Inn Convention Center,
16 Redding, California.

17 The statistical report of this chairman appears
18 on page 15 on the Book of Reports.

19 Vicki Crow, District 16, was appointed secretary.
20 Bonnie Bradbury, District 7, offered prayer, and CJ Reyes,
21 District 19, was appointed Sergeant-at-Arms. A total of
22 18 district delegates answered roll call. There were
23 three visitors present.

24 The committee was called to order at 9:10 with a
25 prayer and the Pledge of Allegiance. The code was read

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1 and accepted as read. No code changes, no resolutions.

2 We discussed the fact that the scholarship
3 applications have been decreasing even though student need
4 is high, so it's all important for all of us to reach out
5 more vigorously in the community to promote our
6 scholarship program. The delegates shared many helpful
7 suggestions to increase the number of applications.

8 Each delegate was given a packet containing 100
9 percent reporting certificates and other special
10 certificates. First, second, and third place certificates
11 were handed out for the following education activities:
12 Give 10 to Education, Veterans in the Classroom, literacy
13 programs, scholarship program, Education Week, Honoring
14 Our Military, and donations to the Department Education
15 Fund. First place winners for all of these activities
16 were forwarded to National for further judging.

17 Following the closing prayer the meeting was
18 adjourned at 9:45 a.m. A list of awards presented and a
19 list of scholarship winners were posted in the department
20 office following the meeting.

21 This concludes my report. Madam President, may I
22 continue with the supplemental and first place awards?

23 DEPARTMENT PRESIDENT FERCHO: Please. Thank you.

24 PAST DEPARTMENT PRESIDENT LEE: Hats off to the
25 American Legion Family volunteers says it all in my

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1 following education report, says Sylvia. The School Marms
2 have been working very hard this year as you will see.

3 Give 10 to Education. A total of 13,723 items
4 were given to schools and homeless shelters where children
5 were living. Dollar amount, \$11,593. Numbers of units
6 for Certificates 101, twelve units filled backpacks and
7 some just hand-delivered to schools with pencils, books,
8 rulers, scissors, pens, erasers, paper, and the list goes
9 on. And two units delivered to military bases nearby.

10 Units selected Box Tops to help teachers purchase
11 supplies for their classroom. Also "Need a Lift?"
12 booklets were given to high schools and nursing financial
13 assistance was given out. They had baby showers for our
14 military mothers. They mailed out to servicemen and women
15 who are deployed with "we appreciate" you letters
16 purchased or made holiday cards for the military in our
17 state and overseas.

18 This year we found we had four units giving
19 information on ALA Kids to five local schools in their
20 area. Members and some junior members made a presentation
21 to fourth and fifth graders about bullying and purchased
22 booklets about this program and how it affects our
23 military children.

24 Veterans in the Classroom, 27 units participated
25 this year. Hours volunteered, 554. Classrooms served,

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1 57, and 188 veterans involved with storytelling about
2 their experience in the military. They taught flag
3 etiquette, how to display a flag at home, and "Stay Drug
4 Free and Succeed."

5 One unit had a clay animation project providing
6 clay to students to make landscapes, characters to depict
7 different events that occurred during the American
8 Revolution, Boston Tea Party and "Give Me Liberty or Give
9 Me Death." What a genius way to learn history.

10 United Through Reading was very successful with
11 15 units and 1073 volunteer hours. 349 children were
12 given help in their local libraries with homework and
13 reading. Units spent \$255 buying books for their schools.

14 The literacy program this year received a lot of
15 participation from 20 units with 1,684 hours that members
16 spent in the classrooms and library. One unit helped
17 students that were struggling in the English language and
18 our junior members and some Girl State delegates helped
19 students at their local community centers.

20 Twelve units participated in the American
21 Education Week. One unit chairman a disabled veteran in
22 her unit that informed schools about California veterans
23 dependents and where to go on our website for educational
24 assistance. Units held appreciation week with many
25 goodies that were presented to teachers, principals. And

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1 teacher's aides were not forgotten.

2 At Fort Irwin a unit taught 200 children and 22
3 active duty parents about safely interacting with
4 strangers and a presentation using dogs as a visual aid.
5 Units recognized the graduating sons and daughters of
6 members from kindergarten, middle school, and colleges
7 with monetary gifts, certificates and plaques to honor
8 their achievement and encouraged them to stay in school.

9 Our military children are being well cared for
10 from all of our members from the north to the south of our
11 state. This year four scholarships were given and one
12 continuing reentry with a total of -- I think it increased
13 to \$6,000. A total of 47 units presented scholarships
14 totaling \$39,975 to 84 students. You did such a great
15 job. Wow.

16 (Applause.)

17 PAST DEPARTMENT PRESIDENT LEE: And the list goes
18 on and on and on. But we're going to -- in keeping with
19 our national presidents theme, "Honor Their Service" and
20 our department theme "Hats Off to Our American Legion
21 Family Volunteers," we are all very, very dedicated
22 members of our veterans and our families and our country.

23 Thank you, Madam President, says Sylvia for this
24 great opportunity serving you as your School Marm. And
25 thank you for giving me the opportunity to do the

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1 committee meeting. I had a great time doing it.

2 And now for the first place award. Well, come on
3 up from District 22 to Manuela Santos, Unit 146, District
4 22 for Education for overall education report.

5 (Applause.)

6 PAST DEPARTMENT PRESIDENT LEE: And that is it
7 for the district. Thank you. There were scholarships,
8 but the scholarship list is posted in the office. And as
9 I reported, there were four \$1,000 scholarships given and
10 one \$2,000 scholarship.

11 DEPARTMENT PRESIDENT FERCHO: Thank you.
12 Following our Editor we'll hear from our Leadership
13 chairman.

14 And while they're getting ready I would like to
15 -- I was almost going to say the "A" word, but I didn't do
16 it. If any of the districts have certificates that they
17 received in committee and you would like my signature on
18 them, you can do one of two things. You can sign it and
19 say I am Linda Fercho, but if you want my real signature,
20 bring them to the floor tomorrow morning at the beginning
21 of convention and I'll be here early and I'll sign any
22 certificates that you have that don't have my signature.
23 I'd be glad to do that. And so gather them up, bring them
24 on down tomorrow morning. I'll sign them all before we
25 get started.

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1 Following Leadership will be Poppies.

2

3

EDITOR COMMITTEE REPORT

4

5 EDITOR CHAIRMAN AVINA: Good morning, ladies.

6 DEPARTMENT PRESIDENT FERCHO: Good morning.

7 EDITOR CHAIRMAN AVINA: The convention on Editor

8 on June 21st, 2012 in the Trinity Room of the Red Lion

9 Hotel, Redding, California. There is no statistical

10 reporting for California on the Auxiliary meetings.

11 Terry Snow, District 12 was appointed secretary,

12 Yvonne Elizonda, District 29 offered prayer, and Raychelle

13 Trimble, District 23 was appointed Sergeant-at-Arms. A

14 total of 20 district delegates answered roll call and

15 there were six visitors present.

16 The committee agreed upon the following report:

17 The code was read with no changes. A presentation on the

18 process of submitting articles and who is eligible to

19 submit articles. We proceeded with a question and answer

20 session. With no other business the chaplain offered

21 prayer and the meeting closed at 11:45.

22 Madam President, this concludes my committee

23 report. May I continue with my supplement?

24 DEPARTMENT PRESIDENT FERCHO: Yes.

25 EDITOR CHAIRMAN AVINA: Madam President Linda,

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1 this year got off to a slow start, not knowing if we were
2 even going to have a Legionnaire paper this year. After
3 reviewing the Legion budget, the Legionnaire was back on
4 track, at least for the fall issue. Five articles and
5 five photos were published by the Auxiliary News section.
6 In the winter the Auxiliary published 11 more articles and
7 five photos with a tribute to our beloved Josie Melgard.

8 Our third and final publication which is our
9 preconvention issue, eight articles were submitted along
10 with three photos of your candidates for department
11 office. You should have received this issue by now. For
12 the year we published a total of 24 articles and 15
13 photos. Not bad, but we had could have taken in more.

14 Thank you for those who submitted articles by the
15 deadline dates. You make my life a lot easier.

16 Madam President, I thank you for this appointment
17 and this concludes my report.

18 DEPARTMENT PRESIDENT FERCHO: Thank you.

19 (Applause.)

20

21 PUBLIC RELATIONS COMMITTEE REPORT

22

23 POPPY CHAIRMAN COOLEY-DEMEULES: I will go on to
24 the Public Relations report. The convention met on June
25 21st, 2012 in the Trinity Room of the Red Lion Hotel.

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1 There is no statistical information.

2 Terry Snow was appointed secretary. Eva Elizondo
3 offered prayer and Rachelle Trimble was appointed as
4 Sergeant-at-Arms. A total of 20 district delegates
5 answered the call and there were six visitors present.
6 And they had a question and answer session and the code
7 was also read.

8 Madam President, can I proceed with -- Madam
9 President, I'll go ahead and read it. Lisa Stuart told us
10 how she became public relations chairman. Then she told
11 the ladies she would be sending the district a package
12 since there was an accident at her home and the packets
13 were destroyed. Lisa Stuart read the codes.

14 Discussion was how it is really getting hard to
15 get media coverage. Contact community affairs. Ask
16 radio stations for a tour and you will have -- ask for a
17 tour and that will get your foot in the door for contacts.
18 Write a thank you note to any newspaper or radio or local
19 cable coverage you receive. Try contacting community
20 access.

21 Most papers use e-mail these days. Get it to
22 them early. Giving them a thank you note is a welcome
23 change. District public relations should write to all of
24 her unit PR's if they need any help in contacting the
25 right media coverage and to see what is going on.

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1 Prayer was given at the end of the meeting. That
2 concludes the public relations report, Madam President.

3 DEPARTMENT PRESIDENT FERCHO: Okay. Perfect.
4 (Applause.)

5

6 LEADERSHIP COMMITTEE REPORT

7

8 DEPARTMENT PRESIDENT FERCHO: Leadership.

9 LEADERSHIP CHAIRMAN DIEBEL: The Leadership
10 committee met in the Siskiyou Room at the Red Lion Hotel
11 on Thursday, June 21st. The meeting convened at 9:02 a.m.
12 The statistical report is on page 14 in the Book of
13 Reports. The following appointments were made.
14 Secretary, Linda Fariss from District 19; chaplain, Arline
15 Kenney from District 7; and Sergeant-at-Arms Jeri Adams
16 from District 17.

17 Prayer was offered and the Pledge of Allegiance
18 was recited. Roll call was taken. There were 17 district
19 delegates and six guests in attendance.

20 Packets of information including the leadership
21 code and a list of certified leaders were distributed.
22 The department code was read and there were no changes or
23 recommendations. Certified leadership instructor cards
24 were distributed. The renewal instructor cards and the
25 white attendance cards will be sent to the district

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1 chairman by July 1st.

2 All awards except for the first place winners
3 were handed out at the meeting. The list of award winners
4 is posted in the department office and was included in the
5 handouts given to each of the districts.

6 The following items were discussed during the
7 meeting. Leader -- excuse me. The National Leadership
8 Correspondence Course. This is recommended by the
9 national organization that all certified leaders take this
10 course. Questions were asked. First one, what can --
11 where can we find a list of benefits available to members.
12 This chairman told them that there are printed handouts
13 that were given out at the workshops, but they can also
14 find the information on not only the department website,
15 but also on the national website. Addresses for both
16 locations were given out at the meeting.

17 Responsibilities of the unit and district
18 leadership chairman were discussed and some great ideas
19 were handed out by the attendees. Question was asked as
20 to where the national leadership correspondence course
21 could be found. Again, we gave out the national website
22 so that they can go on there and find the course. Also
23 this chairman offered to send packets to any district that
24 wanted it, and I have nine addresses to send packets to.
25 Also they requested copies of the CDs that were handed out

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1 at the department workshops during the year.

2 During discussion on the correspondence course,
3 one delegate mentioned that a unit in her district
4 actually had all nine members of her unit sit down and
5 take the course together and they sent it in as a packet.
6 And that's a great idea. If you have a small unit, you
7 can sit down and do it all together and send it in all at
8 once and all get certified at the same time.

9 Several delegates -- I already said that.

10 After the discussion was closed, the meeting was
11 closed at 9:45 a.m. Madam President, may I go on with my
12 supplemental?

13 DEPARTMENT PRESIDENT FERCHO: Please.

14 LEADERSHIP CHAIRMAN DIEBEL: Good morning,
15 ladies. Our Leadership chairmen are using all of the
16 tools provided by the national and department chairmen to
17 meet the leadership needs of our -- their units, to
18 promote and develop the leadership skills in each of our
19 members, to promote cooperation between the American
20 Legion organizations and to provide the tools needed to
21 bring the American Legion Auxiliary to the forefront of
22 our community.

23 In addition to the six local workshops held by
24 our Governor Linda to discuss the programs and the
25 reorganization at the national level, the POD program and

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1 the consolidated year-end report, the training of our
2 newly elected officers and chairman, there were two
3 regional department workshops held and several district
4 and unit leadership workshops which I was honored to
5 attend.

6 We held successful Junior Jamborees and everybody
7 had a great time. Our Department President rocked the
8 scene, allowed our units and our officers and chairman to
9 have a fun way to present the programs to make the day go
10 by faster and to have our members stay and ask questions
11 and really enjoy the day and learn a lot.

12 This chairman was honored to participate in a
13 joint workshop with the Department Commander Hugh Crooks
14 demonstrating the way all three of our family members can
15 work together and make us a stronger organization.

16 The reports received from the districts
17 demonstrated that the act of mentoring at both the unit
18 and district level. Seven districts have past district
19 presidents mentoring units and helping them to grow
20 stronger. Several of our districts also held many
21 workshops at the unit level to help strengthen the
22 foundation of our organization.

23 We now have 268 certified leaders in the
24 territory of California. I am please to report that we
25 had 11 seniors who completed the American Legion

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1 Legislative Correspondence course this year. National is
2 again stressing that they would like all certified leaders
3 to -- Legion instructors to take this course and to get
4 their certification.

5 Our Governor Linda can be proud of the leadership
6 that we have in the Department of California. And I want
7 to make a comment that's not on my report. You ladies are
8 some of the best leaders that we have in this state and I
9 am honored to be a member of this group.

10 (Applause.)

11 LEADERSHIP CHAIRMAN DIEBEL: And if I may, I
12 would like to make a presentation of my first place
13 winners.

14 DEPARTMENT PRESIDENT FERCHO: Please.

15 LEADERSHIP CHAIRMAN DIEBEL: Okay. First place,
16 the best district supplemental goes to District 24 Rebecca
17 Stewart.

18 (Applause.)

19 LEADERSHIP CHAIRMAN DIEBEL: Rebecca is not here
20 today so the district president is accepting the award.
21 Okay. Now I have to tell you one thing. The district
22 supplement, I had ladies who were not part of the American
23 Legion organization yet. I gave them applications. I'm
24 working on it. Read the supplementals and we have a tie
25 for third place in the district. And it was very

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1 difficult because they were two different styles of
2 writing and they couldn't make up their mind, so I gave
3 two third winners for the district best supplemental. So
4 just be aware when you look at it you'll know why I did
5 that.

6 The best unit supplemental goes to Jackie
7 Robinson, Unit 252, District 23.

8 (Applause.)

9 LEADERSHIP CHAIRMAN DIEBEL: Madam President
10 Governor Linda, it has been an honor to serve as one of
11 your chairmen and I really, really enjoyed being the
12 leadership chairman and I learned more than I ever thought
13 I would. Thank you.

14 DEPARTMENT PRESIDENT FERCHO: Thank you. You did
15 an excellent job.

16 Ladies, she held some amazing workshops. She
17 also did work with the Legion and making it a Legion
18 Family activity and I think they learned -- they always
19 praise as us doing the best job and getting the job done,
20 but our leadership is excellent and they recognize that.

21 Ladies, they recognize your leadership skills as
22 well as your helping hands and the donations we make and
23 things like that, but they do recognize our leadership
24 skills. They are truly amazed. And this came from their
25 department -- I think she's the controller. I'm not sure.

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1 It's like the treasurer. Her name is Mary and she's a
2 lovely, lovely lady. And she said to me the other night,
3 and this is absolutely the truth, the Auxiliary knows how
4 to put on a proper convention. They know how to get their
5 delegation to realize the importance of sitting in their
6 chair every minute that that floor is open and that
7 doesn't happen on the Legion.

8 I said: Well, of course. In the Auxiliary if
9 you're not in that chair, somebody is out there looking
10 for you. But, ladies, thank you and thank you for always
11 being in your chair and participating because it is your
12 convention and this is your voice. So thank you, thank
13 you.

14 And thank you, Linda, very much.

15 (Applause.)

16 DEPARTMENT PRESIDENT FERCHO: Ladies, while we're
17 getting ready there: The space between our flags is
18 hallowed ground. Between these flags that proudly fly,
19 let no man dare to stand, for here our fallen comrades
20 lie. A symbol, yes, but mark it well. Here let us humbly
21 pause in memory of the lads who fell in fighting for our
22 sacred cause.

23 On sea and land these buddies died, some lie
24 beneath the sod, by graves caressed by winds and tide in
25 spots unknown to all but God. And so this place is

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1 hallowed ground and it shall be forever blest as tho it
2 were a grassy mound beneath which gallant heroes rest. Be
3 ever watchful Legionnaire, Auxiliary, Sons of the Legion,
4 of those two flags which signify that we should guard this
5 spot with care where our departed comrades lie.

6 And if a man should dare to tread this spot where
7 lies our gallant brave he desecrated that noble deed as
8 though he walked upon their graves.

9

10 POPPY COMMITTEE REPORT

11

12 POPPY CHAIRMAN COOLEY-DEMEULES: Good morning.
13 My name is Jean Cooley-Demeules. I'm the Poppy chairman
14 for this year. The convention committee on poppies met
15 June 21st in the Buckskin Room in the Holiday Inn in
16 Redding, California. The statistical report this year is
17 in the book and on page 18.

18 Ruth Hackney from District 24 was appointed
19 secretary. Theresa Jacob, District 13, offered prayer,
20 and Sherrie Green, District 19, was appointed
21 Sergeant-at-Arms. There was 25 district delegates and 16
22 visitors.

23 The committee agreed upon the following report.
24 We had two resolutions. First one, number 11, was
25 proposed to change poppy week to poppy month. This passed

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1 in committee and also resolutions. Whereas the National
2 Organization already recognizes poppy month and whereas
3 many units have to request permission to distribute
4 poppies at a time other than poppy week, i.e., Memorial
5 Day and other dates outside the current designated
6 distribution period, therefore be it resolved that
7 effective with the American Legion Auxiliary year 2013,
8 poppy week will now be replaced by poppy month. And
9 further resolved, report forms and department codes will
10 be revised and changed to accommodate this change. So,
11 ladies, you have a whole month for poppy month now.

12 (Applause.)

13 DEPARTMENT PRESIDENT FERCHO: So you are moving
14 to accept this resolution.

15 POPPY CHAIRMAN COOLEY-DEMEULES: Yes, I move to
16 accept this resolution.

17 DEPARTMENT PRESIDENT FERCHO: It's been moved and
18 seconded to accept the resolution changing poppy week to
19 poppy month. Is there a discussion?

20 PAST DEPARTMENT PRESIDENT KAPSALIS: Is that on
21 the --

22 DEPARTMENT PRESIDENT FERCHO: Yeah.

23 PAST DEPARTMENT PRESIDENT KAPSALIS: Ruby
24 Kapsalis, district 28. My only question on this is how is
25 a department chairman going to give her report to National

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1 by June 1st if a unit distributes poppies the last week in
2 May. It takes three weeks for processing, one week for
3 the unit to get their figures together. That has to go to
4 the district. District has to take one week, and then it
5 takes the department chairman at least a week to get all
6 of the figures compiled into National by June 1st.

7 POPPY CHAIRMAN COOLEY-DEMEULES: The end of the
8 year reports would be done as with all the other end of
9 the year reports. The -- if that poppy chairman does a
10 spreadsheet as they come in, she will have an accurate
11 account of what to report to National.

12 PAST DEPARTMENT PRESIDENT KAPSALIS: It still
13 takes three weeks for processing. If a unit distributes
14 the last week in May and the department chairman's report
15 is due to National on June 1st, there is no way that
16 you're going to get -- the department chairman is going to
17 get the reports from the unit in time.

18 POPPY CHAIRMAN COOLEY-DEMEULES: They will have
19 the whole month of May now, not just the full second week
20 of May.

21 PAST DEPARTMENT PRESIDENT KAPSALIS: You're not
22 understanding.

23 POPPY CHAIRMAN COOLEY-DEMEULES: Okay.

24 PAST DEPARTMENT PRESIDENT KAPSALIS: What I'm
25 saying is your unit distributes poppies the last week in

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1 May. You have to count all your money at the unit level.
2 Then you have to fill out your report. Then you have to
3 send it to district. District has to compile all the
4 units reports in her district. That takes at least two or
5 three days, and you should give them at least a week. So
6 there's two weeks already. Now that's the second week in
7 June you're in.

8 So my question is, I don't think that you're
9 going to be able to meet your deadline on the National
10 level. It's just a point of information. I just want you
11 to be aware this is -- it's going to create a problem for
12 the department chairman.

13 DEPARTMENT PRESIDENT FERCHO: Yeah. Jean, when
14 did you have to have your report into National? Was it
15 also June 1st? Because I believe that they do give you a
16 little bit longer on the poppies; is that true?

17 POPPY CHAIRMAN COOLEY-DEMEULES: They do for the
18 statistical report part of it, yes. The poppy posters and
19 things like that and other reports are June 1st.

20 DEPARTMENT PRESIDENT FERCHO: But they give
21 you --

22 POPPY CHAIRMAN COOLEY-DEMEULES: They gave me an
23 extra week.

24 DEPARTMENT PRESIDENT FERCHO: An extra week
25 after.

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1 POPPY CHAIRMAN COOLEY-DEMEULES: Yes. And that
2 was plenty of time for me because I did a spreadsheet.
3 When I got the information in, I just put it in.

4 DEPARTMENT PRESIDENT FERCHO: So right now with
5 poppy being the second week of May or --

6 POPPY CHAIRMAN COOLEY-DEMEULES: The full second
7 week.

8 DEPARTMENT PRESIDENT FERCHO: The full second
9 week. We only have -- at this time currently we only have
10 two weeks --

11 POPPY CHAIRMAN COOLEY-DEMEULES: Uh-huh.

12 DEPARTMENT PRESIDENT FERCHO: -- until the 1st of
13 June. You're saying that they give you extra time at
14 National.

15 POPPY CHAIRMAN COOLEY-DEMEULES: Correct.

16 DEPARTMENT PRESIDENT FERCHO: The mic
17 recognizes --

18 PAST DEPARTMENT PRESIDENT KAPSALIS: Madam
19 Department President, when that "full" was put in last
20 year, what it meant was to move the poppy week up to the
21 second week. It meant that it should have counted -- if
22 the week started on a Thursday, that counted still as the
23 first week of May. And the "full" confused everybody and
24 it actually moved it to the third week in May.

25 POPPY CHAIRMAN COOLEY-DEMEULES: It specified

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1 Sunday through Saturday in the code.

2 PAST DEPARTMENT PRESIDENT KAPSALIS: Right. Full
3 week Sunday through Saturday is what it meant, but it
4 didn't mean that the second week had to be Saturday to
5 Sunday. The first week does not have to be a full week.
6 The first week in May where it's Saturday and Sunday, that
7 should have been poppy week. That's what that intent was,
8 but there was some confusion over the word "full." Which
9 I sent you an e-mail and suggested we remove that word,
10 "full," and it would make it the second week Saturday to
11 Sunday.

12 POPPY CHAIRMAN COOLEY-DEMEULES: Okay.

13 PAST DEPARTMENT PRESIDENT BROWN-PARK: Nancy
14 Brown-Park, Past Department President, and Melanie Taylor,
15 Past Department President. Melanie will also be next
16 year's poppy chairman so I think we have some information
17 we can share as we make a decision. I don't think that we
18 should let that National date reflect what we need to do
19 to raise money for our veterans. So let's --

20 (Applause.)

21 PAST DEPARTMENT PRESIDENT BROWN-PARK: -- talk
22 about it a little bit. I think Melanie has some
23 suggestions that might work.

24 ELECTIONS CHAIRMAN TAYLOR: Thank you, Nancy.
25 Melanie Taylor, Past Department President and 2012-2013

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1 National Poppy Chairman.

2 DEPARTMENT PRESIDENT FERCHO: Congratulations.

3 ELECTIONS CHAIRMAN TAYLOR: Thank you. In my
4 plan of action, I am asking the units to be able to
5 distribute poppies year-round just not in the month of
6 May. So this will give you an opportunity to distribute
7 them in November, Veterans Day, and also in the month of
8 May, but not specifically restrict you to one week in May
9 as we do here in California or the whole month of May as
10 some states do, you know, in their departments.

11 So this gives you the opportunity to offer these,
12 and you should not then have a problem with getting your
13 unit reports to your divisional -- or to your district and
14 then your department and then to your division and then to
15 me. Thank you.

16 (Applause.)

17 DEPARTMENT PRESIDENT FERCHO: Thank you. Chair
18 recognizes microphone two, Past Department President
19 Margaret Quinones.

20 PAST DEPARTMENT PRESIDENT QUINONES: Thank you,
21 Madam President. Margaret Quinones, Abraham Lincoln 241,
22 District 18. I think what a lot of us would like to know
23 is what's wrong with what we had. Why do we need -- why
24 do we need a change when for a lot of us the situation
25 wasn't broken. But if you can explain to us why we need

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1 the change to this or what was wrong with it.

2 POPPY CHAIRMAN COOLEY-DEMEULES: Okay. According
3 to the resolution I received from National was Resolution
4 No. 15 was dated May 18th, 2001. They are the ones saying
5 it would be full and it has been approved by the National
6 Executive Committee of the American Legion. And it was
7 stating that May would then be poppy month. That's what
8 the resolution I got. That's why we're putting in for the
9 change, to make it coincide with National.

10 And the opportunity not to have to write that
11 permission slip to put, you know, on Memorial Day to the
12 president and wait for her reply back, that would give you
13 an opportunity to offer on Memorial Day.

14 DEPARTMENT PRESIDENT FERCHO: The Chair
15 recognizes microphone two.

16 DISTRICT 25 POPPY CHAIRMAN BANKS: My name is
17 Michelle Banks. I'm the 25th District Poppy Chairman,
18 Unit 751 Newberry. It seems to me that everybody is
19 taking this a little bit too rigidly. They're opening it
20 up poppy month. All that's doing is opening up more
21 opportunities. It doesn't mean that you have to be here
22 at this time be here right at the 30th of the month. It
23 just opens up a couple more weeks.

24 It's not a crime all month long. It just opens
25 up more possibilities for each unit. Because we're a very

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1 small unit. We don't have the stores, the community.
2 We're all spread out. So we need -- that extra month
3 would be very helpful.

4 And I agree with the spreadsheet all month long.
5 All your figures are in there. If you get them, if you
6 have to have your units call you. That was the simplest
7 thing. Units called me up, your information on a
8 spreadsheet, I had it done.

9 (Applause.)

10 CREDENTIALS CHAIRMAN RYE: Marge Rye, District
11 21, Unit 298. We are one of the units that have in the
12 past always asked permission to distribute our poppies on
13 Memorial Day. We have a great big thunder ride to the
14 National cemetery that day and there are like 8,000
15 motorcycle riders come out there. The first year we did
16 this we increased our distribution and actually our income
17 on it by 300 percent, which was really a great thing.

18 (Applause.)

19 CREDENTIALS CHAIRMAN RYE: Thank you. And the
20 next day -- what we do then the next day there are a
21 number of us women that gather at the post, we count all
22 the money. The form is done up immediately and it's
23 mailed off either that day or the next morning and such.
24 Or it can also be e-mailed or faxed and such. And that's
25 what we do and it's into our district and the monies are

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1 mailed directly to department the next day. And so it
2 doesn't really take all that long and it is -- that
3 particular Memorial Day is one of the greatest
4 distribution days for the poppies and it would benefit all
5 of the units.

6 DEPARTMENT PRESIDENT FERCHO: Thank you. We'll
7 take two more comments, and then we will vote on it.

8 Oh, I'm sorry. I recognize Tami Bell. She's the
9 one that put me in jail over here.

10 DISTRICT 29 PRESIDENT BELL: Tami Bell, District
11 29, deputy for Long Beach VA. Does that mean now that the
12 poppy production will be open all year long instead of
13 October to April?

14 DEPARTMENT PRESIDENT FERCHO: It is in code and
15 there are some of the facilities and Long Beach is one of
16 them that has permission for all year poppy.

17 MS. NEWMAN: I'm Cyndy Newman, District 13, Unit
18 419 Santa Clara. I love the month, to have it for the
19 whole month. I think it's really important because I go
20 to city councils and I give them poppies, and those city
21 councils don't meet that one week in May. They meet every
22 other week. So that's really important as an attribute.

23 Plus you're always here with all the fundraisers.
24 You do Sunday breakfast and so on where you raise poppy
25 money especially around Memorial Day. And that brings me

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1 to another issue and that's sort of what is the timelines.

2 I believe my district -- my report to department on
3 poppies was due May 24th or 25th, Peggy? No, it wasn't?

4 SECRETARY/TREASURER VOGELE: Yes.

5 MS. NEWMAN: Yes, it was. Okay. So as of May
6 24th or 25th or whenever I send in my report, that's the
7 money I have on hand. And I don't know if we do
8 supplemental reports, but that's 10 percent to department,
9 so we may want to think doing supplemental or guessing how
10 you might come in at the end of the month. Thank you.

11 (Applause.)

12 VA&R HOSPITAL REP GRABSKI: Peggy Grabski,
13 District 5, Unit 113.

14 DEPARTMENT PRESIDENT FERCHO: The Chair
15 recognizes Peggy Grabski.

16 VA&R HOSPITAL REP GRABSKI: We had a problem of
17 getting a place to offer our poppies. Every year my
18 husband and I have gone out and we made over \$1500 each
19 year. This year we were only granted one day at the
20 stores that we were going to and so we lost all of that
21 money because everyone in town, every organization was out
22 that week.

23 So this has gotten worse every time. And we try
24 to work with other organizations. My idea is the veterans
25 come first and I made that clear to the places that we

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1 went to distribute our poppies. So I am in agreement that
2 we need more time to plan and get the poppies out to the
3 public.

4 DEPARTMENT PRESIDENT FERCHO: Thank you, Peggy.

5 RULES CHAIRMAN FUQUA: My name is Carol Fuqua,
6 District 25 in San Bernardino. I call for the question.

7 DEPARTMENT PRESIDENT FERCHO: Do I have a second?

8 AUDIENCE MEMBER: Second.

9 DEPARTMENT PRESIDENT FERCHO: At this time there
10 is a motion on the floor to close debate and it has been
11 seconded. Is there any discussion?

12 (No response.)

13 DEPARTMENT PRESIDENT FERCHO: All in favor.

14 ALL PRESENT: Aye.

15 DEPARTMENT PRESIDENT FERCHO: Debate on this
16 discussion is closed. I will ask for -- oh. Noes?

17 (No response.)

18 DEPARTMENT PRESIDENT FERCHO: I told you I'm
19 going to go to jail today. I've been listening to Pilar.
20 I jumped right over the Circuit Judge to Pilar. The
21 original motion is to accept resolution proposing to
22 change poppy week to poppy month. All those in favor, say
23 aye.

24 AUDIENCE MEMBERS: Aye.

25 DEPARTMENT PRESIDENT FERCHO: Opposed?

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1 AUDIENCE MEMBERS: No.

2 DEPARTMENT PRESIDENT FERCHO: Ayes have it.

3 Thank you.

4 (Applause.)

5 POPPY CHAIRMAN COOLEY-DEMEULES: The second
6 resolution that we had was an increasing -- increase in
7 purchase price of poppies. It passed the committee and
8 resolution and was rejected by finance.

9 DEPARTMENT PRESIDENT FERCHO: Are you bringing it
10 back to the floor at this time?

11 POPPY CHAIRMAN COOLEY-DEMEULES: Yes, I am.

12 DEPARTMENT PRESIDENT FERCHO: So at this time you
13 are going to move to bring it back to the floor, which it
14 would take a two-thirds vote to bring it back to the
15 floor.

16 POPPY CHAIRMAN COOLEY-DEMEULES: I move that we
17 bring this resolution to the floor on the poppies vote.

18 DEPARTMENT PRESIDENT FERCHO: It has been moved
19 and seconded to bring this resolution back to the
20 delegation. Discussion?

21 (No response.)

22 DEPARTMENT PRESIDENT FERCHO: All those in favor?

23 AUDIENCE MEMBERS: Aye.

24 DEPARTMENT PRESIDENT FERCHO: Opposed?

25 AUDIENCE MEMBERS: No.

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1 DEPARTMENT PRESIDENT FERCHO: Okay. I would like
2 to have the aye votes please stand. Everyone in favor of
3 bringing this back to the floor, please stand.

4 Do you all know the resolution? Please sit.
5 Everybody, please sit down. For purposes of
6 clarification, we will read the resolution prior to the
7 vote, Madam Chairman.

8 POPPY CHAIRMAN COOLEY-DEMEULES: Whereas the
9 poppy program has had an increase in postage and in the
10 cost of poppy kits, and whereas we want to continue to pay
11 a minimum of 10 cents per poppy to the veteran poppy
12 makers and perhaps give them an increase in the future,
13 and whereas the department cannot budget properly for the
14 welfare accounts, temporary financial aid, TFA, for
15 veterans and TFA for children, educational, and past
16 presidents parley scholarships because of the unknown
17 factor of the 10 percent sent in by the units with their
18 poppy financial report in May, and whereas units currently
19 pay 25 cents per poppy and receive 100 poppies therefore
20 be it resolved that we increase the cost of poppies from
21 18 cents to 25 cents per poppy with the unit making
22 payments with their order. Units will have a grace period
23 from October 1st until the following March to make
24 payments, therefore be it further resolved that the units
25 will keep 100 percent of the funds donated when the

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1 poppies are distributed. The financial reports prepared
2 in May will no longer be required.

3 (Applause.)

4 POPPY CHAIRMAN COOLEY-DEMEULES: Funds still
5 remain restricted per Resolution 69, therefore be it
6 further resolved that this increase will begin with the
7 American Legion Auxiliary year 2012 to 2013.

8 DEPARTMENT PRESIDENT FERCHO: Do we have
9 discussion?

10 VETERANS AFFAIR & REHABILITATION CHAIRMAN BIGGS:
11 Come to the microphone.

12 PAST DEPARTMENT PRESIDENT KAPSALIS: Madam
13 Department President, this is discussion on whether to
14 bring it back to the floor or not?

15 DEPARTMENT PRESIDENT FERCHO: Yeah, this
16 discussion is whether to bring it back to the floor.

17 SPEAKER APRIL: Thank you for allowing me to
18 speak. I am April with District 22, Unit 468. From what
19 I've listened to, I see that there's a possibility of two
20 different matters at hand: One, to raise the increase,
21 and then the other is to pay the 10 percent directly up
22 front.

23 DEPARTMENT PRESIDENT FERCHO: April, excuse me
24 one minute. April, right now we're going to be voting on
25 bringing it back.

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1 SPEAKER APRIL: I'm sorry.

2 DEPARTMENT PRESIDENT FERCHO: If the vote does
3 not pass to bring this back to the floor, we will not be
4 discussing it.

5 SPEAKER APRIL: I apologize.

6 DEPARTMENT PRESIDENT FERCHO: So if it comes back
7 to the floor, please come back to the microphone for
8 discussion.

9 SPEAKER APRIL: Thank you. I apologize.

10 DEPARTMENT PRESIDENT FERCHO: Thank you. So at
11 this time is there any discussion on bringing this back --
12 this resolution back to the floor? All those in favor,
13 please stand of bringing this resolution back to the floor
14 for discussion.

15 Thank you. All those not in favor of bringing
16 the resolution back to the floor, please stand.

17 The ayes have it. We will bring this resolution
18 back to the floor. And so at this time we have a motion
19 on the floor to bring this resolution back to the floor.
20 We have a second. We will open for discussion now. We
21 have a microphone here or you can come over to the right
22 of the stage.

23 April, sweetheart. Come on down. At this time
24 the Chair recognizes Michelle Soares, Americanism Chairman
25 microphone two.

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1 AMERICANISM CHAIRMAN SOARES: Thank you. Madam
2 Department President, the last time we had an increase in
3 the poppies from 15 cents to 18 cents, which was only
4 three cents, the poppy orders went down by I believe
5 around 60,000 that were ordered that year. That is \$6,000
6 of income that did not go to our veterans.

7 Now this program, from what I understand, is to
8 support the veterans that are making the poppies by taking
9 the cost from 18 cents to 25 cents. I believe that the
10 poppy orders will fall even more and that is just more
11 money that we will not be able to pay to our veterans.
12 And this is what our mission is, is to support the
13 veterans, not our coffers.

14 (Applause.)

15 DEPARTMENT PRESIDENT FERCHO: The Chair
16 recognizes Vice President Terry Mikesell.

17 DEPARTMENT VICE PRESIDENT MIKESELL: Terry
18 Mikesell, District 2, Unit 197 our unit ordered 11,000
19 poppies last year. We have a fabulous poppy chairman,
20 Judy Gama. She does a great job. We made almost \$10,000
21 last year, this year in poppy distribution. I happen to
22 be the unit treasurer and I can tell you if you raise the
23 poppies to 25 cents per poppy, Unit 197 will only order
24 either three or 4,000 poppies because we cannot afford to
25 spend that much money up front with the hopes that we will

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1 take that much money in.

2 And I do agree with Michelle, it's to support the
3 veterans. Our money that our unit raises, that \$10,000
4 that we raise and we give the department their portion, we
5 do fabulous things in our community with that money.

6 Thank you.

7 (Applause.)

8 DEPARTMENT PRESIDENT FERCHO: Thank you. April.

9 SPEAKER APRIL: Yes. Adding on to Michelle, I do
10 agree with the increase in how it may drop the purchase of
11 the poppy. And speaking from the back country rural
12 areas, we can barely afford to buy what we do now. And
13 that's very tough and adding to this what I mentioned
14 earlier from what I understand about the -- what you're
15 suggesting to change is that to me sounds like there's a
16 possibility of two different issues. One is to increase
17 and then the other is to pay up front, which that I agree
18 with, but if it's two different issues -- is that what it
19 is?

20 DEPARTMENT PRESIDENT FERCHO: Actually, it is all
21 in one issue because it does deal with when you're going
22 to pay for them and that's part of it because at this time
23 we already do that. That part of paying is still in
24 place. It's already in place at this time. This is
25 basically just to increase the cost.

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1 SPEAKER APRIL: Okay. So we're not voting on
2 whether or not to pay --

3 DEPARTMENT PRESIDENT FERCHO: We're voting on the
4 entire resolution.

5 SPEAKER APRIL: So that includes it as well.

6 DEPARTMENT PRESIDENT FERCHO: That includes it as
7 well.

8 SPEAKER APRIL: I see that as an issue here in
9 some of us may vote for one and not the other.

10 DEPARTMENT PRESIDENT FERCHO: In that case I
11 would think that we would possibly bring back a second
12 resolution to bring about that change, but at this time
13 this resolution has to be voted on intact.

14 SPEAKER APRIL: As is.

15 DEPARTMENT PRESIDENT FERCHO: As is.

16 SPEAKER APRIL: All right. Thank you.

17 DEPARTMENT VICE PRESIDENT MIKESELL: I'm against
18 it. The person up here behind the microphone recognizes
19 Cindy.

20 MS. SIMMONS: Cindy Simmons, District 22,
21 Oceanside Unit 146. I also sat in on the finance
22 committee meeting this year and it raises terrible issues.

23 First, though those units that are very small,
24 they are more likely to be in favor of this because they
25 have to -- they only have to buy a few amount of poppies

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1 and then be able to collect. But the problem is when we
2 have our larger units who are buying thousands of poppies.
3 The issue, especially when you use 60,000 poppies just in
4 the one year with the 3 cent increase, now with the 7 cent
5 increase you're going to lose even more than 60,000 worth
6 of poppies even if that includes now having a whole month.
7 They will just not order it.

8 And the other issue that I have with this
9 particular resolution is that there is no penalty. You
10 have payments on it and yet you've been given grace
11 periods on when the money is actually due. And that's not
12 exactly fair for those units who are paying for those
13 poppies up front. You don't get the money into the
14 department like you're hoping to right away because you
15 have no penalties if they don't pay that. So those are my
16 issues.

17 DEPARTMENT VICE PRESIDENT MIKESELL: Thank you,
18 Cindy. The Chair recognizes the Governor Linda.

19 DEPARTMENT PRESIDENT FERCHO: Right now I am
20 speaking as Linda Fercho, Unit 741 Camarillo, District 16.
21 And I am in favor of this and I will explain my reasons.

22 Yes, it is understandable that the first year of
23 any change, being uncomfortable as it is, poppies will be
24 less ordered. Absolutely, I believe that.

25 I believe too that sitting in on finance this

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1 year was an eye opener for me, huge. And what I found out
2 is that -- I did poppies. I was poppy chairman so I know
3 this to be truth. In May when you do that financial
4 report, those 10 percents, you don't -- we get money
5 before and after that week. It doesn't get reported.

6 The last two years, the welfare programs are TFA
7 for our veterans, which are our mission, our TFA for our
8 children and youth, our mission, our education and our
9 scholarship, our mission. Each one of those received \$400
10 from the poppies because the 10 percent of what was sent
11 in in May equaled \$1600 divided by four. That's \$400. We
12 need more TFA for our veterans. We need that TFA in
13 there.

14 If we pay up front and if we raise this, each of
15 those this year would have received over \$2,000. Our reps
16 are out there doing a great job and our chaplains and our
17 members finding these veterans that need this TFA and we
18 need to help that account and this is a way to do it.

19 Also, think about it, ladies, you would be
20 eliminating that 10 percent in May and not only the
21 paperwork in the report, but you would keep every dime in
22 your coffer. You would have control of those dollars
23 under the resolution for the veterans. I believe -- I
24 know I -- if I think, wow, I'm going to have control of
25 that, I might get out there and work a little harder.

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1 I've got a month. I've got a month to make that money.
2 I've got a month for that distribution and I don't have to
3 worry about sending that money in to anybody. It's going
4 to stay right there in our unit and our unit is going to
5 do what we do best, which is help our veterans.

6 DEPARTMENT VICE PRESIDENT MIKESELL: Thank you,
7 Linda.

8 DEPARTMENT PRESIDENT FERCHO: Thank you.

9 (Applause.)

10 DEPARTMENT VICE PRESIDENT MIKESELL: The Circuit
11 Court Judge is going to speak.

12 PARLIAMENTARIAN DELASHMIT: Madam President, I
13 move to lay this on the table until after our elections
14 since we're already into the election hour.

15 AUDIENCE MEMBER: Second.

16 DEPARTMENT VICE PRESIDENT MIKESELL: Okay. It's
17 been moved and seconded. All those in favor, please say
18 aye.

19 ALL PRESENT: Aye.

20 DEPARTMENT VICE PRESIDENT MIKESELL: Thank you.
21 Thank you for no discussion.

22 DEPARTMENT PRESIDENT FERCHO: At this time we
23 will take a ten-minute break to get into -- so that the
24 districts -- don't leave. This is so that the districts
25 can make sure they have their correct account for the

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1 final credential report. So ten-minute break, ladies. So
2 we'll gather right back ten minutes and we'll go through
3 that.

4 (Recess from 10:02 a.m. to 10:13 a.m.)

5 DEPARTMENT PRESIDENT FERCHO: Ladies, at this
6 time we need a little more time on our elections and our
7 credentials, so we are going to once again switch up
8 things. That's what we do best; right? Adapt.

9 So at this time I would like to have all of the
10 reps and depts quietly please go to the back of the room,
11 meet with our Chairman Anita Biggs. Also at this time we
12 have a story for you ladies. Where is my vice president?
13 I need my juniors up here.

14 Now, ladies, you've got to listen up on the
15 story. At this time we've got to listen up on the story.
16 Now how many of you have ever been to one of my workshops?
17 And you know that my favorite thing is candy. My favorite
18 thing to do is have a candy story. Now how it works for
19 those who might not know this, I'm going to read a story.
20 And when you hear a candy bar, make a lot of noise and
21 I've got all these young ladies over here, our juniors,
22 who will be out with the audience and they will be
23 delivering you that candy. So you have to kind of compete
24 on that. And I know those in the back have a little
25 disadvantage, and I apologize for that and I'll get some

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1 other candy for those who didn't get any. And I know you
2 probably have goodie bags going around in your
3 delegations.

4 I also have one quick presentation. Can I have
5 Donna Enright come to the stage, District 18.

6 (Applause.)

7 DEPARTMENT PRESIDENT FERCHO: I must not have my
8 mustache on. Last night I had a mustache on, but you'll
9 probably see some pictures. It's going to go viral, let
10 me tell you.

11 Please look in your banquet tickets. We need to
12 know who has ticket number 140 in their envelope. And if
13 you do, please let Susie Tozier know. Okay?

14 At midyear if you were there, we had a contest
15 and I had a mime. You had to listen to everybody's report
16 and you had to answer the questions. And if you got it
17 right, you got a ticket for a prize. Well, you won the
18 prize.

19 MS. ENRIGHT: You're kidding.

20 DEPARTMENT PRESIDENT FERCHO: And I have it here
21 to present to you. She's going to go to jail for
22 assaulting the judge.

23 MS. ENRIGHT: Thank you.

24 PAST DEPARTMENT PRESIDENT BROWN-PARK: Take her
25 to jail. Take her to jail.

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1 AUDIENCE MEMBER: Nobody will bail her out.

2 DEPARTMENT PRESIDENT FERCHO: Who would bail her
3 out?

4 AUDIENCE MEMBER: I would.

5 DEPARTMENT PRESIDENT FERCHO: All right. Here we
6 go, ladies. Here goes the story. These young ladies are
7 going to be looking for you ladies. You're going to have
8 to get your horses galloping because it's a long way back
9 there for some of them.

10 Howdy partners. Welcome to Fort Friendly. Been
11 traveling over some Rocky Road. Bet you saw some Cracker
12 Jacks -- girls, go in the audience and -- oh, they don't
13 have anything?

14 Okay. Pulling that pony back up. Back this
15 horsey up. Okay. I think they've got it now. We're
16 going to try this again.

17 Howdy partners. Welcome to Fort Friendly. Been
18 traveling over some Rocky Road. Bet you saw some Cracker
19 Jacks and looked at lots of (inaudible.) Glad to see that
20 you brought some Hot Tamales with you. Wasn't sure if
21 you'd be -- weren't sure if you'd be old crows. Glad to
22 see I was wrong. I can tell you right now that you're
23 going to be hearing a lot of Whoppers today, but U-No
24 people of the town all mean well.

25 We'll be moseying down to the salon now. We've

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1 got a new owner, some guy named Fercho, but he seemed like
2 a pretty good guy. I know that you Hot Tamales will feel
3 right at home with some of our Red Hot salon girls,
4 especially Baby Ruth, Peppermint Patty, and Kit Kat. They
5 will treat you right and friendly. That's how our town
6 got its name Friendly. They do not have Butterfingers
7 when it comes to providing for the customers. No siree.
8 We fondly refer to them as our lovely Three Musketeers or
9 our Sugar Babies and everybody Snickers at that.

10 I understand you're here to recruit some
11 volunteers to organize Fort Friendly Auxiliary and to put
12 together a welcome home for the troops of Fort Friendly.
13 You won't be disappointed, I can tell you that. Well,
14 when we got to the saloon, the bartenders, Mike & Ike,
15 were a couple of Big Hunks and made them all Look twice.
16 Okay. Maybe three times. Then they bellied up to the bar
17 and partake in a little Bit O Honey, the nectar of the
18 gods they told. As the days went on, there were lots of
19 volunteers that arrived. So they Crunch the Mounds that
20 they were given. They had Good & Plenty of wonderful
21 ladies to form the new Auxiliary. And lots of townspeople
22 to put on one great shindig.

23 The ladies felt that they have Scored a huge
24 Payday, just what they knew would happen. They put out
25 the call and connected the Dots and everybody was ready to

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1 give from the heart and volunteer.

2 The next night as the music played and the
3 dancers dosey doe'd, the organizers of the newly formed
4 Fort Friendly Auxiliary kicked off their boots at what
5 Smarties they were to get the town involved. And as they
6 looked up at the western sky noticing the Milky Way and
7 seeing the Starbursts they realized how as a team keeping
8 an eye on our mission, anything is possible. Thank you.

9 (Applause.)

10 DEPARTMENT PRESIDENT FERCHO: Anita, are we
11 ready? Are we ready? Here comes that fast race horse
12 racing down here. And here comes our Chairman Anita
13 Biggs. Thank you.

14

15 VETERANS AFFAIR & REHABILITATION COMMITTEE REPORT

16

17 VETERANS AFFAIR & REHABILITATION CHAIRMAN BIGGS:
18 I'm tired. Sorry for the delay, but I know you all had
19 fun with the candy. Since I had to run, I got a little
20 tired. Good morning, everyone.

21 AUDIENCE MEMBERS: Good morning.

22 VETERANS AFFAIR & REHABILITATION CHAIRMAN BIGGS:
23 Madam President, the convention committee on Veterans
24 Affairs & Rehabilitation met on June 21st, 2012 in the
25 Sierra Room in Redding, California. The statistical

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1 report of this chairman appears on page 19 of the Book of
2 Reports. Pat Alvarez, District 29 acted as secretary,
3 Bonnie Christner, Past Department President, District 20
4 offered prayer, and Tammy Sollazzo, District 19, was
5 appointed Sergeant-at-Arms and led the Pledge of
6 Allegiance. A total of 23 delegates answered roll call.
7 There were nine guests present.

8 Distinguished guests LuAnn Capazzi, National VA&R
9 committee, and Nancy Brown-Park, National VA&R Chairman
10 were also present.

11 The committee agreed upon the following report:
12 The code was read and housekeeping changes were made to
13 Code 12 to change the word "then" to "the." And medical
14 center representatives Code 8(B) changed the word "pen" to
15 "open."

16 There were no resolutions. There were
17 recommendations made by this chairman for delegates to
18 encourage the units to send their earmarked patient
19 remembrance donations to the department office and not
20 directly to the representative. They don't really like
21 that.

22 There was also discussion by the delegates about
23 upcoming stand downs, vet rides, and events. All awards
24 second, third, and some first place awards were awarded in
25 that meeting. There were 100 percent reporting by

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1 Districts 1, 3, 6, 7, 10, 11, 14, 18, 19, 20, 24, 25, 26,
2 28, 29, and 30.

3 (Applause.)

4 VETERANS AFFAIRS & REHABILITATION CHAIRMAN BIGGS:

5 Yes. With no further business the meeting adjourned by
6 our VA&R committee member acting chaplain from District 16
7 Madeline Lee.

8 Madam President, may I continue with my
9 supplement and first place awards?

10 DEPARTMENT PRESIDENT FERCHO: Yes, please.

11 VETERANS AFFAIR & REHABILITATION CHAIRMAN BIGGS:

12 And other presentations. Madam President? Is she looking
13 at me? Hey, Madam President. Is she looking at me?

14 AUDIENCE MEMBER: No.

15 VETERANS AFFAIR & REHABILITATION CHAIRMAN BIGGS:

16 Madam President?

17 DEPARTMENT PRESIDENT FERCHO: I went to the candy
18 store.

19 VETERANS AFFAIR & REHABILITATION CHAIRMAN BIGGS:

20 I want to tell you your western theme gave us a perfect
21 opportunity to represent the courageous Buffalo Soldiers
22 with their theme of "Ready and forward we can, we will."

23 Thank you.

24 (Applause.)

25 DEPARTMENT PRESIDENT FERCHO: Thank you. She had

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1 a beautiful scarf and everything and she did a lot of
2 research on this. And if you were reading her articles,
3 you know she did her homework on this one.

4 VETERANS AFFAIR & REHABILITATION CHAIRMAN BIGGS:

5 Well, we could and we did for unit members, hospital reps
6 and depts of this great state have taken on the challenge
7 with every intent to erase veteran homelessness. The
8 veteran outreach programs have outstanding -- have been
9 with 17 Stand Downs throughout the state including one in
10 Long Beach, the first time just for women veterans with
11 several more Stand Downs planned this summer and Monterey
12 having their first this week right now. Very exciting.

13 Nearly 800 volunteers spent over 12,000 hours
14 assisting over 22,000 veterans at just Stand Downs and
15 homeless veteran activities alone with donations of almost
16 \$50,000. Unit members, hospital representatives, and
17 deputies are involved in the transition of hundreds of
18 veterans from homelessness to permanent housing.

19 The HUD/VASH voucher program provides the means
20 to secure housing and our members are there with
21 graduation ceremonies along with welcome home buddy
22 baskets. The members of the elegant 18th District had a
23 fundraiser and honored two homeless women veterans. Their
24 story was submitted by this chairman and featured in the
25 Auxiliary National News in May. Who saw that article?

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1 (Applause.)

2 VETERANS AFFAIR & REHABILITATION CHAIRMAN BIGGS:

3 Way to go California. The district chairman coordinated
4 an extraordinary evening where all 15 units donated one or
5 more buddy baskets. These baskets valued over \$5,000.
6 And they were just not regular household goods. They
7 included appliances, vacuum cleaners, toasters and other
8 high-end goods. The honorees were allowed to pick their
9 choice of one and the rest were donated between two VA
10 facilities.

11 Now the noisy 19th District, they're all the way
12 in the back I guess, they reported that they have joined
13 forces with an organization called Vet Hunters. And you
14 heard about that yesterday. This local organization vows
15 to get the homeless veterans off the streets and into
16 homes. What a great partnership.

17 This same district's chairman hosts an internet
18 radio show -- you heard about this -- called Veteran
19 Outreach to network with other nonprofit organizations to
20 help veterans. Ending veterans' homelessness are not mere
21 words to us. Our unit members will do all we can to help
22 end it forever.

23 During our midyear meeting that I did, this
24 chairman along with our VA&R committee members conducted a
25 field service orientation course. We also held a very

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1 successful diabetic sock, men's underwear, and women's
2 panty drive. Hundreds of items were donated by our
3 members and they have been distributed to hospitalized
4 veterans, veteran homeless, and women's shelters. You can
5 see in the Book of Reports that we have increased our
6 field, home, and regularly scheduled volunteers by at
7 least 130.

8 Our members dedicated many hours and donations to
9 all VA&R programs. Temporary financial assistance has
10 been used to pay veterans' rent and utilities, for
11 example. I mean, we even did one while we came to the
12 convention. That's how needy some of our vets are and how
13 fast we're on the draw.

14 Unit members' donations are assisting many
15 veterans who have nowhere else to turn. Members continue
16 to support Fisher House along with Madam President's
17 special project the Ride 2 Recovery and the wounded
18 warriors who participated and had support from members all
19 during the ride.

20 The smallest to the largest unit understands the
21 importance of the VA&R program. One small but mighty unit
22 of only 36 members has joined forces with Wreaths Across
23 America, a program focused on supplying wreaths for each
24 grave site in our National cemeteries during December.
25 They've already raised close to \$600 to continue this

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1 project later this year.

2 On Memorial Day another unit in conjunction with
3 other nonprofit organizations placed 800 flags with
4 poppies at grave sites, while yet another unit placed
5 almost 1300 flags with the help of their post family. The
6 units of California have so many outstanding Memorial Day,
7 Veterans Day, and actually every day observances for
8 veterans, time just won't allow me to mention them all.

9 The welcome home ceremonies have provided much
10 joy and comfort to servicemen and women as they arrive
11 home safely. One unit donated items and attended a
12 welcome home for 600 service personnel at the crack of
13 dawn in November. There weren't many dry eyes at the Air
14 Force Base with the sight and sounds of family members and
15 so many volunteers as they arrived home.

16 This year's junior conference, our VA&R service
17 project had all attending juniors and senior counselors
18 write an ALA honor card. Who's heard of an honor card?
19 Well, now you have. Okay. That's First Lady
20 Michelle Obama and Dr. Jill Biden's initiative for
21 community service projects. And we have our own
22 personalized card. And we're number one on the website,
23 by the way, in volunteer hours.

24 (Applause.)

25 VETERANS AFFAIR & REHABILITATION CHAIRMAN BIGGS:

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1 That's on the National website. We completed a total of
2 65 cards that were mailed to honor cards for distribution
3 to military families, active duty, veterans, wounded
4 warriors, or their caretakers.

5 Now this year Menlo Park VA facility, they
6 received a National VA&R mini grant from our own National
7 Chairman upon the request of a unit that is going to help
8 with expenses. All veterans in the area were welcome to
9 attend this local creative arts work.

10 I was very happy to accompany you, Madam
11 President, on your visit to West LA VAMC and more recently
12 to Long Beach with a tour of their new state-of-the-art
13 blind center, which is wonderful; you guys have to go see
14 it, and the beautiful gardens there.

15 Madam President, at this time I would like to
16 present our Buffalo Soldiers, our everyday miracle makers,
17 our hospital representatives and deputies. Madam
18 President, can you please ask them to be escorted in the
19 front for presentation? These ladies are truly amazing
20 and provide loving care to our special veterans.

21 DEPARTMENT PRESIDENT FERCHO: Sergeant-at-Arms
22 and Marshal along with Distinguished Guest Chairman,
23 please assist our wonderful miracle workers, our
24 representatives and our deputies to the front of this
25 delegation.

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1 (Processional.)

2 VETERANS AFFAIR & REHABILITATION CHAIRMAN BIGGS:

3 Okay. We're going to introduce all our reps and depts.

4 And when I call your name, step forward, please. But I

5 want to acknowledge all of our representatives and

6 deputies. In San Francisco VAMC, we have Representative

7 Loraine Sullivan, Deputy June Jackson, and Deputy Tammy

8 Manini as well as Deputy Veronica Spence. They're not

9 here with us today.

10 (Applause.)

11 VETERANS AFFAIR & REHABILITATION CHAIRMAN BIGGS:

12 For the Sierra Nevada and Sierra Foothills we have

13 Representative Mary Lou Warner.

14 (Applause.)

15 VETERANS AFFAIR & REHABILITATION CHAIRMAN BIGGS:

16 Deputy Bonnie Chavoya. Northern California Representative

17 Wendy O'Brien.

18 (Applause.)

19 VETERANS AFFAIR & REHABILITATION CHAIRMAN BIGGS:

20 And Deputy Glenda Schultz.

21 (Applause.)

22 VETERANS AFFAIR & REHABILITATION CHAIRMAN BIGGS:

23 Redding Deputy Barbara Daley. Fairfield OPC is not here,

24 Kelli Gemeraad.

25 (Applause.)

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1 VETERANS AFFAIR & REHABILITATION CHAIRMAN BIGGS:
2 Fresno is -- Gloria, where are you? Is Gloria here?
3 She's already -- oh, there you are. You're supposed to be
4 up here. Come up here. In Fresno the representative is
5 Gloria's mom, Mary Sinopoli.

6 (Applause.)

7 VETERANS AFFAIR & REHABILITATION CHAIRMAN BIGGS:
8 And as she walks forward, Deputy Norma Wallace is not here
9 with us. South Valley OPC Tulare, Marjorie Boyer.

10 (Applause.)

11 VETERANS AFFAIR & REHABILITATION CHAIRMAN BIGGS:
12 VA Palo Alto Representative Pat Klang, Deputy Connie Raya.
13 And Deputy Gerry Wilcox is not with us today.

14 (Applause.)

15 VETERANS AFFAIR & REHABILITATION CHAIRMAN BIGGS:
16 VA San Diego Representative Phyllis Holmberg, Deputy
17 Cynthia Simmons, Deputy Irma Manthel, and new Deputy Patty
18 Sanborn. The Wave Clinic representative Lois Cornish.
19 Step up so they can see who you are, Lois.

20 (Applause.)

21 VETERANS AFFAIR & REHABILITATION CHAIRMAN BIGGS:
22 VA Loma Linda Representative Mavis Kanka, Representative
23 Elaine Gallagher. And Deputy Shirley Brown who is not
24 with us today.

25 (Applause.)

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1 VETERANS AFFAIR & REHABILITATION CHAIRMAN BIGGS:
2 VA Livermore Ruth Briggs. Deputy Leonarda Estigoy, Deputy
3 Cherie Galvan, and Deputy June Sousa.

4 (Applause.)

5 VETERANS AFFAIR & REHABILITATION CHAIRMAN BIGGS:
6 VA Long Beach Representative Pat Alvarez. Leave the
7 podium alone, Pat. You're going to make me fall. Deputy
8 Tami Bell.

9 (Applause.)

10 VETERANS AFFAIR & REHABILITATION CHAIRMAN BIGGS:
11 VA Los Angeles, VAMC Representative Earlean Paige, Deputy
12 Ruth Hackney. Are you a deputy now, Susie? Yeah, there's
13 Susie Johansen, Deputy.

14 (Applause.)

15 VETERANS AFFAIR & REHABILITATION CHAIRMAN BIGGS:
16 West LA Ambulatory Deputy Pam Dixon-Hicks. Deputy Diane
17 Williams is not here. Downtown clinic deputy Kathy
18 Harris-Richardson. Deputy CJ Reyes. Another deputy who
19 is not here is Julie Stranges. She's an exciting woman
20 too.

21 And now we have from Santa Barbara Hermine
22 Fosmark is not here and Bakersfield Frances Ramirez is not
23 here.

24 Let me see. I already did that. Now Vet Homes
25 Reps. From Barstow, representative Evangeline Acosta.

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1 (Applause.)

2 VETERANS AFFAIR & REHABILITATION CHAIRMAN BIGGS:

3 Look over here. Look over here. You've got Lois Cornish
4 from Chula Vista.

5 (Applause.)

6 VETERANS AFFAIR & REHABILITATION CHAIRMAN BIGGS:

7 Look over there. You have from Lancaster Veronica
8 McGough.

9 (Applause.)

10 VETERANS AFFAIR & REHABILITATION CHAIRMAN BIGGS:

11 From Yountville you have Peggy Grabski, Deputy Melanie
12 Taylor, and Deputy Geri Fitzpatrick.

13 (Applause.)

14 VETERANS AFFAIR & REHABILITATION CHAIRMAN BIGGS:

15 She's probably out there. Where are you, Geri? You
16 should be up here, but that's okay. Geri, she doesn't
17 care what she does with the organization, but she will not
18 leave poppy production at Yountville. She loves it there.

19 Well, we have Ventura representative Madeline

20 Lee.

21 (Applause.)

22 VETERANS AFFAIR & REHABILITATION CHAIRMAN BIGGS:

23 And look over here. West LA representative Delores Artis.
24 Give them a big round of applause for reps and depts.

25 (Applause.)

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1 VETERANS AFFAIR & REHABILITATION CHAIRMAN BIGGS:
2 Stay here for a second, ladies. Yeah, you do deserve a
3 round. They need a standing ovation.

4 (Applause.)

5 VETERANS AFFAIR & REHABILITATION CHAIRMAN BIGGS:
6 Now I am going to -- you know, we have a -- it's a sad
7 time for us but a glorious time for some. And we have two
8 representatives that are retiring after many years of
9 outstanding service at their facilities and really all
10 over this great state. All the other ladies will be able
11 to be excused at this time, but I would like, Madam
12 President, if you could please escort to your station --
13 no? She's saying no, don't do that yet?

14 DEPARTMENT PRESIDENT FERCHO: Right. Not that
15 woman. We have another presentation while your reps and
16 depts are still here. So at this time I believe we have a
17 presentation.

18 VETERANS AFFAIR & REHABILITATION CHAIRMAN BIGGS:
19 Oh, we have a presentation. Surprise.

20 DEPARTMENT PRESIDENT FERCHO: It is a surprise.

21 VETERANS AFFAIR & REHABILITATION CHAIRMAN BIGGS:
22 And I do have something for all you ladies, but of course
23 it's not down here; it's in my room.

24 ELECTIONS CHAIRMAN TAYLOR: On behalf of all the
25 hospital reps and depts, we would like to make this

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1 presentation from your Buffalo Soldiers.

2 DEPARTMENT PRESIDENT FERCHO: For those who can't
3 see what's going on, they are presenting Anita with a gift
4 from all her Buffalo Soldiers.

5 VETERANS AFFAIR & REHABILITATION CHAIRMAN BIGGS:
6 Oh, look. Oh, look.

7 DEPARTMENT PRESIDENT FERCHO: It's a card with a
8 Buffalo Soldier on it and it's looking pretty hot. Love a
9 man in uniform.

10 VETERANS AFFAIR & REHABILITATION CHAIRMAN BIGGS:
11 They wrapped it so tight.

12 DEPARTMENT PRESIDENT FERCHO: Anita, can you step
13 up here so the guys in the back can see?

14 VETERANS AFFAIR & REHABILITATION CHAIRMAN BIGGS:
15 Oh, wow. Look at this.

16 DEPARTMENT PRESIDENT FERCHO: She's wooing. So
17 we're going to get her up here to see what she's wooing
18 about.

19 VETERANS AFFAIR & REHABILITATION CHAIRMAN BIGGS:
20 A Buffalo Soldiers book.

21 DEPARTMENT PRESIDENT FERCHO: A Buffalo Soldiers
22 book. If you want to have a peek at that at lunchtime,
23 step on up and I'm sure she'll have it.

24 VETERANS AFFAIR & REHABILITATION CHAIRMAN BIGGS:
25 And a real Buffalo Soldier's card. Oh, wow. Look at that

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1 shot.

2 (Applause.)

3 VETERANS AFFAIR & REHABILITATION CHAIRMAN BIGGS:

4 I want to give you all a hug. I've got to give you a hug.

5 ELECTIONS CHAIRMAN TAYLOR: And then one more

6 little -- not so Buffalo Solder, but western.

7 VETERANS AFFAIR & REHABILITATION CHAIRMAN BIGGS:

8 Oh, wow.

9 ELECTIONS CHAIRMAN TAYLOR: That's her lucky

10 horseshoe.

11 VETERANS AFFAIR & REHABILITATION CHAIRMAN BIGGS:

12 Thank you so much. You guys get a hug later. I've got to

13 get my hugs in.

14 DEPARTMENT PRESIDENT FERCHO: So now if we want

15 to proceed --

16 VETERANS AFFAIR & REHABILITATION CHAIRMAN BIGGS:

17 Now I can do the rest of it?

18 DEPARTMENT PRESIDENT FERCHO: Uh-huh.

19 VETERANS AFFAIR & REHABILITATION CHAIRMAN BIGGS:

20 Okay. Thank you so very much. We have the two reps that

21 are retiring. And I would like, Madam President, if you

22 can, please have retiring hospital rep, Past Department

23 President -- the other one who is retiring is Veronica

24 Spence. We'll give her her honors later. But Past

25 Department President, Hospital Representative at San Diego

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1 VMAC, Phyllis Holmberg. If she can stay up here at the
2 stage.

3 (Processional.)

4 DEPARTMENT PRESIDENT FERCHO: There's two things
5 that I can't deal with and that's somebody crying because
6 then I am. And certain musical songs. And I don't care
7 if I'm at the happiest occasion, they'll make me cry. So
8 she has to stop. It's not dignified for a governor to be
9 crying.

10 But at this time we do have a presentation. I do
11 have something for you. And this is from the Department
12 of California for all your years of service. It's greatly
13 appreciated. She received a beautiful trophy for 12,500
14 hours of service.

15 (Applause.)

16 DEPARTMENT PRESIDENT FERCHO: And also she has
17 been there 21 years. And she shared with me, so if she
18 shares it with me, I share it with everybody. So be
19 careful of that, ladies. But she did have her 80th
20 birthday.

21 PAST DEPARTMENT PRESIDENT HOLMBERG: Eighty-two
22 coming up.

23 DEPARTMENT PRESIDENT FERCHO: Eighty-two coming
24 up. And she would like to spend some time now traveling.
25 She has many relatives all over the United States,

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1 children, friends, family, and she wants to spend some
2 time doing that. And so we -- we are blessed that you are
3 going to do that, but we are so sad. But she will remain
4 as an honorary rep. She will be continuing service. This
5 lady will never stop, never. She just needs to free up
6 her time.

7 And her children are saying, "Come on, Mom." I
8 think they're going to take her on some wild rides.
9 They're going to make sure she has a great time. And I'd
10 like to open this if you don't mind.

11 (Applause.)

12 VETERANS AFFAIR & REHABILITATION CHAIRMAN BIGGS:
13 It's a plaque and it says thank you for your service 2012.
14 We also have a citation of achievement as hospital
15 representative for San Diego for rendering to this
16 organization outstanding service and many years of
17 dedication as a hospital representative in the program of
18 Veterans Affairs & Rehabilitation and a gift from me.

19 Thank you so much, Phyllis. You know I love you.
20 And she'll be around. She's going to still go. And I'm
21 sure she wants 14,000 or 15,000 hours.

22 PAST DEPARTMENT PRESIDENT HOLMBERG: It's my goal
23 to hit 15,000 and I hope the good Lord will let me live
24 that long.

25 (Applause.)

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1 PAST DEPARTMENT PRESIDENT HOLMBERG: I just want
2 to say, ladies, it has been an honor and joy for me to
3 serve the hospital all these years. I love my veterans.
4 They are wonderful and they like me because I'm so sweet
5 to them. There she comes, that lady. And I get hugs
6 every day and everybody looks at me. My goodness,
7 everybody is hugging her, but -- and I will -- like I say,
8 my job is in the volunteer office and I type all of the
9 thank you letters for everything that is donated to the
10 hospital from the units from everybody. And some days
11 I'll have close to a hundred of them that I do, but I
12 volunteer Monday and Friday and I told the volunteer lady
13 I said, well, I'll work one day, but I won't promise any
14 more because my kids wanted me to retire. "Mom, you have
15 to retire." But I can't give up. I can't. I'm not that
16 type.

17 (Applause.)

18 PAST DEPARTMENT PRESIDENT HOLMBERG: And so I'll
19 still be around, reps and deps. I'll still be there.

20 (Applause.)

21 DEPARTMENT PRESIDENT FERCHO: Okay. But we have
22 a Johnny Cash thing going on today. We have the memo.

23 VETERANS AFFAIR & REHABILITATION CHAIRMAN BIGGS:
24 If you don't mind, please give Phyllis, as our reps and
25 deps, give them a big standing ovation. And, Phyllis, as

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1 there are so many department presidents in our department
2 with outstanding service, she's one of a kind as you all
3 are. Thank you, my Buffalo Solders. Go Buffalo Soldiers.
4 We'll see you all later. Where's our music?

5 (Processional.)

6 VETERANS AFFAIR & REHABILITATION CHAIRMAN BIGGS:

7 Thank you, Buffalo Soldiers. Great job this year. Madam
8 President.

9 DEPARTMENT PRESIDENT FERCHO: Okay.

10 VETERANS AFFAIR & REHABILITATION CHAIRMAN BIGGS:

11 Madam President, may I continue with my first place
12 awards?

13 DEPARTMENT PRESIDENT FERCHO: Absolutely.

14 VETERANS AFFAIR & REHABILITATION CHAIRMAN BIGGS:

15 Thank you. For first place best overall district report
16 that, goes to District 19 Tammy Sollazzo, Chairman.

17 (Applause.)

18 VETERANS AFFAIR & REHABILITATION CHAIRMAN BIGGS:

19 Thank you, Tammy. Great job this year. For first place
20 best overall unit report goes to Lakewood Unit 496,
21 District 19, Mina Carrasco, Chairman. This report has
22 been forwarded to National for the competition.

23 (Applause.)

24 VETERANS AFFAIR & REHABILITATION CHAIRMAN BIGGS:

25 You guys did such a fabulous job. It was amazing to read

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1 all the reports.

2 Okay. You know the National President's special
3 theme is honoring their service, and this year they have
4 an honoring service award for the unit that did the most
5 of going to veterans and offering them or having events
6 that help veterans outside of their post home or going to
7 where they are, anywhere there's 60 percent or more
8 veterans housed. And that award goes to Oceanside Unit
9 146, Roberta Mattice, Chairman, District 22.

10 (Applause.)

11 VETERANS AFFAIR & REHABILITATION CHAIRMAN BIGGS:
12 This report has been forwarded to National for further
13 competition. Thank you very much. I gave this award in
14 our preconvention committee yesterday and I was supposed
15 to have done it on the floor so I reproduced it because
16 she's so special, she's going to get two awards. The best
17 hospital representative report goes to Pat Alvarez,
18 representative, Long Beach VAMC.

19 (Applause.)

20 VETERANS AFFAIR & REHABILITATION CHAIRMAN BIGGS:
21 Thank you, Pat. This next award is presented to someone
22 who had a vision and realized her dream come true. For
23 amazing and outstanding veterans outreach event goes to
24 Margaret Quinones, Past Department President, District 18.

25 (Applause.)

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1 VETERANS AFFAIR & REHABILITATION CHAIRMAN BIGGS:
2 PAST DEPARTMENT PRESIDENT QUINONES: This goes to
3 my district.

4 VETERANS AFFAIR & REHABILITATION CHAIRMAN BIGGS:
5 Yes, but you do a lot. Okay. Thank you, Margaret.

6 Now the VISTO award. VISTO stands for Volunteer
7 in Service to Others. There's actually a tie in this
8 category, but these two recipients won't have to split the
9 plaque because they're at the same facility. The
10 volunteer director could not choose between the two and
11 neither could I. So Pat Alvarez, Representative, and Tami
12 Bell, Deputy, District 29 Long Beach VAMC.

13 (Applause.)

14 VETERANS AFFAIR & REHABILITATION CHAIRMAN BIGGS:
15 They're doing amazing things. And, you know, I got to see
16 it with my own eyes. And we're going to end homelessness.
17 I know that.

18 Madam President, in closing, one of the district
19 chairmen stated at the end of her lengthy report, "I could
20 write a book about all the things we have done for
21 veterans this year." This is certainly understood. The
22 members of California are simply amazing. The dedication
23 and spirit of these members have made this another
24 exciting year serving our most important resource, our
25 veterans.

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1 Madam President, thank you for this appointment.
2 It was absolutely the most rewarding for me, and this
3 concludes my report.

4 (Applause.)

5 DEPARTMENT PRESIDENT FERCHO: Thank you. At this
6 time I need --

7 VETERANS AFFAIR & REHABILITATION CHAIRMAN BIGGS:
8 I'm sorry, Madam President. On my way there I have a
9 small gift for you. Can I approach your station very
10 quickly?

11 DEPARTMENT PRESIDENT FERCHO: Sure. Beautiful
12 watch. Oh, it matches what I have on today.

13 VETERANS AFFAIR & REHABILITATION CHAIRMAN BIGGS:
14 And we have a small gift for our National Chairman and
15 National Committee Member.

16 DEPARTMENT PRESIDENT FERCHO: Thank you very
17 much. At this time we will be -- oh, we have one more
18 presentation.

19 NEC WOMAN REYES: May I use the podium, Madam
20 President? I don't want to have another fall.

21 DEPARTMENT PRESIDENT FERCHO: And we don't
22 either.

23 NEC WOMAN REYES: I would like to take this
24 opportunity to present the very important award which came
25 from National Veterans Creative Arts Festival. And it's

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1 really a great honor for me to present this to my VA&R
2 Chairman last year. This was presented at the 2011
3 festival by the National Veterans Creative Arts Festival
4 for -- this is for our donation of the 2,000 and 4,999.
5 And so we were eligible for a silver medal award. And I
6 would like to call on Terry Mikesell to the podium because
7 she was my VA&R chairman last year.

8 (Applause.)

9 NEC WOMAN REYES: And this is for all of us for
10 California. And it is really a great honor for us to get
11 this because it means that we really donated to the
12 Creative Arts Festival and that's a great thing.

13 So, Madam Vice President and Incoming President,
14 I present to you with great honor this award from National
15 Veterans Creative Arts Festival. That took only two
16 minutes, so --

17 (Applause.)

18 DEPARTMENT VICE PRESIDENT MIKESELL: Thank you.

19 NEC WOMAN REYES: Thank you, Madam President.

20 DEPARTMENT PRESIDENT FERCHO: Ladies, at this
21 time we will be closing the doors for election. Hopefully
22 everyone is in the room. And as those doors are being
23 secured, I need the Sergeant-at-Arms and Marshal to make
24 sure the doors are secured, please.

25 I have a couple of dispatches real quick while

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1 they're making sure these doors get closed. One is if
2 you're going to be in the processional taking the flags
3 this afternoon, you do not have to go and change into
4 white. As afternoon when we reconvene this afternoon will
5 be the parade. So come dressed up in your best country
6 garb and join us in the parade. So we will not be
7 requiring you to dress in white to take out the flag -- to
8 recess the flags.

9 Also, we will be having the Forever shirts, Nancy
10 Brown-Park, National Candidate, fundraiser in the lobby
11 here. So this afternoon check that out, get your shirts.

12 Oh, yes, if any -- oh, that's going to be hard to
13 do because I closed the doors. Is anyone interested in
14 purchasing a banquet ticket that does not have one
15 currently? If there is anyone wishing to purchase a
16 banquet ticket and does not have one, please stand up so I
17 can recognize you. I do not see any. Frances King.
18 Okay. So, Frances, you need a ticket, honey? You do.
19 Okay. We're okay with the count.

20 Okay. And I know, Terry, I also need one for a
21 gentleman in the legion, Phil. He's the chaplain. He
22 would like to buy one.

23 DISPLAYS CHAIRMAN HENDERSON: Madam President,
24 Judy Henderson, Displays Chairman. We need to have all
25 displays picked up by 3:00 so they can do the hall. So

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1 please --

2 DEPARTMENT PRESIDENT FERCHO: Yeah, I will be
3 dismissing everyone at 2:30.

4 DISPLAYS CHAIRMAN HENDERSON: I was just saying
5 please see me. I have all the receipts, so you need to
6 see me to get the displays. Otherwise, you can't get
7 them.

8 DEPARTMENT PRESIDENT FERCHO: Okay. Great.
9 Thank you.

10 DISPLAYS CHAIRMAN HENDERSON: I'm in District 2
11 right back here.

12 DEPARTMENT PRESIDENT FERCHO: Thank you, thank
13 you, thank you. And that's a hard job so everyone
14 cooperate with her and pick your things up and get your
15 displays.

16 So at this time the doors are closed and I will
17 have the final credentials report read by Marge Rye,
18 Chairman, at this time.

19

20 CREDENTIALS REPORT

21

22 CREDENTIALS CHAIRMAN RYE: Madam President
23 Fercho, I would like to thank you for asking me to serve
24 on this chairmanship. It has been, without a doubt, one
25 of the most bucking rodeos, yet valuable learning

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1 experiences. I think I've talked about it six times.

2 DEPARTMENT PRESIDENT FERCHO: If you didn't see
3 your homestead sign, it's darling and she needed that.

4 CREDENTIALS CHAIRMAN RYE: This morning we had a
5 roundup with the district presidents and department
6 secretary, Peggy. We went over the procedures on how to
7 poll the districts and what is expected. Many questions
8 were asked and answered, so we should have a great rodeo
9 and elections should run smoothly.

10 I would like to thank Past Department President
11 Odette Cuccaro, Lois Cornish, Department Secretary Peggy,
12 and all the members who worked with the registration
13 tables. And there is one more I need to thank that is not
14 on this report that has been my right-hand person there
15 and just running everywhere for me, and that's Jenny
16 Eastman.

17 (Applause.)

18 CREDENTIALS CHAIRMAN RYE: And they've all done
19 an outstanding job on corralling all the problems and
20 roping in the herd for an accurate count.

21 Madam President, at this time the total voting
22 strength of this convention is 551. Divided by half is
23 276, plus one shows that we need 277 to elect. And that
24 concludes my report.

25 DEPARTMENT PRESIDENT FERCHO: At this time I will

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1 ask our rules, Election Chairman Melanie Taylor to please
2 read the election rules.

3

4

ELECTIONS REPORT

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ELECTIONS CHAIRMAN TAYLOR: Madam Department
President, the convention committee on Elections met 10:30
a.m. on Thursday, June 21st, 2012 in the Palomino Room of
the Holiday Inn, Redding, California. There is no
statistical report for this chairmanship.

MaryLou Warner, District 6, was appointed
secretary, Linda Caples, District 29, was appointed
chaplain and offered prayer, and Joy Saunders, District 7,
was appointed Sergeant-at-Arms. A total of 15 delegates
answered roll call. There were four visitors present.

Each delegate received a copy of the 2012
convention rules and the Election rules were read and
discussed.

There were no code changes, no resolutions, and
no recommendations. The meeting adjourned at 10:47 a.m.

Madam Department President Linda, thank you for
this opportunity. It has been my honor serving as your
Elections chairman. This concludes my committee report
and I move for its acceptance.

(Applause.)

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1 ELECTIONS CHAIRMAN TAYLOR: May I proceed with
2 the reading of the election rules?

3 DEPARTMENT PRESIDENT FERCHO: You may.
4

5 READING OF ELECTION RULES
6

7 ELECTIONS CHAIRMAN TAYLOR: Okay. Ladies, these
8 will be found in the Book of Reports on page 11,
9 convention rules number 25 through 33.

10 Rule number 25: Election of department officers,
11 junior member of finance, national candidate, department
12 delegates, and alternates to the national convention shall
13 be held on Saturday morning, June 23rd, 2012.

14 Number 26: The doors of the convention hall
15 shall be closed during the entire election procedure and
16 no one shall leave or enter the hall until the Chair
17 states that the election is concluded. The exception to
18 this shall be that in an emergency a member may leave, and
19 if her absence affects the voting strength, the district
20 president shall immediately notify the presiding officer.

21 Number 27: When there is but one nominee for
22 department offices and but one nominee for junior member
23 of finance, the nominees shall be elected viva voce. This
24 is Article V, Section 3. Upon roll call, the district
25 presidents shall report the number of units partially or

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1 wholly represented by duly elected delegates or alternates
2 present in the delegation at the time of roll call. This
3 is to determine that there is a quorum of units present at
4 the time of the election.

5 Number 28: When there is more than one nominee
6 for the department offices or junior member of the finance
7 or national office, election shall be by written ballot.
8 The district president shall, when they are instructed by
9 the Chair, take a roll call of their respective
10 delegations to ascertain the total voting strength of
11 their district for the election reporting the same to the
12 Chair. When there is but one nominee for office or junior
13 member of the finance, the ballot may be dispensed with a
14 nominee elected viva voce.

15 Number 29: When there are three or more nominees
16 for an office or a junior member of the finance, unless
17 one nominee receives a majority vote on the first ballot,
18 the nominee receiving the lowest number of votes shall be
19 automatically dropped before proceeding with the next
20 ballot.

21 Number 30: Each district president and district
22 member of the elections committee shall distribute and
23 collect the votes cast by the district delegation and
24 deliver them to the department chairman of the elections.

25 I only had one glass of wine last night, Madam

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1 President, but my tongue is tied. I swear I only had one
2 glass.

3 AUDIENCE MEMBER: But how many times did it get
4 filled?

5 ELECTIONS CHAIRMAN TAYLOR: You're catching on
6 quick.

7 Rule number 31: Department officers, chairmen,
8 committee members, and past department presidents shall
9 vote with their respective districts.

10 Number 32: Each delegate shall be entitled to
11 one vote. The vote of an absent unit delegate, not
12 represented by an alternate, shall be cast by the majority
13 of the delegates from the unit. When two delegates
14 represent three votes, the chairman of the unit delegation
15 shall cast the third vote.

16 Number 33: A majority of all votes cast shall
17 elect, except that in the election of the national
18 delegates and alternates a plurality shall elect.

19 Madam President, those are your election rules.

20 DEPARTMENT PRESIDENT FERCHO: Thank you. At this
21 time would the district presidents -- oops, I think I owe
22 a \$5 fine for something I did early, but I only got a \$20
23 bill. So you got change? Okay.

24 PARLIAMENTARIAN DELASHMIT: Diane DeLashmit,
25 Department Parliamentarian. I need to verify the

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1 credentials. Where is Marge?

2 CREDENTIALS CHAIRMAN RYE: Right here.

3 PARLIAMENTARIAN DELASHMIT: Did you say you have
4 551 delegates? That's not what's written on my paper.
5 That's why I'm asking.

6 CREDENTIALS CHAIRMAN RYE: While we were out
7 doing changes here just now, I said, yes, it's 551 that
8 needed to be --

9 PARLIAMENTARIAN DELASHMIT: And what did you say
10 was going to be --

11 CREDENTIALS CHAIRMAN RYE: Half is 276.

12 PARLIAMENTARIAN DELASHMIT: 276 to elect.

13 CREDENTIALS CHAIRMAN RYE: 277 plus one.

14 PARLIAMENTARIAN DELASHMIT: No, it is 276. We
15 don't do the plus one. Let me explain. That's what I
16 thought you said and I wanted to verify. If 19 votes are
17 casted, the majority is -- half is nine and a half so the
18 majority is ten. We don't do the plus one.

19 CREDENTIALS CHAIRMAN RYE: Okay.

20 PARLIAMENTARIAN DELASHMIT: So it is 276. Thank
21 you.

22 DEPARTMENT PRESIDENT FERCHO: Thank you.

23 CREDENTIALS CHAIRMAN RYE: Thank you, Diane.

24 DEPARTMENT PRESIDENT FERCHO: At this time please
25 line up in numerical order. Microphone is there in the

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1 center, district presidents, to tell us your voting
2 strengths.

3 CREDENTIALS CHAIRMAN RYE: Madam President, while
4 they're lining up, could I make a suggestion on this? I
5 think that it behooves the Auxiliary to have three people
6 working credentials, but operating it just like you do the
7 finance committee. There would be no cost to the budget
8 to having one person that goes on three years and then to
9 follow on up over the course of three years.

10 DEPARTMENT PRESIDENT FERCHO: That is a great
11 recommendation.

12 CREDENTIALS CHAIRMAN RYE: It's something to
13 think about.

14 DEPARTMENT PRESIDENT FERCHO: Well, would you
15 please put that in the form of a resolution and present it
16 next year?

17 CREDENTIALS CHAIRMAN RYE: Does it need to be a
18 resolution or just a code change?

19 DEPARTMENT PRESIDENT FERCHO: It would be a
20 resolution.

21 CREDENTIALS CHAIRMAN RYE: Resolution.

22 DEPARTMENT PRESIDENT FERCHO: So if you would do
23 that, Marge, that would be great because that is a great
24 recommendation. It is a very difficult job and it does
25 take you having more than one year of experience to get it

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1 done, for those of you who have done it.

2 Ladies, are we lined up and ready? At this time
3 our secretary will take the mic. Okay. Now I'm into it
4 for ten bucks, so that 20 is going fast.

5 Please, everyone on the dais please go back to
6 your delegations. Yeah, except Peggy. You're trying to
7 escape.

8 SECRETARY/TREASURER VOGELE: I am.

9 DEPARTMENT PRESIDENT FERCHO: She's trying to get
10 back home to the ranch. Be very careful, Pilar. Thank
11 you, ladies.

12 Those that have been helping put together the
13 credential information, if you can come up at this time.
14 Marge who has helped putting this -- Odette and -- okay.
15 Odette is there. Great. Just in case we have any
16 questions.

17 So at this time our secretary will read the
18 district. Please give the number of your delegate
19 strength.

20 SECRETARY/TREASURER VOGELE: Is there anyone from
21 District 1? Okay. They have the delegate strength of
22 zero then. District 2?

23 DISTRICT 2 PRESIDENT JOHNSON: Madam President,
24 our delegate strength is 1.

25 SECRETARY/TREASURER VOGELE: Thank you. District

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1 3.

2 DISTRICT 3 PRESIDENT RAMEY: Our delegate
3 strength is 4.

4 SECRETARY/TREASURER VOGELE: Thank you. District
5 4, Barbara.

6 DISTRICT 4 PRESIDENT LaDOUCER: Thirteen.

7 SECRETARY/TREASURER VOGELE: Correct. Thank you.

8 DEPARTMENT PRESIDENT FERCHO: Can anyone check
9 the microphone and make sure that's on? Wendy, can you
10 check that? Just speak into that loudly, please.

11 SECRETARY/TREASURER VOGELE: District 5.

12 DISTRICT 5 PRESIDENT McQUEEN: District 5 has 14.

13 SECRETARY/TREASURER VOGELE: Thank you. District
14 6.

15 DISTRICT 6 PRESIDENT O'BRIEN: District 6 has 18.

16 SECRETARY/TREASURER VOGELE: Thank you. District
17 7.

18 DISTRICT 7 PRESIDENT CHAPMAN: District 7 has 17.

19 SECRETARY/TREASURER VOGELE: Thank you. District
20 8 is not here so that is a zero for District 8.

21 District 9.

22 DISTRICT 9 PRESIDENT RIOS: District 9 has six.

23 SECRETARY/TREASURER VOGELE: Thank you. District
24 10.

25 DISTRICT 10 PRESIDENT PETERS: District 10 has

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1 15.
2 SECRETARY/TREASURER VOGELE: Thank you. District
3 11.
4 DISTRICT 11 PRESIDENT CANNON: Eighteen.
5 SECRETARY/TREASURER VOGELE: Thank you. District
6 12.
7 DISTRICT 12 PRESIDENT MATTHEWS: District 12 has
8 11.
9 SECRETARY/TREASURER VOGELE: Thank you. District
10 13.
11 DISTRICT 13 PRESIDENT HENDERSON-McLEOD: Twelve.
12 We have 12.
13 SECRETARY/TREASURER VOGELE: District 14.
14 DISTRICT 14 REPRESENTATIVE DAVIS: Eleven.
15 SECRETARY/TREASURER VOGELE: Come on up to the
16 stage. District 15.
17 DISTRICT 15 PRESIDENT HERRERA: Eleven.
18 SECRETARY/TREASURER VOGELE: Thank you. District
19 16.
20 DISTRICT 16 PRESIDENT WEBER: Thirty-six.
21 SECRETARY/TREASURER VOGELE: Thank you. District
22 18.
23 DISTRICT 18 PRESIDENT PIPKIN: Forty-five.
24 SECRETARY/TREASURER VOGELE: District 19.
25 DISTRICT 19 PRESIDENT MORENO: Thirty.

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1 SECRETARY/TREASURER VOGELE: Come on up, Diana.

2 District 20.

3 DISTRICT 20 PRESIDENT HAYES: We have one unit
4 not in the delegation, so we have 11.

5 SECRETARY/TREASURER VOGELE: Come on up.

6 District 21.

7 DISTRICT 21 PRESIDENT HATHAWAY: Twenty-seven.

8 SECRETARY/TREASURER VOGELE: Thank you. District
9 22.

10 DISTRICT 22 PRESIDENT MANNO: Thirty-nine.

11 SECRETARY/TREASURER VOGELE: Thank you. District
12 23.

13 DISTRICT 23 PRESIDENT COLEMAN: Twenty-three.

14 SECRETARY/TREASURER VOGELE: Thank you. District
15 24.

16 DISTRICT 24 PRESIDENT JOHANSEN: Nine.

17 SECRETARY/TREASURER VOGELE: Thank you. District
18 25.

19 DISTRICT 25 PRESIDENT MATTOX: Fifty.

20 SECRETARY/TREASURER VOGELE: Come on up, Donna.
21 District 26.

22 DISTRICT 26 PRESIDENT THOMPSON: We have a change
23 down to six.

24 SECRETARY/TREASURER VOGELE: Come on up.

25 District 27.

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1 DISTRICT 27 PRESIDENT WHITE: Twelve.

2 SECRETARY/TREASURER VOGELE: Thank you. District
3 28.

4 DISTRICT 28 PRESIDENT YAQUB: Twenty-six.

5 SECRETARY/TREASURER VOGELE: Come on up.
6 District 29.

7 DISTRICT 29 PRESIDENT BELL: Forty.

8 SECRETARY/TREASURER VOGELE: Come on up, Tami.
9 District 30.

10 DISTRICT 30 PRESIDENT TELFORD: Six.

11 SECRETARY/TREASURER VOGELE: Thank you.

12 DEPARTMENT PRESIDENT FERCHO: So at this time
13 they will be figuring this out. And, Theresa, do we have
14 some music?

15 When we get -- ladies, when we finish with
16 elections and when we recess for lunch, you know I'm going
17 to have you go out, get your lunches, come back we have a
18 very important workshop being put on by Ruby "Taxes"
19 Kapsalis and Diane DeLashmit.

20 Also we do have in the back of the room the
21 T-shirts, that is for Nancy Brown-Park. Gerri Adams and
22 Tracy Fercho will be back there manning that, and so
23 you'll have an opportunity then to purchase those shirts.

24 You ready with music? Stay in your delegation,
25 but if you want to dance, stand up. Or do the chair

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1 dance. I do that really well. The chicken dance? I've
2 already done the chicken dance.

3 Okay. Ladies, I'm calling us back to order. I'm
4 reining you back in. At this time those that had -- were
5 called to the stage, please line up at the microphone.
6 And our secretary will proceed.

7 SECRETARY/TREASURER VOGELE: District 13.

8 DISTRICT 13 PRESIDENT HENDERSON-McLEOD:
9 Thirteen.

10 SECRETARY/TREASURER VOGELE: Thank you. District
11 14.

12 DISTRICT 14 REPRESENTATIVE DAVIS: Fourteen.

13 SECRETARY/TREASURER VOGELE: Uh-huh.

14 DISTRICT 14 REPRESENTATIVE DAVIS: We have 14,
15 but one delegate not here from the unit so it makes us 11.

16 SECRETARY/TREASURER VOGELE: Thank you. District
17 19.

18 DISTRICT 19 PRESIDENT MORENO: Thirty.

19 SECRETARY/TREASURER VOGELE: Thank you. All
20 right.

21 DISTRICT 19 PRESIDENT MORENO: Our unit with
22 three delegates has just walked in, so we are back up
23 to --

24 DEPARTMENT PRESIDENT FERCHO: I'm sorry. The
25 doors are closed. The doors were locked.

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1 AUDIENCE MEMBER: I was here before you closed
2 the doors. I was in the back.

3 DISTRICT 19 PRESIDENT MORENO: Okay. Do I need
4 to come back up again?

5 DEPARTMENT PRESIDENT FERCHO: So you were in
6 prior to the locking of the doors; you just weren't in
7 your seats?

8 AUDIENCE MEMBER: Madam President, the doors have
9 been secured.

10 DEPARTMENT PRESIDENT FERCHO: I think what -- are
11 you telling us that you were here when we locked the
12 doors, but that you were just not in your seat?

13 AUDIENCE MEMBER: Right.

14 SECRETARY/TREASURER VOGELE: So District 19 is
15 back to 33.

16 DEPARTMENT PRESIDENT FERCHO: Thank you.

17 SECRETARY/TREASURER VOGELE: District 19 is 33
18 again. Okay. District 20.

19 DISTRICT 20 PRESIDENT HAYES: Eleven.

20 SECRETARY/TREASURER VOGELE: Thank you. District
21 25.

22 DISTRICT 25 PRESIDENT MATTOX: Fifty.

23 SECRETARY/TREASURER VOGELE: Thank you. District
24 26.

25 DISTRICT 26 PRESIDENT THOMPSON: Six.

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1 SECRETARY/TREASURER VOGELE: Thank you. District
2 28.

3 DISTRICT 28 PRESIDENT YAQUB: Twenty-six.

4 SECRETARY/TREASURER VOGELE: Thank you. District
5 29.

6 DISTRICT 29 PRESIDENT BELL: Forty.

7 SECRETARY/TREASURER VOGELE: Thank you. That
8 changes our count to 524.

9 DEPARTMENT PRESIDENT FERCHO: Half of that will
10 be 262. 263. So we have changed our numbers from 551,
11 our voting strength of this convention, to 524. Divided
12 by half is 263. And now we do a plus one. Thank you very
13 much.

14 SECRETARY/TREASURER VOGELE: Thank you.

15 DEPARTMENT PRESIDENT FERCHO: So at this time we
16 will proceed to elections. Okay. Now I'm into 15 bucks.
17 She's going to get that \$20 before this day is over.

18

19 ELECTION OF DEPARTMENT OFFICERS

20

21 DEPARTMENT PRESIDENT FERCHO: At this time Geri
22 Fitzpatrick has been nominated -- oh, I didn't -- okay.
23 Now she's got the whole 20. I knew she was going to get
24 it. I knew that judge was going to get it.

25 You have nominated for president for the year

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1 2012-2013 Terry Mikesell.

2 (Applause.)

3 DEPARTMENT PRESIDENT FERCHO: You haven't elected
4 her yet, but we will. All those in favor?

5 ALL PRESENT: Aye.

6 DEPARTMENT PRESIDENT FERCHO: Opposed?

7 (No response.)

8 DEPARTMENT PRESIDENT FERCHO: The ayes have it.

9 Congratulations, Terry, the new president for
10 2012-2013. I'm sure we're going to get some pictures when
11 we are done.

12 You have nominated for vice president for the
13 year 2012-2013 Anita Biggs.

14 (Applause.)

15 DEPARTMENT PRESIDENT FERCHO: All those in favor
16 of Anita Biggs for vice president?

17 ALL PRESENT: Aye.

18 DEPARTMENT PRESIDENT FERCHO: Opposed?

19 (No response.)

20 DEPARTMENT PRESIDENT FERCHO: Congratulations,
21 Anita. Please come down. You're the vice president for
22 2012-2013.

23 (Applause.)

24 DEPARTMENT PRESIDENT FERCHO: You have nominated
25 for Junior Member of Finance for 2012-2013 Geri

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1 Fitzpatrick. All those in favor?

2 ALL PRESENT: Aye.

3 DEPARTMENT PRESIDENT FERCHO: Opposed?

4 (No response.)

5 DEPARTMENT PRESIDENT FERCHO: Congratulations,

6 Geri Fitzpatrick. You're the Junior Member of Finance.

7 Please come down.

8 (Applause.)

9

10 ELECTION OF DELEGATES & ALTERNATES TO NATIONAL CONVENTION

11

12 DEPARTMENT PRESIDENT FERCHO: You have -- we have

13 nominated delegates to National Convention Linda Fercho,

14 Terry Mikesell, Peggy Vogeles, Nancy Brown-Park, Melanie

15 Taylor, Kat Conrad, Doris Kilkenney, Janet Wilson, Emily

16 Magillini, Sandy Jacob, Linda Hayes, Marge Rye, Virginia

17 Goffney, Anita Davis, Nancy Niles, Diane DeLashmit, LuAnn

18 Capazzi, Jennifer Sandlin. All those in favor of the

19 delegates just read for the position of National delegate,

20 please say aye.

21 ALL PRESENT: Aye.

22 DEPARTMENT PRESIDENT FERCHO: Opposed?

23 (No response.)

24 DEPARTMENT PRESIDENT FERCHO: Thank you. Those

25 ladies are all nominated as the delegates for National

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1 convention. Elected.

2 (Applause.)

3 AUDIENCE MEMBER: \$25.

4 DEPARTMENT PRESIDENT FERCHO: Oh, my goodness.

5 I'm starting at a dollar here.

6 ELECTIONS CHAIRMAN TAYLOR: Madam President, I'll

7 give you \$20 because I think you're going to need it.

8 DEPARTMENT PRESIDENT FERCHO: The members

9 nominated for alternates to National Convention are

10 Marialice Canclini, Bonnie Bradbury, Ann Cellis, Theresa

11 Jacob, Madeline Lee, Tammy Sollazzo, Joan Evans, Pat

12 Mitchell, Gloria Reyes, Judy Erwich, Donna Scott, Pat

13 Sweeney, Josie Estridge, Jan Spriggs, Cynthia Mayfield,

14 June Coatney, Darlene Duncan, Kathleen Harris, Danielle

15 White, Cyndy Newman, Patricia Taylor.

16 All those in favor of those alternates for

17 National Convention, say aye.

18 ALL PRESENT: Aye.

19 DEPARTMENT PRESIDENT FERCHO: Opposed?

20 (No response.)

21 DEPARTMENT PRESIDENT FERCHO: You have elected

22 the alternates for National Convention.

23

24 RATIFICATION OF ELECTIONS FOR DISTRICT PRESIDENT,

25 FIRST VICE PRESIDENTS AND SECOND VICE PRESIDENTS

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1 DEPARTMENT PRESIDENT FERCHO: We will now do the
2 ratification of our district -- okay. We will be
3 ratifying -- oh, she does.

4 SECRETARY/TREASURER VOGELE: District 1, Kat
5 Conrad.

6 DEPARTMENT PRESIDENT FERCHO: These are district
7 presidents.

8 SECRETARY/TREASURER VOGELE: Incoming district
9 presidents are District 1, Kat Conrad; District 2 is Nancy
10 Johnson; District 3, Lola Ramey; District 4, Lorinda
11 Downen; District 5, Jean Mueller; District 6, Alice Pambid;
12 District 7, Beverly Chapman; District 8, Tammy Manini;
13 District 9, Helaine Dolly Rios; District 10, Susan Peters;
14 District 11, Beverly Villines; District 12, Lisa Stuart;
15 District 13, Donita Faltesek; District 11 is Rosalie
16 Taylor Bailey. I'm sorry. District 14. District 15 is
17 Genieca Risner; District 16 is Marion Rocha.

18 (Applause.)

19 SECRETARY/TREASURER VOGELE: District 18 is
20 Rhondona Enright; District 12 is Patricia Ladre.

21 AUDIENCE MEMBER: Nineteen.

22 SECRETARY/TREASURER VOGELE: Nineteen. I'm
23 sorry. District 20, Ann Philcox; District 21, Jeri
24 Johnston; District 22, Barbara Love; District 23,
25 Elizabeth "Liz" Jones; District 24, Rebecca

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1 Stewart-Wilson. I need some fire water up here.

2 District 25 is Kathryn Doran; District 26 is
3 Geradline Wilcox; District 27 is Vella Myers; District 28
4 is Elizabeth Doidge; District 29 is Cheryl Neiffer;
5 District 30 is Belen Telford.

6 I move to ratify the District Presidents.

7 AUDIENCE MEMBER: Second.

8 DEPARTMENT PRESIDENT FERCHO: It has been moved
9 and seconded to ratify the district presidents for the
10 year 2012-2013. All in favor?

11 ALL PRESENT: Aye.

12 DEPARTMENT PRESIDENT FERCHO: Opposed?

13 (No response.)

14 DEPARTMENT PRESIDENT FERCHO: We will now ratify
15 the first vice presidents.

16 SECRETARY/TREASURER VOGELE: District 1,
17 Marialice Canclini; District 2, Barbara Dailey; District
18 3, Rosemarie -- I know I'm going to mess this up --
19 Bejcek; District 4, Elsa Johnson; District 5, Norma
20 Harrison; District 6, Glenda Schultz; District 7, Julie
21 Slater; District 8, Jamie Lopez; District 9, Wendelin
22 "Wendy" Goltz; District 10, Gwen Woody; District 11, Toni
23 Domondon; District 12, Terry Snow; District 13, Theresa
24 Jacob; District 14, Sandra Urban; District 15, Rebecca
25 Hester; District 16, Connie Biggers; District 18, Judy

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1 Forest; District 19, Tammy Sollazzo; District 20, Kathy
2 Gosling; District 21, Jennifer Bieger; District 22, Karen
3 Bobren; District 23, Sharon Moore; District 24, Vi
4 Walquist; District 25, Debbie Fletcher; District 26,
5 Louann Johnston; District 27, Sharlotte Collins; District
6 28, Robin Falkenberg; District 29, Kendall Madsen;
7 District 30, Kim Vincent.

8 I move to ratify the First Vice District
9 Presidents.

10 DEPARTMENT PRESIDENT FERCHO: It has been moved
11 and seconded to ratify the first vice presidents for the
12 district for the year 2012-2013. All in favor, say aye.

13 ALL PRESENT: Aye.

14 DEPARTMENT PRESIDENT FERCHO: Opposed?

15 (No response.)

16 DEPARTMENT PRESIDENT FERCHO: Thank you.

17 SECRETARY/TREASURER VOGELE: Now we're going to
18 ratify the Second Vice District Presidents. District 1,
19 Patricia "Pat" Lindley; District 2, Judy Gama; District 3,
20 Adyne Neuhardt; District 4, Jean Edson; District 5, Sandy
21 Paxton; District 6, Maria Lopez; District 7, Bonnie
22 Chavoya; District 8, Theresa Canonizado; District 9,
23 Kathryn Klingman; District 10, Leonarda Esigoy; District
24 11, Grace Huston; District 12, Lupe Vasquez; District 13,
25 Stella Fimowicz; District 14, Diedra Laborata; District

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1 15, Dee Ann Graham; District 16 is Karen Munch; District
2 18, Laura Bradshaw; District 19, Becky Bullard; District
3 20, Carol McChesney; District 21, Brenda Wardrip; District
4 22, June Coatney; District 23, Helen Barber; District 24,
5 Beatriz Huppert; District 25, Garby Rowland; District 26,
6 Arlene Mueller; District 27, Victoria Langdon Goodchilde;
7 District 28, Susan Baker; District 29, Elizabeth Tomlin;
8 and District 30, Jo Ann Likens.

9 I move to ratify the Second Vice Presidents for
10 the district.

11 DEPARTMENT PRESIDENT FERCHO: It's been moved and
12 seconded to ratify the second vice presidents for the
13 district for 2012-2013. All in favor say aye.

14 ALL PRESENT: Aye.

15 DEPARTMENT PRESIDENT FERCHO: Opposed.

16 (No response.)

17 (Applause.)

18 DEPARTMENT PRESIDENT FERCHO: Thank you. At this
19 time I would like to ask to come to the stage our newly
20 elected 2012-2013 President Terry Mikesell. And, ladies,
21 if you want to, we're going to -- I'm going to have them
22 come up now, but then we're going to get all these
23 pictures up there in front of the flag. Our newly elected
24 2012-2013 Vice President Anita Biggs.

25 (Applause.)

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1 DEPARTMENT PRESIDENT FERCHO: Our newly elected
2 Junior Member of Finance 2012-2013, Geri Fitzpatrick.

3 (Applause.)

4 DEPARTMENT PRESIDENT FERCHO: Congratulations.

5 Ladies, here are the officers for 2012-2013. Please stand
6 and give them a round of applause.

7 (Applause.)

8 DEPARTMENT PRESIDENT FERCHO: I'm going to have
9 you all move down this way. Move on down. Move on down
10 so we can get some pictures. If you'd like to come up and
11 take pictures. We'll take pictures right there.

12 Ladies, we will resume our poppy discussion after
13 lunch. So at this time please come up and get all your
14 pictures.

15 I am going to recess you at this time -- wait,
16 wait. We have a dispatch. Dispatches. Don't leave. We
17 have dispatches, ladies.

18 SECRETARY/TREASURER VOGELE: Linda's Workmen,
19 Nancy's Patriots, Melanie's Princesses -- I'm sorry.
20 Madeline's Princess's, Melanie's Balloonists, Bonnie's
21 Prom Queens, Sandy's Colonels will meet at Room 278 Red
22 Lion at lunch break.

23 If there are any Betty's Bears that are here
24 today and want to make a donation, please see Bonnie
25 Christner, District 20.

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1 presentation, I want to recognize the committee members.
2 Diane DeLashmit. Susie Tozier is somewhere here. There's
3 Susie. Peggy Vogele, I'm not sure where she is. There
4 she is. She's coming back with her lunch. And we have ex
5 officio Terry Mikesell who's running to the back to get a
6 book. And Linda Fercho.

7 And in the event you don't know me, I'm Ruby
8 Kapsalis. You know, I don't know how anybody can be --
9 get a pet name like "Taxes" when you hate to do taxes
10 yourself. And I want to thank all the committee members
11 for your help and the response to my many, many e-mails.

12 I also want to thank Von Lee. Von became our
13 department auditor as he provided valuable information
14 that was instrumental for this committee. Nancy
15 Brown-Park for contacting and giving input from her points
16 of contacts in any other department to see how they handle
17 their tax situation. Kathy Martinez for graciously
18 volunteering to Xerox all those unit copies, 280 copies of
19 a lot of pages. So, Kathy, where -- if she's in the room,
20 thank you very much.

21 And last but not least, the district presidents
22 for all their help during the last six months updating
23 records, getting information out, and helping units in
24 their respective districts. I know it got to a point
25 where they hated to open e-mails from Ruby for fear of

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1 what's next. But they truly were instrumental, very
2 cooperative, and did an outstanding job. And I want to
3 thank all of you that provided and were so diligent in
4 getting the information to me.

5 As you know, we are very limited in time for this
6 presentation today and have a lot of information to cover.
7 The plan is to cover all the state, federal filing
8 requirements as well as revocation of exempt status and
9 getting reinstated and have been asked to cover a
10 corporation if we have time.

11 Then Diane is going to cover all the financial
12 guidelines for units and districts. And on top of all
13 that, we want to allow time to answer your questions to
14 give you as much time as we can to allow -- to get some of
15 your specific questions.

16 Okay. If we run out of time and any of you need
17 further assistance, please send either a note to either
18 Diane or myself with your question. Or if you want to
19 meet with us, we will try our best to answer or meet with
20 you prior to the close of this convention. One copy of
21 all the information being discussed today with samples is
22 being given to each unit. And each district, please make
23 sure copies get to the appropriate individual and the
24 units and districts that are responsible for filing for
25 your units or districts. The information will be on the

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1 department website for anyone desiring to print their own
2 copy.

3 To begin the presentation, I'd like to start by
4 providing everyone with some background information and
5 how all this tax stuff started. In January it was
6 discovered that districts were not tax exempt under the
7 National General 0964 exemption. Only units and
8 departments were covered -- ladies, ladies, please.

9 Only units and departments were covered under the
10 National exemption and that districts should be reporting
11 all of their income and expense to departments so the
12 information could be reported on the department's annual
13 990. Does everyone know what a 990 is? Okay. It's one
14 of those dreaded forms, believe me.

15 Districts 1, 5, 8, 15, 26, and 28, the copies are
16 not picked up. So if anybody is here from 1, 5, 8, 15,
17 26, and I'm from 28 but they don't worry about it because
18 I do it for them.

19 AUDIENCE MEMBER: Will you do it for me?

20 PAST DEPARTMENT PRESIDENT KAPSALIS: Sure, I
21 will. Okay. In checking with IRS, as far as IRS is
22 concerned, all National had to do to grant district's
23 exemption under the general 0964 exemption is to add them
24 to their list that they send to IRS annually for all the
25 units that are covered under their general exemption.

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1 On February 15th and March 16th, the National
2 secretary sent out a letter to all departments. The
3 department office e-mailed a copy of the March 16th letter
4 to the entire official family whereby the shortened result
5 is all units and districts may -- I'm going to shorten
6 this really short. I'm going to cut out about seven
7 paragraphs.

8 Basically what they told us is units and
9 districts are at the discretion of the department -- or
10 districts are at the discretion of the department.
11 They're not covered under the charter, therefore, all
12 money should be reported to the department. That would
13 have meant that California would have had to have
14 established a reporting system for every district to
15 report all their income and expenses so that it could be
16 put on the department 990 that is filed annually.

17 AUDIENCE MEMBER: 990N?

18 PAST DEPARTMENT PRESIDENT KAPSALIS: No. Any
19 time -- a 990, when I say a 990, that's -- a 990 is
20 required for I think 100,000 or 200,000 more income you
21 have to file the full-fledged 990. That's the big doggy.
22 That's when you're making lots of money. A 990N is just
23 under 25,000. Or 50,000 now.

24 AUDIENCE MEMBER: Do you have that in here?

25 PAST DEPARTMENT PRESIDENT KAPSALIS: The

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1 full-fledged 990, no, because there's only one unit in the
2 department that files the 990. The 990N is in there and
3 we will get to that. All the examples, anything you need
4 there's a sample in here for.

5 AUDIENCE MEMBER: Can you refer to the page
6 number when you mention those?

7 PAST DEPARTMENT PRESIDENT KAPSALIS: I will be
8 going through the forms. Specifically right now I'm just
9 kind of -- it's sort of an introduction, but I will go
10 through each form with you.

11 AUDIENCE MEMBER: Sorry.

12 PAST DEPARTMENT PRESIDENT KAPSALIS: So basically
13 our guidance from National at this point was to have
14 districts report their income and expenses to the
15 department so they can add it to the annual 990.

16 Our accountant was contacted to get his opinion
17 and his advice, and his recommendation was California is a
18 big state, the department has 30 districts, actually 29,
19 and if all the income and expenses run through the
20 department, bookkeeping is a nightmare. You need to set
21 up 30 cost centers in your QuickBooks and deal with their
22 30 bank accounts and district staff to collect the
23 information and resolve the issues. You might need a
24 full-time staff just for this he told us. Furthermore,
25 the costs for the department's annual audit and tax

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1 returns will increase significantly. Therefore, I think
2 the district should have its own tax exempt number.

3 So basically that's what our auditor told us. In
4 talking to IRS, in order for districts to report their
5 income and expenses on the department 990, the department
6 needed to have a group exemption, which it does not. In
7 order to get -- for the department to get a group
8 exemption, the department must fill out a 1024 and pay
9 \$850 and then write a group ruling request letter which
10 would have cost an additional \$3,000.

11 To add more fuel to the fire, in 2008 a notice
12 was sent to all units and districts from the department
13 office telling them the district didn't need to file
14 because they weren't chartered. I don't know the history
15 or where this information came from, but it was not
16 correct.

17 As a result, the majority of the districts did
18 not file which means the majority have not filed for three
19 consecutive years, and when they do, they can expect to be
20 revoked. Some districts got new EIN numbers this year or
21 within the last couple of years and several districts have
22 filed all along. So these districts are fortunate and
23 won't be affected by the revocation unless they don't file
24 and are lucky that once they file the E-Postcard. In
25 January I filed for District 28, and within two months in

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1 March received a revocation letter from the IRS.

2 The irony of all this is on one hand you have
3 National telling you districts should -- districts
4 shouldn't be tax exempt in their own right, and on the
5 other hand you have IRS telling you that once IRS
6 automatically revokes your tax status, the only way to get
7 it reinstated is filing the 1025 package. Once the
8 package is filed and approved by the IRS, you are tax
9 exempt in your own right.

10 This is true for both units and districts. So
11 when all of the units that got their tax exempt status
12 revoked get reinstated and approved by the IRS they will
13 be tax exempt in their own right and will no longer fall
14 under the National General 0964 exemption.

15 So some units will be and some won't be and it
16 will be interesting to see just how National keeps track
17 of who falls under the National general exemption and who
18 doesn't. But that's not my problem; that's National's
19 problem. I did send an e-mail to National asking them
20 that and they said -- my response was, "Well, good
21 question. The IRS didn't think this through very well,
22 did they?" That was my response.

23 I'd like you to keep in mind this will not
24 alleviate all units and districts from their obligation of
25 filing annually with the state and federal governments.

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1 Units and districts -- well, let me back up. I'm trying
2 to rush. I'm sorry. I'm covering a lot of material. Oh,
3 okay. Yeah, back up here.

4 We received some good news that the American
5 Legion passed a resolution adding districts to their
6 bylaws the latter part of May. The American Legion
7 Auxiliary National organization followed suit with a
8 proposed amendment to the National bylaws, which will be
9 considered at the upcoming National Convention in
10 Indianapolis, states because districts, counties, councils
11 are not recognized as ALA entities in the American Legion
12 Auxiliary National bylaws, they are in a precarious danger
13 zone regarding liability coverage in IRS reporting
14 compliance. This is a good thing and one California
15 definitely wants to support.

16 This means all districts who didn't get their
17 exemption revoked by IRS will have tax exemption under the
18 umbrella of the National General 0964 exemption. I know
19 it's convoluted. I hope you're -- am I moving too fast?
20 And this goes -- this is the same with units.

21 So basically at this point we started out
22 districts weren't covered -- didn't have a tax exemption
23 anyway. They weren't chartered. They didn't cover them
24 by department because it was going to cost so much money.
25 So the committee actually decided to go ahead and suggest

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1 that the districts go ahead and file, and if they hadn't
2 filed for three years, to expect a tax exemption.

3 We would be saving -- we wouldn't be paying the
4 money to make the Department of California get a group
5 exemption and go through the headaches of the bookkeeping
6 problems by filing through the Department of California.
7 So with -- and we just received this word from National
8 within the past three weeks that they have decided to add
9 districts to their constitution and bylaws. And this was
10 really a lifesaver, but we did not know this in January
11 when we started all this tax stuff. But that's a good
12 thing.

13 Okay. That's the background including the new
14 information received the latter part of May adding
15 districts to the National 0964 group exemption which the
16 committee didn't have when we narrowed our choices down to
17 the following two solutions to resolve the district tax
18 exemption problem, but the good thing is the choice
19 remains the right. We made the right one even though we
20 didn't know all that we know now.

21 Number one was to have all districts with an EIN
22 number with three years -- with an EIN number that is
23 three or more years old go on-line and file the 990N
24 E-Postcard and tell them to expect a revocation letter
25 from IRS within two to three months. Once received,

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1 complete and file the 1024 and 8718, which is the document
2 that must go along with the 1024, and pay the hundred
3 dollars before December 2012 and once approved by IRS,
4 they will be tax exempt in their own right.

5 Districts have been filing -- the districts that
6 have been filing all along are considered treated but not
7 recognized as exempt. It gets very complicated, I know.
8 So they are okay. All the new EIN's will also be treated,
9 but not recognized. All districts and units that file a
10 1024 and are approved by the IRS are tax exempt in their
11 own right.

12 How many -- is there any districts that have
13 filed the tax exempt, the 1024 package and got it returned
14 from IRS approved? District 30.

15 DISTRICT 30 PRESIDENT TELFORD: I've gotten it
16 back, but it wasn't approved.

17 PAST DEPARTMENT PRESIDENT KAPSALIS: You haven't
18 gotten an approval back.

19 DISTRICT 30 PRESIDENT TELFORD: What I've done is
20 I've been in the Auxiliary for --

21 PAST DEPARTMENT PRESIDENT KAPSALIS: The
22 microphone is right there.

23 DISTRICT 30 PRESIDENT TELFORD: Okay. I've been
24 in the Auxiliary for nine years and ours started in 1945.
25 And what happened I think was that when they -- when they

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1 chartered the Auxiliary there at the post that we went
2 underneath the guys' EIN number, so --

3 PAST DEPARTMENT PRESIDENT KAPSALIS: Yeah, I
4 meant did you file a package? Have you gotten it back
5 yet.

6 DISTRICT 30 PRESIDENT TELFORD: We filed, but we
7 got a letter back saying they need more information.

8 PAST DEPARTMENT PRESIDENT KAPSALIS: Okay. Yeah.

9 DISTRICT 30 PRESIDENT TELFORD: And so we really
10 don't understand the situation.

11 PAST DEPARTMENT PRESIDENT KAPSALIS: Okay. That
12 would be going into a specific problem and I'll be happy
13 to talk to you or maybe we'll have time with your
14 questions. Let me get through this presentation.

15 Okay. So there's no districts here that filed
16 that have received the exemption back.

17 DISTRICT 19 PRESIDENT MORENO: Hi, Ruby, Diane
18 Moreno, 19th District, Unit 272. I filed -- I think we
19 spoke several times too. I did file mine. I had a slight
20 hiccup with the charter which was 1928, whatever. Long
21 story short, they had me sign some paper. I think I
22 called and nagged them too much and they approved it, but
23 I still have not received it. But yeah, we were approved.

24 PAST DEPARTMENT PRESIDENT KAPSALIS: Okay. I
25 just was interested mainly if anybody has got -- if --

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1 have you gotten your exemption back?

2 District 19 PRESIDENT MORENO: Well, the phone
3 call was yeah.

4 PAST DEPARTMENT PRESIDENT KAPSALIS: I know
5 you're working on it. And when we get into the specific
6 question and answer period, you know, then we can talk
7 about those specific ones.

8 DISTRICT 19 PRESIDENT MORENO: They said yes, we
9 were approved. I just haven't received any paper.

10 PAST DEPARTMENT PRESIDENT KAPSALIS: Okay. My
11 goodness, I think I opened up a can of worms. Can I just
12 wait for the questions? Because I know you have a lot of
13 questions and that's why -- oh, Irene.

14 AUDIENCE MEMBER: I filed a 990N for District 7
15 and received this back. "The IRS has accepted the
16 E-Postcard described above. Please save this receipt for
17 your records."

18 PAST DEPARTMENT PRESIDENT KAPSALIS: Okay. Yeah.
19 All right. My district, I file it. You heard me before.
20 I filed -- got back in January, filed my 990N, found out
21 within two months I received a revocation letter from the
22 IRS. I filed on March 21st. I just received -- as a
23 matter of fact, before I came to this tax presentation or
24 convention, I called IRS because I wanted to know if the
25 package I submitted was good, not good, what was wrong

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1 with it because that's the sample you got in your book and
2 I wanted to make sure that if anything was wrong, I was
3 able to tell you don't do this, don't do that.

4 Well, I'm happy to say that there were only two
5 things he brought out to me and one was really -- it's
6 really not applicable to the American Legion Auxiliary,
7 but we have to do it because the IRS says we have to. The
8 first one was in the district bylaws, it says where you
9 fill in what district, it has a blank. You put "District"
10 whatever it is, 27, 28, "of the American Legion
11 Auxiliary."

12 I put on my package -- and you'll see it in that
13 book. It's the 1020 -- let me see what page it's on.
14 1024. Page 7. You'll see where I put "American Legion
15 Auxiliary District 28," you have to put it down exactly
16 how it is in your -- in our mono bylaws. Because your
17 district mono bylaws, speaking only to districts at this
18 point, there is no -- that's your only governing document
19 other than the department constitution and bylaws. So you
20 have to put it the way it's in that governing document,
21 and it says "District 28 of the American Legion
22 Auxiliary."

23 And then down below on page 7 -- okay. Let me
24 find my page 7 here. On page 7 there's a question 8. It
25 says, "Check the box for the type of organization. Attach

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1 a conformed copy of the corresponding organization
2 documents to the application before mailing." And they
3 give you A, B, and C choices. A, corporation. Well,
4 we're not incorporated. B, trust. Well, we're not a
5 trust. C, association. Well, we're not an association.
6 But IRS told me I need to check something and I should
7 have checked association.

8 So those two are the only errors that this sample
9 1024 package has. And I wanted to bring that to your
10 attention to make sure when you file, if you haven't filed
11 your 1024 already, to make sure you don't say "American
12 Legion Auxiliary District 22, 23." Say "District 28 of
13 the American Legion Auxiliary." That's the way it states
14 it in the mono district bylaws.

15 Okay. And those are the only two errors that are
16 going on that package, and we're going to talk more about
17 that package in a few minutes.

18 Okay. I wanted to let you know that in 2008, 70
19 units in California appeared on the IRS revocation list
20 for not filing for three consecutive years. And in
21 checking on the status, every unit and district in the
22 Department of California on the IRS search site on their
23 website latter part of May, the number decreased to 52.
24 Some units were reinstated because they were revoked in
25 error, but the majority had to go through the

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1 reinstatement process of filing the IRS form 1024 and 8718
2 and attaching a lot of documents and paying \$100.

3 As far as I can tell you, only four districts
4 have been revoked. Two districts have filed every year
5 and quite a few districts got a new EIN this year. So
6 even though it is anticipated that all those districts
7 with an EIN number three or more years old who have not
8 filed for three consecutive years -- and I'll say that
9 over and over because that's the key point. Three
10 consecutive years. They can't revoke you if you file
11 every year. You have to be lapsed for three years before
12 they'll even think about revoking you.

13 Okay. Once revoked, and it doesn't matter
14 whether it's a unit or district, they no longer can come
15 under the umbrella of the National 0964 exemption. So
16 what does that mean? It means all the districts and all
17 the units that get their tax exemption revoked by IRS and
18 you get reinstated, you file your package 1024, you pay
19 your \$100, you get the approval back from IRS that says
20 you're reinstated, now your tax exemption is good.

21 If you were revoked, you no longer fall under the
22 National general tax exemption. And you need to put this
23 in your records for future because down the road there --
24 you may not be here and this informations needs to be in
25 there because it makes a difference how you make changes

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1 with IRS. Because if you fall under the National general
2 exemption, you submit the changes to a department and
3 department submits those changes to National, National
4 submits it to IRS.

5 Now those that were revoked that are no longer
6 under the National general exemption, they can go directly
7 to IRS and make the changes. You're tax exempt in your
8 own right. You do not fall under any reporting system of
9 the department or National organization. I know, it
10 doesn't make sense, does it? But that's the way it is.
11 You know, that's the way it is.

12 PARLIAMENTARIAN DELASHMIT: You need to tell them
13 your problem if you don't know whose name and paperwork is
14 under --

15 PAST DEPARTMENT PRESIDENT KAPSALIS: Yeah, we're
16 going to get into that later. It gets -- let me get back
17 on track here because if I get lost, I'm going to rant and
18 rave and then I won't get everything I want covered done.

19 Okay. I'm sorry to say that we are a long way
20 from achieving getting everybody either regaining their
21 exempt status because we've got a lot of work to do.
22 There's a lot of units and districts that are working on
23 filing, but there are not that many that have actually
24 filed and received approval from IRS. I know of two and
25 hopefully there are more.

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1 A list has been given to all district presidents
2 in the booklet that was picked up today showing the status
3 of all the units in the districts based upon the
4 information that I have picked off the IRS website. I
5 want you to keep in mind, the information on this site is
6 not always up-to-date. Just because it says that a unit
7 has a problem, doesn't necessarily mean that. The IRS
8 website could be wrong. And it did contain errors.

9 Like we said, at the beginning of the year there
10 was like 70 units in the State of California that got
11 revoked, and when I went on line in May, that was reduced
12 to 52 units. A lot of those units it was IRS's error, not
13 the units'. They had been filing. So just keep in mind
14 what's on that list is based on what's on the IRS website.
15 And if there's any problems, the only place you can
16 correct that is to call IRS. And you, the unit
17 representative, or the district representative is the only
18 ones that can do that. They want to know -- when you call
19 IRS, if you don't have the name and address of the person
20 that's on -- that they have on file for your unit or
21 district, they won't talk to you. They won't talk to you.

22 AUDIENCE MEMBER: You have to go back years.

23 PAST DEPARTMENT PRESIDENT KAPSALIS: Yeah, and
24 that creates problems. Our unit is 1920. I mean, we've
25 got some units that have been formed for years and years

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1 and years. Well, hopefully -- I don't know of any units
2 and maybe we can get into a discussion. If units have
3 talked to them if they're having problems or what kind of
4 problems. Because I haven't been involved in that
5 directly because I knew who was on file in my district the
6 one that I filed. And I file for my unit and we've been
7 filing all along. We're incorporated. And so if you're
8 incorporated, there are different requirements than
9 unincorporated units. So we've been filing all along and
10 I would be interested in hearing some of the problems some
11 of the units are having.

12 Like I said, if there's any doubt that you may --
13 if you think your unit is kosher, your district is kosher
14 and that book says it's not, the only way to do it is to
15 get in touch with IRS and straighten it out.

16 Problems are color coded on the list. Yellow for
17 revoked, unit districts red for no filing, and blue for
18 wrong fiscal year. I have to tell you one of the
19 strangest things about all of this is that five districts
20 were operating under the same EIN that was assigned to
21 Walker Bailey Unit 205. I have no idea how this could
22 have -- because Walker Bailey unit is District 1 and
23 District 30 had the same EIN number. District 26,
24 District 13, District 21. You know, we go back too far to
25 know -- District 6 had the same. I don't know, it's just

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1 mind boggling. Every time I would receive one, I would
2 say, "Oh, no. My God, another Walker Bailey."

3 Anyway, so those -- it ended up good for those
4 districts because they had to go get a new EIN number and
5 they were revoked otherwise. So they have three years
6 before they even have a chance to get revoked.

7 When I checked the site last month there are 57
8 units who have not been revoked with no filings, which
9 means either the website is wrong or these 57 units will
10 be revoked once they file the 990N. I hope they are
11 errors, but the only way to find out again is to go to IRS
12 and check it out, straighten it out.

13 Another problem noted is there are 71 units whose
14 fiscal year is listed January to December, 15 units
15 listing it from October to September, which that one
16 really was strange. There are two units listing it from
17 June to May. There are one from September to August, one
18 from November to October, one from August to July. That's
19 91 units who had the wrong fiscal year who can only be
20 corrected by you writing a letter to IRS in Ogden, Utah
21 giving them your EIN number and asking them to change the
22 fiscal year to July 1 to June 30th.

23 July 1 to June 30th the Auxiliary fiscal year.
24 Does everyone understand that? Who doesn't understand
25 that? You don't understand that? Yeah, this is -- this

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1 is for closing your books. The convention is in June, so
2 at the end of June it ends your fiscal year. This has
3 nothing to do with anything but closing your books. In
4 reporting to IRS, you have to have a specific fiscal --
5 you have to tell them if you're on a calendar year or
6 you're on a fiscal year and what that is.

7 And the only way they will change it -- and it
8 tells you this on the 990 filing site. It will show you
9 if you get into the system, it will show you what they
10 have for your fiscal year. And if it's not July 1 to June
11 30th, you need to write that letter. And there is a
12 sample of that letter in this book which I don't know what
13 page number it's on, but it is in the book.

14 AUDIENCE MEMBER: Six.

15 PAST DEPARTMENT PRESIDENT KAPSALIS: Six. Okay.
16 Thank you for all -- I need help keeping track of all
17 these pages. Okay.

18 AUDIENCE MEMBER: Ruby, can you read from left to
19 right the column headings of what those are?

20 PAST DEPARTMENT PRESIDENT KAPSALIS: Are you
21 talking about this summary page?

22 AUDIENCE MEMBER: And the colors again.

23 AUDIENCE MEMBER: It's written at the bottom.

24 PAST DEPARTMENT PRESIDENT KAPSALIS: Yeah, it's
25 written at the bottom. I know it's small, but -- you

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1 know, I can hardly see it either. I have to put bifocals
2 on.

3 AUDIENCE MEMBER: If the district has to close
4 their books by May and we have to turn our books in by
5 May, how do you get it to June?

6 PAST DEPARTMENT PRESIDENT KAPSALIS: Yeah, fiscal
7 year -- fiscal year is different -- a fiscal year we open
8 -- we start our new year July 1st which is the beginning
9 of the American Legion Auxiliary's start of the year and
10 then we end our year after convention which takes us to
11 June 30th. That closes the unit. That is a fiscal year.

12 Calendar year is January to December. We don't
13 do -- we do membership January to December, but we do
14 not --

15 AUDIENCE MEMBER: But the department wants us to
16 close our books by --

17 PAST DEPARTMENT PRESIDENT KAPSALIS: No. That's
18 department's close of books, not your books. That's
19 department's close of books. And the reason why
20 department closes their books when they do May 12th, 11th,
21 somewhere around there is because they have to get records
22 get -- they have to figure out conventions for the Book of
23 Reports.

24 AUDIENCE MEMBER: So we have to do it twice?

25 PAST DEPARTMENT PRESIDENT KAPSALIS: No, no, no,

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1 no. The only -- you don't have to do anything in May for
2 a department but get your -- if you want your donations
3 recognized in the Book of Reports, which you received
4 here, you have to get that information in and the money
5 into departments so that when they close their books, it's
6 in the book.

7 AUDIENCE MEMBER: Gotcha. Thank you. Sorry.

8 PAST DEPARTMENT PRESIDENT KAPSALIS: Okay. I
9 want to encourage all units and districts to keep
10 important documents in a safe place. Don't keep it a
11 secret where they are. Let your members know what
12 documents are where and with whom. Keep a copy of all
13 your tax filings with the state and federal governments in
14 a safe place and where you can get to them if you need to
15 supply -- if you need to supply a copy to the IRS or
16 Franchise Tax Board. Make sure when tax filings are done
17 it is recorded at a meeting so the information gets
18 recorded and copies attached in your minutes.

19 And the reason why I'm telling you this is the
20 majority of the calls -- I've worked with a lot of units
21 and a lot of districts. We can't -- they were formed in
22 1920. We don't have a copy of the charter. We don't know
23 what that -- where that charter is and what do we do. And
24 a lot of this -- we don't have -- you know, there are
25 various records they didn't have. So I think we need to

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1 put something in our units in place to where we value and
2 keep these documents in a safe place and pass them on.

3 Sometimes one person in a unit does everything,
4 has everything, and then she -- if she gets mad and quits
5 and takes all that with her, then you're in trouble;
6 right? If you don't have -- I can tell you if you don't
7 have a copy of your unit charter, you can purchase a
8 charter through the department headquarters. And Peggy
9 can help you with that.

10 AUDIENCE MEMBER: You mean they have a charter, a
11 copy of our charter there?

12 PAST DEPARTMENT PRESIDENT KAPSALIS: No. It
13 comes from National. You place the order through
14 National. You place the order through Peggy and --

15 SECRETARY/TREASURER VOGELE: What I do have in
16 the department for almost every unit, I have what's called
17 your applications, an application of charter. That was
18 with -- your charter nowadays, it's a three color page
19 form. It's a long form, and those are the ones where
20 people can call and say what is the date of our charter.
21 I can look and tell you what's on the application of
22 charter.

23 PAST DEPARTMENT PRESIDENT KAPSALIS: Thank you,
24 Peggy.

25 All right. Now let's -- oh, okay. And if you

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1 can't find -- if your unit is incorporated or your
2 district is incorporated, I don't think any -- I don't
3 know that we have any districts that are incorporated. I
4 know there's about five or six units that are incorporated
5 within the state or maybe a little more. I don't know the
6 number on that. But if you can't find your Articles of
7 Incorporation, you can obtain a certified copy from the
8 Secretary of State for -- and it costs you about \$8. And
9 you can do this on-line through the website, Secretary of
10 State website.

11 Okay. You've all heard about these notorious
12 1024 and 8718 forms; right? You all know what those forms
13 are. Okay. The 1024 is what you -- if you've lost your
14 tax exempt status, the only way you can regain it is to
15 file that 1024. And then you have to submit along with
16 that the 8718, which is where you actually put -- we're
17 going to be redoing the forms so I will go over that when
18 I get to it.

19 But those units and districts that have filed a
20 restatement form 1024 know that the form has 19 pages.
21 Don't let it scare you. Only pages 1 through 5 and 19 are
22 applicable for the veterans organization. The 510(c)(19)
23 which is what we fall under. It's a veterans group,
24 510(c)(19). There are only pages 1 through 5, 8, and 19
25 are the only pages under that document that you have to

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1 fill out. The rest is not applicable. I know I'm talking
2 numbers. Are you --

3 SECRETARY/TREASURER VOGELE: I'm knocking things
4 off the table.

5 PAST DEPARTMENT PRESIDENT KAPSALIS: One through
6 5, 8, and 19.

7 AUDIENCE MEMBER: Does that include
8 form (inaudible).

9 PAST DEPARTMENT PRESIDENT KAPSALIS: No, that's
10 the 1024. The 8718 is a one-page document and it's
11 real -- we're going to be going over that too. As I go
12 through the forms when I get through this, I'll
13 specific -- it's very easy. You fill out the top and
14 that's half a page form that you have to fill out.

15 AUDIENCE MEMBER: Will you be having a copy of
16 this book that you --

17 PAST DEPARTMENT PRESIDENT KAPSALIS: On the
18 website. It will go on the website. And we also -- this
19 is a little premature. Terry has agreed to have -- we're
20 going to -- she wants to have this tax training at the
21 workshops that she's setting up. So units and districts
22 can come and we hope to have our laptops available and be
23 able to help you actually file on-line during those
24 workshops. And I also want you to know that when I talked
25 to IRS last week, you know, that in order to take

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1 advantage of filing and getting your tax exemption back
2 reinstated, you have to file \$100 no later than December
3 2012. I think December 2012 is ingrained in the whole
4 state's head; right? But I talked to IRS and I said,
5 well, is that -- what happens if they file by December
6 30th and you don't receive it. He said it's by postmark
7 date. So you have until December 2012 to get any and all
8 the problems for your unit straightened out or district.
9 So that was good to know. It was good information.

10 Okay. We have -- we currently already have a lot
11 of successful packages that are on-line. One's a 54-page
12 document which is probably a little more convoluted than a
13 smaller unit needs, but we also have a successful package
14 that was scanned and sent to me from a small unit in
15 District 14 which was accepted. So you have two samples
16 on-line that have been accepted by IRS already and they've
17 regained -- they've been reinstated.

18 All the tax regulations are on one side, all the
19 federal regulations on the other, so you have a lot of
20 information that's on the website. Does everybody go to
21 the website? I mean, do you use the --

22 AUDIENCE MEMBER: Yes.

23 PAST DEPARTMENT PRESIDENT KAPSALIS: Yeah, right.
24 The department website, there's lots of materials.

25 AUDIENCE MEMBER: What are those successful forms

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1 called?

2 PAST DEPARTMENT PRESIDENT KAPSALIS: Pardon me?

3 AUDIENCE MEMBER: What you're talking about,
4 successful forms that are on-line, what are they called?

5 PAST DEPARTMENT PRESIDENT KAPSALIS: Yes. You're
6 really testing my memory now. It says -- I believe it
7 says -- I don't have my laptop here to go on the website,
8 but it says, "Successful Packages Filed." There's two of
9 them. I think it says "Successful 1024 Package." Without
10 my computer here I don't know.

11 NEC WOMAN REYES: It says, "Successful 1024."

12 PAST DEPARTMENT PRESIDENT KAPSALIS: Huh? Huh?

13 NEC WOMAN REYES: It is, "Successful 1024."

14 PAST DEPARTMENT PRESIDENT KAPSALIS: Yeah,
15 "Successful 1024 Package." Something to that effect. And
16 there's two of them.

17 AUDIENCE MEMBER: I want to ask a question.

18 PAST DEPARTMENT PRESIDENT KAPSALIS: You have to
19 go to the microphone. My ears are going, my eyes are
20 going.

21 AUDIENCE MEMBER: Denise coming from the 23rd
22 District. Those units are 46 and 578, they were revoked
23 but they did the paperwork and I believe it was like about
24 maybe three to six months. How long does it take to get
25 an answer back stating that they're okay?

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1 PAST DEPARTMENT PRESIDENT KAPSALIS: Well, that's
2 probably going to vary, but you can count on at least
3 three months. I filed in March for District 28 and I
4 have -- I talked to IRS last week before I came to
5 convention and I know that my package has been approved
6 only because I -- once your package goes into the IRS,
7 what IRS does is assign you a technician is they call it.
8 And once you get assigned a technician, then it works much
9 better because you can talk directly to that technician
10 and you have a direct phone number to that person and you
11 can iron out -- you know, figure out what you've got to do
12 to get it reinstated. You know, make it a successful
13 package. Give them whatever they need.

14 AUDIENCE MEMBER: Okay. Thank you.

15 PAST DEPARTMENT PRESIDENT KAPSALIS: Okay.
16 Obtaining an EIN number. I think everyone in the
17 Department of California has an EIN number. Hopefully
18 they're all good for the units. I know the districts --
19 every district is a-okay with EIN numbers. You can -- for
20 anyone that needs to get an EIN number, the easiest way to
21 do it is to go on-line to the IRS website, but on our
22 department website there is a section that says, "Obtain
23 EIN number" and you click on it and it takes you right to
24 where you've got to go to fill it out. And you get that
25 directly from IRS. And you get it -- before you close

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1 your session with IRS you have your EIN number. You fill
2 out all the questions, and then before you end your
3 session with IRS, they e-mail you back a confirmation copy
4 of your EIN number. That's the fastest way to do it. You
5 can do it by letter, you can -- there's other ways and
6 it's explained in this website.

7 AUDIENCE MEMBER: All districts and all units
8 must have their own EIN number?

9 PAST DEPARTMENT PRESIDENT KAPSALIS: Yes,
10 absolutely. I can tell you that in many ways and when I
11 talked to people throughout -- for the last six months, a
12 lot of units were using their post EIN number. You cannot
13 use your post EIN number.

14 And just an additional note on that, the reason
15 why you don't want to use your -- their EIN number is if
16 that post closes, the unit stays alive, if that post owes
17 money in any way, shape, or form, they're coming after you
18 in the unit because you're on that EIN. You don't want to
19 use the post EIN. You've got to have your own.

20 Absolutely. There's no getting around that.

21 Okay. In 2008 IRS started the 990 E-Postcard.
22 And it literally takes about ten minutes to go in and file
23 these E-Postcards. The only difference between filing for
24 the state and the IRS is the state requests that you --
25 they want to know what your actual income is for the year,

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1 for your fiscal year, from July 1 to June 30th. You have
2 to tell them exactly what you've brought into your unit.
3 That's everything, all income. Any money you put in the
4 bank, you have to have a figure, one figure.

5 AUDIENCE MEMBER: Can't hear you.

6 PAST DEPARTMENT PRESIDENT KAPSALIS: Oh, me?
7 Okay. When it first started, IRS had the limitation. It
8 was 25,000 and under. Well, in 2010 IRS upped that. Now
9 it's 50,000 and under to file the E-Postcard. The state
10 is still 25, but I will assume that somewhere along the
11 line the state is going to raise theirs to 50 but they
12 haven't done it yet.

13 The due date of the E-Postcard is the due date
14 every year by the 15th day of the fifth month after the
15 close of your tax year. Your tax year is July 1 to June
16 30th. Okay? You've got five months on the 15th day after
17 the close of your tax year. What does that mean?

18 AUDIENCE MEMBER: November.

19 PAST DEPARTMENT PRESIDENT KAPSALIS: Right. What
20 happens if you've got your fiscal year wrong on your --

21 AUDIENCE MEMBER: Write a letter.

22 PAST DEPARTMENT PRESIDENT KAPSALIS: Okay. Write
23 a letter. And you cannot file the E-Postcard until after
24 your tax year ends, which is June 30th. July 1st you can
25 get on-line and you can file. Okay? Remember when you go

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1 in and file with the state, you have to have that figure
2 for your income because you'll have to log back out and
3 get that figure before you can complete your filing with
4 the state. The federal government, you know, they're
5 trusting that you earn less than 50,000. They don't ask
6 you that. Okay.

7 AUDIENCE MEMBER: So those are due May 15th?

8 PAST DEPARTMENT PRESIDENT KAPSALIS: November
9 15th, five months on the 15th day after your tax year
10 closes which means -- what's the close of our year?

11 AUDIENCE MEMBER: June 30th.

12 PAST DEPARTMENT PRESIDENT KAPSALIS: What's five
13 months on the 15th day?

14 AUDIENCE MEMBER: November 15th.

15 PAST DEPARTMENT PRESIDENT KAPSALIS: Got it. And
16 you know what if you file November 16th?

17 AUDIENCE MEMBER: You're late.

18 PAST DEPARTMENT PRESIDENT KAPSALIS: You're late.
19 Right, right. Don't -- yeah, don't wait until November
20 15th to file it. File July 1st. Get into a good habit.
21 File right away because if you have any problems, you want
22 to resolve them. Okay?

23 AUDIENCE MEMBER: Ruby, there is an exception to
24 that. Because if your fiscal year filed January to
25 December --

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1 PAST DEPARTMENT PRESIDENT KAPSALIS: That's
2 correct.

3 AUDIENCE MEMBER: They're needing to change it
4 from June to July. They have to file an -- they have to
5 apply to IRS for a change of fiscal year and in addition
6 file --

7 PAST DEPARTMENT PRESIDENT KAPSALIS: Yes, that's
8 that letter they have to file.

9 AUDIENCE MEMBER: They've got to then file the
10 May 15th tax return for the previous year and also the
11 November 15th.

12 PAST DEPARTMENT PRESIDENT KAPSALIS: Right. It's
13 important. That tax year is really important. It tells
14 you -- when you go in to file that 990N, it tells you what
15 that fiscal year is. If it's wrong, you need to fix it.
16 And it's fill in the blank of what your unit name and
17 number and send it off to Ogden, Utah is where it has to
18 go.

19 So that's very important getting that tax year
20 right because it's going to affect when the filing is due.
21 Five months on the 15th day. If you close your books
22 December, what's five months? That's May 15th. That's
23 before the Auxiliary year ends. You're still working
24 poppies. So anyway, it's important. That tax year is
25 very important.

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1 AUDIENCE MEMBER: Will you get a letter once you
2 file that letter?

3 PAST DEPARTMENT PRESIDENT KAPSALIS: Absolutely
4 not. You take it -- I can tell you it happened to
5 Margaret Hueller and myself.

6 AUDIENCE MEMBER: So you follow up then?

7 PAST DEPARTMENT PRESIDENT KAPSALIS: No. Let me
8 just explain it. We paid -- we submitted the letter.
9 They had us January to December. We sent in a letter July
10 1 to June 30th, never heard from them. Then we got -- the
11 following year we got something saying we were delinquent.
12 Well, we had to make a phone call to Ogden, Utah and say,
13 look, we put in this letter to change our fiscal year.
14 After that phone call, it got straightened out. We never
15 heard from them again. And so now they finally corrected
16 it. It was their error. But you probably won't hear from
17 them.

18 AUDIENCE MEMBER: Ruby, yes, I did. I filed the
19 letter. And it took about three months, but I did get a
20 letter back saying, yes, we've changed you.

21 PAST DEPARTMENT PRESIDENT KAPSALIS: Right.
22 Maybe in some cases you do and in some cases you did not.
23 I'll tell you I've put my letter in over a year ago and I
24 never heard from them. But don't expect the letter. When
25 you file the following year when you look at your fiscal

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1 year, if it's changed there, you know they've done it. If
2 they haven't, call them back up and tell them we submitted
3 a letter over a year ago and our fiscal year is still
4 wrong on the e-filing.

5 You know, it's -- each unit is so different with
6 such different special problems and different things going
7 on, that's why it has to be handled at the local level.
8 You have to deal directly with IRS. They won't deal with
9 anybody else but you. So if you see something wrong --
10 and I know -- and believe me. I know all the song on the
11 IRS website when you call them up because I've listened to
12 them for probably 20 hours.

13 Okay. Now when you go in to file with your 990N,
14 you're -- once you get into the Urban Institute website --
15 you're all using the Urban Institute website; right?
16 Okay. Well, that's where you go -- for those of you who
17 don't know the Urban Institute, do a search on your
18 computer for 990N e-file. It's going to take you to the
19 Urban Institute website.

20 The first thing you have to do is you're going to
21 have to register as a new user. And you need to come up
22 with a password. Make sure you write this password down
23 as you're going to need it, the same password, to access
24 the system the following year. Write the password down
25 because either that or you're going to have to go in and

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1 change it. So that password is very important. Keep it
2 someplace -- keep it -- actually, you know what I do, I
3 write it right on my confirmation copy, the one I'm going
4 to look at for the next year the sample. Otherwise, I
5 might lose that piece of paper. But that password is very
6 important.

7 The system also associates your e-mail address
8 that you are filing from. So if anyone else files the
9 following year with a different e-mail address, before
10 they can file, they must know the password and update the
11 e-mail user information. Do you all understand that?

12 Okay. All right. One of the first things you
13 need to do to access the system is your EIN number. If
14 you type the number in, an IRS database recognizes your
15 unit or district, the name of your unit or district will
16 come up. Then you know you're into the IRS system.

17 If you see your district name or your unit name
18 you know you've -- you just made -- you just did a good
19 job because, believe me, if you don't get into that
20 system, then there's all kind of backtracking, talking to
21 IRS, listening to that great music all the time.

22 Okay. So anyway, the first you're going to need
23 to know is that EIN number. And with the Urban Institute,
24 they want you to add a "01" the first time you access into
25 the system. You take your EIN number, put 01.

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1 AUDIENCE MEMBER: In front of it?

2 PAST DEPARTMENT PRESIDENT KAPSALIS: No, behind
3 it, at the end of it. When you access it the second
4 time -- actually, to be honest with you, I put "01" all
5 the time and it always works. Oh, second user.

6 PARLIAMENTARIAN DELASHMIT: It's if you change
7 users.

8 PAST DEPARTMENT PRESIDENT KAPSALIS: Okay. Oh,
9 changing users. Okay.

10 PARLIAMENTARIAN DELASHMIT: If you change it and
11 it's a new person, then it's 02.

12 PAST DEPARTMENT PRESIDENT KAPSALIS: I thought
13 each time you access it.

14 PARLIAMENTARIAN DELASHMIT: No. I may be 01.
15 She may be 02. She may be 03.

16 PAST DEPARTMENT PRESIDENT KAPSALIS: Did you all
17 hear that?

18 PARLIAMENTARIAN DELASHMIT: That 01 is for the
19 first user that accesses that website for that particular
20 form. Say she's treasurer this past year and she filed,
21 then I'm treasurer the next year so it's my responsibility
22 to file, I'm 02. If you have another one the next year,
23 she's 03 and 04 and 05. So that's what that number means
24 on the end.

25 PAST DEPARTMENT PRESIDENT KAPSALIS: Okay. And

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1 once you get into the system, there's only -- there's
2 eight questions you need to answer. That's it, ladies,
3 eight questions. They want to know -- you've already done
4 the EIN number. They want to know the tax year, legal
5 name and mailing address, any other names the organization
6 uses, name and address of the principal officer, which is
7 your unit president, your district president, website
8 address if you have one, confirmation that your annual
9 receipts are \$50,000 or less. If applicable, a statement
10 that the organization has terminated or is terminating.
11 And that is it. That's what they want.

12 Once you get into a system and get used to it,
13 it's a ten-minute job to get it done. Believe me. Take
14 that ten minutes because if you don't, you're going to
15 have a lot of headaches. And not only that, I don't know
16 what it's going up to the filing after December. It could
17 have been \$400. I don't know.

18 AUDIENCE MEMBER: It's \$800. It can be anywhere
19 from four to \$800.

20 PAST DEPARTMENT PRESIDENT KAPSALIS: Right. From
21 the Department of California it's going to be 850, but I
22 think they judge the size or income or something. The
23 part two -- hold on, hold on. I skipped a page.

24 Okay. What is the E-Postcard number, page number
25 that you got here? Mine doesn't have a page. Does page 3

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1 look like an E-Postcard filing?

2 AUDIENCE MEMBER: No.

3 PAST DEPARTMENT PRESIDENT KAPSALIS: All right.
4 Somewhere go find the E-Postcard.

5 AUDIENCE MEMBER: Fifty-seven.

6 PAST DEPARTMENT PRESIDENT KAPSALIS: Fifty-seven.

7 Oh, no, no, that's not it. That's the confirmation copy.

8 Okay. Well, anyway, basically don't worry about it. All
9 this --

10 AUDIENCE MEMBER: Fifty-six.

11 PAST DEPARTMENT PRESIDENT KAPSALIS: No, that's
12 the confirmation. It looks like this. The unit copy
13 won't have a color. Anyway, basically that is --

14 AUDIENCE MEMBER: Five.

15 PAST DEPARTMENT PRESIDENT KAPSALIS: Page 5.

16 Okay. My pages aren't numbered so I'm sorry. Page 5.

17 AUDIENCE MEMBERS: No, no, no.

18 PAST DEPARTMENT PRESIDENT KAPSALIS: That's all
19 right. Don't worry about it. Basically what that is is a
20 copy of the actual Urban Institute and it tells you step
21 1, step 2, step 3. It's in there somewhere. I'm looking
22 at it. We're really rushing through here and I'm running
23 out of time.

24 Okay. The only -- all right. The 1024, there's
25 two complicated sections. There's two complicated

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1 sections in the 1024.

2 AUDIENCE MEMBER: Ruby, excuse me, just to get
3 back to the 990. When you file, you get a confirmation
4 saying that the file has gone through and been accepted.

5 PAST DEPARTMENT PRESIDENT KAPSALIS: Yes.

6 AUDIENCE MEMBER: But you have to go back and
7 verify in a few days that the IRS actually received it.

8 PAST DEPARTMENT PRESIDENT KAPSALIS: That's
9 right.

10 AUDIENCE MEMBER: Because that's what happened
11 for my unit. I filed for one year, I filed for the
12 second. I got receipts that they both went through. Then
13 I got a letter saying revoking our -- because they said I
14 didn't file. When I called them, I proved that I filed
15 it, but they did not receive it.

16 PAST DEPARTMENT PRESIDENT KAPSALIS: Right.
17 That's what she's saying is once you file -- who -- once
18 you file the 990s, you're on the Urban Institute website.
19 Urban Institute automatically sends what you filled out to
20 IRS, but then you go in a couple days later and make sure
21 that IRS -- it was accepted by IRS. Because it can be
22 rejected. If your name doesn't match your EIN number,
23 they'll reject it. So go back in and check that to make
24 sure that the IRS has actually accepted it. And if they
25 do accept it, then you can print out a confirmation copy

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1 of the 990 and the 990N when you get to the state. You
2 can print out a -- once you file, you can print out a
3 confirmation copy for your records.

4 But the two big parts of the 1024 that are
5 difficult are the budget and three years of financial
6 information. If you keep good financial records, you
7 won't have a problem. This may be a headache if you
8 don't, and that's what Diane is going to talk to you later
9 about the finances.

10 There is a list of attachments for units and
11 districts that need to go along with the 1024. It's on
12 page 4. The attachments for the units are on the left.
13 The attachments for the district is on the right. And it
14 tells you exactly what you need to attach to the 1024 and
15 I'm not -- you can read that. I'm not going to go through
16 each one because we're -- like I say, we're in a time
17 crunch here.

18 Your state filing. We're going to go right into
19 the state filing requirements. Basically the same thing.
20 Everything is listed in here, all the information you
21 need. They require about the same thing as the IRS, with
22 the exception they want to know exactly how much income
23 you had for the fiscal year. And they have the same
24 filing dates, five months on the 15th day. There are --
25 there are specific requirements for unincorporated and

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1 incorporated. There is a summary page at the beginning of
2 the book. The beginning of your book where it says -- I
3 am sorry. I must have put my book the same as yours.
4 Okay. It's called, "American Legion Auxiliary Department
5 of California." It looks like this. It's on the website.
6 I have referred to it and e-mailed it to a lot of you.

7 What page is it? One. And the reason why it's
8 page 1 is because that is an overall guideline and summary
9 of everything you need to do depending on whether you're
10 unincorporated or incorporated. I mean, it's a summary.
11 If you follow this one-page sheet, you're going to be
12 doing everything you need to do. Okay. If you need more
13 explanation, that's what the rest of the book is about.
14 Samples are in there.

15 Okay. So the state is about the same filing --
16 AUDIENCE MEMBER: Microphone.

17 PAST DEPARTMENT PRESIDENT KAPSALIS: Okay. You
18 know, is there any quick questions that I can kind of help
19 you with? Because we are out of time. I know it's -- I'm
20 rushing it. Would you please go to the microphone before
21 I have Diane talk to you about the finances. We do need
22 to get that in and squeeze that in. And, you know, I'll
23 be happy to meet with any of you have questions.

24 AUDIENCE MEMBER: Before the questions begin, I
25 would like to thank Ruby and Diane for all the hard work

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1 that they have done.

2 (Applause.)

3 PAST DEPARTMENT PRESIDENT KAPSALIS: Thank you.

4 Ladies, please. Please. We can't hear.

5 AUDIENCE MEMBER: So let's give her a big hand.

6 (Applause.)

7 PAST DEPARTMENT PRESIDENT KAPSALIS: Thank you.

8 AUDIENCE MEMBER: Ruby, I just want to get a

9 point of clarification on the one for the state.

10 PAST DEPARTMENT PRESIDENT KAPSALIS: That's the

11 990N.

12 AUDIENCE MEMBER: And we can just go ahead and do

13 that short form even though we've never --

14 PAST DEPARTMENT PRESIDENT KAPSALIS: Yes. It has

15 been great working with the state. The state is much

16 better to work with than the federal government. And I'll

17 tell you why. Cheryl Martin at the State Franchise Tax

18 Board, I sent her over a list of all the units and

19 districts in the Department of California. She e-mailed

20 me the EIN numbers for every unit and every district in

21 California. Your district is listed in the front of her

22 book and has your state entity number. That number is

23 good, I guarantee it. If you go on-line to file -- if you

24 do a search for 199N and file it, that number will work.

25 It will let you right into the system. Your name should

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1 come right up. You shouldn't have any problems with the
2 state.

3 AUDIENCE MEMBER: Okay. And then another
4 question was for the attorney general, if it's
5 unincorporated -- if it's incorporated, we do the S100 for
6 the --

7 PAST DEPARTMENT PRESIDENT KAPSALIS: Follow that
8 summary sheet. If you look at that summary sheet, that
9 summary sheet tells you what to do.

10 AUDIENCE MEMBER: Okay.

11 PAST DEPARTMENT PRESIDENT KAPSALIS: Whether
12 you're incorporated, unincorporated, all those guidelines.
13 And you're right, they're correct.

14 Ladies, please, please.

15 AUDIENCE MEMBER: I got a letter saying that I
16 needed to contact them, the State of California, by a
17 certain time for something. So I did and I got to know
18 the young lady pretty good on the phone by first name.
19 And I sent in -- she told me, okay, go ahead and copy this
20 and that and she said that will take care of the attorney
21 general. We went from a nonprofit status from like an S
22 to an -- anyway, it was so where we got our nonprofit
23 organization number. If somebody donates to us, we can
24 take and give them that number and she said then you do
25 not have -- then I didn't have to do this.

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1 PAST DEPARTMENT PRESIDENT KAPSALIS: Okay.

2 AUDIENCE MEMBER: She said if you have, she said
3 she'll let you know.

4 PAST DEPARTMENT PRESIDENT KAPSALIS: Follow those
5 guidelines.

6 AUDIENCE MEMBER: Just a point of clarification.
7 You said when we file with the state, are we giving our
8 gross income or our net?

9 PAST DEPARTMENT PRESIDENT KAPSALIS: I'm sorry.
10 I couldn't -- I told you, ladies, my hearing is going.

11 AUDIENCE MEMBER: When we fill out the form for
12 the state, are they asking for our gross income or our net
13 income?

14 PAST DEPARTMENT PRESIDENT KAPSALIS: Gross.
15 Gross. Everything we bring in, they want. And another
16 thing we didn't -- we're not going to have time to cover
17 in your book is some suggestions and ideas on why you want
18 to or whether you do not want to incorporate. And the
19 only reason that the -- the best reason I can tell you
20 that I know of is if you incorporate, it costs you a
21 little bit of money, but it protects your board and your
22 officers. And that's saying that your unit gets sued, if
23 you're incorporated, they only can sue the corporation.
24 But if there was liability made by the members, they could
25 be brought into it, but it does protect your unit, the

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1 members from being sued and the officers, so -- but that's
2 strictly up to units and districts whether they want to do
3 it. And there are some guidelines in here and you can do
4 it on the website. You can find out all the information.

5 And I'm sorry this was so rushed, but it's a lot
6 of information to give out in such a short time.

7 PARLIAMENTARIAN DELASHMIT: The information I'll
8 be presenting is really down to the unit or district level
9 for the treasurers and those keeping the records. And
10 you'll find samples of things in the book and you adapt
11 them to whatever is your custom.

12 A treasurer's report should be given at every
13 regular meeting. It's quite simple. It can be in --
14 there is a sample in the book. Some of the units and
15 districts want to have more comprehensive reports, and
16 that's fine, but you need to have your income. You need
17 to have your disbursements and your ending balance
18 basically. Whatever else you have in there, that's
19 perfectly fine. And you can refer to this booklet to
20 adapt it to whatever it is you need.

21 One thing I would advise not doing, and I know
22 many of the units and districts do this, they make copies
23 of their finance report and they hand it out or lay it on
24 the table or whatever. Every member has a right to know
25 what your finances are, but sometimes those get into the

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1 wrong hands. Sometimes then you have other people saying,
2 well, they got all kinds of money so we can do whatever
3 with it.

4 So I would advise that you only give your
5 financial report to your president, your secretary, your
6 audit committee, and, of course, the treasurer needs to
7 keep a copy. If anybody else wants to look at it, by all
8 means they have a right to look at it. A member has a
9 right to look at it. But oftentimes they get in the wrong
10 hands, so just keep that in mind.

11 Remember you must have at least two funds. One
12 checkbook, but two funds. You must have a general fund
13 and you must have a welfare fund. You cannot put it all
14 general fund and just use it willy-nilly. Can't do that.
15 Your welfare fund must be a separate column in your
16 ledger.

17 Now depending on your unit, your district,
18 whatever, you might have other columns as well. You know,
19 you might have, I don't know, Children & Youth or
20 Education or whatever. But you must have a general fund
21 and a welfare fund.

22 It's important that every unit and district make
23 a budget. A lot of -- I know a lot of you are doing that
24 already. Many are not. You need to know the source of
25 your income and where your disbursements are being made

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1 and if you have sufficient funds to cover them.

2 As a nonprofit organization we must be able to
3 show that at least 75 percent of our income is going for
4 charitable causes and not more than 25 percent is used for
5 administrative costs. So there's a sample of a budget in
6 this book. My pages are different than yours so I'm not
7 going to go into it. But it's very, very important that
8 you have a budget and you know your expenditures and you
9 know your income, where your source of income is coming.

10 Again, you can -- you don't have to follow
11 exactly this book because many of us have different --
12 different programs and things that we put emphasis on, but
13 it's very, very important that you have a budget. If you
14 aren't doing one, you need to start.

15 The next item I'm going to address is the ledger.
16 It's extremely important you have a ledger. Now in the
17 old days we -- and it's still in the department's standing
18 rules it says that they recommend you use the ledger that
19 you purchased from Emblem Sales, National Emblem Sales.
20 There's nothing wrong using that. You can continue to do
21 that. It's all handwritten. You've got one side. It's
22 all your income with all your little columns depending on
23 where your money is going and on the other page is all
24 your disbursements, the same thing, the same columns.

25 A lot of us now use computers that is so much

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1 easier. It adds up your figures for you. There's a whole
2 lot less error if you use some electronic means, whether
3 it's QuickBooks, Excel, or whatever it is you're using,
4 but -- so either way is fine. The point is you need to
5 have a ledger of some sort to keep your funds identified
6 as to what comes in, what goes out, and for what
7 particular program that you're using it for.

8 The next thing I want to talk about is an audit.
9 You must have an audit annually. And we changed our
10 constitution and bylaws yesterday that our audit timing
11 will be changed. Because in your bylaws it says that your
12 audit will be prior to your installation. Now we need to
13 have that audit after the close of your books which is
14 your fiscal year. So sometime after July 1st you must
15 have your audit and it should be within 60 days. In fact,
16 that's what you passed, 60 days after July 1st. Looking
17 on the calendar that's August 29th because there's 31 days
18 in July.

19 So anyway, you must have an audit done. And that
20 audit is going to help you with your taxes because, again,
21 you need to know how much money your income was for that
22 year and you can't do that until June 30th. Okay? So you
23 need to do that audit. Many units do an audit once a
24 year. My particular unit tries to do them quarterly. The
25 more often that you do an audit, the easier it is to do

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1 it. If you make a mistake in August and you don't audit
2 until the following July, you might not remember what the
3 reason was for that mistake or that difference. So you
4 might want to consider doing it a little more frequently
5 than once a year. It might be semiannually or quarterly,
6 whatever so that your books are always -- if there's
7 errors, they can be corrected in a more timely manner.

8 An audit is not balancing your book with the
9 bank, and that's what many units and districts do. They
10 take their bank statement and make sure that their
11 checkbook and their ledger matches. There's more to an
12 audit than that. There is something in this book to kind
13 of tell you the things that should be included in your
14 audit. You should have your secretary's minutes where the
15 things that were voted at your meetings. Were checks even
16 written. Are you giving a receipt for all monies
17 received. If you're writing a receipt for all monies
18 received, your bank statements and your receipts will
19 balance or your bank deposits and your receipts will
20 balance. That's a real good way to audit. Otherwise you
21 don't -- if you're not making receipts, how do you know
22 that money ever gets to the bank. So receipts are
23 extremely important.

24 Let's see. And, by the way, it is good that your
25 checkbook and the bank does balance. I don't want to say

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1 that is not a good thing. It is good, but that's not your
2 primary audit. And also when you're auditing, you need to
3 be checking the columns. If the money came in for
4 Children & Youth, did it go into Children & Youth or did
5 it go someplace else. Or if you wrote a check for per
6 capita, did it come out of general fund or did it come out
7 of some other fund. So you need to be balancing all the
8 columns as well. But all of that is in your -- in the
9 item in the book.

10 Copy of the minutes, like I said, to validate
11 that the things that you voted on were actually -- those
12 checks were actually written. Because we do know
13 sometimes they're forgotten and sometimes maybe the
14 treasurer really didn't like that and so she just sort of
15 forgets to write that check.

16 But anyway, you need to remember to put all the
17 debits and credits in the book too. Sometimes we have
18 interest. Sometimes we have bank charges. All of that is
19 part of your audit. And a report is necessary to your
20 membership and to have on file. And I know in many cases
21 it's just stated an audit was done, the books were found
22 in order. I move for the acceptance of this report and
23 there's not one single piece of paper saying anything.
24 You need to have a paper record of your report and it
25 should be attached. It's getting more and more important

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1 that we're covering ourselves on all of these items.

2 Let's see.

3 AUDIENCE MEMBER: Question.

4 PARLIAMENTARIAN DELASHMIT: Yes.

5 AUDIENCE MEMBER: For receipts given for
6 donations, what about receipts given for donated items for
7 yard sales?

8 PARLIAMENTARIAN DELASHMIT: That isn't something
9 that's going through your checkbook.

10 AUDIENCE MEMBER: Right.

11 PARLIAMENTARIAN DELASHMIT: That's good because
12 that's helping the person that donated those things for
13 their income tax, but it's not something that is going
14 through your checkbook.

15 AUDIENCE MEMBER: So we don't have to report
16 those? We don't need to report those to the IRS or the
17 state?

18 PARLIAMENTARIAN DELASHMIT: No. What about
19 things that are donated. We all donate things to our
20 unit, whatever it might be. In-kind donations. You know,
21 maybe we donated a computer. Maybe somebody donated a
22 computer to your unit. It's good to give them a receipt
23 indicating that they did that so they can write it off on
24 their income tax, but we don't have to record that because
25 it's not money.

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1 Okay. Let's see. I'm just trying to go over
2 real quick because we're supposed to start our meeting in
3 five minutes. And I mentioned before or I whispered to
4 Ruby, don't wait until November 15th to file your taxes.
5 Sometimes there are problems. So when you get back home,
6 there's nothing -- I don't think there should be anything
7 stopping you from filing them in July and then you've got
8 it done with. They're over. They're done with. You
9 don't have that hanging over your head.

10 I know I've preached and preached and to my
11 district and I know they're sick of me talking about it
12 and yet I still get a call on November 15th at 3:00 in the
13 afternoon about how to file taxes. You know, and I say
14 why are you calling me today? Do not wait until November
15 15th to do it. Because my own unit, we had an issue this
16 past year. I really don't remember what it was, but we
17 did file and it said that it accepted, but somewhere along
18 the line it fell out and then I had -- oh, I remember. We
19 fell out because for some reason we weren't on the
20 National tax group exemption number. We had been on it
21 all these -- forever, but somehow we were off this past
22 year. It took from October to January to get that ironed
23 out.

24 So anything like that can happen, so do your
25 taxes when you get home, and then you have some time to

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1 fix any problems before November 15th. And I know I ran
2 through this just real quick, but some of this we'll be
3 doing at workshops this coming year.

4 AUDIENCE MEMBER: One real quick question. Is it
5 legal or illegal for us to do raffles?

6 PARLIAMENTARIAN DELASHMIT: Raffles. Raffles.
7 When you use the word "raffle," you need a permit from the
8 Secretary of State. You have to fill out a form. It used
9 to be \$20. I think somebody told me it's now 25. You
10 also have to turn in a report of what you're -- how much
11 you received from that. Change the word to "drawing." We
12 don't -- drawings and opportunity drawing, we don't need a
13 license for a drawing, but -- well, it depends on how
14 you're doing the drawing.

15 But "raffle," that's -- that's a word that we try
16 real hard not to use. Unless you're really doing
17 something big, you know. But most of our things are
18 small, so --

19 PAST DEPARTMENT PRESIDENT KAPSALIS: Thank you,
20 Diane. Before you get up and go, I want you to know that
21 there's going to be a new administrative code that you
22 will be hearing from Peggy Vogele when she gives the DEC
23 minutes, when she reads them. And this is all about the
24 administrative code of how this process of getting the
25 information from unit district to department is going to

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1 work when you file your 199N, your federal forms, and your
2 state forms. You are going to be required as units to
3 submit copies to the district. The district is going to
4 collect all the units' copies and then they will be sent
5 into the department. The department will be taking that
6 information and maintaining a current and updated list for
7 the Department of California so that she can get the
8 information to the National and Franchise Tax Board. And
9 you have copies of those samples in the back of your book.
10 The one we were mistaken before on page 57, that happens
11 to be a sample of 990N. And that's perfectly fine to use
12 if the unit wants to just submit that to the district that
13 shows you filed.

14 But anyway, you'll be hearing the exact
15 procedure, but I did want to mention to the district
16 presidents and to the units we have to do this. We have
17 no choice. So this is -- this is -- noncompliance is
18 reason for putting units on probation. I mean, it's going
19 to have to -- we're going to have to get that tough to
20 make sure we're following these rules. We have no choice;
21 it's mandated.

22 Do we have any last minute questions before I
23 give back the podium to the Madam Governor? I've got to
24 keep talking.

25 Anyway, let me see. Do you have any questions,

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1 any of you with the -- and I want -- I did hear -- I did
2 hear. Listen up. I did hear District 3 -- I did hear it,
3 and I'm going to mention the district, District 3,
4 evidently there are two units that are so frightened by
5 this tax stuff that they're going to fold if they have to
6 do it. You know what? Don't take that attitude. You
7 know, if you can't do it in your unit, in your district,
8 call me. The department will help you. We will get help
9 to you. We understand your dilemma. We definitely don't
10 want you to quit and give up. So please call your
11 district. If they don't have someone in your district
12 that can help you, then the district will call the
13 department and we'll come to you. We will get you through
14 this.

15 We understand a lot of people are computer
16 illiterate, they don't do computers. That's okay. We can
17 find somebody in your district that maybe is and can help
18 you. So don't get frustrated. Remember there's only five
19 pages to that reinstatement out of 19. So if you have a
20 dilemma, call me. My phone number is on that 1024. Ruby
21 Kapsalis, 304-4514. I'll be happy to help you.

22 DEPARTMENT VICE PRESIDENT MIKESELL: Okay.
23 Ladies, please. If you're going to be in the parade,
24 assemble in the back of the room. Please if you're going
25 to be in the parade, in the back of the room. And I

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1 understand that you are going to have a special guest who
2 is going to lead you in the parade, so please assemble in
3 the back of the room if you're part of the parade.

4 I have a telegraph while we're waiting.

5 SECRETARY/TREASURER VOGELE: Pilar's Musicians
6 who want to give donations to the children's program and
7 VA&R, please see her whenever you are available. Her room
8 is 104 at the Holiday Inn before Sunday.

9 DEPARTMENT VICE PRESIDENT MIKESELL: Okay. Come
10 on ladies. I see more of you who are dressed up in your
11 apparel. Don't let your age or infirmities slow you down
12 because I understand your special leader of the band is
13 going to be rather slow herself. So those ladies with the
14 beautiful western hats and the lady that's eating peanuts
15 out of the bottom of her bag. Come on, ladies. Come on.
16 This is fun. It's exercise. You spent an hour in here
17 listening to taxes, so get up and shake your booty and go
18 to the back of the room, please.

19 Okay. Arlene, who is sitting beside? You go
20 back to the back of the room and be in that nice parade.
21 Come on. I see Nancy Brown-Park. She's going to be in
22 the parade.

23 Yeah, baby. Shake that booty. Come on, ladies.
24 Go shake your booty in the back of the room. She wants to
25 borrow a balloon. Carol, do you want to loan her your

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1 horse? Linda, you can ride Carol's horse. I refuse to
2 touch that one. On someone else's horse. Ladies, can we
3 please have the center aisle clear? Can we please have
4 the center aisle clear? Theresa, we're ready to rock.

5 (Parade processional.)

6 DEPARTMENT VICE PRESIDENT MIKESELL: Let's have
7 special music for the saloon girls. Okay, ladies. The
8 saloon girls are going to make their entrance. Come on,
9 saloon girls. Let's hit it.

10 Now this is what you guys can all look forward
11 to. Look at that one leading the pack. Whoa, baby. They
12 all accept donations, so if anyone wants to give them a
13 donation, please feel free to give them a donation. Okay?

14 Ladies, can you clear the center aisle there?
15 Okay. They have a bucket there. They're accepting
16 donations. Are they singing for donations? They're
17 begging money, money, money. They've all got their little
18 buckets. If you want to give them a donation, feel free.
19 Except for I think Sue Hooker is drunk. Excuse me. She's
20 just hung over. Oh, Sandy is the one that's drunk. Sandy
21 is drunk. Sue Hooker is just hung over. And Sandy is
22 hung over. Odette scared them all off. Okay. Ready,
23 ready.

24 Will somebody please -- oh, Miss Pilar has some
25 money in her bucket. Ready, ready. Close up. Come on.

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1 Move it, move it, move it.

2 DEPARTMENT PRESIDENT FERCHO: Okay. Come on.

3 Give them some money, ladies. Pilar has more money.

4 Where is Odette? Odette, did you bring your cup?

5 DEPARTMENT VICE PRESIDENT MIKESELL: Okay,

6 ladies. Give them the money, honey. Cyndy Newman, I have

7 your hotel key here. Would you like to come up and get

8 your room key, Cyndy Newman? Cyndy. Thank you, Madam

9 Governor.

10 DEPARTMENT PRESIDENT FERCHO: The saloon girls

11 are donating your money to one of their saloon girls,

12 Nancy Brown-Park's campaign fund. The saloon girls are

13 out there working hard.

14 Okay. Ladies, hope you enjoy the fun and the

15 parade. I had a lot of fun doing that. I promised a

16 little whiskey for myself and beer for my horses. I know

17 that part. And he was in heaven, so he's gone to get a

18 little beer.

19 Ladies, please take your seats. At this time we

20 will resume with our Poppy Chairman.

21 Ladies. Ladies, we now are in session. Will the

22 Distinguished Guest Chairman with the Sergeant-at-Arms

23 please present to this station a most distinguished guest,

24 the Secretary of California, Department of Veterans

25 Affairs, the Honorable Peter J. Gravett, Major General

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1 Retired.

2 (Processional.)

3 DEPARTMENT PRESIDENT FERCHO: He's been here a
4 while watching this whole parade going on, so we'll see
5 what he thinks about it. So I'd like to present to you at
6 this time the Honorable Peter J. Gravett, Secretary of
7 California Veterans Affairs, Major General Retired.

8 (Applause.)

9 SECRETARY GRAVETT: Thank you. Thank you. I'll
10 tell you what I thought about it. I thought it was great,
11 just great. It's great for a couple reasons. It's nice
12 to see all these beautiful ladies all in one place and I'm
13 the only man here. I'll tell you what. You know, to see
14 all the -- the cowgirls, the can-can women, the saloon
15 girls, you know, all the women. And just -- it's just
16 great.

17 I mean, I guess this is your 94th Annual
18 Convention. If the women 94 years ago could have seen
19 what they saw today, I think they would be delighted that
20 you're liberated.

21 (Applause.)

22 SECRETARY GRAVETT: I can imagine what the
23 conference was like 94 years ago. It definitely was not
24 like this. I don't think there will be another one like
25 this. That parade was something else. I'm glad I saw it.

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1 Some people would never believe what I saw if I told them.
2 I just had to see it.

3 But, Linda, thank you for having me here this
4 afternoon to make a few remarks. It won't be long because
5 you have a lot of business to transact and I won't stand
6 in your way. But let me just say that as Secretary of
7 Veterans Affairs, it's my great honor to be here. And let
8 me tell you a little bit about what we're doing, what
9 we're doing in the state and what our mission is and how
10 we're serving our veterans. And when -- I can't say
11 "veterans" without saying veterans and their families
12 because everything we do includes the families.

13 But in our Department of CalVet, we have several
14 missions. Our main mission is to outreach veterans to
15 ensure that the veterans, both men and women, are
16 connected with their federal benefits, with the federal
17 VA. We also have a mission to provide home loans,
18 veterans that qualify for that. And then we also have a
19 mission to actually recruit members to stand up and to be
20 a parent home and to be among the veterans registered in
21 California.

22 Let me just take a few minutes to give you some
23 information about California and the veterans. As you
24 know, California is the -- it's the largest state in the
25 nation. It's the most populous state in the nation, so it

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1 stands to reason that we would have more veterans than in
2 any other state. And we do. We have almost two million
3 veterans in California.

4 And of that two million, we've identified about
5 167,000 women veterans in California. That is -- that's
6 about 15 to 18 percent of all women veterans in the nation
7 are in California. Although we are 1/50th of the nation
8 in terms of the number of states, we have about 15 to 18
9 percent of the women veterans in California.

10 So how do we serve veterans? We do it a number
11 of ways. First of all, let me just say you probably heard
12 a lot of talk about our veteran homes in California.
13 There's been a lot of discussion, especially here in
14 Redding because we have a brand-new home that's completed
15 but not open yet. And we also have a home in Fresno
16 that's completed but not open yet. And I'll get to those
17 in a minute.

18 But we do have veteran homes in six other cities
19 and the budgets have not been covering those homes for
20 service members and their families. And when I say
21 veterans in those homes, I'm saying male veterans and
22 female veterans and couples. Because we have singles and
23 couples.

24 Our first home was built in Yountville, in the
25 wine country, opened in 1884. It's the second oldest

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1 veteran home in the nation. If you haven't been to
2 Yountville, you should stop by there and take a look.
3 It's a beautiful facility. It's modern. Old buildings,
4 but modern technology there and lots of good veterans
5 there. A lot of good things going on there.

6 Our second home was built in Barstow, California.
7 (Applause.)

8 SECRETARY GRAVETT: I visited Barstow one year.
9 I spent one night there. I like Barstow because it's a
10 stop on the way to Vegas. Right? And that was our second
11 home. Our third home was opened in Chula Vista, San Diego
12 County. Anyone from San Diego?

13 (Applause.)

14 SECRETARY GRAVETT: That was our third home
15 opened in -- I guess in 1996. And then in the year 2010
16 was a better year. We opened three new homes in 2010. We
17 opened one in Ventura, Lancaster, and West Los Angeles.
18 And so we have six homes that are operating, and those
19 homes are fully staffed and fully funded and so on and so
20 forth.

21 I was hoping that this week I could announce that
22 the funding was in place to open Redding and Fresno. It's
23 not in place. We now have to wait until November to see
24 what happens, but we think in due time when those homes
25 open, there will be no problem filling those homes with

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1 veterans, male and female veterans because we have waiting
2 lists for those homes. And when we do open those homes,
3 we'll start staffing those homes and get them going.

4 When I came to this job about a year ago, I took
5 a look at the organizational chart, the staffing, and I
6 made some quick adjustments. And the main adjustment I
7 made was I created a position. It's called Deputy
8 Secretary For Women Veterans because I could see that
9 women veterans were not being served as much as they
10 should in California. Although they were being serviced,
11 there was no special program for women veterans.

12 We have a deputy secretary for our
13 administration, deputy secretary for our veteran services,
14 deputy secretary for outreach. We have a deputy secretary
15 for the veteran homes, but we did not have one focused
16 solely on women veterans. Women veterans is the largest
17 growing population of women veterans in our state.

18 So I created that position and I recruited a very
19 sharp female veteran. Her name was Lindsay Waltman. She
20 just got married last month so her new last name is Sin,
21 S-I-N. I didn't say it. I'm just saying that's her last
22 name.

23 So Lindsay is a very high-powered person. She's
24 young and aggressive. She is an eight-year Navy veteran,
25 served in combat in Afghanistan and Iraq. She's a

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1 linguist. She speaks several dialects of Arabic. She
2 speaks the language in Afghanistan. And she can identify
3 with our youngest women veterans that are returning from
4 the wars and so on and so forth. But so Lindsay is doing
5 a lot of good things.

6 Last year we had our first all-women Stand Down
7 in Ontario.

8 (Applause.)

9 SECRETARY GRAVETT: And it was successful. We
10 had a lot of women there. We tried to outreach to women.
11 We did a lot of things to identify them to have a
12 connection and so forth and so on.

13 But this year we had to change it. The women's
14 Stand Down this year, we're having two. Our next Stand
15 Down is July 20th in Los Angeles. It's going to be held
16 on the USC campus sponsored by the University of
17 California and also by U.S. Vets and our department. And
18 our focus on that Stand Down is to bring in women from all
19 over Southern California that not only need services, but
20 also need jobs.

21 It's a -- we've identified the four major pillars
22 that all veterans need including women veterans: housing,
23 education, and healthcare and employment. And one goes
24 with the other. You can't have one without the other.

25 And so unfortunately we do have a lot of women

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1 veterans in California that don't have proper housing.
2 And women veterans have a number of issues over and above
3 what male veterans have. In addition to the issues that
4 male veterans face, TBI, PTSD, some other alcohol/drug
5 issues, women veterans also face other problems of sexual
6 trauma both on the battlefield and at home. And we also
7 identified that women veterans are more likely to have
8 young children. They're single mothers.

9 And so women veterans have a need for housing for
10 them and their children. So we've initiated some programs
11 in our department to identify housing that we can convert
12 to use for women veterans with small children. But we've
13 gone a step further. We're also in negotiations with
14 developers to construct some new housing, some housing
15 areas for women with small children. And right now we're
16 working with communities in Ventura County, Santa Clarita,
17 and LA County, Vernon, the city of Vernon, the city of
18 Delmar and LA city and some other cities to identify
19 properties and identify developers that are willing to
20 come in at their cost to help us construct housing.

21 (Applause.)

22 SECRETARY GRAVETT: So that's unbelievable. It's
23 on the drawing board for the future. We're just moving
24 ahead with that and we think it's going to be a good
25 program to help and assist our women veterans.

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1 But again, we assist all veterans, not just women
2 veterans. But I thought by coming here you may want to
3 hear what's happening with your sisters who serve in the
4 military. I know we have a lot of women veterans in the
5 audience here in addition to spouses of veterans.

6 Just some background on my family. In addition,
7 you know I'm a veteran. My father was a World War II
8 veteran of the Army Air Corps.

9 (Applause.)

10 SECRETARY GRAVETT: Thank you, thank you. He
11 passed several years ago, but he and my mother together
12 had 12 children. Same parents. Twelve children, same
13 parents. And nine of my brothers served in the Army. And
14 two of my sisters, not to be outdone, they married service
15 members. So they married veterans. So we have a veteran
16 family. But not to be outdone, my wife is also a veteran.

17 (Applause.)

18 SECRETARY GRAVETT: And she's here somewhere
19 hiding back there, but -- there she is. My wife of 42
20 years, Retired Army Colonel Blanche Gravett.

21 (Applause.)

22 SECRETARY GRAVETT: So whenever I'm in
23 negotiations to talk with people about women veterans,
24 she's standing there listening intently and whispering in
25 my ear, "Don't forget this. Don't forget that." And

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1 that's good because I have women veterans on my staff and
2 I consult them all the time about how you should be
3 working to actually better the life of women veterans.
4 And so they know better than anybody else.

5 And the women veterans on my staff are not just
6 young women veterans. We have them all ages. All the way
7 from the Korean War era, women veterans that are in their
8 late sixties, early seventies. We have some Vietnam era
9 veterans. We also have veterans from the recent wars in
10 Afghanistan and Iraq.

11 And if our work isn't busy enough, as the
12 military services are drawn down in their numbers -- and
13 they are drawing down. As a matter of fact, the Army is
14 going to discharge and release about 100,000 soldiers in
15 the next three years. California, we receive about 30,000
16 new veterans every year into California.

17 Now of course we lose -- we actually lose a lot
18 of veterans because of age and that sort of thing, but
19 still our number of veterans are growing in California,
20 and so our mission is growing. So we've designed programs
21 to try to address issues so we don't get caught behind a
22 power curve.

23 Our biggest challenge right now are the homeless
24 veterans. And we're addressing that. At the National
25 level, the National secretary wants to end homelessness in

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1 the next two or three years. It's a five-year plan that
2 started a couple years ago. Again, California has more
3 homeless veterans than any other state. We have about 20
4 percent of all homeless veterans in the nation.

5 And why is that? Well, there's several reasons.
6 As I mentioned before, we have more veterans than any
7 other state. But also if a veteran chooses to be
8 homeless, they prefer to be homeless in someplace like San
9 Diego County rather than in New York where it's cold or
10 something like that.

11 So we get a migration of veterans and we talk to
12 them and we take them into our housing that we have. We
13 work with a non-profits. We do a lot of interviews and a
14 lot of talking to them and we ask them how did this
15 happen. How did you get into this situation. And it's
16 amazing. We can almost track how they came to California
17 because these veterans, the homeless veterans are not just
18 from California; they're from all over. And they left
19 their home state and they migrated west. They stopped off
20 in Arizona for a year or so. They couldn't get a job.
21 They couldn't get housing, came to Southern California.
22 And then we end up servicing them, and we will. And
23 that's why we have the veteran Stand Downs. Because Stand
24 Downs is a method to address the issues that homeless
25 veterans need: housing and healthcare and so on and so

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1 forth.

2 And just a word about our veteran courts, if you
3 haven't heard about it. California has 58 counties, and
4 right now about 16 of those counties have veteran courts.
5 And what the veteran court is is a special court for
6 veterans who are charged with a crime, a minor crime, a
7 misdemeanor or some other crime. Instead of being placed
8 into the criminal justice system, they're diverted to the
9 veteran court where the judge himself or herself are
10 veterans. They'll listen to the case and they'll divert
11 that person into some type of treatment instead of putting
12 them in incarceration.

13 So that's working. It's addressing the issue,
14 addressing the need. I mean, let's face it. If a
15 homeless person is wandering the street, they walk against
16 a red light, they're stopped, given a ticket for
17 jaywalking and they have no place to live, that ticket is
18 going to go to a warrant. And the next time that person
19 is stopped by a police officer, they check and see they
20 have a warrant. Instead of taking that person to court,
21 they take it to the veteran court and the judge dismisses
22 the warrant and places them in a treatment program that
23 they need.

24 So we have a lot of programs going and a lot more
25 to do. So again, I came here just to give you a taste of

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1 some of the things we're doing in the California
2 Department of Veteran Affairs both for male veterans and
3 female veterans. And, you know, we can't do it all. We
4 have nonprofit-based organizations and veteran-based
5 organizations like the American Legion and Women's
6 Auxiliary and other organizations too.

7 And I want to thank you for all that you do to
8 help veterans and all that you do to serve this country
9 and your patriotism to honor your corps and all you do for
10 veterans. So thank you very much and God bless you and
11 God bless your families.

12 (Applause.)

13 DEPARTMENT PRESIDENT FERCHO: Would you like to
14 have one of my garters and my hats off to the American
15 Legion Family volunteers.

16 SECRETARY GRAVETT: A woman has never given me
17 her garter before. And I've got to say one more thing. I
18 am a Legionnaire. I'm a member of Post 381, LA Post 381.

19 (Applause.)

20 DEPARTMENT PRESIDENT FERCHO: Thank you very,
21 very much. Wasn't that great information?

22 (Applause.)

23 DEPARTMENT PRESIDENT FERCHO: I said if I had
24 time, I would let him go on and on that was so
25 interesting.

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1 (ProceSSIONAL.)

2 DEPARTMENT PRESIDENT FERCHO: Thank you, ladies,
3 very much. At this time we will bring up -- can I have
4 the microphone -- is the microphone -- yes, it is. We
5 will continue with the discussion on the resolution on the
6 increase in purchase price of poppies. There is a
7 microphone in the center.

8 Yes, Denyse.

9 WAYS & MEANS CHAIRMAN LAUGESON: I would like to
10 say thank you and now Girls State and Ways & Means is
11 officially closed.

12 DEPARTMENT PRESIDENT FERCHO: Did everyone hear?
13 The Girls State and the Ways & Means are officially
14 closed. They will report tomorrow.

15

16 POPPY COMMITTEE REPORT (Continued)

17

18 DEPARTMENT PRESIDENT FERCHO: Chair recognizes
19 Susie Tozier at microphone two.

20 FINANCE COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN TOZIER: The finance
21 committee rejected the change because it was very
22 confusing on how it was written. Eighteen cents per poppy
23 is the cost of the poppy right now and that will stay the
24 same. The seven cents will go towards the income or the
25 proceeds that you would normally apply at the end of the

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1 year on your report. And that is the amount that would be
2 distributed -- 10 percent would be distributed to your
3 welfare accounts. So that is the breakdown right now of
4 this proposal for that additional seven cents.

5 DEPARTMENT PRESIDENT FERCHO: Thank you.

6 Chair recognizes Ruby Kapsalis.

7 PAST DEPARTMENT PRESIDENT KAPSALIS: Madam
8 Department President, I just want to bring to the
9 assembly's attention that in 2008 there were 393,663
10 poppies ordered. As of today -- as of, I believe, this
11 session, if my figures are correct, there was 337,444
12 poppies order. That's a difference, a decrease of 56,219
13 poppies ordered.

14 And my point is this is a veterans program. We
15 have the program so that we can have the veterans make the
16 poppies to receive funding for them. When our poppies go
17 down, the veterans get less money. And we have an
18 Ameritrade reserve fund. I believe that the figure I have
19 right here in front of me is \$15,692.49 in the bank
20 account of the poppy fund. Currently as of I believe it
21 was May, \$77,395.

22 We also have units that don't even distribute
23 poppies. But what I'm trying to say is it seems that
24 everybody wants to get rid of this finance report. Okay?
25 Let's figure out how we can get rid of the finance report

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1 without the veterans suffering. If we -- in 2009 when we
2 increased it three cents, it dropped 37,615 poppies in one
3 year. The units are ordering less poppies because they
4 have a certain budget to work with.

5 So my recommendation is to table this and get a
6 committee together to find an answer how we can stop the
7 10 percent, but don't make our veterans suffer.

8 (Applause.)

9 DEPARTMENT PRESIDENT FERCHO: Kathy Chamberland.

10 MS. CHAMBERLAND: Unit 53, District 21. I read
11 over the proposal and I'm thinking, okay, they're going to
12 raise it seven cents. How much of that seven cents are
13 you going to pay back to the people that are making them?
14 You're still only paying them ten cents a poppy. If you
15 put two cents towards them, we just might pass it.

16 MS. DORAN: Madam Department President, Kathryn
17 Doran, District 25, Unit 155. If the issue is money here
18 which a lot of times it is, we gave National a \$4 increase
19 in dues. That's an 80 percent increase to them over what
20 they were getting. We gave department a dollar increase
21 because that's what our organization needed to function
22 properly.

23 Poppies and veterans is the heart and soul of our
24 organization. We need to support our veterans. Our
25 organization is all about fundraising. We've sat here and

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1 I've heard hundreds of thousands of dollars raised for
2 different programs; correct? Why can't we do fundraising
3 and give more money to poppies? In the 14 short years
4 that I belonged to this wonderful organization, I have not
5 once come to a department convention and heard that we
6 can't do something. Rather, I have heard that we can do
7 it and we have accomplished it. So I say give the seven
8 cents to our poppies.

9 (Applause.)

10 DEPARTMENT PRESIDENT FERCHO: Thank you. Thank
11 you. The Chair recognizes --

12 AUDIENCE MEMBER: Unit 125. I call for the
13 question.

14 DEPARTMENT PRESIDENT FERCHO: I had -- there is a
15 motion on the floor, has been moved and seconded. I call
16 for the question. All those in favor?

17 AUDIENCE MEMBERS: Aye.

18 DEPARTMENT PRESIDENT FERCHO: Opposed?

19 AUDIENCE MEMBERS: No.

20 DEPARTMENT PRESIDENT FERCHO: Just to stop the
21 discussion. All those in favor?

22 AUDIENCE MEMBERS: Aye.

23 DEPARTMENT PRESIDENT FERCHO: Opposed?

24 AUDIENCE MEMBERS: No.

25 DEPARTMENT PRESIDENT FERCHO: Okay.

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1 MS. FARISS: Madam President, Linda Fariss,
2 District 19, Unit 314. I wanted to reiterate. We had 98
3 units that did not send in any of the money on a 10
4 percent. That's over a third of our units we have. Ruby
5 helped make my point. We have a lot of units that don't
6 offer the poppies. That's part of what they're there for.
7 It's not just to raise money for the veterans, which we're
8 having problems getting done and we're having to re-adjust
9 how we get the poppies done, but it's also to educate the
10 public about our veterans and about the poppies and about
11 the American Legion and the American Legion Auxiliary.

12 I figured it out. \$37 per unit was donated on
13 that 10 percent. Part of that was because it included 98
14 that sent nothing. So please consider this too when
15 you're considering all the others.

16 I call for the question. Oh, I'm sorry. I
17 withdraw that motion.

18 DISTRICT 27 PRESIDENT WHITE: Okay. Ladies,
19 we're going to pay 25 cents. And I know that most of you
20 get a dollar or maybe more than a dollar, so you make at
21 least at the minimum 75 cents. So what is this problem?

22 (Applause.)

23 PAST DEPARTMENT PRESIDENT BROWN-PARK: Madam
24 President, Nancy Brown-Park, Past Department President. I
25 really support Ruby's idea that we need to stop a little

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1 bit, take some time, and find the right solution.
2 Sometimes we jump at things that may not be the right
3 thing to do and once we do it, we're stuck with it. So
4 let's just take a little break, create a committee. I
5 think Terry would be willing to do that. And let's come
6 up with some really good solutions of how we're going to
7 run our poppy program.

8 (Applause.)

9 VETERANS AFFAIR & REHABILITATION CHAIRMAN BIGGS:
10 Madam President, I just want to say one thing at the
11 microphone.

12 DEPARTMENT PRESIDENT FERCHO: You can come right
13 here.

14 VETERANS AFFAIR & REHABILITATION CHAIRMAN BIGGS:
15 Madam President, Anita Biggs, 23rd District. As Past
16 Poppy Chairman, I want to just make one point. The 25
17 cents when we increase the poppies for the units that did
18 not order poppies on time, it was a penalty. If you
19 didn't order your poppies on time, you were allotted one
20 hundred poppies, \$25 assessment. So it is like a penalty
21 when you think about it.

22 We do need to take the time to figure out how we
23 can make this better to do away with the 10 percent, but
24 as this resolution is written, then we'll be stuck with
25 the way that this is. We may be able to increase the

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1 poppy amount that we pay, but we have to take it in to
2 interest the units and how much it's going to impact them
3 with the larger orders, with the 11,000 orders. Not
4 taking 500. It's a huge impact. So we do need to take
5 time and I agree with Nancy and Ruby to come up with a
6 committee. Thank you.

7 (Applause.)

8 MS. VARNEL: Good afternoon. My name is Tracy
9 Varnel, Unit 24. Actually, to be honest this is my first
10 convention as a delegate. I have been to many, many
11 conventions. I think I pretty much had my ideas set when
12 I walked in the room this morning, but listening to
13 everyone's concerns, listening to everything that's going
14 on, I think we do need to take some more time on this.

15 I think that honestly everyone has brought up
16 some very, very good points. I believe that -- you know,
17 I think it's not a clear resolution. I would -- like I
18 said, I was set on my vote. I was set, but now I'm going
19 back and forth. So I think the idea of tabling it,
20 bringing it back later when we have a little bit clear and
21 maybe separating it out, come up with some fresh ideas.
22 But I did like the idea about more fundraising for the
23 poppies. Thank you.

24 (Applause.)

25 AUDIENCE MEMBER: It doesn't concern me about

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1 what you're all doing here, but I think there's one thing
2 we have to all take into consideration. Excuse me. We
3 are losing members faster than we can get them. We are
4 losing units. If we can get more active units, it would
5 mean more poppies and it would be more money coming in to
6 all the -- to all the organizations and the veterans you
7 want to serve. So I think we have to get out there and
8 get more members. It would help the members.

9 DEPARTMENT PRESIDENT FERCHO: Thank you. All
10 right. I think at this time I do not see any more -- I
11 agree. Wonderful, wonderful, wonderful conversation,
12 brings up other points, and great exchange. So anyways,
13 at this time we have a motion on the floor to accept or
14 reject this resolution.

15 At this time would all of those in favor of
16 accepting this resolution please stand.

17 Thank you. All those not in favor of accepting
18 this resolution, please stand.

19 Thank you. This resolution has been defeated.
20 Thank you all for your patients. I know Terry has been --
21 well, she's doing the banquet, but I know she will take
22 care of this and follow through with some of these great
23 suggestions.

24 Thank you very much we'll go on with the poppy
25 report.

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1 POPPY CHAIRMAN COOLEY-DEMEULES: There were some
2 code changes with the poppies. Number 6: The second full
3 week of May (Sunday through Saturday) shall be declared
4 poppy week and shall be the scheduled time for the annual
5 poppy solicitation. Units wishing to offer poppies other
6 than the scheduled week must write and receive permission
7 from the department president. The deadline date for
8 requests for permission to change poppy week is April 1st.
9 That's 2011.

10 The code change will now read: That effective
11 with the American Legion Auxiliary year 2013 poppy week
12 will be replaced with May being poppy month. Units
13 wishing to offer poppies other than the scheduled month
14 must write and receive permission from the Department
15 President. The deadline for requests for permission to
16 change poppy month is April 1st.

17 I move for this acceptance.

18 DEPARTMENT PRESIDENT FERCHO: It has been moved
19 and seconded to accept this code. Discussion?

20 PAST DEPARTMENT PRESIDENT KAPSALIS: Madam
21 Department President, Ruby Kapsalis, Past Department
22 President District 28. I'm not -- I'm not against this
23 resolution, but it gives me an opportunity to bring up a
24 point because discussion was cut off after Melanie
25 reported that they are encouraging the poppies to be all

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1 year. It brings me an opportunity to bring it to the
2 delegates' attention that why do we have a May poppy
3 month? Why don't we increase it to a year. That solves
4 all problems.

5 (Applause.)

6 AMERICANISM CHAIRMAN SOARES: Michelle Soares,
7 Americanism Chairman, Unit 694, District 28. She just
8 said exactly what I was going to say. If Melanie -- if my
9 understanding is correct, you do want us to probably work
10 the poppy program all year-round.

11 ELECTIONS CHAIRMAN TAYLOR: Yes, that is correct.
12 In my plan of action I am recommending that the units --

13 AMERICANISM CHAIRMAN SOARES: So we would have a
14 poppy year, not a poppy month.

15 (Applause.)

16 DEPARTMENT PRESIDENT FERCHO: Chair recognizes
17 Jamie.

18 AUDIENCE MEMBER: Madam President, delegates, all
19 in assembly, I am not saying we should not sell them all
20 year, but we're going to lose the importance and the
21 significance of our poppy if it becomes so regular. We
22 will not have, one, the support of the media. Two, it
23 will not have the significance of planters field. We
24 are -- I love what we do and it hurts my heart when it
25 gets watered down. And that poppy signifies so much of

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1 who we are. We need the importance of that, yes,
2 year-round, but we need the significance of that
3 specialty. Don't let it get watered down, please, Madam
4 President.

5 (Applause.)

6 DEPARTMENT PRESIDENT FERCHO: Thank you. Yes,
7 the chair recognizes Kathy Harris-Richardson.

8 MS. HARRIS-RICHARDSON: Yes, Kathy
9 Harris-Richardson, District 23, Unit 252. I kind of got a
10 little emotional when I was coming up behind her and I'm
11 trying to hear from back there, but I think what I'm going
12 to say is similar to what she just said. That although we
13 would -- if we did vote to have poppies the whole year and
14 you fundraise for it, we can still have May as the sacred
15 month just like we do Children & Youth and the rest of
16 them.

17 (Applause.)

18 PAST DEPARTMENT PRESIDENT BROWN-PARK: Madam
19 President, Nancy Brown-Park. I don't think that Melanie's
20 plan of action says that May should not be poppy month.
21 It gives you an opportunity to distribute poppies at
22 another time. You may have a fishing festival in your
23 town that happens on Labor Day. Then that's a great
24 opportunity for you to distribute poppies. So you have
25 that opportunity.

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1 May is always going to be poppy month, but it
2 does give you some more opportunity. My only
3 recommendation may be that we take this issue and
4 incorporate it into that task force that we're going to
5 have and let's come up with a whole package of what we
6 want to do for our poppy program in California.

7 DEPARTMENT PRESIDENT FERCHO: Thank you. Lois.

8 MS. CORNISH: Lois Cornish, District 22, Unit
9 434, poppy production manager in San Diego. We do make
10 poppies so-called year-round. In order to have supplies
11 and the supplies we need and continue to have enough
12 people to work the poppy program, we have to take a break.
13 And it was suggested that we work from August to the first
14 of May to make the poppies. And I'm -- if you're working
15 with year-round -- we call it year-round but we're there
16 two days a week from the first week in May -- or, I'm
17 sorry, in August to the first week in May. This year
18 that's how long we worked because we have a contract for
19 70,000. My poppy maker in Chula Vista veterans home made
20 10,000 but it didn't take him quite as long. And he
21 actually helped out at the other place. But it also
22 depends on the number of veterans that you have that are
23 recruited to come and do the poppies. I'm just speaking
24 on the availability.

25 DEPARTMENT PRESIDENT FERCHO: Chair recognizes

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1 microphone two.

2 MS. MACK: Yvonne Mack, District 16, Unit 125.
3 About five years ago I went to -- or three years, four
4 years ago I went to the poppy meeting. What came up was
5 I'm a member of the VFW. They decided to vote to have
6 their display the whole year. I then asked the chairman
7 what can I do because May is poppy month; she told me go
8 to my commander, ask them would they forfeit May to let us
9 run it.

10 The thing I want to bring up is if we're going to
11 run it year-round, each one of us ladies got to do our
12 part. One or two people in the organization can't run it.
13 When we think of this, I believe we need to get a
14 committee. We've got good ideas on the floor.

15 Let's not mess with the veterans like this.
16 Let's go before the committee, give your suggestion, and
17 if we're going to go the whole year, fine. But each one
18 of us has to contribute working. One or two people in the
19 unit can't do it by themselves. Thank you.

20 DEPARTMENT PRESIDENT FERCHO: Thank you.

21 ELECTIONS CHAIRMAN TAYLOR: Madam Department
22 President, Melanie Taylor, Past Department Present. In my
23 comments to you ladies as the incoming National Poppy
24 Chairman, this is just a suggestion that units can offer
25 the poppies year-round instead of just in the month of

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1 May. We have Flag Day and we have Veterans Day. We have
2 Memorial Day. You know, I was not saying that May is not
3 going to be poppy month because it will be poppy month.
4 All I was saying in my plan of action is that instead of
5 restricting the unit to one week out of the year or one
6 month out of the year when they have other opportunities
7 where they could offer the poppies, to at least allow the
8 units in the departments to do that.

9 DEPARTMENT PRESIDENT FERCHO: Thank you.

10 MS. GAMA: Judy Gama from unit 197. And we have
11 basically eight working members in our Auxiliary. We are
12 the one that ordered 11,000 poppies last year. It took us
13 only three days to get donations for all of those poppies.
14 Every year we increase them. We use groups and volunteers
15 from our neighborhood. We use groups like the Civil Air
16 Patrol, the Junior Sea Cadets. We get volunteers from
17 churches from all over to help us. So it takes us three
18 days.

19 Once again, we want to increase the number of
20 poppies we would order. And as Terry Mikesell mentioned,
21 there was no way that we can pay up front if we wanted to
22 order 14,000 poppies this year. So I would like for them
23 to take under consideration any way that they might know
24 of a way where we don't have to pay for all of these up
25 front. We will have to cut the number in half and,

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1 ladies, we raise a lot of money.

2 AUDIENCE MEMBER: Thank you, Madam President.

3 April of District 22, Unit 468. I've mentioned the back

4 county rural areas before already. And as it was

5 mentioned, this is simply my understanding, a suggestion,

6 that units can go more than one time a year rather than

7 the month of May. Okay. So this helps us a lot in these

8 little communities that we can do it more than one time a

9 year. We have big events throughout the time of the year.

10 Like one major one we just had a couple months ago, it was

11 our big dance fest. That would have been a great

12 opportunity to have the poppies available to where we

13 could donate and really bring in some money. We didn't

14 have that opportunity. We lost out some money. So I am

15 in favor of this. Thank you.

16 AMERICANISM CHAIRMAN SOARES: Michelle Soares

17 again. I just want to clarify for my own mind here if

18 this resolution is restricted to the month of May.

19 Because if it is, then we will not be able to work

20 National's proposed plan of action.

21 PARLIAMENTARIAN DELASHMIT: Madam President,

22 Diane DeLashmit, Parliamentarian. We have never ever been

23 restricted. It's in the code and it says deadline for

24 requests for permission to change poppy month is April

25 1st. So if you wish to have your poppy drive at some

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1 other time besides the week that was designated in the
2 code, you had the ability to write a letter to the
3 department president for her permission to have it at some
4 other time.

5 So it's here if you want to do it on Veterans Day
6 or Labor Day or whatever. But you do need to ask
7 permission. And that was still in this code.

8 AMERICANISM CHAIRMAN SOARES: But to that point,
9 would we need to write a separate letter if we wanted to
10 do it on Memorial Day, Veterans Day, July 4th?

11 PARLIAMENTARIAN DELASHMIT: Yes. Well, a
12 separate letter. You could probably put it all in one
13 letter. Are you restricting it to one day like you said,
14 Veterans Day?

15 AMERICANISM CHAIRMAN SOARES: Some units may or
16 some units may not. Some may want to do it on Veterans
17 Day.

18 PARLIAMENTARIAN DELASHMIT: I would say if your
19 unit wishes to have an organizational meeting or whatever
20 you do, however your unit functions and you know at the
21 beginning of the year you want to offer poppies on those
22 days, by all means write a letter to the department
23 president and ask her for permission to offer poppies on
24 those particular days.

25 EDITOR CHAIRMAN AVINA: Madam President, Estelle

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1 Avina, 742, District 21. You know, this isn't a one size
2 fits all. Every unit is going to have different issues
3 with this. That's why we're saying get a committee.
4 Let's come up with some solutions.

5 (Applause.)

6 EDITOR CHAIRMAN AVINA: Then they can each work
7 on that. Come on, guys. We can be here until tomorrow.

8 MS. ROCHA: Madam President, Marion Rocha,
9 District 16, 211. I call for the question.

10 DEPARTMENT PRESIDENT FERCHO: Thank you, Marion.
11 Thank you, Marion.

12 I have a motion and a second to call for the
13 question to stop debate on this code change. All in
14 favor?

15 ALL PRESENT: Aye.

16 DEPARTMENT PRESIDENT FERCHO: Opposed?

17 (No response.)

18 DEPARTMENT PRESIDENT FERCHO: Okay. At this time
19 I would like to reread this because I think it's kind of
20 gotten a little lost in the conversation. So at this time
21 please reread code 6. Thank you.

22 POPPY CHAIRMAN COOLEY-DEMEULES: Oh, I'm sorry.
23 The as reads now or the proposed change?

24 DEPARTMENT PRESIDENT FERCHO: I want you to read
25 the proposed change.

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1 POPPY CHAIRMAN COOLEY-DEMEULES: Okay. The
2 proposed change was: That effective with the American
3 Legion Auxiliary year 2013 poppy week will be replaced
4 with May being poppy month. Units wishing to offer
5 poppies other than the scheduled month must write and
6 receive permission from the Department President. The
7 deadline for requests for permission to change poppy month
8 is April 1st.

9 DEPARTMENT PRESIDENT FERCHO: It has been moved
10 and seconded. We will have no more discussion. All those
11 in favor of this code change, please stand. Okay. If
12 you're in favor of it, please stand. We need to stand up
13 anyway. Thank you. Thank you.

14 All those not in favor of this, please stand.
15 The ayes have it. That code change will be passed. We
16 will now have poppy week. Thank you.

17 POPPY CHAIRMAN COOLEY-DEMEULES: Okay. Code 7 is
18 going to be a housekeeping change. Currently it reads:
19 Poppy orders shall be accepted only from units of the
20 American Legion Auxiliary subsidiary organizations and the
21 American Legion may purchase poppies from the units for
22 Memorial and/or initiations only. Order blanks shall be
23 supplied by the department office using only current
24 forms. Current department chairman's name and address to
25 be on the form and orders forwarded to the department

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1 chairman and office by October 1st. If a poppy order form
2 has not been received by October 31st, units will be
3 assessed a \$25 fee and shall be allocated 100 poppies.
4 Requests for additional poppy orders shall be made to the
5 department chairman who will confirm the availability of
6 extra poppies. Upon confirmation, the unit will send in
7 an additional poppy order form to the department office
8 with copies to the department and district chairmen.

9 The housekeeping would be eliminate "subsidiary
10 organizations and." We no longer belong or are associated
11 with 8 and 40 so we want to eliminate that. I so move
12 this change.

13 DEPARTMENT PRESIDENT FERCHO: It has been moved
14 and seconded. This is actually a housekeeping change so
15 it does not require a motion.

16 POPPY CHAIRMAN COOLEY-DEMEULES: Okay.

17 DEPARTMENT PRESIDENT FERCHO: But -- I don't
18 believe it's a housekeeping. I mean, it doesn't require
19 it, but I don't believe it's a housekeeping because you're
20 actually taking out a part of a code.

21 POPPY CHAIRMAN COOLEY-DEMEULES: Okay.

22 DEPARTMENT PRESIDENT FERCHO: You're removing
23 part of it, so you're -- and so we do need to read it as
24 the new code will read without that in there.

25 POPPY CHAIRMAN COOLEY-DEMEULES: All of that?

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1 All right. The proposed change would be then: Poppy
2 orders shall be accepted only from units of the American
3 Legion Auxiliary. The American Legion may purchase
4 poppies from the units for Memorial and/or initiations
5 only. Order blanks shall be supplied by the department
6 office using only current forms. Current department
7 chairman's name and address to be on the form and orders
8 forwarded to the department chairman and office by October
9 1st. If a poppy order form has not been received by
10 October 31st, units will be assessed a \$25 fee and shall
11 be allocated 100 poppies. Requests for additional poppy
12 orders shall be made to the department chairman who will
13 confirm the availability of extra poppies. Upon
14 confirmation, the unit will send in an additional poppy
15 order form to the department office with copies to the
16 department and district chairmen.

17 I now move its acceptance.

18 DEPARTMENT PRESIDENT FERCHO: It is moved and
19 seconded. Any discussion? The code now will read number
20 7: Poppy orders shall be accepted only from units of the
21 American Legion Auxiliary. The American Legion may
22 purchase poppies from the units for Memorial
23 and/or initiations only. Order blanks shall be supplied
24 by the department office using only current forms.
25 Current department chairman's name and address to be on

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1 the form and orders forwarded to the department chairman
2 and office by October 1st. If a poppy order form has not
3 been received by October 31st, units will be assessed a
4 \$25 fee and shall be allocated 100 poppies. Requests for
5 additional poppy orders shall be made to the department
6 chairman who will confirm the availability of extra
7 poppies. Upon confirmation, the unit will send in an
8 additional poppy order form to the department office with
9 copies to the department and district chairmen.

10 All those in favor?

11 ALL PRESENT: Aye.

12 DEPARTMENT PRESIDENT FERCHO: Opposed?

13 (No response.)

14 DEPARTMENT PRESIDENT FERCHO: Pass. Madam
15 Chairman, just for my note, please, at this time quietly
16 we do have to be out of the hall. I'm going to push it at
17 3:00 and I know I'm pushing it. And we're going to need
18 to have our flags removed. So if you are a flag bearer
19 and you're going to be coming up and taking your flags
20 out, please go quietly to the back of the room at this
21 time while we finish these code changes and this report.

22 Also, ladies, as soon as we get done, which we're
23 going to have to hurry it up really, really fast, we will
24 be taking down the poles. They will not be up tomorrow
25 and you will be able to sit where you wish to. Well, you

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1 have to sit in your delegation, but, you know, still sit
2 where you are, but we're not putting the poles up. Please
3 go ahead.

4 POPPY CHAIRMAN COOLEY-DEMEULES: Under poppy
5 production, it currently reads: All hospitalized or
6 outpatient veterans under supervision may participate in
7 the production of the poppies regardless of compensation,
8 provided they have VA facilities approval. Those in
9 greatest need shall have preference after the initial
10 1,000 allocations. When possible, each registered
11 participant is allowed to make at least 1,000 poppies,
12 provided the orders so warrant. The production manager
13 may determine the number of poppies to be made by each
14 participant, according to the registration and overall
15 allocations, consistent with the medical policy of the
16 facility.

17 The proposed change is: All veterans under the
18 supervision of an American Legion Auxiliary member may
19 participate in production of poppies regardless of
20 compensation. Those in greatest need shall have
21 preference over the initial 1,000 allocations.

22 I so move.

23 DEPARTMENT PRESIDENT FERCHO: It has been moved
24 and seconded to accept this proposed code change number 3.
25 Any discussion?

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1 (No response.)

2 DEPARTMENT PRESIDENT FERCHO: Code change will
3 read: All veterans under the supervision of an American
4 Legion Auxiliary member may participate in production of
5 poppies regardless of compensation. Those in greatest
6 need shall have preference over the initial 1,000
7 allocations.

8 All those in favor?

9 ALL PRESENT: Aye.

10 DEPARTMENT PRESIDENT FERCHO: Opposed?

11 (No response.)

12 DEPARTMENT PRESIDENT FERCHO: Passed. Thank you.

13 POPPY CHAIRMAN COOLEY-DEMEULES: One more.

14 Currently reads, number 6: Two shipment lists shall be
15 sent to the production managers indicating the number of
16 poppies for each order and the individual's name and
17 address of the recipient. An amount based on the previous
18 year's allocation shall be advanced to the managers for
19 shipment of poppies to the units by most cost-effective
20 means and charged to the poppy expense account.

21 Proposed change: Scanned or copies of each unit
22 poppy order shall be either e-mailed or mailed -- I put
23 e-mailed twice -- to the production manager along with the
24 district president's name, address, and phone number for
25 shipping of the unit poppy orders. An amount based on the

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1 previous year's allocation shall be advanced to the
2 managers for shipment of poppies to the district
3 presidents by most cost-effective means, having tracking
4 numbers for each shipment and charged to the poppy expense
5 account.

6 I so move.

7 DEPARTMENT PRESIDENT FERCHO: It has been moved
8 and seconded to accept the code change, proposed code
9 change. It reads: Scanned or copies of each unit poppy
10 order shall be either mailed or e-mailed to the production
11 manager along with the district president's name, address,
12 and phone number for shipping of the unit poppy orders.

13 An amount based on the previous year's allocation shall be
14 advanced to the managers for shipment of poppies to the
15 district presidents by most cost-effective means, having
16 tracking numbers for each shipment and charged to the
17 poppy expense account.

18 All those in favor?

19 AUDIENCE MEMBERS: Aye.

20 DEPARTMENT PRESIDENT FERCHO: Opposed? Oh, wait.
21 Back up. Are you -- I need to ask if there's any
22 discussion.

23 (No response.)

24 DEPARTMENT PRESIDENT FERCHO: Thank you. All in
25 favor?

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1 AUDIENCE MEMBERS: Aye.

2 VETERANS AFFAIR & REHABILITATION CHAIRMAN BIGGS:

3 Wait a minute.

4 DEPARTMENT PRESIDENT FERCHO: Do you have
5 discussion on this?

6 VETERANS AFFAIR & REHABILITATION CHAIRMAN BIGGS:

7 I'm sorry, Madam President. Anita Biggs. Can you hear
8 me? Anita Biggs, District 23. Is this -- maybe I'm not
9 reading this right or I'm sleeping. Does this mean that
10 the poppy orders, the poppies are going to the districts?

11 POPPY CHAIRMAN COOLEY-DEMEULES: District
12 presidents.

13 VETERANS AFFAIR & REHABILITATION CHAIRMAN BIGGS:

14 Do you all know that they're going to be shipped to the
15 district presidents? Is that right? I just wanted to
16 make sure I was right.

17 DEPARTMENT PRESIDENT FERCHO: Ladies, ladies.

18 POPPY CHAIRMAN COOLEY-DEMEULES: Madam President,
19 I think they were asleep when I read that one line.

20 DEPARTMENT PRESIDENT FERCHO: Okay. The proposed
21 change to number 6: Scanned or copies of each unit poppy
22 order shall be either e-mailed or mailed -- I put e-mailed
23 twice -- to the production manager along with the district
24 president's name, address, and phone number for shipping
25 of the unit poppy orders. An amount based on the previous

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1 year's allocation shall be advanced to the managers for
2 shipment of poppies to the district presidents by most
3 cost-effective means, having tracking numbers for each
4 shipment and charged to the poppy expense account.

5 Discussion?

6 MS. BAILEY: Madam President --

7 DEPARTMENT PRESIDENT FERCHO: I don't think it's
8 on. Thank you.

9 MS. BAILEY: Rosalie Taylor Bailey, District 16,
10 Unit 147. Is it my understanding that the poppies will be
11 sent to the district presidents and the district
12 president's responsibility is going to be to distribute
13 these poppies within their district or to the poppy
14 chairman, excuse me, to this unit?

15 DEPARTMENT PRESIDENT FERCHO: That is what this
16 code change is saying.

17 MS. BAILEY: I don't see how that's feasible for
18 some of these larger districts to do this. I mean,
19 it's -- it may be cost-effective for the department, but
20 it's really going to hurt the district.

21 DEPARTMENT PRESIDENT FERCHO: Well, it's not for
22 the -- Jean, you need to speak up.

23 POPPY CHAIRMAN COOLEY-DESMEULES: They could take
24 them to their district meetings and they can pick them up
25 here.

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1 (Applause.)

2 DEPARTMENT PRESIDENT FERCHO: We're going to have
3 a voice. You all have a voice. You all have a vote. We
4 have not voted to accept this. This is a proposed change,
5 so we're having discussion. Thank you.

6 MS. SMITH: Madam President, Molly Smith, Unit
7 587, Cecil Anderson District 28. I have a problem with
8 this and I'm sure that people that live in the rural areas
9 or the people that do e-mail or that have e-units would
10 have a problem with this. Because if there's 300 miles
11 between you, wouldn't it be more -- you know, if it's not
12 broken, why fix it? Is it broken that much that we have
13 to try to change it?

14 POPPY CHAIRMAN COOLEY-DEMEULES: Yes, it is the
15 cost of postage. And also during the year the addresses
16 that we receive. We have three poppy chairmen that are
17 deceased this year. Nobody gave us new updated addresses.
18 Those bounced back three different times, three different
19 postages. It ended up going to the post and unfortunately
20 that Auxiliary did not have a good Auxiliary relationship
21 with that post and they went MIA.

22 Also I had three units call and say they never
23 received their poppies and that's why the tracking number
24 is also included in this now. We had to have veterans
25 remake the poppies so we can resend them again. Only one

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1 unit was able to return those -- their original order
2 after it finally got there.

3 MS. SMITH: Thank you for the explanation. I
4 appreciate it.

5 MS. FITZPATRICK: Geri Fitzpatrick, District 4,
6 Poppy Production Manager at Yountville. There was one
7 thing that was brought up in that code that I do not like.
8 I think every poppy production manager should be sent a
9 hard copy of the orders. I had to sit for about four
10 hours and print those changes off of the scan. I think we
11 should be extended the courtesy of the orders being mailed
12 to us. Thank you.

13 PAST DEPARTMENT PRESIDENT CHRISTNER: Madam
14 Department President, Bonnie Christner. I don't have a
15 problem the fact that you want to send the information to
16 the district president. What I do have a problem is when
17 you want to send all our poppies to the district
18 president. I'm sorry, but as much as I would hate to say
19 this, some of our district presidents get busy. I'm going
20 to say they get busy. Okay. And the last thing that
21 they're going to worry about is getting your poppies to
22 you on time, trust me. If we can't even get them to send
23 out our pocket flags that they're supposed to, being a
24 chairman, I'm sure they're not going to be sending our
25 poppies to us like they're supposed to.

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1 Is there a way that we as a unit can be e-mailed
2 the tracking information in case our poppies get lost
3 somewhere that we ourselves can track them if you're going
4 to send our poppies to us in the first place? Most of us
5 have an e-mail address. Can you not give us the tracking
6 number? We can track them. Trust me, I can track my
7 poppies if I have to track my poppies. Okay? I will do
8 the work to get my poppies to where they need to go.

9 POPPY CHAIRMAN COOLEY-DEMEULES: The problem is
10 this past year there wasn't tracking numbers on them.

11 PAST DEPARTMENT PRESIDENT CHRISTNER: Are we
12 going to go with the tracking numbers then? That's a
13 wonderful thing to do. Just please don't send my poppies
14 to my district president. I love my district president,
15 but don't send my poppies to my district president.

16 DISTRICT 30 PRESIDENT TELFORD: Madam President,
17 Belen Telford, District 30. I agree to have them go to
18 the district president if that's the wish, but you have
19 your poppy chairman for the district if the president is
20 busy. If you receive them, take them to your poppy
21 chairman and have the poppy unit chairman go and pick them
22 up, you know.

23 DISTRICT 6 PRESIDENT O'BRIEN: Madam President,
24 Wendy O'Brien, District 6, Unit 521. I understand from
25 discussions I've had with different people, 60 units this

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1 year had to have their poppies resent to them. We're
2 arguing and discussing about raising it so that the money
3 can go to our veterans. That's part of the problem is --
4 and I think that we need to maybe add this to the
5 discussion of how -- what's the best thing. Because I
6 thought sending it to the district president was a good
7 thing. All units are required to go to district meetings,
8 but the dates may be a problem. All -- what I'm trying to
9 say is if you have a poppy order, you'll go to the
10 district meeting and pick up your poppy order and know
11 it's going to be there, as far as I'm concerned.

12 However, maybe this is something we need to table
13 and try and find the best way to handle it. Because it is
14 a big expense shipping them back and forth to all these
15 units so they get their poppies. But the veteran is the
16 one that's losing out.

17 AMERICANISM CHAIRMAN SOARES: I'm back. Michelle
18 Soares, Americanism Chairman, District 28, Unit 694. My
19 suggestion would be -- I'm all for the tracking. I am not
20 for sending it to the district presidents. What I would
21 be more is for the department chairman when they get their
22 list of district presidents, to double-check with them who
23 their current poppy chairman is. If there has been a
24 change and then we can get it to Peggy right away, have it
25 changed on the website and the paperwork before all those

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1 end of the year reports come out with the wrong names on
2 them.

3 PAST DEPARTMENT PRESIDENT LEE: Madam President,
4 I call for the call. I call for the question.

5 DEPARTMENT PRESIDENT FERCHO: It has been moved
6 and seconded to call for the question. No more
7 discussion. All those in favor?

8 ALL PRESENT: Aye.

9 DEPARTMENT PRESIDENT FERCHO: Opposed? Okay.
10 Now we have a motion on the floor to accept this proposed
11 change which has been read twice. So I believe at this
12 time all those -- we've had -- we've tabled discussion, so
13 all those in favor, say aye.

14 AUDIENCE MEMBERS: Aye.

15 DEPARTMENT PRESIDENT FERCHO: Opposed?

16 AUDIENCE MEMBERS: No.

17 DEPARTMENT PRESIDENT FERCHO: Thank you.

18 POPPY CHAIRMAN COOLEY-DEMEULES: There was no
19 other proposed changes to the poppy. Certificates for 100
20 percent reporting and the second and third place awards
21 for best district supplemental and overall poppy program
22 were given in committee.

23 All eligible entries have been forwarded to
24 National. A complete list of awards will be posed outside
25 or -- outside or inside, I'm not sure, of the department

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1 office.

2 Madam President, I will not at the request of the
3 audience do my supplemental report and just go to awards.

4 DEPARTMENT PRESIDENT FERCHO: And I think that's
5 a really, really nice thing to do at this time. Her
6 supplemental is amazing. I am going to ask to have it
7 posted in the department office. I would love to have all
8 you read that. And thank you, Jean, very, very much.

9 POPPY CHAIRMAN COOLEY-DEMEULES: And for time
10 consideration, I'm only going to announce on the floor
11 right now the best district supplemental and the best
12 overall poppy program report.

13 And if all the other wonderful people that have
14 come here that got first places for the poppy posters and
15 everything could see me in the back of the room, I will
16 give you your certificate, if that is okay with everybody.

17 DEPARTMENT VICE PRESIDENT MIKESELL: Thank you.
18 Ladies who have taken the little boot who plan on putting
19 it back up in the morning, if you took your little boots
20 and you remembered where you're sitting, that's fine. But
21 from my standpoint please put your little boot back on the
22 pole tonight so you can set it where you're supposed to be
23 tomorrow.

24 POPPY CHAIRMAN COOLEY-DEMEULES: For best poppy
25 program first place district supplemental report goes to

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1 Esthela Torres de Siegrist, District 18.

2 (Applause.)

3 POPPY CHAIRMAN COOLEY-DEMEULES: Okay. For unit
4 best overall poppy program report, first place goes to
5 Hawthorne Unit 314, District 19.

6 (Applause.)

7 PAST DEPARTMENT PRESIDENT QUINONES: Madam
8 Department President, Martha Quinones, Unit 241, District
9 18. Unless it's a long, long list of awards for the poppy
10 displays, they have patiently sat there, they have earned
11 their one minute in the sun.

12 DEPARTMENT PRESIDENT FERCHO: Okay. She's going
13 to give her horse a gallop and give it a go.

14 POPPY CHAIRMAN COOLEY-DEMEULES: I had no entries
15 for class 1 which is grade 2 and 3. I had no entries for
16 class 6 and 7 which is grade 12 and students with special
17 needs.

18 Real quickly, can I have the representative from
19 Unit 98, District 4 come up? They received for first
20 place for class 2 which is grade 4 and 5 to -- you
21 pronounce that.

22 AUDIENCE MEMBER: Fiorella Perez.

23 (Applause.)

24 POPPY CHAIRMAN COOLEY-DEMEULES: Class 3, grade 6
25 and 7, first place Amanda L. Britt.

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1 Poppy program first place, class 4, grade 8 and
2 9, it is Danahe Garcia. Those all received a certificate,
3 a ribbon, and they will be receiving their \$20 check in
4 the mail. E-mails kind of broke down so they will be
5 receiving their checks to you. Yes, to the chairman.

6 (Applause.)

7 POPPY CHAIRMAN COOLEY-DEMEULES: Okay. Unit 43,
8 District 24. This one is class 1 -- not class 1. Class
9 5, grade 10 and 11. It is Yarhara Soza. She is a JROTC
10 member grade 10. And again, they will be receiving the
11 check.

12 (Applause.)

13 POPPY CHAIRMAN COOLEY-DEMEULES: Poppy window
14 display, District 25, Unit 751. They had most of the
15 donations made at midyear so they received first place.

16 (Applause.)

17 POPPY CHAIRMAN COOLEY-DEMEULES: Okay. District
18 25, Unit 14 for the president's choice of poppy display,
19 Lisa Acueto.

20 (Applause.)

21 POPPY CHAIRMAN COOLEY-DEMEULES: That's for
22 president's choice. First place president's theme, Rita
23 Colton and Tamara Duron, Unit 155, District 25.

24 (Applause.)

25 POPPY CHAIRMAN COOLEY-DEMEULES: Poppy display

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1 free form. First place, Loretta Marsh, Unit 56, District
2 16. That was that beautiful wreath.

3 (Applause.)

4 POPPY CHAIRMAN COOLEY-DEMEULES: And the last
5 one, poppy usage contest. First place goes to District
6 29, Unit 716, Debra Driscoll.

7 (Applause.)

8 POPPY CHAIRMAN COOLEY-DEMEULES: That's it.

9 Madam President, I want to take this opportunity to thank
10 you for this interesting and challenging chairmanship. I
11 learned a lot and I want to thank you for the privilege.

12 DEPARTMENT PRESIDENT FERCHO: You're very
13 welcome. She's done an amazing job this year. It's a
14 huge, huge job. And I thank you. I thank you very, very
15 much, Jean.

16

17 RECESSIONAL OF DISTRICT AND UNIT COLORS

18

19 DEPARTMENT PRESIDENT FERCHO: At this time we
20 will have the procession of the flags. The
21 Sergeant-at-Arms and Marshal, Distinguished Guest
22 Chairman, please have the members that will be taking
23 their flags out at this time come forward.

24 (Processional.)

25 DEPARTMENT PRESIDENT FERCHO: Ladies, stand in

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1 place one minute. We have two dispatches and then we will
2 be recessed. Or three.

3 SECRETARY/TREASURER VOGELE: National delegate
4 and alternates, your packets are ready to be picked up in
5 the office.

6 Candy was helping us with our display says if
7 anybody has picked up their displays, please contact her
8 in the back of the room to check the items because a lot
9 of people took them and we're not sure of the proper
10 people that have checked out with their items.

11 And Gwelyn L. Wilson, Auxiliary 746 in Cottonwood
12 invites everybody to come for some down home cooking and
13 karaoke this evening. Their address is 3291 Chestnut
14 Street in Cottonwood. Thank you.

15

16 ADJOURNMENT

17

18 DEPARTMENT PRESIDENT FERCHO: Ladies, thank you.
19 Thank you very much for a great day.

20 We will recess now. We will reconvene promptly
21 at 8:30 tomorrow morning. Please come dressed for
22 installation. Be prepared for that. Thank you. See you
23 tomorrow. Or see you at the banquet tonight.

24 ///

25 ///

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1 (The American Legion Auxiliary Convention
2 was adjourned at 3:05 p.m. to be reconvened
3 on Sunday, June 24, 2012, at 8:30 a.m.)

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1 STATE OF CALIFORNIA)
) ss.
2 COUNTY OF STANISLAUS)
3
4

5 I, Karen A. Andasola, 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 93rd Annual
9 Convention was taken Saturday, June 23, 2012, 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 93rd 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 93rd 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 3rd day of July, 2012, at Modesto,
23 California.

24

Karen A. Andasola, CSR No. 10919

25