



Department Executive Committee
Meeting Minutes
April 6, 2019



The Department Executive Committee met on April 6, 2019 at American Legion Department Hdqtrs, 103 Legion Plaza Rd, Columbia, SC 29210.

Executive Committee Members Present:

Dept Commander John Britt
Dept Adjutant Nick Diener
Department Historian Russ Cantrell
NEC Michael Strauss
Alt NEC Bob Scherer
Dept 1st Vice Cmdr Walt Richardson
Dept 2nd Vice Cmdr Roberta Poulos
Dept 3rd Vice Cmdr Ron Price
Dept 4th Vice Cmdr Robin Rucker
D-1 Cmdr Jim Jarvis
D-6 Cmdr Jim Kvam
D-7 Cmdr Charles Bethea
D-8 Cmdr Chuck Shaffer
D-10 Cmdr Tommy Sinclair
D-11 Cmdr Jack Lonergan
D-12 Cmdr Charlie Davis
D-14 Cmdr Michael Brandt
D-15 Cmdr Vacant
D-17 Cmdr Jim Thrailkill
D-18 Cmdr Larry Pouncy
D-19 Cmdr Bob Gibbons
D-20 Cmdr Dave Mills
PNEC Bud Hennis
PDC Joe Lysaght

Absent:

JA Steven Lewis
Asst J/A Anthony Livoti
Dept Chaplain Bill Quarles
Dept Sgt-at-Arms George Oxner
D-2 Cmdr Blankin
D-3 Cmdr Lewis
D-4 Cmdr Southworth
D-5 Cmdr Wright
D-9 Cmdr Doc Sweet
D-13 Cmdr Carlton Patterson
D-16 Cmdr Defrehn

Also Present:

Rifle Raffle/Membership Chairman D. Walton
Exe Dir. M. May

Cmdr John Britt welcomed everyone to the special called DEC meeting and asked everyone to uncover and called on Vice Cmdr Rucker for the invocation. The Commander read Resolution 288, led the Pledge of Allegiance and then asked everyone to join him to recite the Preamble. He called on Dept Adjutant Diener for the roll call. Adjutant Diener called the roll and informed the Cmdr there was a quorum to conduct business.

Dept Cmdr Britt: We have two sets of minutes to approve today or dispense with the reading of, we have our last DEC meeting and the minutes of our special called meeting. Is there a motion to dispense with reading both sets of minutes?

Vice Cmdr Poulos: I make a motion we dispense with reading both sets of minutes.

D-1 Cmdr Jarvis: I second that motion.

Dept Cmdr Britt: Any questions? All in favor say aye? Opposed? Motion carries.

We have no old business to go over according to your agenda? Alright, new business, Membership Chairman, Darlene Walton.

Mbrship Chairman Walton: Ok, right now we are standing with 59 of our Posts that have reached 100% and as of this morning I believe Nick is passing out the most recent one, we are at the 63%, 93%, excuse me. Our next goal date is on Wednesday for us to reach the 95% so any of those that are processing online need to still get those in and then the ones that need to come to Headquarters, they need to be here by today or by Monday at the latest. We're still pushing for that 95% mark. There again, all I got to say is it's everybody's job to work membership. And I'm sure that a lot of you saw when you came in the door as far as what the District standings are, like I said, I know it's a hard job to try to convince these people to get our there and work their membership but like I said to, it's not just our Commander's its everybody working together. Now, District 9 got a hundred percent today! (applause)

I'm going to shift gears, Commander, and go into our Rifle Raffle, I asked a lot of people to use the Rifle Raffle as a means to also recruit members. If you're talking to them about buying a ticket, why not ask them if they're a member and push it that way. As of this morning, we have made total sales on our tickets, \$94,750.00. Out of that \$56850.00 is for the Department, we've got some happy posts out there, they're making some money and we've got, like I said, we've got 3790 tickets that have been brought in, there's 17,000 tickets out there. So let's keep working it, it's for the Department as well as the Posts. Any questions?

D-1 Cmdr Jarvis: How many did you say we have in?

Rifle Raffle Chairman Walton: 3790. Before I step away, I would just like to say we've got an individual in there that has a birthday today, happy birthday Mr. Lonergan. (applause).

Dept Cmdr Britt: Finance Report, Commander Jarvis?

Finance Chairman Jarvis: Thank you Commander. Financially we're getting better each day. Right now we're continuing to move in the right direction, we have \$196,179.03 in that combined savings account which is membership savings and general savings so we're still moving, it's a positive, it's a reserve. They're passing out the February statement, we're still getting in the information for the March statement at this time, we're always lagging a month. It's pretty cut and dry, we're on schedule, we're moving as expected through the budget with this statement. Two things I'd like to point out, overall, it's self-

explanatory but two things I want to pick out, they're both on the first page. Now that we have this new format we don't have, I can't go line item, one or ten or whatever, because we just can't get the line item numbers on there but on the first page, the first one is Fisher House. It's about \$2000.00 something. But in reality, at this point in time, we're about \$5500.00 so we need about \$2,000.00 to get to goal on that and it's a way of helping veterans, we need to do it. So please, go out and push your people again and remember, I mean, it can be an individual, a person donation or a post or whatever even a non-member can make a donation to it but we'd like to at least get to our goal number and right now we're about \$2,000.00 short. So that's not quite right, that's based on February, right now we're up to \$5500.00. The other one towards the bottom there is the car expense, we took the Adjutant's car in, we had the oil flushed and transmission flushed, and coolant flushed and tune up, oil change and that kind of thing and that's where that expense came in on the automobile. But that's really it, everything is following track on the statement for only two months into the year. One other thing I want to remind you of though, just FYI, we used 2018 money so we've already paid into the membership savings and that's part of that \$197,000.00 and that's a plus for us because we've got that sitting there as we go through the year in case something comes up. We've also been able to reduce the checking accounts down now to five from seven. Realistically we're still looking at them, but realistically I don't see us getting below that but right now that's we're at. Mortgage, we have a signed letter locking in slightly higher than what we anticipated at 4.9% at ten-year amortization. Back in December, January we were hoping for 4.75% but it turned out to be 4.9% but we have a letter locking that in. And we're in the paperwork process right now but we wanted to get that locked in so that's where the mortgage is at right now.

One thing that we did authorize, the finance committee authorized was expenses taken out of the maintenance, the dance hall had in the floor board, not the floor board, the baseboard, on the one section, termites. So we got the people in, Terminix in, and instead of just doing there we went all the way around the building, but we used the building maintenance on that. They made a couple of recommendations. We're looking at it, but that kind of dovetails with, also coming out of that maintenance money, we're going to take down this little tree right here so we can try and widen that entrance way a little bit, that little tree over here at the base that eventually is going to take up and start damaging the sidewalk and the large oak tree down there, because branches are falling off of it and that's where people are parking. And we have branches that are not our trees but along the 107, the Auxiliary building down there, coming over onto the roof. So he's going to trim all that back and he quoted us about \$1900.00 to do all that. I was pleased with amount, especially with that large oak tree.

Vice Cmdr Richardson: And they're going to clean it up?

Finance Chairman Jarvis: Yes and grind the stump and everything.

NEC Strauss: That's a very good deal.

Finance Chairman Jarvis: So we're going to ask them, going back to the termite issue, we're going to ask them and talk with them about pulling out the bushes because that's the problem with those termites. So we're going to see where that one will fall in. So that's issue and that's what we're working on at this point.

Rental utilities. Right now, the dance people pay their own electric. But Baseball and Auxiliary including 107 A through F, they have a separate meter, but we pay the bill. Our agreement with them is rent plus utilities but that's just an extra layer in there. So we're going to do away, everybody's going to have their own bill so we're not going to deal with it. We'll deal with our bill, Auxiliary will deal with their bill, they can do with the electric. Water right not is cost prohibitive because we would have to put a new meter and that's \$2500.00, \$3000.00. The only other thing the Finance Cmte is asking is at this point,

Commander, I'd like to make a motion that you create a fundraising ad-hoc committee to investigate things like the Sweepstakes and that the committee gets their ideas and findings together that they report it to the finance committee and that committee work together to try and figure an answer out the declining revenue from the sweepstakes and that's our motion.

Dept Cmdr Britt: We have a recommendation from the finance committee, is there a second?

Vice Cmdr Price: I second.

Dept Cmdr Britt: No discussion?

Finance Chairman Jarvis: More mind on this would be helpful. I mean, just three minds in there trying to figure this out is not a smart way to go about it. I'm hoping there's somebody out there that's got a pretty good knowledge with fundraising, I personally don't. And to lead this up, but we get volunteers to help, get four or five people, don't, he's laughing over there, the birthday boy.

D-11 Cmdr Lonergan: Exactly.

Finance Chairman Jarvis: But that's what we're asking for folks, we need some help on this and it's going to help all of us, we have a downward trend on the Sweepstakes. We are basically paying \$1.25 to make a dollar and that was the first thing that bugged me and then when we looked at it we have a group, that's basically, if we don't do something, we've got them settled for the spring one but for the fall we're going to get hit with it again. It's my understanding, reading what they sent, they want to take over all and I repeat, all sweepstakes, we can't let them touch the Rifle Raffle. So we're up against a brick wall, we need some help here. That's why we made that motion.

Dept Cmdr Britt: Any other comments or questions?

D-7 Cmdr Bethea: Who wants to take over the Raffle?

Finance Chairman Jarvis: Well, this organization wants to take over all raffle/sweepstakes and run them all for us. And like I said, for the sweepstakes, we're paying like a dollar and a quarter to make a dollar. There's no way I want them to touch that.

D-7 Cmdr Bethea: Why are we paying somebody to do that?

Finance Chairman Jarvis: That's why I'm asking for an ad-hoc committee, that's the way that we're doing it. So somebody's got, we need to work something out.

Vice Cmdr Price: We can't simply tell them no? They're not going to take over our.....

Finance Chairman Jarvis: Well, we don't know that until we get confronted with it so we're trying to, what's the word, head it off at the pass. And work this out because I wasn't happy with them to start with so I don't want to keep going with them, I'd rather figure out how we can at least make some money, we're paying out almost more, you know, we're paying out more than we're bringing in.

D-20 Cmdr Mills: Is there a contract with them, I mean, are we locked into something?

Dept Adj Diener: Each six months, each time we do one of the sweepstakes right now, we are. What they tried to do this last time was get us to sign a contract that locked us in for the year, but they wanted to be exclusive on it.

Finance Chairman Jarvis: And that's what bugged us.

Dept Adj Diener: A-six page contract. We went from a one-page contract that we've normally signed with us and they sent us a six-page contract. And we went back and said uh-uh. So we did a one-page for this time but before that comes up again in the fall, we need to have in mind what we're going to do.

Vice Cmdr Richardson: Jim, how much income do we have coming in to the Department from the Rifle Raffle, not the Rifle Raffle, the Sweepstakes?

Finance Chairman Jarvis: I don't have my book; I've got that answer for you. We cleared about \$40,000.00.

Vice Cmdr Richardson: That's for the year or for one Sweepstakes?

Finance Chairman Jarvis: For the year.

Vice Cmdr Richardson: Ok, what was our expense to make that?

Finance Chairman Jarvis: \$55,500.00.

Vice Cmdr Richardson: Ok, so we're spending, and when I say we're spending, that comes out of the pot so the company's getting \$55,000.00, we're getting \$45,000.00?

Finance Chairman Jarvis: Basically.

Vice Cmdr Richardson; So if we take, our committee, whoever they are, if they come up with an idea, realistically, we have \$55,000.00 to spend on equipment, on IT upgrades, so, so the first year, if we spend \$55,000.00 and still make \$40,000.00, we've broken even, that's with the expense. The second year, we've still got the equipment so it would be possible for us to go from \$40,000.00 to \$95,000.00, is that correct?

Finance Chairman Jarvis: Yes.

Vice Cmdr Richardson: If all the numbers stayed the same.

Finance Chairman Jarvis: And we have the labor to do it.

Vice Cmdr Richardson: Right. All of this is not counting labor.

Dept Cmdr Britt; Any other questions? Hearing none, all in favor of this motion?

Vice Cmdr Poulos: Ad-hoc Committee?

Dept Cmdr Britt: Let's pass it and then I'll appoint the ad-hoc committee. All in favor say aye, opposed? Motion carries. Next thing, ad-hoc committee, do we have any volunteers? Robin, Tommy Sinclair, Jack and David Mills. That's five?

Finance Chairman Jarvis: Four.

Dept Adj Diener: Vice Cmdr's can't sit on any committee.

Vice Cmdr Rucker: On an ad-hoc committee you can't?

Dept Adj Diener: The Constitution just says you can't be on any committee.

Dept Cmdr Britt: Ok, we have three.

Vice Cmdr Richardson: That comes under finance and that would come under the 1st Vice Cmdr.

Alt NEC Scherer: I know you've heard this before, are there any plans to putting The American Legion on the front plus fixing the (inaudible).

Finance Chairman Jarvis: That's on my list too and I was going to start with the bushes and the committee's already kind of throwing out a couple ideas on that so we can see it from the road.

Alt NEC Scherer: Ok, I heard about that.

Finance Chairman Jarvis: Any other questions for me as far as finance?

D-11 Cmdr Lonergan: Bridget would be good on that too, and the reason why is she's good with techy things.

Finance Chairman Jarvis: She was on my list too.

D-20 Cmdr Mills: Unfortunately, she's out sick today.

Finance Chairman Jarvis: Nothing else? Thank you, Commander.

Dept Cmdr Britt: Nick?

Dept Adj Diener: I'll make mine short and sweet, I'd just like to remind everybody that May 1st is the due date on registrations for the convention so please make sure you get that word out to your posts. That's also the day we run the finalized delegation strength so if they've got membership cards get them in if they want to get them counted. It was out in the last Connector but just a reminder to you all that on that Friday night, Jim Kvam and the Centennial Committee is going to be putting on a reception for the 100th Anniversary, our 100th Birthday. We're going to have cake, a little bit of booze until that runs out but that will be on that Friday night so mark that onto your calendar.

I want to make a push, as you're talking to your posts at your District meetings, please hit Law Cadet, the registrations are coming in slow. We've still got time on it, that's a great program and we need to support it and need to push that with your posts to get their folks registered and get them in to that.

Ok, and the last thing I have is, the Commander asked me to bring this up. I'll try and explain this the best we can and try to keep it short. We had an issue that we dealt with back in February that dealt with our Legislative committee and I'm not going to go into all the issue but basically the Commander as our Legislative committee to work on an action which they did. We had a complaint come in based off of the

committee and there was part of it that they were correct on it. So what I want to do is, that committee is composed of seven people, three of them are Legionnaires that are appointed, the other four, the Constitution requires that it be state Senators that are Legion members and two state Representatives that are Legion members. The problem with that is in the time that I've been here, we've only had one meeting, and I think you had one last year Commander Rucker, we've only had one meeting that we've ever got a Legislator to come to. However, and I ran this through the Judge Advocate, to have a quorum for that committee to do anything, requires four people to be there. Which means if you don't have a Legislator there, that committee can't even meet. That's going to be, nothing we can do about it this year but that's going to be an ongoing problem, but I wanted to bring that problem up to ya'll. We did go back and looked at it, and went back to anything to Commander Rucker, when he was the Legislative Chairman, anything that they did, because technically actions that they voted on had to be undone, there was nothing that had to be undone. Your one main action was a Resolution and it got passed, it got put forward to the convention.

Vice Cmdr Rucker: Actually she was here when we brought that Resolution up. She was here when we started the process.

Dept Adj Diener: When you started the process, right.

D-1 Cmdr Jarvis: I'm working one right now, we're at the email stage, I've asked Commander Rucker to e-mail me the title and everything of what he was working on but I'm working on at least a state Congressman. He's Legion eligible but right now we're back and forth with the e-mail, he was a student of mine. And so I'm trying to put the screws to him.

Dept Adj Diener: And the problem is two-fold with those Legislators. One, it's finding the ones that are Legion members and getting them to meet with the committees and the second is getting them out of their schedules to come to a meeting. We're not high on their priority list.

D-11 Cmdr Lonergan: Would it benefit us to have meetings in their office?

Dept Adj Diener: Which one?

D-11 Cmdr Lonergan: Whatever one.

Dept Adj Diener: That's up to the committee chairman. But again, what we're faced with this year, is those four people that were appointed, one of them didn't get re-elected, one of them resigned and the other two are no longer or they didn't renew their Legion membership. So none of the four people that got appointed are eligible to be on the committee.

D-10 Cmdr Sinclair: Are you hunting names right now?

Dept adj Diener: We're working names but I'm just telling you that's been a problem, the particular issue that came up, the actions that they wanted, that John wanted to go before the committee, the committee looked at it, they voted and basically that vote, going back and looking at it, was invalid. I'm just making you aware it's a problem, we can work it some this year but that's something that needs to be considered next year, is there a way to make up that committee differently for next years convention, for a constitutional change. Because like I say, I've talked to several of the past leadership and other than Commander Rucker's meeting, no one can ever remember a Legislator showing up for one of those meetings.

D-1 Cmdr Jarvis: Jack may have had a good idea, take the meeting to them. To be real about it, all we need is one.

Dept Adj Diener: You have to have one plus all three Legion members. And what's been going on in the past, right or wrong, the committees always looked at it as if they had two of three regular Legion members there, they took that as they had a quorum and that was wrong.

Vice Cmdr Rucker: Jack, the only problem you have is from January until May, you can't get them because they're in session and they won't even talk to you hardly about it. That's the only thing (inaudible), that's how we got her here, I think that was in December but once that session starts, it's hard to get them.

Dept Adj Diener: And one thing we need to look at hard next year is we even want to leave those Legislators on there as committee members. You have a committee and appoint Legislators on there as advisors. There's solutions to it but we just have to recognize the way it is now, we're rarely if ever going to get that committee to have an official meeting, it's going to be a rarity. And I just wanted to make ya'll aware of that.

D-20 Cmdr Mills: So if we get these other people in place, can the re-appointments be done so that they can get those numbers, like Jim was saying so they can be re-appointed and they can't, so we won't have to wait a whole 'nother year to re-align the committee?

Dept Adj Diener: Right now, Commander Richardson, the leading candidate, is looking at trying to get people on there for next year.

D-20 Cmdr Mills: Right, well, I know that.

Dept Adj Diener: And Commander Britt can certainly re-appoint for the remainder of this year, but the problem is still going to remain.

D-20 Cmdr Mills: I know that.

Dept Adj Diener: You can appoint them but getting them to come to a meeting is....

D-1 Cmdr Jarvis: Part of the thing is, like Tommy was just telling me, he's got one too and what we're talking about here is personal push. And that's not like you're going up to somebody that you don't know so there's some options out there.

Dept Adj Diener: Like I say, getting the names to put on the committee is not as big of a challenge as once you get them on there, getting them to show up. At the time that we need them to show up, and the sad part of this is, we've just over the last two years really started to try to get that Legislative committee back energized and technically they can't even meet unless they have four people there, meetings over. Ok, no action to be taken or voted on or anything, I needed to apprise you all of that because like I say, when the complaint came back in on that, that the committee didn't have a quorum and couldn't take any action and the post that brought that up was exactly right. We were wrong. Ok, Any other questions for me? That's all the updates that I have Commander.

Dept Cmdr Britt: It's that time of year that I give my report to the DEC. Bear with me as I read this.

To our Supreme Commander I give thanks for life and health, to the thousands of Legionaries of the Department of South Carolina, to staff of the Department, thank you for allowing me to be the Commander. This year has passed and now is the time for me to give you my annual report. This has been an exciting year and it has been my honor for to serve you as your Department Commander. This the “100th Year Celebration” of the American Legion both National and the Department of South Carolina. We have many reasons to Celebrate, as we should. But there were also pitfalls along the way. This past year we have had growth, yet we have not reached 100% in membership as of this writing. To keep The American Legion strong, we must reach that 100% plus 1 every year. We must reach the younger population; this is where our growth and future lies.

My project this year was to give to the Fisher House \$7500 Dollars. Thank you to all of you who have donate \$5500 to the project. We are Veterans serving Veterans and this should always be in the fore front of what we do. I have met many of you this year and the Post are doing a great job in that mission. Our youth programs this year were filled-to-capacity. If you have never been to the opening night at Boy’s State, you have missed a treat. To watch those boy as they moved about campus and filled the theater, the enthusiasm and excitement is greater than any rock concert you have ever seen. Girl’s State is not the same. There the excitement is more refined and orderly, but the enthusiasm is the same. I wounded up the week at Boy’s State graduation at Anderson University and quickly got to the Criminal Justice Academy to be there for the opening of Law Cadet week. Back at the end of the week to that graduation. I felt pride in that program when they called out the winner of the top cadet for the week. A young lady that wanted to go home after the first day but chose to stay after talking to one of our Legionnaires. We have a good oratorical program, but we are lacking in support of this program. There are two programs we need to get more involved with. They are Scouting and shooting programs.

With your support and the funds from the “Rifle Raffle” we were able to put the Department on a sound footing finically. It looks like that our latest rife raffle is going to be a big success. And the posts are getting a larger portion of the proceeds on every ticket sold.

The Legion lost two past Department Commanders: Past Department Commander Will McLaughlin and Past Department Commander Gary Mitchell. We also Lost District Commander Leroy Williams. They are missed and will be honored at the Post Everlasting program at the fall Conference.

For the future of the Department I would recommend that a new 5-year plan be implemented in the following three areas:

1. Training for all officers at the Department and Post levels.
2. Veterans Programs. Look at enhancing the programs the we now fund and research new programs that we need to be funding.
3. Membership. Look for and implement ways to recruit new and younger members. After all the younger members are the future of the American Legion

My theme this year was “T.E.A.M.” which is The Enthusiasm Among Members. This past year I have not seen that the Department Executive Committee (DEC) with a team attitude. The team has one coach and the team. though they may disagree, should follow the coach and the play book. In the past year, the DEC has had many play books. This will destroy the team and the origination. We must come together and support the team.

I hope that the next year the Department can find its way to rebuild the team. The Department of South Carolina has the potential to be the best Department in all The American Legion. After all we are Veterans Serving Veterans.

We in South Carolina have a rich history, some good and some not so good. The American Legion Department Of South Carolina is a big part of that history. We have done many things to improve the

lives of the veterans of South Carolina. Let us continue to do the job we were founded for, “Veterans Serving Veterans.”

As the time comes to pass the gavel, it has been my honor to have served you as Department Commander. I will return to my Blue Hat and I will be there the support the Greatest Veterans Organization in the world. I am here for you and all veterans.

To my wife Judy who has put everything on hold for this past year to support me, a special thank you

May God Bless You
May God Bless “The American Legion”
May God Bless America
For God and Country
John H Britt
Department Commander 2018-2019

(Applause)

Ok, are there any items for the good of The American Legion.

D-10 Cmdr Sinclair: I some concerns, good kind of concern. Boys state is going to max out (inaudible) anybody know how that’s going now? (inaudible).

Dept Cmdr Britt: All of that is handled by the boys’ state committee and Stephen Lewis.

D-10 Cmdr Sinclair: He’s not here today.

Dept Adj Diener: I can get that.

D-1 Cmdr Jarvis: They’re going to be at max, the last word I got.

Dept Cmdr Britt: Robin Rucker, I saw your hand next. Turn around, face the chair.

Vice Cmdr Rucker: I just want to get the word out about job fair we’re having at (inaudible) AME Church, we’ve got over 20 companies that’s coming, like Dominion Energy, Blanchard Machinery, all this will be in the...we even have Gulf Stream Airplane coming so if you’re interested, see me afterward.

NEC Strauss: Mr. Commander, I’d just like to remind you that they’re going to Live Stream the National Oratorical contest, we do have a contestant from Goose Creek, our three-time winner, who will be competing in that and the Washington Conference we attended as a team up there. We did very, very well. I think we reached a lot of the Representatives up there and I think as a whole a lot of good things came out of the conference.

(unidentified speaker: Do you know what time that is tomorrow?

NEC Strauss: I can look for you real quick.

Dept Cmdr Britt: Anything else: Jack, come on up Jack.

D-11 Cmdr Lonergan: Cmdr, on behalf of the 92 members of American Legion Post 175 in Dalzell, we're going to help your goal come out a little bit. We had our meeting back in March and I was moved that we donated money to Fisher House last year and Commander Hennis had mentioned it was the first time in a long time that we had done anything for veterans in this meeting. So I talked to my post about it and one of my post members made a motion that we donate \$500.00 to the Fisher House. But then another one of my members matched it so have a total of \$1,000.00. (applause).

Dept Cmdr Britt: All we need is \$1,000.00 to meet the goal.

Vice Cmdr Poulos: Well, I can help a little bit with \$200.00 from Post 9.

Dept Cmdr Britt: Thank you Roberta (applause). And we will continue to take conations through the convention for Fisher house. And I thank each one of you that have donated and the civic groups and the posts and the personal donations, I thank you very much for that. Anybody else for the Good of The American Legion. Ok. In my closing comments, I was very honored and proud to have laid the wreath at the Tomb of the Unknowns at Washington Conference. It's humbling to be there, just to be at Arlington and to walk down and physically take hold of the wreath and laying, it's something that I will never forget. It's a special part of my whole life and I thank the Department for allowing me to go to that conference. Like Mike said, it was a good conference. Anything else, hearing none.

Commander Britt called on Vice Cmdr Rucker for prayer and closed the meeting.

For God and Country,

Nick I. Diener
Department Adjutant

ND/mm

