



Department Executive Committee  
Meeting Minutes  
December 10, 2022



The meeting of The Department Executive Committee meeting was held on December 10, 2022, at The American Legion Department of SC, 103 Legion Plaza Rd, Columbia, SC 29210

Dept Cmdr Jim Jarvis  
Dept Adjutant/NEC Micheal Strauss  
Alt NEC Joe Lysaght  
Alt NEC James Holland  
Imm PDC Ron Price  
Dept Historian Tim Taylor  
Dept 1st Vice Cmdr Jim Kvam  
Dept 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice Cmdr Bruce Donegan  
Dept 3<sup>rd</sup> Vice Cmdr Jim Rabon  
Dept 4<sup>th</sup> Vice Cmdr Jack Lonergan  
D-1 Cmdr Darlene Walton  
D-3 Cmdr Kevin Brown  
D-4 Cmdr Wayne Southworth  
D-5 Cmdr Jack Smith  
D-6 Cmdr Bill Simpson  
D-7 Cmdr John Galloway  
D-9 Cmdr John Comins

D-10 Cmdr Doug Dilleshaw  
D-11 Cmdr Peter St. Onge  
D-12 Cmdr Charlie Davis  
D-14 Cmdr Michael Brandt  
D-15 Cmdr Richard Dorman  
D-16 Cmdr Courtney Peeples  
D-18 Cmdr Larry Pouncy  
Dept Sgt-at-Arms Kevin Joy  
Dept Chaplain Richard Mullinax  
PDC Jim Hawk  
PDC John Britt  
PDC Bob Scherer

**Absent:**

Dept J/A Cody Mitchell  
Dept Asst J/A Stephen Lewis  
D-2 Cmdr John Coy  
D-8 Cmdr Mark Cannito  
D-13 Cmdr Rick Gibson  
D-17 Cmdr Jerome Childs  
D-19 Cmdr Mark Thompson  
D-20 Cmdr David Mills

**Also Present:**

Tom Yarborough, Dept Finance Chairman  
M. May, Dept Exec. Director

John Benjamin, Dept Finance Cmte Member  
Russ Cantrell, Dept Law Cadet & C & Y Chairman

Department Commander Jim Jarvis opened the meeting and called on Department Chaplain Mullinax for the invocation. Commander Jarvis read Resolution 288, led the DEC in the Pledge of Allegiance and the Preamble to the Constitution and called on Adjutant Strauss for the roll call. Adjutant Strauss called the roll and announced that there was a quorum.

**Commander Jarvis called for a motion to dispense with the reading of the previous Executive Committee minutes. A motion was made by D-9 Cmdr John Comins and a second was made by Vice Cmdr Jim Kvam, all present voted in favor to dispense with the reading of the previous DEC minutes.**

Dept Cmdr Jarvis: Ok, the first thing on that agenda, and I just want to give a quick update on the VEAC. It's on track, several of us were up in Wilmington about three or four weeks ago and fine-tuned some of our ideas on that. The one thing that kind of concerns me at this point is we're not getting the volunteers. We need you guys to push the posts to get us the volunteers to make sure they know what is going down. Now, understanding that the midlands area is one thing with the people coming in and those further on out may want to help. And that's what we need to know, who they are so we can schedule them like, let's say in the afternoon or something like that. So I need you to be pushing that with your Districts and getting the volunteers. And call Cmdr Walton or send her an email so she can get it down so we can figure out who's going to do what, when and where. Right now I have the Riders are taking a poll of themselves because I've asked the Riders to do the parking. And the Auxiliary's onboard for doing the registrations. So most of what our volunteers will be doing will be on the inside the building helping escort, getting clipboards out, getting registration forms out, that kind of stuff so we need the volunteers at this point. Anybody have questions at this point?

PDC Hawk: Are the volunteers going to be in shifts, like four hours?

Dept Cmdr Jarvis: Yup, we're going to try to work around when they're available. If they want to be there all three days, great. You know, half a day or whatever. Understand, something of them will be working on Thursday and Friday so, and we'll also need volunteers for that Wednesday and that Sunday. Wednesday to get everything up and Sunday to take everything down.

Unidentified Speaker: Do you have any hours of the day?

Dept Cmdr Jarvis: I would venture to say it will be somewhere between 7:00/7:30 and 5:00 at night. It starts at 9:00 but most people are there and they're ready to go and they've been starting them early at the ones in North Carolina and that was my intent. They're going to get there early, that first onslaught, especially on Thursday. So I would be ready go, in fact I told the parking people that we need, we've got to get them off of that, I think it's Bluff Road. So we're going to be needing to parking people relatively early. The actual event's 9:00, we cut off at three 3:00, registration but figuring it's going to take another couple hours' worth of people being seen. Ok, any other questions?

Unidentified Speaker: What are the dates?

Dept Cmdr Jarvis: 23, 24 & 25 March. That's the actual event. 22 and 26 are the set up and take down days.

District 19 Cmdr Pouncy: So just about a whole week of it.

Dept Cmdr Jarvis: It's five days' worth, setup, take down two days and the event three days. Any other questions They need volunteers, or we need volunteers, this is a big endeavor. We've done it in small groups, in small areas but as a whole, as a State, this is a big endeavor. And it's a great opportunity to directly help the vets. Ok, after this, I'm going to shift softball to after the finance committee so I'm to call on Commander Walton to do the membership report, please?

Membership Chairman Walton: Ok, as all of you know this is our 75% goal mark and out of that 75%, out of our 20 Districts, we've only had 7 Districts that have reached that and then we have several of that, that have reached their 80%. One thing that I really, really stress are you all sending down the reports that I'm sending you all to your actual posts so they can actually see. Try to make this a competition within your Districts. Let them understand what their buddies next door or down the road are doing. Because I have

found that in some of these Districts that are using that a lot, and that's what's helping them. And these posts that are under 15, like I said, coming into December, there again, their officers and stuff are no longer in compliance because that's the end of the year if they haven't got their dues in and the post isn't in good standing. So all I've got to say let's keep pushing, guys. And we're looking at possibly doing some meetings with some districts or quadrants after the first of the year. I will get more information out on that. But does anyone have any questions concerning anything concerning membership? Like I said, I think one of our big drivers right should be the VEAC because that's where we can more of these veterans aware of what's going on and what they can do to join us, thank you.

Dept Cmdr Jarvis: Thank you, Commander Walton. I'm going to call on Tom Yarborough now, our finance chairman.

Finance Cmte Chairman Yarborough: Thank you. This is going to be in three parts, if you will, please hold your questions until we finish the three parts, I'd appreciate that. Ok, the first thing that we'll look at, which is in your packet, is the profit & loss statement January through November. I'm going to point out several things to you as we go through that.

The first thing on the income is line # 40433, which is LIT Insurance income. Generally we get \$20,000 to \$30,000 a year from that. Then every three or four years depending on what's going on, we get additional money. You can see that's a significant increase. And that \$3,000, we separate that, and we give part of that to the VA hospital in Charleston and the VA hospital in Columbia.

The next thing I'll call your attention to is at the bottom of the first page, line # 72140, Fall Conference. You can see that was significantly over budget. We had anticipated that because food prices (inaudible) Marriott. On the next page, item # 70135, Pin & Plaque. I think that's actually two years' worth of that (inaudible) cost of that has gone up consistently, so we just have to deal with that. The next thing to take a look is the car insurance and car expense item, items 60320 and 60310. You can see that they are over budget. One thing about the car insurance, we won't know what the car insurance, we won't know the cost for that until we get the bill sometime in 2023. And so we are always running behind on that. But notice, we're going to talk about the Commander's vehicle in a little bit if you'll be patient. You'll notice it's a fairly significant expense for that vehicle. The next thing I want to take a look at is line item 60290 just below that, mortgage and interest expense. And you can see that the expenditure is a lot higher than the budget. If you remember at the December of '21 meeting, there was a recommendation from the finance committee to make a substantial contribution to the mortgage expense. And so what that is there. On the next page, the last page, 75110 is emblem sales expense. And again, the prices and cost for that from National has gone up considerably and I think some committees are looking at that, but I just wanted to point that out to you. The following thing there is employee expenditures, and you can see that we are significantly under budget. If you remember what happened is we changed adjutants during 2022 and the budget for 2022 had the previous adjutant there for six months and the new adjutant was going to come in January. And I think what happened was the new adjutant came in I believe, in March and so that reduced that amount. And the other thing that was in the budget what I call severance, but I think it's an accumulation of untaken sick leave that the previous adjutant was paid for, kind of like a package (inaudible). So that's the profit & loss statement for January through November. It's not required to vote on that, it's just provided to the DEC for information. If there are any questions on that, I'll take your questions before we go to the next item.

NEC Lysaght: Are we still looking at paying off the mortgage in 2024?

Finance Chairman Yarborough: Yes, we'll talk about that (inaudible).

Dept Cmdr Jarvis: That's something that we're going to talk about in this 3<sup>rd</sup> phase.

D-5 Cmdr Smith: Did we pay for the Rifle Raffle tickets bringing printed and the rifles this year?

Dept Adj Strauss: Yes.

D-5 Cmdr Smith: Why isn't that on the 2022 budget? I see the income that we got for last year, and the expense but it should be a lot higher because you printed the tickets, and you bought the rifles for next year out of this year's budget.

Dept Adj Strauss: Ok, we did already buy the rifles already for next year out of this year's budget, that was planned, and the tickets.

D-5 Cmdr Smith: I don't see it on here.

Dept Cmdr Jarvis: It's there because what you're thinking is the other year they were both paid for in the year they were given out.

Dept Adj Strauss: So the rifles we bought for this year's raffle came out of last year's budget. You buy them in the previous year and then you raffle them off in the next year.

D-5 Cmdr Smith: I know but it doesn't show it here because again....

Dept Adj Strauss: The Rifle Raffle expense where it says January through....

D-5 Cmdr Smith: Are you classifying where it says Rifle Raffle expense \$37,000.00? But that's on the 2022 budget.

Dept Adj Strauss: That's this year, that's this year. The \$37,000.00 is for this year. We spend \$37,124.00 and we budgeted, what we're saying is we budgeted \$37,000 and we spent \$37,124.00.

Dept Historian Taylor: We went over \$124.00 basically.

Dept Adj Strauss: Basically.

**Finance Chairman Yarborough:** Any other questions? The next thing we need to do is move to the budgets. If you'll notice they're in a packet, I hope they're in the right order. First thing we're going to do is the **Americanism Budget**, let's take a look at that. Two things I want to point out on that and then we'll take questions. The first thing is under income there's something called General Fund Transfer of \$10,500.00 and that is happened in the past but in the past it's come out of the year end fund or the continuing fund balance or whatever (inaudible) called that. And our committee felt that for the purpose of transparency and full disclosure, it should be included here so that's going to come out of the Department budget and go to the Americanism budget. Now, out of that \$10,500.00, \$8,000.00 remains in the Americanism budget and \$2,500.00 goes in the Law Enforcement Cadet Academy budget, we'll see that in a minute. So, I want to point that out to you. The other thing I want to point out to you about a third of the way down there's a Hall of Fame plaque of \$1,700.00 which has been added. So what the Baseball Organization intends to do is to create a presentation case or something like that and actually it's a Hall of Fame for Americanism Baseball participants over the years. So that is the budget for Americanism, are there any questions on the budget? **There being no further questions, the finance committee recommends approval and requests a motion from the floor for approval.**

**Vice Cmdr Kvam: I make that motion.**

**Vice Cmdr Lonergan: I second that motion.**

**Dept Cmdr Jarvis: Any questions or discussion? All in favor, raise your hand? All opposed? None opposed. That passes.**

**Finance Chairman Yarborough: The next budget that we'll go to is the proposed Nathan M. Wolfe Cadet Academy Budget. One thing I want to point out to you there is, as you can see just above York Co it says Americanism, \$2500.00. It originates from the Department budget (General Fund) goes to the Americanism budget and transfers to the Law Cadet budget. Again, that's been done in the past, we just felt like (inaudible) transparent. Are there any questions on this budget? **There being no further questions, the Department finance committee recommends approving this version of the Nathan M. Wolfe budget.****

**Vice Cmdr Rabon: I make a motion.**

**Dept Cmdr Jarvis: Second?**

**Vice Cmdr Kvam: Second.**

**Dept Cmdr Jarvis: Any discussion? All in favor raise their hands? All opposed raise their hands? No opposed. Motion passed.**

Finance Chairman Yarborough: The next budget is the **ALRSC 2023** budget proposal. And the only thing I want to point out there is the ROMP 2024 fundraiser. And ROMP stands for Riding On Military Pride. And that's something that committee is looking at doing for 2024 so they've got this in planning and (inaudible) in 2023 so that's why the \$1500.00 is included there. We got a presentation from the committee and apparently this has occurred before in Ohio and Indiana and in 2023 it's occurring in the state of New York and it's a possibility this event could be brought to SC in 2024 and I think they're talking possibly hosting it either in the coast area or the Rock Hill area. And that is \$1500.00 and that is **needed to prepare for that. Are there any questions on this budget? Ok, there being no further questions, the Department finance sub-committee recommends approval of this budget (inaudible).**

**D-1 Cmdr Walton: I make a motion that we approve.**

**Dept Cmdr Jarvis: Second?**

**D-10 Cmdr Dilleshaw: Second.**

**Dept Cmdr Jarvis: Any discussion? All in favor raise your hand? All opposed raise your hand? Motion passed.**

Finance Chairman Yarborough: The next budget is the proposed **Sons of The American Legion budget** and there's nothing to point out in particular there. Are there any questions on the Sons of The American Legion budget? **There being no further questions, the Department finance sub-committee recommends approval for this budget and requests a motion from the floor for approval.**

**D-15 Cmdr Dorman: I make the motion to accept.**

**Dept Cmdr Jarvis: Second?**

**D-6 Cmdr Simpson: Second.**

**Dept Cmdr Jarvis: Any discussion? All in favor, raise their hand? All opposed? Motion passed.**

Finance Committee Chairman: The next budget is the Department budget and there's several things I want to go through there and then we'll take questions. The first thing is on the first page the 4<sup>th</sup> one down, the sweepstakes where people buy cards and that kind of thing. The recommendation is that be eliminated. We think the program has run its course, it costs more money and less had come in, plus the outside organization that manages that for us gets a significant portion of the proceeds from that. We feel it's better that the post get involved in the Rifle Raffle because that generates money for the posts as well as the Department. So that's why we recommended that sweepstakes program be eliminated.

The next thing is on the first page down toward the bottom is the fall conference expenses. We just talked about it in looking at January through November for the Fall Conference. . (Inaudible) even though its \$15750.00 in 2022, the recommended increase is \$25,000 for 2023. The convention's going to be held at a motel here as opposed to the Marriott downtown and at the time we put the budget together there had been no determination where the Fall Conference is going to be held so we feel like it's an adequate amount of money. We did have a question earlier about the mortgage and interest expense. What we have on there for 2023 budget, you can see that on the next page about mid-way down, is \$110,568.72. That and we're going to talk about something (inaudible) is that pays the mortgage will be paid off by December 31, 2023, with that figure, that's in the budget . The number below that is that Americanism transfer we talked about, again for full disclosure and transparency, of \$10,500.00. The other thing is the property tax and that is in Lexington County, we've got to pay property tax on the rental property here. I know the adjutant has been negotiating with them, probably been cussing at them too (laughter) we put that in the budget because that's the expense we feel like we're going to have. Ok, the next thing is at the top of the 3<sup>rd</sup> page, the Cmdr & Adj Expenses. We feel like they represent the Department at several events, things like Boys State, the event in North Carolina for The American Legion Baseball tournament, if they opt to take the softball tournament and make it a partnership and things like that, and it's just inadequate funds. And then if they have to stay overnight, of course, the Commander's done a lot of travel relative to the VEAC. So we moved that up. You know, 1100% seems like a big thing but you see the dollar difference there is pretty insignificant.

Down below that you see Emblem Sales expenses and we talked about that the cost that is going up and I think some committees are looking at that and possibly reducing that, but right now it's \$5,000.00. Let's look down at employee expenditures, that's always something that generates some interest. The first thing is you see the Adjutant's payout, that's when our Adjutant retired and so that's one that's not in the budget. And then you see, it's a little difficult to compare the two of them. In the employee expenses, there is a recommended pay increase. I'll give you a little background on that. I was on the committee last year and at the December meeting, we proposed a pay increase, I'm going to do this from memory, but I think it was for 2.5%. A recommendation came from the floor for 6%. And a recommendation from the floor is an appropriate thing for the DEC to do, so there's nothing inappropriate about that. That recommendation was made and approved. Now, some people call it an allowance and some people call it something else. For Social Security, the cost-of-living allowance (COLA) was 5.9%, and the increase that was given was 6%, so it was a merit, if you will, of .1% for the full-time staff here at Department Headquarters. In 2022, the COLA, adjustment or whatever you want to call it, for Social Security, is 8.7%. And so the amount that we recommend for the COLA for the staff is 6%. When you have a COLA adjustment like that, it affects four things. It affects Social Security tax of 6.2%, Medicare tax of 1.45%, again, that's the max that the Department has to make on behalf of the employee, that same amount is

taken out of the employee's paycheck. And also there's federal unemployment tax (FUTA) and there's state unemployment tax (SUTA). The total amount in the budget referencing the increase is just shy of \$7300.00, \$7297.06. And I think that's the last thing, I'll be glad to entertain any questions regarding the budget for 2023.

NEC Lysaght: What is our mortgage payment now?

Dept Jarvis: \$9200.00.

NEC Lysaght: So starting in January we'll start saving \$9200.00?

Dept Cmdr Jarvis: 2024.

**Finance Chairman Yarborough: Any other questions? There being no further questions the Department finance sub-committee approves this budget and recommends a motion from the floor.**

**Vice Cmdr Kvam: I recommended we approve this budget as presented.**

**Dept Cmdr Jarvis: Do I have a second?**

**D-11 Cmdr St. Onge: Second.**

**Dept Cmdr Jarvis: Any discussion? All in favor, raise their hand? All opposed, raise their hand? One opposition. Motion carries. The budget for 2023 is accepted.**

Finance Chairman Yarborough: Before my final presentation, I just want to mention a couple things. We've spent an awful lot of time developing the budget and considered a lot of things that went on. John Benjamin back there (Inaudible) Grady had to resign, and the Commander was able to talk Nick Diener into coming on the committee. So that's the committee, me as Chairman, and John Benjamin and Nick Diener, who couldn't be here today. We also had both the Commander and the 1<sup>st</sup> Commander Kvam that joined us in most of our meetings. I really appreciate that; we had good discussion and that kind of thing. I especially want to thank these two individuals over here, because we put a lot of requirements on them they responded awfully quickly. We appreciate that and that made that go a lot smoother. The final thing that I want to make a recommendation on and go back in history a little bit. When you have an organization like this, you have your revenue and expenses, you got to get away from (inaudible) and talk about your actual, or your income and expenses. If so, the amount of money, if you come in under budget, that goes into what I call the year the year end fund, some people call it the continuing balance fund and stuff like that. If you think about your home, it's what is left in your checking account. And that's what we're talking about now, is what is left in the checking account, and this is the year end funds. There's some recommendations here, there's actually four of them that we talked about and then we'll have to vote on that. The first thing is we have a process where we put \$2.00 per member into a reserve fund for the Department. So the first recommendation, there's going to be four of them, is that we put \$40,000.00 in that reserve fund out of that year end money.

The second thing is we have a request from the Ladies Fastpitch Softball, they're going to have something. National Convention is going to be in Charlotte, and they're going to have something during the National Convention called a Classic Carolina All-Star Ladies Fastpitch Softball game. And that request came in late, that request came from North Carolina, and it was after we put the budget together. And so it's a request for \$2,120.00 (inaudible). The other thing and this is to (inaudible) on this, and I

want you to kind of follow me through this before I (inaudible). We talked about the amount that we had in the budget, that meant the mortgage's going to be paid off in December of 2023. What we want to do is we want to have the mortgage paid off at the time of our Fall Conference in October so we can (inaudible) and all this other stuff that goes along with paying your mortgage. So what we're asking is out of these year-end funds, is we take \$20,000.00 and advance that payment for the remaining part of 2023. It won't really cost us anything because since we have it in the budget, the budget for the year end funds going into 2024 because we wouldn't have paid it out of the budget, we're paying for it (inaudible). So that's just for the appearance of it and that kind of thing, (inaudible), so that's the \$20,000.00 there. The last thing we want to do is we want to replace the Commander's vehicle before the Commander has to call Uber or one of those people to come pick him up. The vehicle is a 2014 vintage, its high mileage, we talked about this earlier in the presentation and we think it should have been replaced. It should have been replaced last year, one thing happened, and I think might have counted too much. We didn't want to put into the budget because the Commander's vehicle's got value over a long period of time. And the way that we're set up, we don't really do depreciation and that kind of thing normally. And so if we put it in the budget one year at \$45,000.00 (inaudible) so the next one goes down, so we want to kind of smooth that out. Actually the payout for the Adjutant last year and we kind of talked about that too, when I first met with the Commander and the Adjutant when he talked about going into this role. That is something that is accumulated over a period of time. So what you would have wanted to have done is accumulate that and kind of expense it over the life of every year expense portion, that kind of thing, not getting the whole whatever it was in one year. The Accounting system kind of drives that. So for that reason we want to put the Commanders vehicle, the replacement, is to put it out of the year end funds. So, all those numbers I just gave you total \$107,120.00, which will come out of the year end funds which will accomplish those three things. If there are any questions on that I will take them.

D-5 Cmdr Smith: What is going to be our total end of the year funds that you say are not committed or whatever?

Dept Cmdr Jarvis: It's approximately \$140,000.00, we think, because we still don't have all our bills in yet. And we still have to deal with, basically, the rest of this year.

D-5 Cmdr Smith: Ok, I thought he said at the end of the first one he said we'd have \$40,000.00 left.

Dept Cmdr Jarvis: Well, we would if we did this.

D-5 Cmdr Smith: But you don't know exactly how much you're going to have until after the end of the year?

Dept Cmdr Jarvis: After the first of the year.

D-5 Cmdr Smith: Then why are we bringing this up?

Dept Adj Strauss: Because we don't want to meet again.

Dept Cmdr Jarvis: If I can I want to talk a little bit, the softball there, and that's what I moved earlier there down to this area, What we got going is we just had two very successful years, each year growing with the Ladies Fastpitch Softball. A clash between North Carolina and South Carolina has been talked about for a couple years. What North Carolina jumped in on was with the Convention this year, National Convention, being in Charlotte and to showcase Ladies Fastpitch Softball to other Departments other than the 10 that have Ladies Fastpitch Softball, they came up with the idea to have a Ladies Fastpitch clash



between North Carolina and South Carolina. That's where all that came from. Now, what they're proposing is the girls, we need to know this now so they can play this all out through the season so that we have this all-star group of girls. Because one, the girls would get their own way up to Charlotte, ok? They'll come up there on the Sunday, that's where the parade used to be and they have an opening, they're going to get a stadium close to the convention so that they can get people to come out and see this. We'll have a luncheon there at that stadium, they have a room, and part of the expense is us paying \$500.00, North Carolina paying \$500.00. North Carolina's taking care of the field, taking care of all that. What we're looking at as far as expenses are concerned, was a luncheon of \$500.00, T-shirts for the team, South Carolina all-star type T-shirts, was \$240.00, game lapel pins was something to give them to take away from the game, was \$250.00, and the medals was going to be about \$1,000.00, split in half between us and North Carolina, so that's \$500.00, the MVP was \$2500.00, a winner's cup, and this is going to be set up, or the intention is to set this up as an annual event, the end of season, the softball season, for the Ladies Fastpitch each year. So once this...that expense happens one time and then it will just be just passed on from year after year. Hopefully it will never leave South Carolina. There's talk about an event booth at the convention. That's a \$200.00 expense per Department, with the 10 Departments, so it's \$2,000.00 National charges us to have a booth there, so our share of that would be \$200.00. If the other 10 fall through, North Carolina's picking up what happens, the fall-out from that. And promotional items, that's about \$155.00, that's things to put out in the booth. And the total is \$2120.00. It's a great opportunity for South Carolina to showcase this, the idea is for a North Carolina / South Carolina game at the National Convention to showcase this and get some of the other Departments onboard. And National is onboard with it, National has set that window, ok? So I just wanted to make sure you saw where all that was coming from, the \$2,120.00, ok? Any questions on that?

PDC Hawk: Correct me now. This is between just North and South Carolina, and you want it every year during the National Convention?

Dept Cmdr Jarvis: No, no, no, no, no. They're taking this opportunity being at the National Convention, just for the Charlotte one.

PDC Hawk: And after Charlotte, it's through.

Dept Cmdr Jarvis: Yeh, we'll try to put it to the upper half of South Carolina one year, the lower half of North Carolina the next year and go back and forth.

PDC Hawk: And just remain a Carolina thing, North and South?

Dept Cmdr Jarvis: Yes.

PDC Hawk: Alright, thank you.

**Dept Cmdr Jarvis: Any other questions on that? \$40,000.00 to go into the savings, which we hadn't paid. In the past we always pre-paid that, this year we didn't because we put that toward the mortgage last year. So that's \$40,000.00, the vehicle is \$45,000.00, the softball is \$2,120.00 and the \$20,000.00 to move the end of our mortgage payments up, I thought it was a great idea to do that the Conference and let everybody get involved with that. No fires, maybe a shredder or something. And that total is \$107,120.00, and that is with the end of year money. And that leaves the checking account at the desired level, and we still have money out there for bills, that's what we need the motion on. If there's no further questions, I call for a motion on the end of year expense.**

**D-18 Cmdr Pouncy: I make motion that we accept that end of year expense.**

**Dept Cmdr Jarvis: Second? I**

**D-1 Cmdr Walton: I make a motion that we accept.**

**Dept Cmdr Jarvis: You second the motion?**

**D-1 Cmdr Walton: Yup, whatever.**

**D-1 Cmdr Jarvis: I had to think what I was supposed today. All in favor, raise your hand, all opposed. No opposition. The end of year money proposal from the finance committee is accepted.** I want to throw in that he made a comment about everybody else, but I tell you what, the finance committee has put a lot of effort and time into this budget and for that I am very appreciative, under your leadership. But the three of them are working, they mesh together, they are doing a great job and make sure you tell everybody that. Not Nick (laughter, applause). Ok, I'm going to call on Commander Simpson to come up and talk, you should have copies of it and all prepared. The Constitution & Bylaws Committee has been meeting, and what you see here are going to be easy ones. They're all, some of them look like they're a nightmare, that double one and stuff like that. All we're trying to do is make some corrections in this, some things are in one area, and they need to be in another area vs that area, that's all that went down. It's your show. i

**Constitution & Bylaws (C & B) Chairman Simpson:** I'm Bill Simpson, I'm the Chairman on the C & B Committee, I've been asked to Chair the C & B Committee and I want to report to you on what we've done so far, and I want to thank my committee for all the diligent work on getting all this done. So, if you'll just follow with me, we're going to do this one at a time and Commander Jarvis will ask for the vote on each one. So the very first one, as you see, is (Amendment, Article I, Constitution) **Article I, all it is, I'll read the explanation of what we've done. It's the Association shall be known instead of know, it's just a grammatical error and adding the letter 'N'. So the Article now reads now reads this association shall be known as The American Legion, Department of South Carolina and shall be comprised of Posts established and chartered in the Department. The Department headquarters shall of The American Legion Department of South Carolina will be located in Columbia, SC. I'll make the motion that we accept this change.**

**NEC Lysaght: Second.**

Dept Adj Strauss: Just to clarify what he just said there. The motion's basically to send it the body of the convention. We're not approving the change in the constitution today; we're approving the bylaws changes to go to the convention where it will be voted on again.

**Dept Cmdr Jarvis: We have his motion and NEC Lysaght seconded it. Any discussion? All in favor raise their hand, all opposed. Approved by the DEC to move forward to the convention floor.**

**C & B Chairman Simpson:** Alright, the second one is titled Discipline. (Amendment 2, Article XI, Constitution). Look through you'll see where certain things are lined out and everything. And we're just trying to get everything in line with National. The explanation down at the bottom is **District Commanders are not considered Department Officers They are members of the Department Executive Committee. District in South Carolina do not have Constitution and bylaws and the district would not have an executive committee large enough to conduct its own trial.**

**Article XI Section 4 would remain unchanged and remain in the Constitution and bylaws. I offer a motion that the DEC accept this change.**

**D-1 Cmdr Walton: I second make that motion.**

**Dept Cmdr Jarvis: Any discussion?**

D-5 Cmdr Smith: Are we talking about Amendment Four?

C & B Chairman Simpson: Two.

Dept Cmdr Jarvis: It starts at the top, it has Article XI, under Discipline.

D-11 Cmdr St. Onge: I have a question about...there are some Departments out there who have posts in the prison system. I have no problem with this amendment but there are Departments out there, Pennsylvania, Virginia who have posts within the prison system. This hear talks about a post officer can't be a felon, how would that allow a post within the prison system.

Dept Cmdr Jarvis: We don't have one right now.

D-11 Cmdr St. Onge: We don't, but we (inaudible) exclude the possibility that we'll have one.

Dept Cmdr Jarvis: No, we would have to change it, but we don't have one now so that's the way the committee approached that.

Dept Adj Strauss: Because we're recording so your voice can carry to the recorder.

D-18 Cmdr Pouncy: There was a post at Evans Correction Institution in Bennettsville.

Dept Cmdr Jarvis: There was at one time.

D-1 Cmdr Pouncy: Yes, sir. I think was started about the time Mr. Willie McLaughlin was Commander.

Dept Adj Strauss: There was. So this resolution doesn't change the fact that you can have a felon in your post, it just said they can't be a post officer. You can have a convicted felon in your post, you just can't have a convicted felon on your distinct or post executive committee.

Dept Cmdr Jarvis: But what Commander St. Onge is saying is ok, if you have a Post in the prison system, you're going to have to have one of them as their Commander or Adjutant, and so forth, their officers. That could be the issue at that time. If or when we establish a post in the penal system.

(discussion took place that could not be picked up by the microphone)

Dept Adj Strauss: That's the way it is right now, we're just changing terminology to talk about the current situation. The terminology is changing from department or post officer. Now, when you're talking about a Department officer, you're talking about the Commander here, but we're changing it to the executive committee. Because different posts have different executive committee set-ups, their post officers might be different. But as of right now, if we were to say, if we had a department officer, that only includes the

vices, the chaplain, the historian, and the commander and adjutant. But we're basically clarifying to make it the entire executive committee, not just the officers of the post.

D-11 Cmdr St. Onge. (Inaudible) my objection is only to the part where we're adding post executive committee members, we're adding the terminology for it, therefore (inaudible) post in the prison system, we'd have to go in and take it back out since we're adding it now. If you just left everything at department and district.

Dept Adj Strauss: Post is already in there, if you'd look at the top.

C & B Chairman Simpson: Yeh, it's already in there.

Dept Adj Strauss: It's already in there, post officer's in there, we're just changing it to post executive committee.

D-18 Cmdr Pouncy: Ok, post executive committee, ok, I got it.

Dept Adj Strauss: So it's already that way.

Vice Cmdr Rabon: Will we be required to run a background check on each and every officer to insure they're not felons.

Dept Adj Strauss: No, just if it comes to light that person is you'd need to take action.

**Dept Cmdr Jarvis: Anymore discussion? All in favor of Amendment 2, raise their hand? All opposed raise their hand? Motion carries to pass Amendment 2 to the convention floor.**

**C & B Chairman Simpson: Ok, the next one is Amendment 3, Article V, Department Convention (Constitution). Explanation: Currently a measure already in place and makes it in line with the National constitution and procedure. All other sections of Article V will remain and will be unchanged. What it is and you see it in bold, (30) days prior to the opening of the Department Convention. That you have to get your delegates in. I offer a motion that we accept this change.**

**D-1 Cmdr Walton: I make that motion.**

**Dept Cmdr Jarvis: You second.**

**D-1 Cmdr Walton: I second, excuse me.**

**D-5 Cmdr Smith: He asked for a motion.**

**Dept Cmdr Jarvis: He gave the motion. Ok, motion, here, seconds there. This is just taken verbatim out of the National constitution. All in favor, raise their hands? All opposed? No opposition, Amendment 3 carries to be presented to the floor.**

**C & B Chairman Simpson: Alright, the next one is Amendment 4, from the By-Laws, Article 1, Section 1. Election of Officers. What we did here, we just took this out of Department Section and put it in the Bylaws for the election of Post Officers. And the explanation is the Article is for Post officers, the deleted paragraph does not belong in this section. The section already exists in article**

**VII of the Constitution already. The addition of "post" makes it clear that this section is referring to Post Officers, and not Department officers. I make a motion that we accept this change.**

**NEC Lysaght: Second.**

**Dept Cmdr Jarvis: Any discussion? All in favor of Amendment 4 being passed on to the State Convention floor, raise their hand? All opposed? No opposition. Passes to go on to the Convention floor.**

**C & B Chairman Simpson: The next one's Amendment 5, and that's consolidated with 6. (Bylaws). Explanation: This terminology brings South Carolina in line with the American Legion National Constitution and bylaws. Section 1: b) and c) & Section 2, 3, & 4 would remain unchanged. I offer a motion that we accept this change.**

Dept Cmdr Jarvis: Do we need to talk about them together or do them individually?

Dept Adj Strauss: Either way is fine.

Dept Cmdr Jarvis: Ok.

**C & B Chairman Simpson: Alright, we'll back up, I'll rescind that motion. We're going to # 6, that's consolidated with # 5.**

D-5 Cmdr Smith: Huh?

C & B Chairman Simpson: I'm sorry?

Dept Adj Strauss: We're going to vote on them jointly, 6 & 5. It's the same article that's why they were combined.

D-5 Cmdr Smith: I don't see a combined over here.

Dept Adj Strauss: On the bottom where it says Amendment 5 is consolidated # 6, do you see that on the bottom?

**C & B Chairman Simpson: (Bylaws Article VII) And the explanation of 6 is it mentions "cause, this language was added to reduce confusion. It also adds the word "or" to bring it in line with the National Constitution change. Article VII Sections 3 & 4 would remain with no changes. I will offer a motion to accept the changes as combined.**

**NEC Lysaght: Second.**

**Dept Cmdr Jarvis: Ok, Amendments 5 & 6, any discussion?**

D-5 Cmdr Smith: I'm trying to look at both of these at the same time. On the first one where it's got Amendment 5, (Inaudible) I couldn't find it over here on Amendment 6, because again it says, if you read the last, next to the last line on Article 7, "Shall be eligible to become or remain a member of The American Legion." The word NOT, is missing. Because as I read it, it says anybody that wants to

overthrow the government, in our Constitution, can be a member and remain a member. Because the word NOT, is not there. They shall be eligible, he or she shall be eligible.

Dept Cmdr Jarvis: If you read this and look at the whole thing and look at commas and not periods, to me it's saying each post of The American Legion Department of SC shall be the judge of it's own membership, **comma**, subject to the restrictions of the National and Department Constitution and Bylaws comma, except that no person who is a member of an organization which has for its aim the overthrow of the United States Government by force or violence **comma**, or who subscribes the principles of any group opposed to our form of government, shall be eligible or remain a member of The American Legion.

D-5 Cmdr Smith: They should not be, that's my opinion. That's my opinion.

Dept Cmdr Jarvis: Does anybody else see that?

D-16 Cmdr Peeples: And if I listen to you, Commander, and as I read both, also the National point of view of it in Article V (Inaudible), to me the shall be eligible to become or remain a member of The American Legion. And I read this at least four times to try to make sense out of what it was saying, and I heard what you were saying too. But my question is, what my initial thought process was that the action that he or she makes, they would still be a member of The American Legion.

Unidentified person: Would you repeat that please?

D-16 Cmdr Peeples: As we read, may I read it?

C & B Chairman Simpson: Sure, go ahead.

D-16 Cmdr Peeples: Except that no person who is a member of an organization which has for its aim the overthrow of the United States Government by force or violence COMMA, or subscribes to the principles of any group opposed to our form of government COMMA, shall be eligible to become or remain a member of The American Legion. The action that he or she takes as far as disciplinary action from the National point of view or Post point of view that they will not be taken out. They can still become a member of The American Legion. That's what I read it as. But it does not say as the (Inaudible), that these people are not taken out, they are not a member of The American Legion.

Dept Cmdr Jarvis: I see what you're saying, and I agree with you Jack, that (Inaudible), it could be either way. The big thing here is that this is verbatim out of the National Constitution, and that was part of our goal, was to start using that.

PDC Hawk: If you go back up, and I'm listening to everybody, and you read it, Commander, where it says Except that, in Bold, NO PERSON And all the other stuff that comes after is a preposition to who what where when. If you put NO PERSON in front of shall be. NO PERSON shall be eligible to become or remain a member of The American Legion. All the others, as the Adjutant (Inaudible), is the add on to the explanation of NO PERSON.

Dept Cmdr Jarvis: What about saying Department Constitution and Bylaws period. Take out EXCEPT THAT, and just start that new sentence with NO PERSON who is a member of an organization which has for its aims the overthrow of the United States Government by force or violence or who subscribes to the principles of any group opposed to our form of government, SHALL be eligible to become or remain a member of The American Legion.

D-5 Cmdr Smith: SHALL NOT.

Random discussion by unidentified members.

PDC Hawk: To amend what National had and leave out EXCEPT THAT and just start with NO, is that what you're saying, Commander?

Dept Cmdr Jarvis: Yeh, as a new sentence.

PDC Hawk: Beginning a new sentence with NO.

Dept Cmdr Jarvis: It still, it still meets the National's intent but it may be clearer to some people. Now, but what I don't know is can we approve this with that change?

Dept Adj Strauss: We can approve with amendments and then the Constitution and Bylaws, which we do have two people here today, you know, we would have to send it to them to see if they're ok with that change. But we can approve it with amendments.

PDC Hawk As amended.

Dept Adj Strauss: As amended, if we want to go that route.

Dept Cmdr Jarvis: Why don't we take a motion on the way it's right here right now?

PDC Hawk: You want to amend that motion.

Dept Cmdr Jarvis: And once he makes that motion, and it's seconded, then we can amend that motion.

**C & B Chairman Simpson: I make a motion that we accept the Amendment 5 & 6 combination as written.**

**Vice Cmdr Kvam: I second that motion.**

Dept Cmdr Jarvis: Ok. All in favor raise your hand. Oh, wait a minute, I'm sorry, any discussion? Why don't you do that, no, you can't.

Dept Adj Strauss: Yes, he can.

Dept Cmdr Jarvis: Can he?

C & B Chairman Simpson: Yes, he can. He has voice and no vote.

PDC Scherer: He has voice and no vote.

**PDC Hawk: I want to amend beginning with EXCEPT THAT. Omit the words EXCEPT THAT, and begin that sentence off with a Capitol NO Person who is a member of The American Legion, etc, etc. etc.**

**Dept Cmdr Jarvis: And go back and end the Constitution and Bylaws with a period?**

**PDC Hawk: With a period, right.**

**Dept Cmdr Jarvis: Ok, how do we accept that?**

**D-9 Cmdr Comins: I recommend that a comma be added after NO PERSON, so the other is highlighted is where the person is and (Inaudible) after that.**

PDC Hawk: Good.

Dept Cmdr Jarvis: Good call.

**Dept Adj Strauss: Comma after the NO PERSON? Do you accept that? Amended?**

**PDC Hawk: Yes.**

Dept Adj Strauss: Who seconded it?

**D-9 Cmdr Comins I seconded it.**

C & B Chairman Simpson: Do I have to rescind the first motion?

Dept Cmdr Jarvis: No, you don't have to rescind, it just say you make a motion that we accept the original with the amended changes.

**Dept C & B Chairman Simpson: I make a motion that we accept amendments 5 & 6 with the recommended amendment change.**

**D-3 Cmdr Brown: Second.**

**Dept Cmdr Jarvis: All in favor, raise their hand, all opposed, one opposition. Amendments 5 & 6 with amended changes has passed.**

C & B Chairman: Alright, Amendment 7 (Constitution, Article VIII Election of Department Officers) & 8 (Article X Constitution, District Officers), it's another combined one. What we did here, the explanation is that on 7, Sections 3-5 and 7 will be deleted and moved from Article VIII to its current location in Article X. Section 6 will stay and become renumbered Section 3. Section 3 agrammatical error took out word "Department". What we did we moved DEPARTMENT ELECTIONS to the place where it should be in the Constitution in DISTRICT ELECTIONS. So we just made it a separate entry and changed the Article numbers and the Section numbers.

Dept Cmdr Jarvis: Clarification on that is how the committee looked at it, and for lack of a better term, the Department Officers are the white hats and the red hats, and the District Officers are the blue and white hats. If you look at the top of that page, it says ELECTION OF DEPARTMENT OFFICERS and it's talking about District Commanders. We're taking it out of there and putting it under the District Commanders. There's an awful lot of lines but the whole thing right there is get the District Commander part into the Section that it should be in, that's all that it amounts to.

**C & B Chairman Simpson: I offer a motion that we accept these changes to 7 & 8.**



**D-1 Cmdr Walton: I second that motion.**

**Dept Cmdr Jarvis: Any discussion? All in favor raise your hand, all opposed raise your hand? Combination 7 & 8 has been approved to be sent to the Convention floor.**

**C & B Chairman Simpson: Amendment 9 is (Bylaws, Article V - C) NATIONAL SECURITY COMMISSION, you see what's been lined out. This committee shall be comprised of two (2) Senators and two (2) State House of Representatives so forth and so on. The explanation is to remove the requirement of having State Senators and Representatives on the Legislative Committee and change the Legislative Committee and change the number to three (3) members of The American Legion. It was discussed at the meeting that it's hard to get the Senators and everything to attend anything to vote on. So I offer a motion that we accept this change.**

**NEC Lysaght: Second.**

**Dept Cmdr Jarvis: Any discussion? All in favor, raise your hand, all opposed, raise your hand, no opposition. This is passed to pass on to the convention floor.**

**C & B Chairman Simpson: Alright. Amendment 10 (Bylaws, Article V, Section 1, # 5), getting the current wording, you see it lined out, Legislative (comprised of two (2) State Senators and two (2) State Representatives. Explanation: The removal of the requirement of the Legislative committee consisting of State Senators and Representatives due to the constant change of House and Senate schedules. A three (3) member Legionnaire committee will better serve our Veterans as issues arise that will require interaction with the State Legislation.**

**There again, it refers back to what we just approved, so I offer a motion that we accept this amendment 10.**

Finance Committee Member Benjamin: I'm working on an amendment on committee that would have more than three members. Is that going to cause a problem?

Dept Cmdr Jarvis: Yeh, you got to do that separately and it's got to go before Constitution and Bylaws first. Second to that?

**NEC Lysaght: Second. Any discussion? All we're doing is changing the wording as a result of the previous vote. No discussion? All in favor raise your hand, all opposed. No opposition, passed to go to the convention floor.**

C & B Chairman Simpson: Alright, that's all I have as far as the Constitution and Bylaws but I do want to thank my committee for the diligent work that we've done on this to present to this DEC meeting, thank you.

**Dept Cmdr Jarvis: Thank you. (applause). Ok, I want to talk about, we had a Post, 201 in Gaffney. Their charter's been pulled, they've dissolved. What we have is property. And what we need is an ad-hoc committee to tell us what they recommend what we with this property and how we have, what we've got, I don't know what we have. So what I've asked was PDC Britt to chair it, I've asked PDC/Adjutant Hawk to be on it with his expertise and knowledge of the past and I asked Commander Comins to be on that committee since it's in his District. And I would make a motion**

**that those three members be on an ad-hoc committee to advise the DEC on what to do with that property in Gaffney.**

**NEC Lysaght: Second.**

Dept Cmdr Jarvis: NEC Lysaght seconded that motion. Any discussion?

D-9 Cmdr Comins: Do we have any idea what they owned? Because when I first became Commander, I went up there, and I couldn't really find where anything was I got an address from somebody and I don't remember who it was.

Dept Cmdr Jarvis: That's what you got to find out.

D-9 Cmdr Comins: So you have no idea.

Dept Adj Strauss: We've got a little bit of an idea and we can talk about that afterward.

D-18 Cmdr Pouncy: They've got a post home.

**Dept Cmdr Jarvis: Ok, any other discussion on that? All in favor raise your hand, all opposed. That's been approved.** I'm now going to turn this over to over to Department Adjutant for stuff.

Dept Adj Strauss: Wow, that some intense stuff there, but great stuff on both committees doing their job there and it's really great that we have great committees doing their job. A number of things I've got to go over. First of all I want to talk about the merger of Abbeville and Ware Shoals Post 100. Abbeville and Ware Shoals... Ware Shoals touched base with us since our meeting at the convention and mentioned that they mentioned that they would like to fold up, pretty much. They were talking about merging with Abbeville. Both posts are wanting to do it and right now we are in the process of doing it. I know we have Commander Brandt here, who has also recommended that those posts merge, but it does take your approval to merge the two posts, to accept that. So if we have a motion for that?

**D-1 Cmdr Walton: I have a motion that we combine those two posts to the best of their ability.**

**Dept Adj Strauss: Very good, do we have a second?**

**D-6 Cmdr Simpson: Second.**

Dept Cmdr Jarvis: Any discussion on that?

D-5 Cmdr Smith: Will their post numbers change since your combing the two, which one will be deleted, and which will be keep.

Dept Cmdr Jarvis: Ware Shoals will be deleted, and Abbeville will absorb them. And Ware Shoals doesn't have a home or anything so it's just a straight thing forward. They've already closed out their accounts and everything for Ware Shoals. Any other discussion? **All in favor of combing the two posts, raise your hand, all opposed, raise your hand. Motion passes. (all present voted in favor of merging Abbeville Post 2 and Ware Shoals Post 100).**

Dept Adj Strauss: Very good.

D-10 Cmdr Dilleshaw: What does it take to get a merger of two posts, is this something I can do offline with it or something.

Dept Adj Strauss: Yes, quickly, you have to get both posts to vote, in their minutes, you have to get minutes from both posts voting on it. You have to notify all the members of both posts that merger's going to happen, you have to mail letters, retain copies of those letters. Have the meetings that they're going to do. They have to figure out, A, what the new post is going to be on the new stuff, are you going to be a joint hyphenated name, then they've got to get all that. Once it gets approved by us, then they've got to all the legal stuff to get everything changed.

Dept Cmdr Jarvis: The first step is membership team needs to be in there first, before anything else is done, to see if they can salvage both posts separately.

Dept Adj Strauss: Commander Galloway, do you have any news on Timmonsville post?

D-7 Cmdr Galloway: I mean, I have talked with 140, these posts that want to be a post. But I don't have anything for you today. But I've been talking with them.

Dept Adj Strauss: We've been down there and done certain things and I think it's very important that be let known that we are very close to pulling their charter.

Vice Cmdr Rabon: What post is that?

Dept Adj Strauss: 47. We can talk afterward, I just wanted to see if you had a report. **Ok, so this past June, the Federal folks added Juneteenth as a Federal holiday. Typically we have Federal holidays off and we're looking for a motion to add Juneteenth to the policies and procedures manual for our day off.**

**Vice Cmdr Lonergan; I make a motion to add Juneteenth to the policies and procedures manual as a day off for the Department staff.**

Vice Cmdr Kvam: I second that.

D-5 Cmdr Smith: Juneteenth, what?

Exec Dir May: Read the newspaper, Jack.

Dept Cmdr Jarvis: Will someone explain Juneteenth to me?

D-18 Cmdr Pouncy: It's a holiday.

Dept Cmdr Jarvis; Part of the issue to me is that, you know, we've got a lot of Federal holidays out there, and we're already closed on all Fridays.

Exec Dir May: Well, we work a lot of weekends too, a bunch of weekends.

Vice Cmdr Lonergan: Yes, you do.

**Dept Cmdr Jarvis: I mean, I have a motion, I have a second, if there's no further discussion, all in favor? All opposed? Passes**

**Dept Adj Strauss: This committee asked our neighbor, Schroeder's Towing about buying the lower building. He had said no, he didn't want to buy it. Now he's approached us again about buying it, I told him I didn't have the authority to sell it. My recommendation is to not sell the building, I think that we're doing fine with our profit and loss with them. We have some good tenants down there, but I don't make that decision, I'll let you make that decision.**

**Vice Cmdr Rabon: I make a motion that we do not sell it because of the personality problems that we have with him.**

**D-6 Cmdr Simpson: I'll second it.**

**Dept Cmdr Jarvis: Ok, any discussion? With no further discussion, all in favor of that motion, which means not selling, raise your hand, all opposed. Do not sell. (Motion to not sell the lower part of 107/109 Legion Plaza Rd passed).**

Dept Adj Strauss: We're not selling, I'll let him know. Wayne Southworth, where are you? Well, since we had our convention, Commander Dillard sent Wayne Southworth a letter in the Race to the Top competition. He finished 2<sup>nd</sup> in the Nation in the District category in the annual Race to the Top competition. He received a letter from Nick Arnette congratulating him on that, so I think we ought to give him a round of applause. Membership efforts don't go unnoticed, we're doing really good, a few of you've got big posts out there, we need a good little chunk here, so if you can go back and talk with some of your larger posts that might be able to us a few memberships this week. We're trying to get them in prior to the 14<sup>th</sup>, if you can just kind of remind your membership people that we need those in before the 14<sup>th</sup>. It's very, very important that we try to get that 75% to maintain the big 12 money if we can do so.

Child Welfare Foundation, we've got a certificate for our donation for the CWF. A lot of you get aggravated. Our Children & Youth (C & Y) people work really hard at conventions and conferences with that little bucket they've got, and we were recognized by National. And it says it says "You are a top ten Department in per capita giving for 2021/2022. The board of directors greatly recognizes your outstanding support of The American Legion Child Welfare Foundation, serves critical needs of America's children through your caring and generosity, presented to the Department of South Carolina. So congratulations to you (applause), those are your C & Y programs and gain we recognize you for that, and Chairman Russ Cantrell is sitting back there. Ok, that's all I got, thank you, Commander.

Dept Cmdr Jarvis: Is there anything good....(laughter), is there anything further for the American Legion.

Dept Historian Taylor: Starting January 1<sup>st</sup>, you can start sending money for the Rifle Raffle tickets. Don't wait until June 1<sup>st</sup> to send them in, ok? Try to do it weekly or bi-weekly, because they all have to be put in individually. So tell your post commanders and adjutants to get out and start selling these tickets because it's going to help the posts. I was really, really surprised how many posts in our Department that are not participating in this, they're missing out. Prime example, two years ago, my post made \$200.00, this year we made \$2,000.00. Because I made these guys get out and start selling them, and we did it. They just got to be kicked in the butt a little bit now and then, that's all.

D-10 Cmdr Dilleshaw: What dates do you want them to start sending them in?

Dept Historian Taylor: January 1<sup>st</sup>. And make sure you post that you put your post number on each stub.

Dept Cmdr Jarvis: There's a spot on them this time around.

Exec Dir May: No cash:

Dept Cmdr Jarvis: No cash, send in a check. I want to go off, dovetail off what he just said. Not holding on to these tickets and sending in a thousand of them one fell swoop. We don't have the staff, we don't have the people to do this, they have to be individually entered into the computer. But that not only applies to the rifle raffle, that applies to membership, don't let your post sit on this stuff. Give us a break, get it in, then every week put it into automatic processing or something like that. The same thing with Rifle Raffles, please don't let them hoard this stuff until the very end. And I've some tickets over here for a couple of departments.

Dept Adj Strauss: I've some tickets here for Florence if somebody's going to Florence.

Dept Cmdr Jarvis: And there's one here for 12,

Dept Adj Strauss: And District 8.

Exec Dir May: And District 7.

Dept Cmdr Jarvis: Wayne, can you get District 8? Anything else for the good of The American Legion?

Vice Cmdr Kvam: I have something. Along with the VEAC that was talked about, we have an offer from Mr. Marlin Hines who is the VA Rep

that he has a 15/20-minute presentation that they are very happy to go to your District meetings or to a post and that what they'll talk about is the PACT Act. And they'll go through and talk what's available, what they have to do. This is not a meeting to have somebody fill out the forms for the PACT Act, it's just general information on the PACT Act and what it can do for our servicemen that are eligible for this. Not only for the burn pits but they're talking Agent Orange and all of the other diseases that fall under the PACT Act. After the meeting, if you want to see me, I have his email address and his phone number, and you just get a hold of him, and they'll be glad to come to your District meeting to give that 15/20-minute presentation.

Dept Cmdr Jarvis: Or post meetings too.

Vice Cmdr Kvam: Or post meetings.

Unidentified person: What was the name again?

Vice Cmdr Kvam: Marlin Hines.

Dept Cmdr Jarvis: He's the VA Regional Rep.

Vice Cmdr Kvam: Yes, he's the VA Regional Rep and he'll be happy to get to your post or District.

PDC Hawk: Getting back to that, I think Dorn has a meeting tomorrow from 2:00 to 4:00 at the hospital concerning what Jim said, if anybody local wants to go to that.

PDC Scherer: I just want to let you know that the Fisher House is having a special opening on the 13<sup>th</sup> of December, invited guests. In January will be our open house and February it will be open to our first guests. So thanks to your donations helping to get this built, thank you for all that The American Legion has done.

Vice Cmdr Lonergan: As Vice Cmdr, we're asked to go out to the posts and talk about the programs our Commander has asked us to talk about. One of the things that is near and dear to his heart is the NEF so when I go out to the districts, and I talk about the NEF fund. I kind of feel bad because I'm not donating myself. So I wanted to make that different, as a 4<sup>th</sup> Vice Cmdr, I want to donate \$150.00 to the Commander's NEF fund. (Applause).

D-10 Cmdr Dilleshaw: How are we looking for the NEF fund?

Dept Cmdr Jarvis: My goal is \$17,000.00, so you think you can find me about \$16,000.00?

Dept Adj Strauss: And we're doing this all the way up to the convention, even at the convention so if you want to do it with the National Commander when he's coming, encourage your posts at your District meetings that he wants a donation to the NEF.

D-18 Cmdr Pouncy: When's he coming?

Dept Adj Strauss: He's coming in March.

Dept Cmdr Jarvis: I'm going to cover that in a minute. Ok,

PDC Britt: I'd like the Ad-hoc committee to meet back here just for a few minutes after we break up.

Law Cadet Cmte Chairman Cantrell: Commanders, if you would, get out and find me some kids to go to Law Cadet. This is a very special year coming up, we're celebrating our 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Law Cadet. It's very important, we'll have little things going on here and there, and we've got a wonderful Director, that's all I can say about her, she's fantastic. And we're having a meeting on the 12<sup>th</sup> of January, the counselors and the law cadet committee, and if anybody's interested in being a counselor, be here on the 12<sup>th</sup>. And that's at 10:00. Get out and recruit, we're looking at getting about 60 kids.

D-10 Cmdr Dilleshaw: What's the cost for Law Cadet?

Dept Adj Strauss: \$250.00. That covers all meals, all boarding.

Dept Cmdr Jarvis: I want to throw in real quick, before my closing remarks. We've got the National Convention coming up, all that is online. You can do that, but what we do need to know, in advance, because we've got to send it in January, is the National Commander's banquet. I believe that's Wednesday night?

Exec Dir May: Tuesday.

Dept Cmdr Jarvis: Tuesday night. If you're planning on going to the National Commander's banquet, you need to see Maggie after this meeting. Because we need to get that into them.

Dept Adj Strauss: If you want a guaranteed ticket, we need it by January 31<sup>st</sup>.

Dept Cmdr Jarvis: Ok, I'm going to close with a couple things, and it's more like a catch all list, that half the people have already gone over part of it. But I call it important date things and I want to make sure each and every one of you know these important dates. Already covered is the meeting on January 12<sup>th</sup> for the Law Cadet Academy, it's one of our programs, 50<sup>th</sup> year, big deal. They come around and we had 40 people this past year, you wouldn't have believed the enthusiasm and excitement. We can handle 60, we need to get out there and get that. Now, a post, all they have to do is sponsor somebody and get them in, that's \$250.00. If you don't have somebody to sponsor, you can still give that money to go toward the budget of the Law Cadet Academy for the meals. So that meeting's on January 12<sup>th</sup>. On January 14<sup>th</sup>, at Post 6 is the Ladies Fastpitch Softball meeting for the coaches, managers and posts, you might want to get an idea on that. February 1<sup>st</sup>, deadline for Post Oratoricals. February 11<sup>th</sup> will be each Quadrant Oratorical, any questions on that? We need to push the Oratorical. We have some kids that are approaching the Chairman, Bob Scherer, on this, that don't have a post sponsorship. Well, we need the posts to step up on that one as well, they can fill in there so if you have somebody and you don't do or one of your posts does not have an Oratorical, don't just push them off, get that person in contact with Bob, ok. March 5<sup>th</sup> through the 8<sup>th</sup>, probably the 9<sup>th</sup> but for all practical purposes, is the National Commander's visit. We're going to get him around, it will revolve around three items, the Auxiliary President's Homecoming on Monday, my Homecoming on Tuesday and Wednesday afternoon at noon is addressing the joint session. Anybody's invited to the joint session. Now, before that joint session at 12:00, at 9:00 he's going to meet with us, and we've had a really poor turnout the last several years. This is open to all the Legionnaires that they can come to this, he wants to talk to them, ok? Now, that is on the morning of the 8<sup>th</sup> and that's at 9:00, and he'll address the joint session at 12:00. But that's the 5<sup>th</sup> through the 8<sup>th</sup>, he's in our state. Then we have March 11<sup>th</sup>, that's the Department Oratorical. That will be held down at St. Paul's Lutheran Church again this year, where it was last year. And then on the 23<sup>rd</sup> to the 25<sup>th</sup> is our first VEAC event, it will be happening on that day. We're going into Christmas, it's always a slow time coming out of it, so go get started. Kick start your posts, membership, they should all be working Boys State, they should all be working Ladies Fast Pitch Softball, all should be working Baseball, and if they haven't started, they're already behind the power curve. As well as the Rifle Raffle and Law Cadet Academy, all of that should be being pushed by the posts by this point in time. You don't wait for that even to happen. So you're going to have to kick start your people coming into January, once we get out of the holiday season.

Vice Cmdr Lonergan: Don't forget annual awards.

Dept Cmdr Jarvis: Oh, and the annual awards of course in January and February. But a lot of stuff should be happening already. They don't wait until that last minute. And one final thing, we did really bad with this last year. We were barely at 50%, you should be pushing the CPR's (Consolidated Post Report) at this point in time. Push the CPR's because that's what gives the National Commander and the legislative committee's and stuff, clout to make a difference. Without that knowledge, they can't make the difference. It's plain and simple. I want to wish each and every one of you, and your loved ones, a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. I want you to make sure it's a safe one, I expect to see everybody in January, because we don't want to have any safety problems. And if you want to buy me a Christmas present, donate it to the NEF.

D-6 Cmdr Simpson: What'd you just say? Is all that what you said on the calendar? (Laughter)

Dept Cmdr Jarvis: Ok, I've got a whole room of know it 'all's. Do I do the benediction first or the flag first.

D-6 Cmdr Simpson: Benediction.

Dept Cmdr Jarvis called on Chaplain Mullinax for the benediction and closed the meeting.

For God and Country,

Michael D. Strauss  
Department Adjutant

MS/mm