



Department Executive Committee
Meeting Minutes
January 26, 2019



The Department Executive Committee met on January 26, 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
Dept Judge Advocate Stephen Lewis
Dept Asst Judge Advocate Anthony Livoti
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-2 Cmdr Chuck Blankin
D-3 Cmdr Bridget Lewis
D-4 Cmdr Wayne Southworth
D-5 Cmdr Jack Wright
D-6 Cmdr Jim Kvam
D-7 Cmdr Charles Bethea
D-8 Cmdr Chuck Shaffer
D-9 Cmdr Doc Sweet
D-10 Cmdr Tommy Sinclair
D-11 Cmdr Jack Lonergan
D-12 Cmdr Charlie Davis
D-13 Cmdr Carlton Patterson
D-14 Cmdr Michael Brandt
D-16 Cmdr Jim Defrehn
D-17 Cmdr Jim Thrailkill
D-18 Cmdr Larry Pouncy
D-19 Cmdr Bob Gibbons
D-20 Cmdr Dave Mills
Dept Chaplain Bill Quarles
Dept Sgt-at-Arms George Oxner
PNEC Bud Hennis
PDC Joe Lysaght
PDC/PDA Jim Hawk
PNEC John Palmer

Absent:

D-15 Cmdr Leroy Williams

Also Present:

Exe Dir. M. May
Darlene Walton, Dept Mbrship/RR Chairman
Matthew Gooden, P-215 Adjutant

Cmdr John Britt asked everyone to uncover and called on Chaplain Quarles 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 for the roll call. Adjutant Diener called the roll and told the Cmdr he had a quorum.

Dept Cmdr Britt: I'll entertain a motion to dispense with the reading of the minutes of our last meeting.

D-1 Cmdr/Finance Chairman Jarvis: I make a motion that we dispense with the reading of the minutes of our last meeting.

D-11 Cmdr Lonergan: I'll second that motion.

Dept Cmdr Britt: Any discussion? All in favor say aye, opposed? Motion carries. Ok, I call on our membership chairman for a report from the membership committee.

Mbrship Chairman Walton: Well, first of all, I want to congratulate you, you all have made that 80% and we are fast approaching 85%. So I call on you to please get a hold of your posts and make sure if they have any membership cards standing by to get them because they have got to be into headquarters by the 7th of February. But I want to thank you all of you for your help. It's a team effort. Once thing I want to bring to your attention though is the fact that as far as National is concerned in our comparisons, we are ahead of where we were at this time last year and that's with everybody diligently working. So let's keep up the good work. Now I'd like to call on Jim Jarvis because we have a new program that our National Commander is coming out with? Jim, would you please explain to them about this program.

D-Cmdr Jarvis: I was up at the Ntl Mbrship Cmte planning meeting at the beginning of the month and this a Ntl Cmdr initiative but I'm sure his inner circle, including the membership chairman was involved with this. But they have decided, and they would like the participation of all 12,000 plus posts in the United States, to do a National call-in. They would like it to be the 11th to the 18th of March, every post cmdr & adj, Department, they should have all gotten one in the mail, and I think the vices too but of course the District Cmdr's didn't get one. If you want one, I will e-mail it to you because I got a copy in the e-mail, but you may have gotten it through your posts. The thing to remember and you got to encourage the posts, they want this to go all week. But what they're after is the 2014, 2015 and 2016 ex members for lack of a better term. And in most cases what's happened is they came here at \$25 and got nailed at \$55 and didn't do it. So when you call, there will be some animosity probably out there, but you know, hey, we screwed up. And that's what we tell them, we screwed up and we're trying to fix it. So it's a buddy check, it's not, it's not a membership drive, not asking for money, not asking to join, just a buddy check and as a result some of them may sign up again. We got about 10,000 of them, I think you said, out there and they want this to run from the 11th through the 18th but that's right there on the poster. They gave you the tool kit in the mail, they gave you a cover letter for the cmdr of the post and gave a different one for the dept and it gave a poster for it. Originally it was planned for the 3rd of March, we kind of convinced them to move it to the 11th. My ulterior motive was he's here on the 3rd of March, so I didn't want that to go down at the same time. He'll be looking for posters when he goes around to the posts being put up, he may even talk about it. We, this room, it's what's going to make that work. We got to get the word out to them, we got to encourage them, we got to help them. They can go onto mylegion and they can call up 2014, 2015 and 2016, here's the problem, we got 163 posts, 80 posts are registered on mylegion. Of those 80 only 40 of them are actually using it since last September. So to get it, they're going to have to get it through mylegion or they're going to have to go through us here at the dept and we're going to have to come up with a list for them. But it's out there, they have access if they're on mylegion. The last thing is the new processing system, we've been to 11 districts and we had to reschedule one district because of the bad weather. But there's eight districts out there that really haven't come forward. If you want us to go in and give a presentation on this new processing system. Everybody that's on it, all 41, are very happy with it. So we're available so we can schedule it in there. I've been doing them; the chairman's been doing them and Jim Kwam's been doing them. We've got eight districts left, thank you.

D-11 Cmdr Lonergan: Just for everybody's knowledge, next Saturday I have my district meeting at Lake Wateree Recreational Center in Camden but at 10:00 in the morning we're going to a training for all post Cmdr's & adjutants. Anybody who's interested in going on my legion, I have four of my nine posts don't have my legion, one of them asked all kinds of questions at our membership training and I said all you go to do is get on my legion and they're still not on my legion. So we're going to show people what my legion looks like, show people what advantages they have with my legion and then hopefully then they'll say, boy I want to get into my legion, and we'll help them, tell them how to do it and then they'll get better knowledge. So if any of your posts, Lake Wateree, Camden, SC, Air Force Recreational site, we'll be in the Rec Building at 10:00.

Dept Cmdr Britt: I would ask anyone, if you have a report to give, please come up to the podium so the recorder can pick you up.

RR Chairman Walton: Ok, Rifle Raffle, it's off and it's running and I'm proud to say that we are ahead of tickets being turned from our prior Rifle Raffle. The only thing I ask of you is please, please, please, encourage your posts, I don't care if they've got 10, 15 or 20, get those tickets in now with their checks, don't let them lay there and stack up. Because, like I said, I'm thankfully keeping up with them at this point. I was blessed this morning with a couple of packets, and they were pretty hefty, so I guess I'll be on those for a little while. But that's ok, I need these RR tickets in. Now, talking about that, what is that RR doing to these posts? It's giving them some extra money with no cost other than opening their mail and getting out there and selling them. I had one person tell me, well, I can't sell them. He went out, I told him, I said all you have to do is show them the list, tell them what it is and when it starts and next thing I know, he's calling me asking me for more tickets. He said, that was really easy! So, like I said, it's not that people that can't do it. Some of you told me this morning, you have posts that did not want to sell, it's their loss. I have no problem if there's another post within your group that needs more tickets, pass it off to them and let me know who got them. Other than that, anybody have any questions at this time? If not, thank you and let's keep it moving guys and it's a good way to get membership also. Thank you, sir.

Dept Cmdr Britt: I'd like to call on NEC 'man Strauss for a report.

NEC Strauss: I just want to talk with you a little bit about Cmdr Brett Reistad's fundraisers, he's actually split them up into two different ones this year. TFA, it's kind of ironic that last year, it's kind of ironic, last year our Cmdr, she wanted to do NEF and we had a bunch of Hurricane's during her campaign and this year we have Cmdr Reistad picking up on TFA and then we had the government shut down and it's absorbed a lot of the need from the Coast Guard to have TFA because they are funded by those annual resolutions and we funded a whole lot of CG families out there. We do have CG in the Goose Creek area, that has a base down there of the Legion and they were a member of the CG, they had TFA available. So that's a good talking point for those CG personnel to let them know about our organization and how we can help, that's a good example right there. TFA can go for the broad spectrum of people that can be helped. If you haven't done so, consider making a donation. You don't have to make a \$1000.00 donation. A \$20 per post donation adds up a lot when you have over 200 posts so think about that.

We also have in March, you've heard a lot about the Centennial Coin being issued by the U.S. Mint, they have three different sets of coins and a medallion that will be coming out and that's also going to, if goes like they planned, it's going to raise over \$9 million for The American Legion programs. And I think that can be a big boost to Baseball, Oratorical and those types of programs, if we can sell those U.S. Mint coins. If you were at the National Convention, you saw the initial groundbreaking design and there's a lot of excitement out there over that so consider that. When that does come out in March, consider having those around the post because there are people that are big in coin collecting and get excited about that. Also, in March, our 100th birthday, official, we've been celebrating it all year long but the official birthday for The American Legion is in March. And there's a lot of things on the Legion website that you can go on and get ideas on the Centennial Celebration week, Buddy Check was one of the things that arose from that. Think about at your post, you're always hearing about problems getting younger people in there, but maybe having a niche that says your post is going to serve free dinner to Afghanistan and Iraq veterans and then put that out to the public, saying we're celebrating the 100th anniversary dinner, if you have a birthday dinner at the post, which a lot of posts do to give awards and stuff like that to the community. It's a good way to get younger veterans in and say hey, you know, that's a hook for them, feed them dinner, something

where it's very easy to throw in a pound of spaghetti into hot water. Just ideas, think about that, we have a couple months before our 100th year but that's the 100th year of our great organization, we've come a long way. But that's a good idea to get new people in the post to celebrate the 100-year anniversary, that's something you can draw media into and use examples of how the Legion helps people, the community and you can use your talking points for that. If you've got any questions, just see me afterwards, thank you.

Dept Cmdr Britt: Jim Jarvis, finance committee report.

Finance Chairman Jarvis: Thank you Commander. I'm going to have a lot to go over today so I'm going to try to keep moving on this. I've got a set order on this but it's going to require all your attention for this one. Financially, we're heading in the right direction, our savings has \$120,000 still in it and hopefully by the time I get done with this brief, they'll be more in it. Let's go ahead and look at the December statement, this is the last time you'll see the old statement. As of January 1st, we started on the new statement. Don't worry about the new statement, that's just to show you how it's going to look. It's relatively close to this and what it's done is its solved one of the four recommendations from the Hobbs group at the Audit, it gets out of people money crunching. Now it will bring it into a report instead of us having to bring it into excel and play with it to get the numbers going. So, this is the last time you'll see this report, it's pretty self-explanatory but I would like to go over a couple lines though. Line item # 6, we got \$5380 more from USAA in 2018 than we anticipated, which was a good thing. Line item # 7, any time anybody buys something from Emblem Sales, we get Royalty on it, ok. Here we made about \$425 more than was anticipated. Line item # 13, the sweepstakes, we budgeted of an income of \$100,000 in 2018 and what we ended up with was \$85778.00 so lets round that up to \$86,000. The spring and the fall were relatively close to each other and in numbers but this is something that the finance committee is going to take a serious look at because when we get all said and done with the income of \$85,000, then you look at line item # 32 and you take the \$45,000 out of it, I see it as making a dollar, costing a dollar type issue. We've got to somehow bring these expenses down and/or increase people participating in it, this is the room that's got to make that happen. We don't really have the participation, it's been declining, I've graphed it, in fact for 2019 we budgeted \$82,000 as the income for it. But it's got, we can't drop it, \$38,000 is \$38,000 but I think we can get more out of it and that's what the committee is going to look at and work on. Line item # 16, we were up almost \$800.00 and line item # 19, last year, since I've been sitting in this room, the first time we did something for the veterans as far as I'm concerned and the committee was concerned, was give to the Fisher Houses. We gave between American Legion and the Auxiliary and the Legion family we gave \$10, 200, that's the first time I saw us do one of our pillars. This project of the Commander's is focused on one of our pillars, we've got to get the participation. I don't think the word is leaving this room. The post can give, individuals can give, that's one way that we can get one of our pillars, and you'll see later on where I want to hit the other three but to hit the veterans pillar this is what we're doing to try and do that, one dollar, five dollars, whatever. The post can surely give up money. The word's got to get out for it though, so we're running about \$625.00, the goal was \$7500, that's in six months, we can do better than that. There's more that's come in but on page three, line item # 67, Fall Conference. The issue there was mother nature, and we had a lot of cancellations prior to the conference so we were obligated for rooms, we had to pay for the rooms. The participation for the conference is nowhere near what the convention is but the weather cut that back. Now, we did reduce, when we signed the 2020 contract, we did reduce the room usage, to 175 so that should help a little bit, but the weather didn't help us on this one, that's what that loss was. Line item # 77, we only go about \$800.00 or a little bit less than \$800.00 for the leading candidate's donation, therefore the department had to cover the rest of it. Reminder, that \$3,000.00 isn't that we're going to want to give them \$3,000.00. This was set up in this room a couple year ago. We want the donations and then we're going to cover up to the \$3,000.00, it's not working that way. It's not us giving them \$3,000.00, it's us trying to get the donations and then covering it. That \$3,000.00 behind the scenes helps us, the Dept of South Carolina. It helps us get call-ins and stuff like that and it puts us in good stead. It's a perk that we need to do, and we just need to support it. That's the only ones that really jumped out at me on this one. Like I said, this is the end of the year, did we give them a copy of the new one?

Dept Adj Diener: Yes, it's behind that.

Finance Chairman Jarvis: Ah, ok. You'll see that it's pretty much the same thing. The good point here is the Hobbs Group did help us, we did clear one of those four areas, that means we've now cleared three of the areas, three of

the four and we can take it right off the QuickBooks, we don't have to play with it or anything like that. And that was our goal, to get the human intervention out of there. Any questions?

Alt NEC Scherer: The donations from The Legion was \$13057.00.

Exec. Dir May: That was from assorted posts at the Convention, the \$10,000 only came through the Department, there were other donations.

Finance Chairman Jarvis: And the Riders gave some as well. We have seven checking accounts and we're in the process of downsizing that to five checking accounts, and that was a goal of the finance cmte, to get that down, that's an FYI. The next topic is that fourth recommendation, not mandatory, but recommendation from the Hobbs Group, was that we have a certain amount of money in the bank that was above what the FDIC covered. And when it was stated to me, or to the committee and us, it didn't seem like it was a hard thing to do. That's the only one we haven't gotten covered yet. I went out to, I had an opportunity, I was giving a Security training session to 10 Churches, so I had an opportunity, I had a captive audience. I went out to three companies, where the three companies and the 10 Churches all had a budget comparable, and in most cases more than what we have here and I said, what do you do, how do you handle this? And they looked at me and they said we trust the bank, we go with the bank that we think is the best that does the best for us and then they ended that by looking at me and smiling. **They realize what they've got, and I think at this point, the finance committee, we just want to, we want to make the recommendation that we just stay as we are but monitor it and we don't see a solution to it. It's not practical to go out there and try to spread all this money over into different banks. And none of the large budgets do it. So, that I think Commander, needs a vote.**

Dept Cmdr Britt: You hear the recommendation from the finance committee, is there a second?

Vice Cmdr Poulos: Second.

Dept Cmdr Britt: Any discussion? Doc?

D-9 Cmdr Sweet: Can I ask a question about that because doesn't the FDIC only cover (inaudible) percent of what you've got in there?

Finance Chairman Jarvis: It covers \$250,000 of what is in that bank and it doesn't matter how many accounts you have, it's that aggregate amount of money you have in that bank and the FDIC only covers up to \$250,000.

D-9 Cmdr Sweet: So, what other remedies did you look at as far as trying to....

Finance Chairman Jarvis: That's what I said, nobody is.... they're just living with it and they're monitoring it, they're going with a bank they trust and they're watching it.

D-9 Cmdr Sweet: So in case of big downturns, we're going to lose it.

Finance Chairman Jarvis: Well, I think if it takes something like that where you lose it, we're in much worse shape than that so all I can do is go out and start asking and talking to people and see what they did, how they handled it, and not one of them, they've just left it alone. And they said we're aware of it, we looked at it, we watch it.

Dept Adj Diener: That's why Congress did some of that when they said the banks were too big to fail when we had that other crisis, part of the problem was they would have lost all that money.

Dept Cmdr Britt: Any other questions, comments? All in favor of the motion say aye? Opposed? Motion carries.

Finance Chairman Jarvis: Mortgage, and we have to make a decision today on this one. We have a balloon payment due in April, a five-year cycle. The Vice-President of our bank, South State Bank, Jay Lasater, came in

and talked with the Adjutant and I and we talked around with this, as we stand in January, we owed \$886,000 on the mortgage. This was based on an 18-year amortization at 3.75%. During this five-year balloon, our monthly payments were \$7041.91. Now, just keep this in mind, we're talking in January, we go to start the process in March, we got to sign it out in April, so the numbers he's saying he thinks we'll have in March and April, they're not in stone yet so any numbers I give you now, you've got to keep your eye on that. If we continue on this same track, a five-year balloon, we're going to have two five-year balloons and a three-year. The next five-year period is expected to be a 4.75% interest at a monthly payment of \$7740.00, that's basically a \$750.00 a month increase. At the end of the next five years, that's with a 13-year amortization, at the end of the next five years we'll owe \$605,500.00. And then following that we'll have to do a three-year amortization and then we're going to owe \$250,000.00 going into that three year and then that's when we pay that off, \$250,000.00 in three years. The catch is the interest rate that we have now that we're coming out of, that five-year period, is 3.75%, prior to that it was 2.69% I believe. The next five years it's expected to be 4.75%, what are the third five years, what is the three-year period, we have no idea. So the bank has given us another option, and this is an option they wouldn't offer us five years ago and this is a pat on the back to the people sitting right here. They're willing or they're offering us 10-year amortization at 4.75% fixed for that 10-year period. No interest rate increases during that 10-year period. The monthly payment will be \$9058.00, that's approximately \$2017.00 more than we're paying now but it's only \$1300.00 more than what we'll be paying if we went on the five-year balloon. Right off the top, and I mean we can't get any closer than this because we don't know what's going to happen interest rate wise for that second five-year period and that three-year period. But right off the top we're saving \$80,000.00 in interest if we do the ten-year loan, right off the top. And I would guesstimate if it increases like it's been increasing, we're closer to a \$125,000.00 that we're saving. The Department can handle this, the finance committee strongly recommends that we take advantage of this 10-year amortization plan offered by the bank and that you authorize the finance chairman and the adjutant negotiate and sign a new mortgage with South State Bank at that ten-year amortization with what we anticipate to be a 4.75% rate.

Dept Cmdr Britt: You've heard the recommendation of the finance committee; do I have a second?

D-14 Cmdr Brandt: I second.

Dept Cmdr Britt: Any discussion?

Vice Cmdr Richardson: Two questions, first of all let me preface by I strongly think we should go with the ten years. However, the question in your previous statement you said if we don't go with the ten years, we've got two five-year balloon payments, plus three, is that correct? That's only 13 years.

Finance Chairman Jarvis: Well, that's what it's based on, it will be on a 13-year amortization.

Vice Cmdr Richardson: In other words, if we keep our, how much will we owe at the end of that 13 years?

Finance Chairman Jarvis: Nothing, pay it off in 13 years or pay it off in 10 years.

Dept Adj Diener: Well, I think the part that's missing, what the, one of the things the bank said on these loans, they will not continue to amortize at 13 years, so that the second balloon payment or the second five years, they would only amortize it over eight years, they would continue to reduce that down so that it would still end up being paid out over 13 years.

Vice Cmdr Richardson: Alright, second question, I understand that. Second question is, if we, you say that we can afford \$2000.00 extra a month...

Finance Chairman Jarvis: About \$1300.00.

Vice Cmdr Richardson: (inaudible) I want to make sure I understand, if we go with a 10-year loan and Cmdr Britt predeceases the deadline on the loan and he leaves us \$250,000 can we pre-pay that loan without a penalty.

Finance Chairman Jarvis: They'll take anything we give them without a penalty.

NEC Strauss: I just want to make it clear, so at the end of the ten-years, the mortgage would be paid for?

Finance Chairman Jarvis: The building would be ours. Or at the five-year plan, 13 years.

Post 215 Adj Gooden: Ten years is final, but you made a comment, you said it might be 4.75%, what if its more?

Finance Chairman Jarvis: Well, that's what I said in the beginning, we don't know. In July he anticipates being able to offer us 4.75%, we're going to have to see. We may be sending out the alarms if...but he's been straight with us and if anybody's going to know, he is. And nothing's really happened so far that I think would change that.

Post 215 Adj Gooden: What if you go and it's 5.3%?

Finance Chairman Jarvis: Then we're going to be sending out an alarm and the DEC will be sitting here again, that's not a decision that the two of us would want to make on our own. If you look at it, either way, whatever that interest rate is, we're going to be paying for the five-year or the ten-year so we got to, that, we would all be back in the room again.

D-16 Cmdr Defrehn: Jim, wouldn't it be easier for us on this ten-year, like maybe talk about giving you guys some leeway, maybe a quarter of a point or something like that instead of 4.75%, saying we agreed on up to 5%, that way we don't have to come back, and it makes it easier for you guys?

Dept Cmdr Britt: Are you putting that into a motion? To amend? Are you willing to amend the motion?

D-1 Cmdr Finance Chairman: Yes.

Dept Cmdr Britt: Mike?

D-14 Cmdr Brandt: Yes.

Vice Cmdr Poulos: I think that's a great idea and the fact that we don't know when we go in July if the 5-year portion is going to be 4.75% because that could be, that is going to be whatever the going rate is. But they're guaranteeing us that in another five-years we won't have another rate increase so this to me is the best plan is to go on the fixed and to have it one thing, we'll know what we're going to be paying for the next ten years. Thank you.

Dept Cmdr Britt: Any questions, hearing none, all in favor say aye, opposed? Motion carries.

Finance Chairman Jarvis: The next thing is what I call the external budgets, let's go ahead and start with the SAL budget. The SAL budget is basically the same as they had last year, nothing in there but one thing I do like to point out to you, if you look down toward the bottom, you'll see SAL/Operation expense. That wasn't in their previous budgets. That's \$625.00, they want to give that back to the Department in support of us, we pay their bill at the Convention & the Conference, so they just wanted to, it's a nice token, it's a nice gesture, that's the only difference on there so we need to vote on that one.

Dept Cmdr Britt: Do you bring that as a recommendation?

Finance Chairman Jarvis: Yeh, I recommend we that we take it as written on that one, so we need to vote on that.

D-5 Cmdr Wright: Second.

Dept Cmdr Britt: All in favor of the motion say aye? Opposed? Motion carries.

D-1 Cmdr/Finance Chairman Jarvis: The Riders. the same as they had last year, they added \$200.00. In the past what the Riders did, they were borrowing a flag pole from the hotel, it was pretty shabby. They just want to buy their own flag pole, the \$200.00, that's to get their own flag pole. I make a motion we accept this one as well.

Vice Cmdr Poulos: Second.

Dept Cmdr Britt: I've got a motion and a second, any discussion? All in favor say aye? Opposed? Motion carries.

Finance Chairman Jarvis: Thank you. The Americanism budget next, the only change from this from previous years if you look down toward the bottom, you'll see awarded. And you'll see \$8,000.00. This was changed by the finance committee up to that. Here's what was happening. You'll notice it was \$5,000.00 prior to that, \$4,000.00 of that \$5,000.00 was for the oratorical winners, 2nd that type thing, scholarships, and \$1,000.00 was for baseball scholarship. All the money that you see for that budget was brought into Americanism from baseball and it was our opinion that they needed to be at least on an even keel as oratorical, give them the opportunity to offer more scholarship, that's why it's \$8,000.00, \$4000.00 for oratorical and \$4,000.00 for baseball and it's a step towards one of our pillars that we need to be moving toward. **So I make a motion that we take the Americanism budget as written.**

Dept Cmdr Brit: We have a motion; do we have a second?

D-19 Cmdr Gibbons: Second.

Dept Cmdr Brit: I've got a motion and a second, any questions or comments? All in favor say aye? Opposed? Motion carries.

Finance Chairman Jarvis: As soon as I get a little bit further on down, keep this budget handy because hopefully we'll be coming back to it again. Now, the last of the four is the Law Cadet budget, we revised this because when we sent it out, we were still waiting to hear on the cost of the new shirts and hats and the challenge coins. Well, we got the new shirts and hats cost in and we're still waiting on the coins. The problem with the coins is they're \$1500.00. We bought enough and they last us four years, the company's not responding to us so we're going to go with Emblem Sales which will help us in the end, that's why we had that increase set to \$2,000.00 because we know that's the ball park for that. So this new one has the new cost of the shirts which brings it up to \$275.00 increase and then you've got a \$500.00 increase with the challenge coins and it still keeps us in the ball park and we're above the minimum \$10,000.00. **I make a motion that we take the Law Cadet budget, the revised, the new one, as written.**

Dept Historian Cantrell: I second.

Dept Cmdr Britt: We have a motion and a second, any discussion? All in favor say aye? Opposed? Motion carries.

D-1 Cmdr/Finance Chairman Jarvis: Ok. The finance committee has talked this over quite a bit and one of the things, now this is personal, this isn't.... this was personal for all three of us. For me talking now, this is me. I've been sitting in this room for awhile and until last year, we never gave anything or did anything really, we just never did. And last year we did that with the Fisher House with our past Cmdr and now our present Cmdr is doing that so we're making a move toward that. We can't expect and we force it on the post, we keep pushing and preaching it and preaching it to them. We're our whole being, we're the four pillars so at the end of the fiscal year, at the end of 2018 we had a certain amount of money in the checking account left. And the first thing we did is we took an amount to make three months' worth of payments of our expenses, some people, some places go with 45, some go with 60, we went with 90. So we took that money, what was left over of the 2018 money, and took that out of the money. Just to cover three months' worth of expenses. Then we took \$36724.00 out of it to pre-pay 2019, using

2018 money to prepay 2019's membership savings, ok? Which means at the end of 2019 there's that \$36,000.00 still sitting there. Then we took 12% of the amount, now this is, I got to make sure I explain this correctly, after we took out for three months' worth of expenses, that amount of money, we took 12% and that totaled \$10388.05. And what we did or what we want to do is funnel that \$10388.05 into Americanism, which enable Baseball, Shooting, Oratorical and hopefully Boys State and Law Cadet. And then, once you put that \$10,388.05 into Americanism, Americanism funnels out of it, and we're doing this so we can track the money, funnels \$2597.00 into the Law Cadet so in other words the Americanism part is going to end up with about \$8,000.00 and the Law Cadet's going to end up with about \$2500.00/\$2600.00 and hitting another one of our pillars.

Did I explain that, I mean, do you follow what I'm doing? I'm taking the money, or we when I say I, the finance committee wants to take the money at the end of the year that was left in the checking, cover three months of expenses for emergencies, prepay the membership savings, and then turn around, take 12% of what's left over, funnel that into our programs, then take what's left over and put it into the savings account. And what it amounts to is that would bring the savings account from \$120,000.00 to \$159,455.00. Now that \$159,455.00, you look at it in two aspects, and these are round numbers, \$73,500.00 is membership savings and \$86,000.00 is regular savings and it's building that amount up to where we can put it into a productive money earning situation but we need to get that up a little bit more and then we can have the other, that's our goal. We wanted to give to programs, we wanted to put money funneled to them, we wanted to increase the savings, and we wanted to take the load off the 2019 budget by pre-paying the membership savings. We're going to need a motion on that and then we can do discussion. **I make the motion that we accept the finance committee, the recommendation from the finance committee on the transferring or the movement of the end of the year 2018 money that's left over in the checking account.**

Vice Cmdr Poulos: I'll second.

NEC Strauss: To Americanism.

Vice Cmdr Poulos: To Americanism.

Finance Chairman Jarvis: To Americanism and pre-payment in savings.

Vice Cmdr Price: Ok, with the maneuvering and the funding at the end of the year, have you taken into the additional payment that we're going to have in July when we sign the new mortgage contract?

Finance Chairman Jarvis: That will be in April and yes, we can cover that.

Vice Cmdr Richardson: What were the actual figures, how much money is left over in 2018?

Dept Adj Diener: About \$86,000.00 that we don't need to cover expenses.

Finance Chairman Jarvis: \$86, 567.00.

Vice Cmdr Richardson: Ok, how much do we need to cover expenses? About \$180,000.00?

Finance Chairman Jarvis: No, it's closer to about \$120,000.00.

Dept Adj Diener: Well, I also left some in, you got to add all the checking accounts together so, about that.

Vice Cmdr Richardson: So about \$160,000.00?

Dept Adj Diener: \$160,000.00, \$170,000.00.

Vice Cmdr Richardson: Alright, and you're taking \$36,000.00 for something, I don't remember what it was.....

Finance Chairman Jarvis: Membership.

Vice Cmdr Richardson: Membership and paying that off and then \$12,000.00 for that, you're looking at, we came out with almost a \$195,000.00 surplus?

Dept Adj Diener: No. The \$86,000.00, when you break out the pre-payment and the 12%, that's coming out of that \$86,000.00, you're taking that \$86,000.00 and splitting it up.

Finance Chairman Jarvis: The first thing we did was we covered the three months of expenses.

Vice Cmdr Richardson: Right. So we had....

Finance Chairman Jarvis: Yes, we had about almost \$200,000.00.

Vice Cmdr Richardson: Almost \$200,000.00 was left after 2018?

Dept Adj Diener: Yeh, in the checking account, actual cash in the checking accounts.

Finance Chairman Jarvis: Between all those checking accounts, all seven of them.

Vice Cmdr Price: Which included previous years membership, right?

Finance Chairman Jarvis: Yeh, one of the things we looked at it is, we're able to do this, we're able to cover the mortgage increase and this is what I call an off year and when I say off year is last year, we got monies from the Rifle Raffle, well, not last year, 2017. 2018 was an off year and 2019 is an on year again, that's how we looked at it.

Dept Cmdr Britt: Any other questions or comments?

D-5 Cmdr Wright: Call for the question.

Dept Cmdr Britt: All in favor of approving the transfer of money to the different accounts, say aye? Opposed? Motion carries.

Finance Chairman Jarvis: The last thing I just want to remind you is our input, our income is membership, life blood lately is Rifle Raffle, sweepstakes and any donations. We need to make sure that everybody out there, blue cap wise is aware of that. We're moving in the right direction and we're taking baby steps, but we keep moving up and that's the direction that we want to keep moving. Any questions at all for the finance committee?

D-16 Cmdr Defrehn: I just want to say I'm very impressed with your speech and the fact that you're not using IT equipment. (laughter)

Finance Chairman Jarvis: Those that don't understand, he's being sarcastic.

Dept Adj Diener: Back when Jim gave his Buddy call speech, we forgot to pass out the info on that so that's being passed out now.

PNEC Hennis: I would like to thank this new Executive Board for probably as long if not longer than most people in this room. And this is the first Executive Board meeting that I've been to that the Executive Board has approved money for our programs. And that is important, and I want to thank ya'll for what you've done and I want you to pat yourselves on the back. I've been a member for 20 years, so it's been 13 years or longer, so I want to thank ya'll for what you've done for The American Legion and our youth.

Dept Cmdr Britt: Thank you Bud, next on the agenda is a report from the Constitution and Bylaws sub-committee. Anyone that wants to take a stretch, sit back down and get some blood circulating in your legs.

Const/Bylaws Chairman Hawk: Good morning. It's our duty as the constitution and bylaws committee to "annually review the Constitution and Bylaws and originate and recommend such changes as are deemed necessary. The committee shall consider all proposed constitution and bylaws changes referred to it, report its findings, status, changes, additions and it's recommended approval/disapproval to the Department Convention." That's under "Internal Affairs" in our South Carolina Department Constitution and Bylaws. Having said that, your committee, you just received something, this is, this is to simplify what you're looking at and what you already received. It's color coded, it should be easier to follow, not harder to follow, it's easier to follow. And even today we went over it again to be sure that we've complied with everything as much as we can comply with without going to the Department Convention with stuff.

Your Constitution/By-Laws Sub-Committee has met monthly since June 2018. Our Committee has undertaken this project with its eyes wide open, minds clear of personal agendas, and has produced a document of corrections, proposed changes, and items to be put into the document that were not passed by the delegates and items left out of this document that was passed by the delegates. In short, the old document that was not in good shape. In our research we found some errors and Nick's going to address those errors in a few minutes.

First, we reviewed the current requirements/procedures, on both the National and Department levels, having noted what this committee is actually charged to do, along with its functions. The committee concluded that all existing policies and procedures are current and up to date.

Second, the committee approved the following format that was to be followed at each meeting.

- a. We were to review 3-5 Articles of the Constitution/By-Laws until finished, noting the corrections and recommended changes for each page, Article and Sections.
- b. Review the findings and present to the DEC a document that can be followed easily and understandable.
- c. At the January 2019 meeting, all the findings and corrections were put into a finished document and copied.
- d. That document was mailed to the DEC with a cover letter on January 14, 2019 with instructions to respond with comments and questions ATTN: Chairman, Constitution/By-Laws Committee no later than January 23, 2019.
- e. This is the first time that this document has completely been reviewed page by page, and now we have a document that is being presented as it should be.
- f. Also, members of the Department Executive Committee will find a new colored coded document with three colors, that was just passed out to you. These are **red** for typo corrections, **light blue** for any changes that will go to the Department Convention for approval, and **purple** for items of question not requiring any amendments.
- g. There will be fifteen proposals that will go to the annual Department Convention for passage. These are listed as P1, P4, P5, P6, P8, P9, P10, P11, P12, P13, P14, P15, P16, and P18 in your document. The P# that one was a question by an individual was our code for Proposal 1. So each page, we took that proposal and gave it a number, that's what the P# stands for.
- h. Now, I would also like to thank Jim Kvam for submitting some questions and comments as directed in the cover letter, he is the only one. And he has been provided with answers to his comments.

The committee would like to thank the Department Adjutant Nick Diener and Executive Director Maggie May for their devotion and dedication to the Department, and for their assistance over these past seven months. Without their support we could not have been able to find, record these findings, or report them to you.

Also, the committee would like to thank Department Commander Britt for his support and comments in these meetings as well.

In a side note, I would like to thank our committee members, Michael Strauss, Gary Mitchell at that time, and Joe Lysaght for giving up their evenings and dedication to this task, and in bringing our Constitution/By-Laws up to speed. We met on average two to three hours when we met, and sometimes getting out of here at 10:00 at night and I would like to thank them publicly and in the record that they gave up a lot of hours and travel time to be here to do this. And like Jim Jarvis says, this is a document that we all must follow and guide us as we took oath as Officer to uphold and defend the constitution of this great organization. Having said that, it's also our responsibility to see that this document is correct. We did find a lot of errors that should have been corrected or put in years ago and it wasn't. And therefore, that's why you got a color-coded packet that's easier to follow. It didn't change the one you got before, it just put's it in a perspective to where you can see the colors, you know what goes to the convention and what's a typo that doesn't need any correction other than to correct the typing. If you looked at the document, which I hope everybody has, the typos and that type errors were minimal. One example is nor, instead of no, and that type thing, that's a typo, grammatical, we can change that because it doesn't impact the document. We also to continue to meet for the remainder of the year because we've been challenged by this body and the Commander to look at the Code of Procedures for the Annual Department Convention because that needs to be updated and the Procedures for the DEC operation, just like the National Organization has one for the NEC, this body, we need one for this body too. This body tasked us and the Commander to look at those. So that's our next two agendas and anything else that we are tasked by this body. And having said that, Mr. Commander, you've all saw it, and there was only one comment that was returned back to us in writing as the letter said. Therefore, everybody shouldn't have an issue, because what goes to the convention, we can't do anything with because it has to go to the convention for passage and that's in blue, as you see. And we have those done up in the form to send to the convention, once it goes to the constitution and bylaws committee once everything's been submitted.

Mr. Commander, this has the approval of your Constitution/By-Laws Sub-Committee, and therefore I recommend approval by this body.

Dept Cmdr Britt: Do I have a second?

Dept Historian Cantrell: Second.

Dept Cmdr Britt: Did you get all that Maggie?

Exec Dir May: Well, we have Pouncy that gave a second, Russ gave a second and somebody else, I think.

Vice Cmdr Poulos: Yeh, I seconded it.

Dept Cmdr Britt: We have a motion and several seconds, I'll entertain questions and comments.

Vice Cmdr Richardson: I want to commend the committee on the amount of work they've done, however, where are the amendments?

Const/Bylaws Chairman Hawk: The amendments will not be put forth until the constitution and bylaws committee meets which all amendments have got to go in by March 1st, we will meet, once the committee meets then they will put it in a packet which is done every year and put in the Connector and then it's mailed to every post, about 550 people and this body will get that packet to go to the convention just like it does now. All you've got now is what is going to go before the convention to be passed by the delegates because we can't change anything in the constitution that the delegates do not approve, we're recommending that to the body.

Vice Cmdr Richardson: Yes, but you're asking this body to approve something, amendments can only be submitted by three bodies, Post, Post Executive Committee and the DEC. What you're doing is you're asking this committee to approve 18/20 amendments that we haven't even seen to go to the DEC...

Const/Bylaws Chairman Hawk: They're in your book, in blue.

Vice Cmdr Richardson: No, I want to see the actual amendments before we vote on it. As a matter of fact, most people that I've talked to did not understand this. And because of the amount of work that is in this, **I make a motion that we table this, right here, until our next scheduled, which would be April the 2nd, Executive Meeting.**

Const/Bylaws Chairman Hawk: Number One...

Vice Cmdr Richardson, One second, we have a motion.

Const/Bylaws Chairman Hawk: Number One, I'm answering your question. You're tying the hands of your Dept Adjutant, in getting the new constitution and bylaws information out to the posts, minus the things that go to the Convention. He's mandated to get constitution and bylaws information out in January and February, then he's also mandated to get it before the posts 30 days prior to the convention, if you table this until April, his job cannot be completed....

Vice Cmdr Richardson: It's better, it is better to do what's right than to do what's fast.

Const/Bylaws Chairman Hawk:and the convention will be put in delayed format.

Vice Cmdr Richardson: The motion has been made to put it on the table.

Vice Cmdr Price: Second.

Vice Cmdr Rucker: (inaudible).

NEC Strauss: You can't have a motion within a motion.

Dept Adj Diener: You can't have a motion within a

Vice Cmdr Richardson: You certainly can.

Vice Cmdr Price: Yes you can.

Vice Cmdr Richardson: The motion to table a motion can only be made.....

Vice Cmdr Rucker: Yes you can, look it up.

Vice Cmdr Price: That's the only way you can have it.

Vice Cmdr Richardson: ...the motion to table a motion can only be made with a motion on the floor, it is not up for debate.

Vice Cmdr Rucker: And I second.

Vice Cmdr Richardson: And it requires a majority vote immediately. I request we have a voice vote on this.

Dept Adj Diener: Can, I make a one comment on this....

Vice Cmdr Richardson: Yes.

Dept Adj Diener:...to what you're saying? If you tabled it until the April meeting, the changes could not get out in time and meet the constitution. You would have to have a meeting prior April in order to allow enough time for it to get out.

Vice Cmdr Richardson: Nick.

NEC Strauss: Actually, prior to March.

Dept Adj Diener: Or prior to

Vice Cmdr Richardson: Nick, Nick, I understand that, but in good faith to The American Legion I will not, I cannot vote on sending an amendment to the convention that I haven't even seen.

Vice Cmdr Rucker: These are not amendments.

Vice Cmdr Richardson: I haven't seen the amendments. Where are they? I mean, you 've got them right up there! Why haven't we got them before now? I mean, we don't even have the amendments and you want us vote to approve to send them to convention? No!

Dept Adj Diener: Do you want to have Maggie go make a copy, they still haven't seen them.

Vice Cmdr Richardson: I haven't seen them, we haven't had time to sit down and read them.

Exec Dir May: They're right there.

NEC Strauss: They are.

Vice Cmdr Richardson: No, they're not!

Const & Bylaws Chairman Hawk: Yes, they are.

D-18 Cmdr Pouncy: As far as procedures we usually follow for amendments, how have we been doing it?

Vice Cmdr Price: We have the amendment to read.

D-18 Cmdr Pouncy: No, I'm trying to see, how did we do it, Jim.? Wasn't it going on the forms and then we vote on it at the convention? It's through the Connector? Haven't we been doing that?

Dept Adj Diener: Those are the ones that come from the post, and this is a separate thing. This is the DEC deciding to submit some amendments.

D-18 Cmdr Pouncy: What's the rules on that?

Dept Adj Diener: The DEC has to vote to submit those amendments to the convention for vote. Like Walt said, there's three people, three bodies that can submit an amendment, ok. A Post, the Post Executive Committee and this DEC. It doesn't mean anything gets passed, this committee can't vote, and it be finalized. All it can do to vote to send them forward.

Dept Cmdr Britt: Ok, ok, let's, we have a motion to table on the floor, we have a second to that, we have to clear that before we can move forward.

Vice Cmdr Price: No, no, the only way you can table a motion is to have a motion. You have a motion...

Dept Cmdr Britt: That's what I just said.

Vice Cmdr Price: Right, but he's made a motion to table that.

Dept Cmdr Britt: That's what I said. The next discussion that we will have on this is to discuss the motion of tabling it. Ok. We've got that...hang on just a minute, we've got somebody looking it up. So, any questions we're going to hold off for right now until we get a clarification.

Dept Cmdr Rucker: Can we discuss the part about tabling it?

Dept Adj Diener: No, that's what he's checking, to see if we can.

Const & Bylaws Chairman Hawk: No, we can't do anything.

Dept Adj Diener: Walt's saying we can't discuss it so he's checking to see.

NEC Strauss: Can we have a three-minute intermission?

D-1 Cmdr Jarvis: I mean, I was only given a week, I'm just wanting to know....

Dept Cmdr Britt: We can't have any other discussion until we clear this motion and we're waiting now if there can be discussion on tabling the motion. While he's doing that, let's take a bathroom break, be back in seven minutes.

BREAK

Dept Cmdr Britt: Everyone back in their seats. Ok, I recognize Walt Richardson.

Vice Cmdr Richardson: I've revised my motion to postpone until the next DEC meeting on April the 2nd, we will have time to study the amendments, not the worksheet, the amendments as presented by the Cmte & Bylaws Sub-committee.

Vice Cmdr Rucker: I amend my motion.

Dept Cmdr Britt: We have a motion and a second, he amended his second from a while ago. I'm going to ask our JA to read from Roberts Rules of Order.

JA Lewis: Well, I don't need to read from it, it's just when it's altered to a motion to postpone then it does become debatable then that motion has to be voted on and if it's voted to pass, then its postponed and if it's not voted to pass, then Jim's motion is up for debate.

Dept Cmdr Britt: All in favor?

NEC Strauss: Discussion, please?

Dept Cmdr Britt: I'm sorry.

NEC Strauss: Are you pointing to me? Ok. The Motion as it's made right now is making it to April would be very detrimental to these and the reason is that's there's a deadline on the const & bylaws amendments have to be into the committee by March and if we wait until April it will be too late. The cmte has to review them and send them to the post. We had a March deadline on the submissions of constitution & bylaws amendments so I would recommend that we not do that.

D-19 Cmdr Gibbons: I think our committee has done an excellent job on going through the information they're presenting to us and I am against postponing the vote to accept this proposal from the committee.

PDC Lysaght: I'm also opposed to it for the reason we're going to upset the apple cart on processing the resolutions and information that goes to the convention. If we don't call an emergency meeting of the DEC prior to the beginning of the sequence of events, we're not going to be able take any to the conference and we're not going to be able to give this information to our post commanders, so they disseminate it and tell their members what they're voting for. The other thing is, you have, and we thought we were doing a relatively simple explanation of the constitution by color coding it. What you see in blue in that constitution is the resolution the only thing you don't see is the nomenclature information at the top of the form...

Alt NEC Scherer: It's not a resolution, it's an amendment.

PDC Lysaght... and the signature and block information at the bottom. Everything else will be exactly that. We have work papers prepared so if you want to change something or modify something and this is what this committee wants to do, we can get that done, expeditiously. The clock is running and if we start turning things around, we're not going to have anything at the convention because we can't get it out.

D-16 Cmdr Defrehn: I also don't want to postpone it, the way I read it and the way I'm understanding it to be, we are not, or we not approving anything, the constitution and bylaws have been updated, I'm using different semantics, have been updated. Now, this goes forward at the department convention is when the changes and debates happen when the blue hats are included, because they're the only ones who can officially make any changes to it.

D-18 Cmdr Pouncy: Thank you.

D-16 Cmdr Defrehn: Not us, we can't do anything, We can discuss it until we're blue in the face.

Vice Cmdr Rucker: I don't know how many of you sit down and actually read this, ok. And for the most part, it's pointed, if you look at it, at the vice commanders, for some reason, 40 changes in the vice commanders' role. Now, if you want to do this thing right, you need to bring the amendments out and let us discuss the amendments, let us revise the amendments. Because I think, especially the vice commanders, some of it needs to be revised, some of it is actually not, to me, needs to be written into a constitution and bylaws or a job description.

Dept Adj Diener: Please turn around so we can hear you.

Vice Cmdr Rucker: Alright. We need to look at it, I don't know how many actually sat down and read this page to page. I have no quarrels with some of the others, but you need to look at all the long drawn out parts that we're taking out, not only under that but also other parts of it. And we need to have the amendments that we can actually look at it, the wording, how it's going to be presented not only to the post commanders but presented to the blue hats. And any changes that we can debate and change, that's the reason we need to have the time to do that. There's no, this constitution, I've been here nine years, it's not like we're running a train wreck that just because we don't get it to the body come June, everything that we want, that it can't be done in another year. We been living with this for how long, ok? Just like this. So don't tell me we got to rush to do something that we don't all understand and why it was done and how it was done. Now, you may agree or disagree but you're doing this from your heart for what is good for The American Legion Dept of SC, not for a committee, not for the DEC, you're doing it what is good for the Department of SC and every blue hat that's out there. And you ought to think about that, what repercussions you're going to do by doing all this in a hurry. Thank you.

D-1 Cmdr Jarvis: I think we need to, I'm in agreeing with the postponement. I have some major issues of understanding, I don't think I was given enough time, one week is not have enough time to digest what they supposedly spend seven or eight months on. If you're so concerned about the time lines, we should have had it in January or December. I mean, it's, this is too serious, too important a document to be screwed with like this. You don't jam something through, you take it nice and smooth. And there's places there that I think that they addressed that they needed to address and then there were other areas that I think was a vendetta. But, and there's parts in there that does not belong in the constitution. I don't want my name on something that's going to the blue hats saying, hey, I approve this moving up to you. I have a problem with that.

Dept Adj Diener: My one comment that I would ask ya'll to consider on it, the actual motion that, Commander Richardson, that you made was saying was postpone it until the April meeting. All I would ask if you are going to postpone it, that you consider choosing another date prior to the April meeting to be able to meet again so that it gives time after that for stuff to react. Because if you wait until the April meeting, what you're basically saying is it will not go to the convention. Ok, if you...

Unidentified person: That's fine, that's fine.

Vice Cmdr Richardson: I understand that. But at this time of year, as everyone sitting in here knows, Saturdays are like gold. I don't have another day I can meet. That meeting's already been set in.

Dept Adj Diener: Ok, anytime between now and then, is all I'm asking...

NEC Strauss: The Commander's visit, we could meet that morning.

D-11 Cmdr Lonergan: I got a question, what's the difference between postponing the vote now and disapproving it? If we disapprove it, it's not going to go to convention but if we postpone it at there's a shot, but it gives us a chance to look at it before we (inaudible).

D-10 Cmdr Sinclair: Simply saying seeking understanding is not saying it's against it, we might even become cheerleaders, once you understand it. But if you don't understand it, you know, that's all we're seeking right now is understanding.

D-3 Cmdr Lewis: My question is can this be handled on a conference call, if we postpone it and do a big conference call or....? I've been on a conference call with about 40 people before.

Vice Cmdr Poulos: The one thing that I would have asked, we have the postponement on here and I'm inclined to go that route, but possibly this could have been done one item at a time and everybody look at it and push that forward and hold on, table the other ones, then you're not taking the whole thing and stripping it off and then turning it back in. But we didn't do that and that's not what's on the table right now. We just jumped the gun and we're taking it all off the table, rather than go P-1, P-2, go through, P-3, P-4, P-5, why didn't we look at it that direction and go 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, one at a time?

But everybody jumps and so now it will all be either be tabled or it will either taken in March. So, in that instance, I have to say I would go with tabling only because it's everything or nothing and that's now how it should be presented, I apologize about that. But had it gone 1,2,3, in chronological order, it would have been a whole different outcome. I'm sorry folks but that's where we should have done this.

NEC Strauss: Why don't we go through it right now?

Vice Cmdr Poulos: Well, we could, and we should, you're right.

D-20 Cmdr Mills: First of all. I'd like to commend the committee, I know that they jumped in there and worked on a lot of things just as well as the committees and everything. One thing, there's a lot of you that's been on this committee for quite some time and you've seen dealings and workings on things that take place but there are some newer members and there's a lot to digest and they need to work on this stuff as well. And this postponement, I think, is a good idea in that, that fashion so we can work on it. We're trying to work along with a couple of new posts and stuff to get this information to work on some of these things so, but like I said, I commend you on the work the committee did. But I agree with Jim we need more time to digest some of these things and also. I didn't see any resolutions and things and they teach about the resolutions.

PNEC Hennis: I've got a question for the Judge Advocate. How long can this stay on the table? Forever?

JA Lewis: No, Roberts Rules said it has to be for a definite period of time, that switches from a motion to something else. A motion to postpone has to include a definite period of time so the motion includes April 2nd.

PNEC Hennis: Ok, did I not hear some of the vice commanders and some of the district commanders district commanders say that they did not have time to read or see what was in there, they just didn't have time to go over it? Is that correct, Mr. Rucker?

Vice Cmdr Rucker; I didn't have time, I read it, but I didn't have time to sit down and digest and break it apart and see where all this came from, ok.

PNEC Hennis: You guys ran for the office that you have, and regardless of when you got the material, it's your job to sit down and read it then, not wait two weeks or a week after, you've got a job. You're not a volunteer anymore, as you all know. So I don't see what the point is of postponing that our vote or ya'lls vote is not going to mean a hill of beans at the conference, at the convention because it's got to go before the caucus, that's where you need to iron out your problems.

Vice Cmdr Richardson: No.

Vice Cmdr Rucker: No.

PNEC Hennis: No, well, it's going to be the same thing.

D-1 Cmdr Jarvis: I agree with you, the problem I have is the DEC sending that, hey, I approve this, because I don't because I don't understand it yet. One week for me to digest it.

PNEC Hennis: Do you really think if we postpone it until April that everybody in this room is going to be in agreement with what's written?

(Several people said no).

PNEC Hennis: Ok, so then where are we at?

Vice Cmdr Rucker: We either vote down or vote it up.

PNEC Hennis: Put it to the vote of the blue cap Legionnaires.

Vice Cmdr Richardson: If, any post, any post submits an amendment to the constitution and bylaws committee, it's sent back.

Vice Cmdr Price: It gets sent back.

Vice Cmdr Richardson: It gets sent back. Now, if the DEC is going to send an amendment to constitution and bylaws committee, why isn't it on the right form? Did we get it? No! We got a worksheet that they got from it. What I'm asking simply is I want to see what I'm voting on. I want to see the piece of paper that is going to the sub-committee so I can recommend it or dis-recommend it before it goes to the convention. Because understand, at the convention when people say it was recommended by the DEC that is going to carry an inordinate....

Vice Cmdr Rucker: Amount.

Vice Cmdr Richardson:amount of weight.

Vice Cmdr Rucker: Weight.

Vice Cmdr Richardson: And if that's the case I want to see what I'm recommending to the convention, that's all I'm asking. I want to see the amendments! We haven't seen them, if you'd seen the amendments in here, think about it, you would know what you were going to do, is that right?

PNEC Hennis: Is it not written in blue?

Vice Cmdr Richardson: Right, one second please, Bud. But nobody in here except the people on the committee, have seen the amendments. And they're asking us to vote on something we haven't seen! They want us to vote on a worksheet! This is not what's going to be presented at the convention! The amendments are going to be presented at the convention and before I vote to send them, I'm going to look at them!

PNEC Hennis: So...

Vice Cmdr Richardson: I'm going to study them!

PNEC Hennis: Can I ask Walt something, Commander?

Dept Cmdr Britt: One question, go ahead. One question.

PNEC Hennis: Ok. The amendments are there in blue,

Vice Cmdr Richardson: No Bud, this is a worksheet.

PNEC Hennis: I understand that.

Vice Cmdr Richardson: This is a worksheet.

PNEC Hennis: I understand that, all you got to do is just imagine that blue....

Vice Cmdr Rucker: No.

PNEC Hennis: Let me ask you, let me finish my thing. What you're saying basically is you do not trust what's in blue in there is going to be the same thing.

Vice Cmdr Richardson: The amendments are already printed; the amendments have already been printed. Nick, how long have the amendments been printed?

Dept Adj Diener: Same time we sent that out.

Vice Cmdr Richardson: Why weren't the amendments sent with it? They were printed at the same time. Why weren't they sent with this? Why? I'm just asking you. I'm just asking you. don't vote on something that you don't know what in the hell you're voting for.

Dept Cmdr Britt: We have to move on. Joe?

PDC Lysaght: I think what Cmdr Lonergan had a good suggestion, and a portion of what Cmdr Richardson is saying, we should have listened to instead of went to the harp and personal feelings. I don't think there's a need to postpone, the body is sitting here right now, we have the form, why don't we just vote it yes or vote it no. If you vote it no, we don't have to worry about coming back every other weekend for a DEC meeting because Cmdr Hennis is correct. Gentlemen, you don't expect us to come in here three or weeks from now and sit down and approve this thing, ok. And so we just kill it right now, it's over with, done. Why go through all this rhetoric, why go through all this discussion? Except to vote it down?

PNEC Hennis: And then leave it up to one of the vice commanders and have it on their terms.

D-19 Cmdr Gibbons: It seems as though our committee has done an excellent job, like I had I said before. They have done a lot of research in what they're proposing with the amendments, and from their information, we should accept what they're saying because that's the committee that we rely on to present what needs to come before the blue cappers. So I am not in favor of postponing, we need to get the work done where it can get to the blue cappers. Thank you very much, Commander.

D-9 Cmdr Sweet: I'm very confused with all this because isn't what's in blue the same thing that's in the amendment? It is the same thing, right?

Vice Cmdr Richardson: How do you know?

Vice Cmdr Price: How do you know? We haven't seen the amendment.

Vice Cmdr Richardson: We haven't seen an amendment.

Const/Bylaws Chairman Hawk: Everything in blue will be in amendment form and submitted to the const & bylaws as required. The comment up here, mumbling, says we don't know if it's going to be correct form and we don't know if it's going to be the same. We're not tasked as a committee to make up stuff, we're tasked as a committee to see that it's done right. So everything you have in blue will be on a form, the const & bylaws form for the blue cap Legionnaires.....

Vice Cmdr Price: That's all I was asking.

Const/Bylaws Chairman Hawk.....to consider.

D-5 Cmdr Wright: Ladies & Gentlemen, we're spending a lot of time, precious time, arguing back and forth. I would like to ask a simple question. Would it appease the members that have made the recommendation to postpone if we just take a moment and look at what's being proposed? If you just glance at that, all through that book, the majority of it, is corrections. Wait? Would it be acceptable that we run through these, I believe we have 14 instead of 15, the best I've studied this. I mean, what the heck guys? To change the name from an Officer to a member? How long have you been had your old copy of your constitution and you've read them? Jesus Christ! This is ridiculous! You know, we can go through these that are so simple, or we can stand here until this afternoon and argue back and forth of what's right and what's wrong. Now, it's a simple solution. Read the darned things and get it over with!

D-1 Cmdr Jarvis: I'm in and out of the Department almost every other day or every day. And I know for a fact that the amendments as they're proposed that goes to the floor was already typed up so why, what reasonable person would not have given (inaudible). I want to look at an individual thing and say, ok, this is this, this, this. There's things in there I think you missed. And then there's other things I think you covered. If you would have taken one at a time then I think we could have done something and then, but we....

D-5 Cmdr Wright: That's what I'm saying, take them one at a time, he's got them up there! Let's do it, get it over with!

Dept Cmdr Britt: Do you have a comment?

Vice Cmdr Richardson: The comment I'm saying is why didn't we get, as I've said before, why didn't we get a copy of the amendments?

D-5 Cmdr Wright: Because they printed them on here for you.

Vice Cmdr Richardson: No, they didn't Jack.

D-5 Cmdr Wright: Look at it, Walt!

Vice Cmdr Richardson: I want to see....

D-5 Cmdr Wright: He's got it right there, would you have believed if he'd presented it and read it to you?

Vice Cmdr Richardson: I'd have believed him if we had got it in the packet. Why didn't we get them in the packet?

Dept Cmdr Britt: I'm going to ask Walt one question. Would you amend your motion to instead of the 26th for the next DEC to have a DEC meeting on February the 9th? That's two weeks.

Vice Cmdr Richardson: No. I'm tied up for the next four Saturdays.

D-18 Cmdr Pouncy: Mr. Commander, I have a question. You have a meeting at your discretion. Now, if I can't make it, you still have a meeting. Let's don't put it off, you can't please me, I can't please you. Have a meeting at your discretion, let's stop going around, have a meeting at your discretion. You can't please everybody, call the meeting, if we can't be here, you still call the meeting.

Vice Cmdr Price: We still have a motion.

Dept Cmdr Britt: We have a motion on the floor that has a specific date and he's got to alter his motion.

Vice Cmdr Richardson: I'm not going to alter it.

Dept Cmdr Britt: And he's refusing to alter his motion.

Vice Cmdr Richardson: Wait a second.

Dept Cmdr Britt: Walt's checking on one thing on his dates.

Vice Cmdr Richardson: March the 2nd?

Dept Cmdr Britt: Do we have anything on March the 2nd Maggie? It's a month from now, the first Saturday in March.

Exec Dir May: No.

Dept Adj Diener: I'm going to look at the calendar.

Exec Dir May: John, we should be ok.

NEC Strauss: Is that between Washington Conference and the Oratorical?

Exec Dir May: Yeh.

Dept Adj Diener: There's nothing on the calendar and there's no District meetings.

Vice Cmdr Richardson: I amend my motion to March the 2nd.

Vice Cmdr Rucker: I second.

Dept Cmdr Britt: Ok, Walt has amended his motion to March the 2nd. Robin has seconded it. Any further discussion?

Vice Cmdr Richardson I would like a copy of the amendments.

D-3 Cmdr Lewis: Or at least put them on the website where we can look at them.

Vice Cmdr Poulos: No, we can't do that yet, we haven't voted on them.

Vice Cmdr Richardson: I want a piece of paper. I want to see what I'm voting on.

Dept Cmdr Britt: Any other questions or comments?

D-20 Cmdr Mills: Just a comment, just remember the Ntl Cmdr will be here the next day.

Exec Dir May: We know.

Dept Cmdr Britt: I'll be down here. I am requesting a roll call vote, do you have a roll call? Yes, is to approve Walt's motion, no is to not approve Walt's motion.

NEC Strauss: No.

Dept Historian Cantrell: Yes

Vice Cmdr Poulos: Yes

Vice Cmdr Rucker: Yes

D-2 Cmdr Blankin: Yes

D-4 Cmdr Southworth: Yes

D-6 Cmdr Kvam: No

D-8 Cmdr Shaffer: No

D-10 Cmdr Sinclair: Yes

D-12 Cmdr Davis: Yes

D-14 Cmdr Brandt: Yes

D-17 Cmdr Thrailkill: Yes

D-19 Cmdr Gibbons: No

Alt NEC Scherer: Yes

Vice Cmdr Richardson: Yes

Vice Cmdr Price: Yes

D-1 Cmdr Jarvis: Yes

D-3 Cmdr Lewis: Yes

D-5 Cmdr Wright: No

D-7 Cmdr Bethea: Yes

D-9 Cmdr Sweet: No

D-11 Cmdr Lonergan: Yes

D-13 Cmdr Patterson: No

D-16 Cmdr Defrehn: No

D-18 Cmdr Pouncy: No

D-20 Cmdr Mills Yes

Dept Cmdr Britt: Seventeen yes, nine nos, so we will hold a District Meeting, a DEC meeting March the 2nd. To discuss only the constitution and it was also put down there that everyone gets a copy of the amendments.

Vice Cmdr Price: What time will that be, Commander?

Dept Cmdr Britt: 9:00 am. Motion carries. We are in postponement until that day for this item.

NEC Strauss: When will they get a copy?

Dept Adj Diener: As soon as we put them together and send it out.

NEC Strauss: I mean, are we getting a copy the day before or are we getting it now?

D-3 Cmdr Lewis: I mean, you can e-mail them as far as we're concerned.

Dept Adj Diener: We'll get them put out early next week, it's as fast as...

Dept Cmdr Britt: Nick, have you got comments?

Dept Adj Diener: No, I've got another issue to bring to them. Ok, and we saved this, as part of this, and this is why we waited for me to get up until this point of it. During part of this review the Department Const & Bylaws Cmte did, one of the things that we looked at, was we went back four years and looked at all those previous conventions, what was voted on, and made sure the changes were put in there correctly. And from the 2016 convention, ok, we found two mistakes that were made. And basically, they were, to

me, serious mistakes. The first one involves Amendment # 1 and was submitted by Post 71 and if in your constitution, the one copy that we handed out, if you'll turn to page six in there, of the constitution, and what we're looking at there, it's on the top, Article VI, section one. The Amendment # 1, back in 2016, changed the last sentence of that paragraph, and added the sentence. **“New additions, other than these officers listed, to the Department Executive committee shall be approved by 2/3's vote of the Department Executive Committee or 2/3's vote of the body of the American Legion South Carolina Department Convention.”**

Basically giving this body the authority with a 2/3's vote to change the makeup of this body and change the constitution. That amendment was voted on in the convention and it was reported during the convention that the amendment passed 167 to 38. And therefore, then the Department Adjutant, based on that, changed the constitution as you see it now and as it current reads.

However, upon looking at the results that were submitted by each of the caucus leaders, and pardon me, I'm going to leave off your titles for at that time, but that year it was Walt Richardson.....

Vice Cmdr Poulos: I couldn't be in it.

Dept Adj Diener: That's right, you couldn't be in there. It was Mike Strauss, Bobby Gibbons and I'm not sure on the other one now then, I was thinking it was Roberta. But anyway, But when you go back through and look at the actual sheets that the caucus leaders turned in, when they did the tally, they did the tally incorrectly. And what it appears happened, is that the vote for caucus one and caucus four, that when the folks added them up at the end, and I'm not saying the caucus leaders, I'm talking about the Credentials Committee. They flip-flopped the yes and no votes. So in actuality that amendment, the vote was 61 yes, 140 no, it didn't even come close to passing. So basically, when the caucus leaders turned it back in and the credentials committee sat down and totaled it together, and tallied all four caucus's together, they totaled it wrong.

Vice Cmdr Richardson: So someone just made a mistake?

Dept Adj Diener: Yeh, they made an error. But the error was that amendment did not pass. Look at Article VI, section 1 of the constitution, that last sentence there, that what was added, from that sentence on. I'm looking for approval from this body, I need to take that out of the constitution, the constitution was changed in there. The original was everything above there except that last sentence. That amendment didn't change anything else.

NEC Strauss: I'd like to make a motion that we approve that recommendation as cited.

Vice Cmdr Poulos: I second.

Dept Cmdr Britt: I have a motion and a second to correct the error that was made back then. Any discussion? All in favor say aye, opposed? Motion carried.

Dept JA Lewis: Real quick, just in case anybody asks, I don't think anybody would, if it's an amendment to the constitution, it's got to be voted on by the convention, this is not an amendment, it's a correction. Because you can't amend something that never should have happened. So if anybody asks, it's not an amendment pursuant to the clause in the constitution that requires an amendment to be passed.

NEC Strauss: I think for the record a copy of this motion should be included in all future correspondence on all const & bylaws changes because 15 years from now, somebody might not pick up on that, just for future recordkeeping.

Dept Adj Diener: Yeh, we'll make sure it gets in there.

Dept Adj Diener: Ok. The second one, and this is all still stemming from the same convention, and I don't know if any of ya'll remember but about a year and a half ago another time on a correction and it was all out of this same correction.

If anybody will remember, there was a lot going on at that convention. This one gets a little more complicated and I passed a sheet out to you for you to kind of see without trying to pass out volumes of documents.

What happened, in a nutshell, back in 2016, there were two amendments that were submitted, and they were both dealt with article VI, section 5 of the Constitution, it was #46 that was submitted from Post 1 and #56 submitted that was submitted from Post 249.

Both amendments dealt with the same section, the wording contained in the amendments though, with the recommended changes, was different. They were very similar in intent, but they were different.

In the report of the Constitution and By-laws Committee gave to the convention, they stated that the two amendments were combined. In the Connector issue sent out to the posts for that one, it was stated that they were combined but each of the two amendments were shown and the verbiage was never combined. So the committee said it was combined but nobody actually combined them. Both of the amendments went to the caucus's for votes and on the voting sheets, although they were listed separately, there was a note down at the bottom that said one of them was combined. So there was no indication on which version, were they voting on # 46 or were they voting on # 56? All that can be taken from it when I look at the sheets is that each of the caucus's unanimously voted to approve both amendments and most of them annotated as they voted on them as combined but again, which one of those were they talking about? Adjutant Holland then changed the constitution and he solely used the verbiage that's in amendment # 46, which you have in front of you. The sheet that you have there is what the original constitution says, and it was changed then to reflect the wording of amendment # 46. Ok, but as you can see, # 56, which was also approved, changes, has the wording, it says about the same thing, but it changes the wording around.

So the question comes down is, how do we fix that. And my recommendation on that and I've the concurrence of the constitution and bylaws committee, is that I take the wording from both amendments, and even though some of it made it repetitious, I still took the wording from both of the amendments and combined them together to where that matches a...I guess my thought process there is the convention voted for both of them to approved, to be combined and be approved and so I took all the verbiage and combined it. And my recommendation is that we adopt and change the constitution to that verbiage down there. That's not necessarily how I would have worded if it was just me writing it but what I tried to do, as much as I could, the exact words from the two amendments and combine them together.

Alt Scherer: (Inaudible)

Dept Adj Diener: All I took is what they had in their amendment, that verbiage is exactly the way their amendment had it which was "non-voting members". I didn't try to interpret or anything else, I tried as close as I could to pull the exact wording down so where it said both of them in there.

Alt NEC Scherer: (Inaudible)

D-10 Cmdr Sinclair: So very specific, you're asking what right now?

Dept Adj Diener: What I would like if for ya'll to make a motion that I can go ahead and change the constitution with that consolidated verbiage.

Alt NEC Scherer: I make the motion that you do that.

Dept Cmdr Britt: Bob Scherer makes a motion to allow Nick to correct the constitution by consolidating.

D-14 Cmdr Brandt: I second it.

Dept Cmdr Britt: I have a motion and a second, any discussion?

JA Lewis: Let me just say again for clarification. What the convention voted on was to give this body the authority to consolidate, to combine, because I read it, so ya'll have the authority to consolidate. What Nick's saying is essentially is this language ok, is this language ok as a consolidation from what the general assembly to give ya'll the authority to do.

Vice Cmdr Richardson: We're going to consolidate amendments?

JA Lewis: Right yes, they voted to combine the two of them. And that's what's Nick's done with this language at the bottom of the sheet.

Vice Cmdr Richardson: These aren't amendments?

JA Lewis: No, we're not amending anything.

Vice Cmdr Richardson: I understand that.

JA Lewis: This is not a new amendment; this body doesn't have the authority to amend on it's own. I'm clarifying that this is not a new amendment. We're doing what the body told us to do, they gave us the authority (inaudible)

Vice Cmdr Rucker: Call for the question.

Dept Cmdr Britt: All we're trying to do is put them together. I've got a call for the question. All in favor of this say aye? Opposed? We've got one nay.

Vice Cmdr Richardson: Please note that was me.

Please see amendments below for the record:

Original Section:

Only the voting members, as prescribed in Article VI, Section 2 of the Constitution shall be permitted to be present and privileged to participate in Executive Session of said committee. In addition, Past Department Commanders, as non-voting members of the Department Executive Committee shall be permitted to be present and privileged to participate in Executive Session of the committee.

Amendment #46:

All elected and appointed members of the Department Executive Committee shall be permitted to be present and privileged to participate in Executive Session of said committee. In addition, the past Department Commanders as non-voting members of the Department Executive Committee shall be permitted to be present and privileged to participate in Executive Session of the committee. Any additional staff the DEC determines to be necessary are allowed to remain in the hall.

Amendment # 56:

All elected and non-voting members of the Department Executive Committee shall be permitted to be present and privileged to participate in Executive Session of said committee. In addition, The Judge Advocate, Assistant Judge Advocate, Adjutant, Assistant Adjutant and administrative staff for recording the minutes will be permitted to be present.

Recommended consolidation:

All elected, appointed and non-voting members of the Department Executive Committee shall be permitted to be present and privileged to participate in Executive Session of said committee. In addition, the past Department Commanders as non-voting members of the Department Executive Committee, as well as the Judge Advocate, Assistant Judge Advocate, Adjutant, Assistant Adjutant and administrative staff for recording the minutes shall be permitted to be present and privileged to participate in Executive Session of the committee. Any additional staff the DEC determines to be necessary are allowed to remain in the hall.

Dept Adj Diener: For the National Cmdr's visit, when we put it out before we let you know it wasn't set in concrete, a couple of changes I want to let you know about. On March the 5th, Tuesday, previously we had put out that we were going to Post 56, that had to be changed because they can't do it so what we're going to be doing is at 9:00 am we're going to breakfast at Chapin Post 193, which they have agreed to do. Then on March 6th, that Wednesday, before we had said we'd have the National Cmdr's meeting at the meeting at the Marriott and then to the Statehouse and then he'd return here to meet with all of us. That last part has changed and instead of coming over here, that afternoon we'll be going to down to the Charleston VA and then we'll to go to James Island Post 147. Where you all had penciled in dates to be over here after that, we're not going to be doing that.

P-215 Adj Gooden: Is the Cmdr going to be visiting the Post of the year?

Dept Adj Diener: No. One, part of our effort on this is to get the National Commander to posts they haven't been to yet. We want to go to Post 250 as the leading membership and on the way, we'll stop by Post 34 and fill it in. I know everybody would love to have the National Commander come but we get everything in that we can.

Dept Cmdr Britt: To continue with the National Commander's visit, my Homecoming is at a place called the Ridge in Laurens, it's a city owned facility and they're letting us for free, no charge, letting us hold the event there. It's a full-size basketball court and in another room off to the side, we'll have the serving lines. We'll be coming from the Veterans Nursing Home in Anderson in Laurens, invitations have gone out, I don't know if any of you have got your invitations, but they were mailed this past week. It's a brand-new facility. I look forward to seeing each of you there, those of you that are planning to go with us, information will be coming out about that.

Our next meeting is specifically for the constitution and bylaws on March 2, 2019 at 9:00 am. Mark your calendars and please be here. Anything else for the good of The American Legion.

D-6 Kvam: The Carolina Stingrays in Charleston is having an American Legion birthday night for the celebration of the Centennial, tickets will be, if you go online, there's a website. Tickets are \$15, happy hour is 6:00 pm to 8:00 pm, \$2.00 a beer at the concession stand. And children ages one and under don't require tickets, they're holding it at the Coliseum, I'll leave some information.

D-20 Cmdr Mills: I've got something, I'd like everyone to fill out at least one, it's valentines for Veterans, we're going to pass them out at schools and other veterans' groups, I want to make sure you get some of these and take them to the VA and other places where veterans gather. It's just a little thing and if the give donations, that's fine, we'll bring them forward. Fill them out and hand them to me and we'll disburse those for valentines.

Dept Cmdr Britt: They'll be these placemats back in the workroom, please pick one up.

Alt NEC Scherer: Mike did a heck of a job on those, he should be congratulated.

PNEC Hennis: Again, I'd like to commend this Executive Board for passing resolutions to put money in the Americanism program, that's what we're supposed to do is take care of our veterans, so I want to thank you again.

Vice Cmdr Rucker: There's a changing of the guard for the SC National Guard, on February 16th, our Adjutant General is stepping down and you're invited to come at McIntire AFB. I got an invitation and they told me to extend that to you, they'd love to have all blue hats they can get.

D-20 Cmdr Mills: Since you brought that up, Major General Livingston did a lot for the American Legion.

Vice Cmdr Rucker: And he is a Legionnaire.

D-20 Cmdr Mills: He is a Legionnaire. It's just a thought of putting something together for him.

NEC Strauss: Do a resolution.

J/A Lewis: I'm putting my Boys State hat on. We'll be celebrating the 100th Birthday of The American Legion at Legion night, please don't miss that, the boys love it when you're there. 2nd thing, I want to make you aware of one thing, our program has become so popular we've had to turn away boys, because of the bed capacity at Anderson University. So one of the changes this year, we're going to be doing early submissions of the boys so get those in but one thing we're changing is our early dismissal policy. So if you're delegates can't commit for the whole week, we're going to have to put them on a waiting list, unless it's approved by me and I don't relish the thought because we have a lot of people asking. But we just believe the program kind of builds on itself and culminates on Saturday morning with graduation so if your delegates need to leave during the week or they can't make it for Friday and Saturday, we're going to have to put them on a waiting list and give that slot to a young man who can be there the whole week. We hate to do that, but we just feel like that's necessary.

PNEC Palmer: Some of you may or may not know that there is a Council of Past Department Commanders that has been working since last convention. And there's been a lot of things said and unrest in the Department and this letter is for you Commander. It reads:

We, the undersigned and other Past Department Commanders who are unable to be here to sign but who support our staff, would like to take this opportunity to show our appreciation and support to our office staff. We've all heard the various negative comments, innuendoes and phone calls concerning the attitudes and work performances of our Department staff by some of the leaders within our own South Carolina Legion.

And it saddens us to hear such comments from these individuals who are our elected leaders that now hold office, because it is a reflection on us, as fellow Legionnaires. Why? Because we elected them.

Every one of us, all Past Department Commanders, have had the honor and privilege to work with these employees, both now and in the past. WE can tell you that if professionalism and dedication isn't part of the new work environment, then we are in very bad shape, because the current employees of this Department have both.

The Department Adjutant is relatively new and learning the real world about this organization, and he's making great strides. And we are blessed to have a long-term employee who knows the Legion/operation and the history of our Department. The people that criticize should be thankful, not critical about what they themselves don't know or don't understand.

In closing, we, the Past Department Commanders, wish to thank our employees, Department Adjutant Nick Diener, and Department Executive Director Maggie May, for doing their duties and going the extra mile, keeping us and the Department on the right path.

We respectfully request that this be read at the next DEC meeting and that a copy of this letter be placed in their personnel folder for the record.

Applause

Dept Cmdr Britt: Anything else for the good of the Legion? Chaplain Quarles?

Chaplain Quarles gave the invocation and Commander Britt closed the meeting.

For God and Country,

Nick I. Diener
Department Adjutant

ND/mm

