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TOMORROW'S TECHNOLOGY TODAY

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1 MILITARY ORDER OF THE PURPLE HEART
2 91ST ANNUAL CONVENTION - ~~SESSION TWO~~

ORIGINAL

3

4 DATE: JULY 16, 2024

5 REPORTER: LYN SI HERGERT

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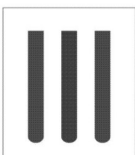
1 APPEARANCES

2 LEADERSHIP:

3 Carder Ferguson - National Commander, Arkansas
 4 Robert Olivarez - National Senior Vice Commander,
 Washington
 5 Tracey Brown-Greene - National Junior Vice Commander,
 Texas
 6 Walter Kroptavich - National Judge Advocate, Virginia
 Ernie Rivera - National Finance Officer, Florida
 7 David Jackson - National Inspector, California
 Gary Witt - National Sergeant At Arms, Virginia
 8 Dennis Wallot - NFC Chair. Michigan
 Paul Pickart - NFC Member, Iowa
 9 Craig Wertheim - NFC Member, Florida
 Jim Anderson - NFC Member, California
 10 Larry Leighton - NPC Chair, Arizona
 Alan Gibson - NPC Member, Georgia

11 REGION ONE

12 Frank Bokan - National Region 1 Commander, Pennsylvania
 Bryan Bossong - Region 1 Adjutant, Pennsylvania
 13 Charles Eggelston - Region 1 Chief of Staff, Maryland
 Michael Perron - Dept. Commander, Connecticut
 14 James Yacone - Dept. Senior Vice Commander, Connecticut
 John Alberghini - Dept. Junior Vice Commander,
 Connecticut
 Jason Coppola - Dept. Adjutant, Connecticut
 15 Gary Morris - Dept. Commander, Delaware
 John Hohman - Dept. Senior Vice Commander, Delaware
 16 Calvin Burgess - Dept. Commander, Maryland
 Chad Baker - Dept. Senior Vice Commander, Maryland
 17 Timothy Abele - Dept. Junior Vice Commander, Maryland
 James Hontz - Dept. Adjutant, Maryland
 18 Joseph Belardo - Dept. Commander, New Jersey
 Norman Glover - Dept. Senior Vice Commander, New Jersey
 19 John McCabe - Dept. Junior Vice Commander, New Jersey
 Richard Clark - Dept. Adjutant, New Jersey
 20 Ruben Pratts - Dept. Commander, New York
 Richard Gerbreth - Dept. Senior Vice Commander, New York
 21 Erie Mutz - Dept. Junior Vice Commander, New York
 Howard Goldin - Dept. Adjutant, New York
 22 Philip Arnold - Dept. Commander, Pennsylvania
 Bryan Bossong - Dept. Senior Vice Commander,
 23 Pennsylvania
 Robert Lauver - Dept. Junior Vice Commander,
 24 Pennsylvania
 Peter Verbos - Dept. Adjutant, Pennsylvania
 25 Benjamin King - Dept. Commander, Virginia
 Dominique Dionne - Dept. Senior Vice Commander, Virginia



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1 APPEARANCES CONTINUED

2 REGION ONE (Cont.)

3 Richard Wise - Dept. Junior Vice Commander, Virginia

4 Clifton Johnson - Dept. Adjutant, Virginia

5 REGION TWO

6 Terry Anderson - National Region 2 Commander, Minnesota

7 Paul Pickart - Region 2 Adjutant, Iowa

8 David Bellis - Region 2 Cheif of Staff, Minnesota

9 Dan Welman - Dept. Commander, Illinois

10 Gorden Brenner - Dept. Senior Vice Commander, Illinois

11 Keith Crossin - Dept. Adjutant, Illinois

12 Tom Moorman - Dept. Commander, Indiana

13 Micheal Shadowen - Dept. Senior Vice Commander, Indiana

14 David Bandelier - Dept. Junior Vice Commander, Indiana

15 Michael Shadowen - Dept. Adjutant, Indiana

16 Jack Hanson - Dept. Commander, Iowa

17 Anthony Polich - Dept. Senior Vice Commander, Iowa

18 Francis McAllister - Dept. Junior Vice Commander, Iowa

19 Paul Pickart - Dept. Adjutant, Iowa

20 Steven Schaltenbrand - Dept. Commander, Kentucky

21 Christopher Williams - Dept. Senior Vice Commander,

22 Kentucky

23 Christopher Smrt - Dept. Junior Vice Commander, Kentucky

24 Christopher Smrt - Dept. Adjutant, Kentucky

25 Ronald Allen - Dept. Commander, Michigan

26 Fred Honerkamp - Dept. Senior Vice Commander, Michigan

27 Scott Wilson - Dept. Junior Vice Commander, Michigan

28 Sam Alverado - Dept. Adjutant, Michigan

29 Dave Bellis - Dept. Commander, Minnesota

30 Willie Pargo - Dept. Senior Vice Commander, Minnesota

31 Wallace Lind - Dept. Junior Vice Commander, Minnesota

32 Bull Shirley - Dept. Adjutant, Minnesota

33 Garfield Pellhum - Dept. Commander, Missouri

34 Alios Befort - Dept. Senior Vice Commander, Missouri

35 John Dismer - Dept. Junior Vice Commander, Missouri

36 Alios Befort - Dept. Adjutant, Missouri

37 Michael Sheets - Dept. Commander, Nebraska

38 Terry Minarik - Dept. Senior Vice Commander, Nebraska

39 Robert Montag - Dept. Junior Vice Commander, Nebraska

40 Thomas McBride - Dept. Adjutant, Nebraska

41 Dennis Hannerman - Dept. Commander, Ohio

42 John Looker - Dept. Senior Vice Commander, Ohio

43 Shane Whitten - Dept. Junior Vice Commander (Ohio?)

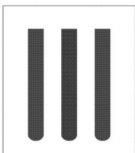
44 Terry Blair - Dept. Adjutant, Ohio

45 David Duffer - Dept. Commander, West Virginia

46 David Depersig - Dept. Senior Vice Commander, West

47 Virginia

48 Marcel Depersig - Dept. Junior Vice Commander, West



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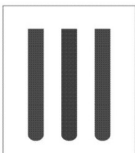
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1 APPEARANCES CONTINUED
 REGION TWO (Cont.)
 2 Larry Thompson - Dept. Adjutant, West Virginia
 George Banda - Dept. Commander, Wisconsin
 3 Richard Daseke - Dept. Senior Vice Commander, Wisconsin
 Joseph Heil - Dept. Junior Vice Commander, Wisconsin
 4 William Hustad - Dept. Adjutant, Wisconsin

5 REGION THREE
 Lawrence Rupo - National Region 3 Commander, Oregon
 6 Blanca Taylor - Region 3 Adjutant, Idaho
 Keith Whittenbel - Region 3 Chief of Staff, Oregon
 7 Stephen Blair - Dept. Commander, Alaska
 Timothy Robbins - Dept. Senior Vice Commander, Alaska
 8 Armando Martinez - Dept. Junior Vice Commander, Alaska
 William McClain - Dept. Adjutant, Alaska
 9 Ned Barker - Dept. Commander, Idaho
 George Nickel - Dept. Senior Vice Commander, Idaho
 10 George Nickel - Dept. Junior Vice Commander, Idaho
 George Nickel - Dept. Adjutant, Idaho
 11 Keith Wittenbel - - Dept. Commander, Oregon
 Joseph Howell - Dept. Senior Vice Commander, Oregon
 12 Patrick Wilburn - Dept. Junior Vice Commander, Oregon
 Larry Rupp - Dept. Adjutant, Oregon
 13 Connie Johnson - Dept. Commander, The Dakotas
 David Flute - Dept. Junior Vice Commander, The Dakotas
 14 Bill Flippo - Dept. Adjutant, The Dakotas
 Jennifer Horn - Dept. Commander, Washington
 15 Nick McCallon - Dept. Senior Vice Commander, Washington
 Nino Gray - Dept. Junior Vice Commander, Washington
 16 Allen Acosta - Dept. Adjutant, Washington
 Barry Gasdek - Dept. Commander, Wyoming
 17 Albert Walsh - Dept. Senior Vice Commander, Wyoming
 Daniel Carmona - Dept. Junior Vice Commander, Wyoming
 18 Charles Livermont - Dept. Adjutant, Wyoming

19 REGION FOUR
 Francis Figueroa-Lowe - Region 4 Commander, North
 20 Carolina
 Ed Abbey - Region 4 Adjutant, North Carolina
 21 Lou Zayas - Region 4 Chief of Staff, Georgia
 William Bergman - Dept. Commander, Alabama
 22 Robert Jones - Dept. Senior Vice Commander, Alabama
 Delbert Leonard Robinson - Dept. Adjutant, Alabama
 23 Craig Wertheim - Dept. Commander, Florida
 Louis Barnes - Dept. Senior Vice Commander, Florida
 24 Stewart Hilbmann - Dept. Junior Vice Commander, Florida
 Bill Smith - Dept. Adjutant, Florida
 25 Harold Jones - Dept. Commander, Georgia
 Lou Zaya - Dept. Senior Vice Commander, Georgia



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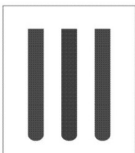
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 REGION FOUR(Cont.)
 2 Alan Gibson - Dept. Junior Vice Commander, Georgia
 John Wilder - Dept. Adjutant, Georgia
 3 Charlie Tolliver - Dept. Commander, Mississippi
 Holis McArthur - Dept. Senior Vice Commander,
 4 Mississippi
 Alexander Campbell - Dept. Junior Vice Commander,
 5 Mississippi
 Edward Buckman - Dept. Adjutant, Mississippi
 6 Lenny Lazzara - Dept. Commander, North Carolina
 James Hicks - Dept. Senior Vice Commander, North
 7 Carolina
 Christopher Davis - Dept. Junior Vice Commander, North
 8 Carolina
 Eddie Abbey - Dept. Adjutant, North Carolina
 9 Carl Lopez - Dept. Commander, South Carolina
 Cottie Aleen - Dept. Senior Vice Commander, South
 10 Carolina
 Harold Palmer - Dept. Junior Vice Commander, South
 11 Carolina
 Charles Cook - Dept. Adjutant, South Carolina
 12 Manuel Davila-Galarza - Dept. Commander, The Caribbean
 Victor Manuel Betancourt-Castro - Dept. Senior Vice
 13 Commander, The Caribbean
 Angel Matos Perez - Dept. Junior Vice Commander, The
 14 Caribbean
 Emilio DeLeon - Dept. Adjutant, The Caribbean
 15
 REGION FIVE
 16 Gustav Wittschack - National Dept. 5 Commander, Texas
 Chuck Adkins - Region 5 Adjutant, Arkansas
 17 John Footman - Region 5 Chief of Staff, Texas
 Jimmy Lewis - Dept. Commander, Arkansas
 18 Quinton Ezeagwula - Dept. Senior Vice Commander,
 Arkansas
 19 Lonnie Young - Dept. Junior Vice Commander, Arkansas
 Ted Clymer - Dept. Adjutant, Arkansas
 20 Peter Dowding - Dept. Commander, Colorado
 Larry Hathaway - Dept. Senior Vice Commander, Colorado
 21 William Dunn - Dept. Junior Vice Commander, Colorado
 Jon Eckhoff - Dept. Adjutant, Colorado
 22 Joe Sutton - Dept. Commander, Kansas
 Douglas Randolph - Dept. Senior Vice Commander, Kansas
 23 Zachary Schuman - Dept. Adjutant, Kansas
 Deron Santiny - Dept. Commander, Louisiana
 24 William McGinnis - Dept. Senior Vice Commander,
 Louisiana
 25 Jason Sedatol - Dept. Junior Vice Commander, Louisiana
 Harold Molbert - Dept. Adjutant, Louisiana



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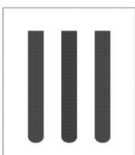
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2 REGION FIVE (Cont.)
3 Geoffrey Stone - Dept. Commander, New Mexico
4 Gregory Long - Dept. Senior Vice Commander, New Mexico
5 Peter Cornstock - Dept. Junior Vice Commander, New
6 Mexico
7 Roger Newall - Dept. Adjutant, New Mexico
8 Larry Van Schuyver - Dept. Commander, Oklahoma
9 Mitchell Reed - Dept. Senior Vice Commander, Oklahoma
10 Frank Whitlock - Dept. Junior Vice Commander, Oklahoma
11 Gary Lewis - Dept. Adjutant, Oklahoma
12 Michael Matthew - Dept. Commander, Texas
13 Lorenzo Rodriguez - Dept. Senior Vice Commander, Texas
14 Felix Garcia - Dept. Junior Vice Commander, Texas
15 Edward Rodela - Dept. Adjutant, Texas
16
17 REGION SIX
18 Charles Anderson - National Region 6 Commander,
19 California
20 Timothy Haney - Region 6 Adjutant, California
21 George Waller - Region 6 Chief of Staff, California
22 Keith Gray - Dept. Commander, Arizona
23 James Sallman - Dept. Senior Vice Commander, Arizona
24 John Moore - Dept. Junior Vice Commander, Arizona
25 Larry Leighton - Dept. Adjutant, Arizona
26 Nicholas Francisco - Dept. Commander, Asia Pacific
27 Ricardo Cruz - Dept. Senior Vice Commander, Asia Pacific
28 Charles Bush - Dept. Junior Vice Commander, Asia Pacific
29 Pedro Aguon - Dept. Adjutant, Asia Pacific
30 Jo Keller - Dept. Commander, California
31 Raymond Wetzel - Dept. Senior Vice Commander, California
32 Ronald Manjarrez - Dept. Junior Vice Commander,
33 California
34 Gary Rutledge - Dept. Adjutant, California
35 Joel Brilliant - Dept. Commander, Hawaii
36 Barrett Taylor - Dept. Senior Vice Commander, Hawaii
37 Thomas Tanaka - Dept. Junior Vice Commander, Hawaii
38 Chris Lee - Dept. Adjutant, Hawaii
39 Andrew LePeilbet - Dept. Commander, Nevada
40 Daniel Peterson - Dept. Senior Vice Commander, Nevada
41 Vincent Palmieri - Dept. Junior Vice Commander, Nevada
42 Andrew LePeilbet - Dept. Adjutant, Nevada
43
44 NATIONAL CHIEFS OF STAFF
45 Brian Willette, Massachusetts
46 Charles "Char" Gatlin, Montana
47 Richard Farrer, Tennessee
48 Sam Talkington, Utah
49



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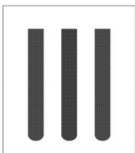
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PAST NATIONAL COMMANDERS
2 Frank Athanason, Florida
Boyd Barclay, Oklahoma
3 Jim Blaylock, Georgia
James Durkin, New York
4 Felix Garcia III, Texas
Hershel Gober, Florida
5 William Hutton, California
James McCormick, West Virginia
6 Bruce McKenty, Washinton
Ernie Rivera, Florida
7 Jeffrey Roy, Colorado
Ron Siebels, Alaska
8 Alfred Silvano, South Carolina
Fred Taylor, Florida
9 Cornelius Van-Ess, New Jersey

10 APPOINTED OFFICERS
Chuck Adkins - National Adjutant
11 Francis Figueroa - Advocacy Officer
Ed Abbey - Americanism Officer
12 Louis Barnes - Asst. National Sergeant at Arms, Florida
Carlton Cannon - Chaplin, Delaware
13 Kevin Bucek - Chief Information Officer, Tennessee
Brandon Wegner - Deputy Chief Information Officer, Texas
14 Nick McIntosh - Historian, Kentucky
Lee Brown - Homeless Veterans Officer, Florida
15 James McCormick - Legislative Director, West Virginia
Zachariah Fike - Director of Medical Recovery Program/
16 Purple Hearts Reunited, Vermont
Joe Tormala - POW/MIA Officer, Michigan
17 Joe Sutton - Purple Heart Legacy ad Trail Coordinator,
Kansas
18 Charles Eggelston - National Service Office, Maryland
Beth Bucke - Social Media Director, Tennessee
19 Brandon Wegner - Software Development Program Director,
Texas
20 Jo Keller - Suicide Awareness Program Officer,
California
21 Robert Bibeau - Surgeon, New Mexico
Bill Bull - Viola Program Officer, Minnesota
22 Felicia Flake - Director of Women's Issues, Louisiana
Roger Newell - Youth Services Officer, New Mexico
23
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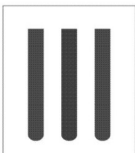
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1 APPEARANCES CONTINUED
NATIONAL BYLAWS COMMITTEE
2 Robert Olivarez - Senior Vice Commander, Texas
Francis Figueroa-Lowe - Member, North Carolina
3 Joe Schaler - Member, Illinois
Tom Moorman - Member, Indiana
4 Keith Wittenbel - Member, Oregon
Gustav Wittschack - Member, Texas
5 Mitchel Reed - Member, Oklahoma
Raymond Wetzal - Member, California
6 Joshua Dale - Member, California
Craig Wertheim - Member, Florida
7
NATIONAL FINANCE COMMITTEE
8 Dennis Wallot - Chair, Michigan
Paul Pickart - Member, Iowa
9 Craig Wertheim - Member, Florida
Jim Anderson - Member, California
10 Carder Ferguson - National Commander, Arkansas
Robert Olivarez - National SVC, Washington
11 Tracey Brown-Greene - National JVC, Texas
Ernie Rivera - National FO, Florida
12 Walter Kroptavich - National JA, Virginia
13
NATIONAL INVESTMENT COMMITTEE
Dennis Wallot - Chair, Michigan
14 Paul Pickart - Member, Iowa
Ernie Rivera - National Finance Officer, Florida
15 Jim Anderson - Member, California
Craig Wertheim - Member, Florida
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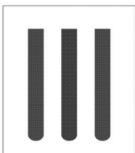
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STIPULATION

The PUBLIC MEETING was held at ROSEN PLAZA, 9700 INTERNATIONAL DRIVE, ORLANDO, FLORIDA 32819 on TUESDAY the 16th day of JULY 2024 at 8:47 a.m. (ET); said PUBLIC MEETING was taken pursuant to the AGREED UPON RULED OF THE PRESENT PARTIES.



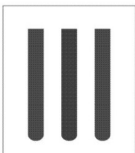
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PROCEEDINGS

MR. ADKINS: All right. Patriots please take your seats. All right. Good morning everyone. Welcome back to the seating hall (phonetic). I believe the Sergeant at Arms has already made a comment about cellphones. I want to reiterate, but we do have some other, you know, announcements. You know, first of all, again, no weapons. We won't do a roll call first thing this morning. We'll do -- delay that until later on when we know that we're fixing to have some votes, especially on the -- the bylaws and some things that the NE -- that have to be either ratified or rejected that the NEC took action on between the convention.

AUSA sent a couple of good videos down about the benefits. Because of the affiliation that we now have with them they'll be played during the breaks. So if you want to take a break, stay in place, and watch them, feel free.

One thing from yesterday I noticed, hey, we're adults here. Take your trash with you when you leave. I mean, this place -- you know, a couple of spots were just -- you know, it was terrible. The Department of Florida still has plenty of coins, pens, ties, and T- shirts left, so please either see

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1 Lou or Steve. So National Commander.

2 MR. FERGUSON: Good morning.

3 AUDIENCE: Good morning, sir.

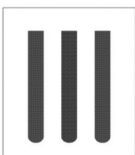
4 MR. FERGUSON: How is everybody doing today?

5 AUDIENCE: Good. Great.

6 MR. FERGUSON: How was that hospitality room
7 last night? Okay. Give them a round of applause
8 for that. That was actually my only meal I had that
9 day, so it was really good for me. I -- I'll just
10 tell you that. I needed that. So keeping things up
11 and going.

12 We got a lot of things going on today. So I
13 want to introduce a couple people in just a few
14 minutes. But one of the things, I want us to
15 remember what today is about. Remember I gave the
16 objects of the order, which is our -- being
17 patriotic, fraternal, and historical. That is one
18 of the things that we're setting up that's on here.
19 We need to understand that we're here to conduct
20 business, and we can all have the right to agree and
21 to disagree.

22 So there will be things brought up today, if it
23 doesn't -- if it's not right, vote what it's
24 supposed to be for. Let's not get into he said, she
25 said type of things that's on here. Let's turn



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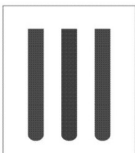
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1 around and deliberate the things that we're supposed
2 to do and conduct business properly as
3 professionals.

4 There will be a lot of things that -- you know,
5 I understand -- I've seen people come up and talk to
6 me about passionate things that they are. And I --
7 hey, I understand that we need to get this order
8 moving forward. And that is our objective. What do
9 we need to do to get this order to move forward in
10 the right direction?

11 So without further ado, I know we want to keep
12 a few things -- I want to announce -- we got a
13 couple of people that was in here I want to announce
14 about, and I want to announce one of the things.
15 One of our patriots that is here is actually the
16 National Senior Vice Commander in Chief of the VFW.
17 I had to make sure to get the title right because it
18 was a little different than ours. And then -- it's
19 Al Lipheart. He is here. He is a patriot out of
20 Georgia. And I wanted to give a recognition to him.
21 And he will be the incoming Commander in Chief of
22 the VFW this next year.

23 Okay. Okay. All right. Sorry. Admin notes,
24 making sure I get things on here. So next I have
25 invited a guest that was here. Long story short, I



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1 hate to say I've known this person since high
2 school. Might actually -- I don't even know, maybe
3 even the junior high. The problem that I had with
4 this one, I didn't know what he was looking for. So
5 it was through, actually, her social media, is how
6 we ended up getting contact that was on this.

7 So the power of social media is out there. And
8 this was something that I didn't know that he was
9 passionate about. And he has something -- him and
10 his wife that wanted to do for us. And I've talked
11 about how we need to promote this order, how we need
12 to promote things that's out. And he's willing to
13 come up and do something else here, to do something
14 with this project. And I don't want to explain all
15 of it because he has more of the details on it. But
16 he needs for us to know what he's doing.

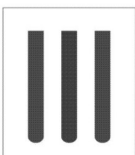
17 And, actually, how many people would be
18 interested in a film about the Purple Heart? How
19 many would be interested?

20 AUDIENCE: Yeah.

21 MR. FERGUSON: Yeah?

22 AUDIENCE: Yeah.

23 MR. FERGUSON: Knowing what is going on,
24 without further ado, I would like to introduce John
25 (phonetic) Popa and Shannon Popa, come up here and



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1 talk about what they're going to do with this
2 project.

3 MS. POPA: Good morning.

4 AUDIENCE: Good morning.

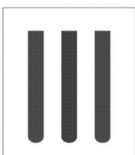
5 MS. POPA: In 1943, a young lieutenant was
6 commanding a patrol torpedo boat near the Solomon
7 Islands in the Pacific Ocean. While he was serving,
8 a Japanese warship rammed the side of the boat.

9 AUDIENCE: We're having difficulty hearing you.
10 Sorry to interrupt.

11 MR. ADKINS: Step forward.

12 MS. POPA: Okay. I'll start over, sorry. So
13 in 1943, in August of that year, a young lieutenant
14 was commanding a patrol torpedo boat in -- near the
15 Solomon Islands in the Pacific Ocean. While he was
16 serving, a Japanese warship rammed the side of the
17 boat. The young lieutenant suffered a back injury.
18 Several soldiers were killed, and others were flung
19 into a sea of burning oil. Despite his back injury,
20 the young lieutenant dove into the water and managed
21 to save three men.

22 As they were clinging to the sinking ship, the
23 wreckage there, he asked his men -- he said, do you
24 want to surrender to the Japanese, or do you want to
25 continue to fight? The men voted to continue to



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1 fight. So they swam three miles to a nearby island.
2 The young lieutenant took a badly injured man and
3 strapped him into a life jacket and towed him by
4 holding the strap in his teeth and swimming.

5 You may have heard this story before. The
6 soldier, his name was John F. Kennedy. Now, this
7 room is full of heroes who could sacrifice for our
8 country. And I'm sure there are many other stories
9 of heroism and sacrifice that you could all share
10 with us. And my husband and I sincerely want to
11 thank you for your sacrifice and your service. My
12 name is Shannon Popa. This is my incredibly talented
13 husband, John Popa, and he has written a film script
14 entitled The Purple Heart. The story is about a
15 veteran who finds a purple heart, and it's about his
16 soul-searching mission to find the owner of that
17 purple heart. And he discovers, during that
18 mission, that the heroic owner's past closely
19 intertwined with his own.

20 I'm sure you will agree that the patriotism in
21 this country has been declining over the past few
22 years. We need -- we need to call attention to the
23 sacrifices that have been made that keeps our
24 country safe, that gives us the freedom that we
25 enjoy today.



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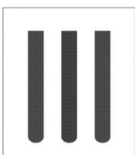
1 So I hope that you guys will consider helping
2 us. We need to raise approximately \$75,000 to bring
3 this film -- to -- to make it into a full-length
4 motion picture. John and I will be in the lobby
5 until right after lunch. We would love to meet you
6 all personally, to hear your stories of sacrifice
7 and to talk to you about our project. We do want to
8 thank you so much for your time and attention, but
9 most of all for your service and your sacrifice.
10 Thank you.

11 MR. FERGUSON: John and Shannon, really great
12 that you came up here to do that. I know this is
13 one thing we talked about promoting the order, and
14 this is -- would be a great tool for us and a good
15 support to keep things up and going. I know -- I
16 think they got some flyers and some information,
17 right?

18 So make sure we link up with them and talk to
19 them. Don't everybody jump up and see if you can be
20 one of the actors in the film. I think there's a low
21 budget on that part. That was right here, so no --

22 MS. POPA: If he wants to be in the movie,
23 that's fine.

24 MR. FERGUSON: Okay. So I can see everybody
25 running up there to be part of the movie that was



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1 here, so. All right. Well, again, thank you all.
2 We'll let them get out of the room.

3 So who all had a good breakfast this morning?
4 Oh, man, I got nobody. Yeah. Okay. Oh, we got a
5 couple. All right. Oatmeal. Gus, did you have
6 oatmeal?

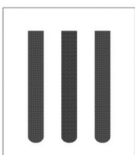
7 MR. WITTSCHACK: No, I lied.

8 MR. FERGUSON: You lied. Okay. All right. All
9 right. I know so many people was one that. So,
10 National Adjutant, you want to bring up the --
11 everything --

12 MR. ADKINS: Again, good morning, everyone.
13 Yesterday during the Bylaws meeting, it was
14 discovered that there was a flaw on a resolution --
15 was it 14 or 15, Keith?

16 MR. GRAY: Keith Gray, Department Commander,
17 Arizona. It would be 15.

18 MR. ADKINS: Okay. It was sent back to Arizona
19 because they figured it out, and they have
20 resubmitted the corrected copy. And per the bylaws,
21 the corrected resolution can be submitted on the
22 floor. It takes a three-quarters vote in order to
23 send it back to the Bylaws Committee. The Bylaws
24 Committee would then make the -- you know, take it
25 up for consideration and then have to make a report



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1 on it tomorrow morning.

2 MR. MIDDLETON: I think it's just a simple
3 majority.

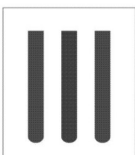
4 MR. ADKINS: Simple one. Okay. Oh, yes,
5 you're right. And then to pass tomorrow would be
6 three- quarters. Thanks, Doug. That's why we came
7 to meet earlier. So Scott, at this time, sir, would
8 you please put up the Arizona Resolution? Thank
9 you, sir. And then, Keith, once it comes up, it's
10 yours.

11 MR. GRAY: Okay. Keith Gray, Department
12 Commander, Arizona. The correction that we are
13 making is the final result, so that very last page
14 that was just up there. It read before Article 12
15 National Committee Section 14, which was changed to
16 be corrected to Section 6. That is the only change
17 on that document. And that's what we are setting
18 forward to be voted on now to see if we can send it
19 to the Bylaws Committee for review.

20 MR. ADKINS: All right. You want to make the
21 motion to send it?

22 MR. GRAY: So I'll make a motion that we send
23 this corrected version of Resolution 15 to the
24 Bylaws Committee.

25 MR. ADKINS: All right. Do we have a second?



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1 MR. RIVERA: Second.

2 MR. ADKINS: Okay. We have a first and second.

3 Any further discussion?

4 THE REPORTER: Who seconded that motion?

5 MR. ADKINS: Oh, oh, yes.

6 MR. GRAY: National Finance Officer Ernie
7 Rivera. Second.

8 THE REPORTER: Thank you.

9 MR. ADKINS: Thanks, Lynsi, keep us straight.
10 Okay. Any further discussion? I mean, this should
11 just be fairly quick and simple. Patriot Smrt?

12 MR. SMRT: Yeah. Smrt, Kentucky Delegate,
13 Chapter 146. What we are saying is the Department
14 of Arizona, as author, is -- is resetting this,
15 correct?

16 MR. ADKINS: Yes, sir.

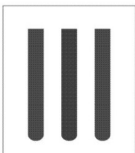
17 MR. SMRT: I -- thank you.

18 MR. ADKINS: You're welcome, sir. Thank you.
19 All right. All in favor of --

20 MR. MIDDLETON: And you need a division of the
21 assembly. You need a stand-up, sit down.

22 MR. ADKINS: Yes. That's where I was going.
23 Yeah. All in favor of allowing the department of --
24 okay. Time out.

25 MR. MCINTOSH: Patriot McIntosh, National



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1 Historian, point of order. The -- I'm trying to
2 find it right now, but I can't on the computer. But
3 I believe that when you have an amendment of this
4 kind, not only does it have to be posted up here, it
5 has to be read.

6 MR. ADKINS: Okay. It doesn't have to be. It
7 says may be posted, but if you want, we can go
8 through --

9 MR. MCINTOSH: No. No. It says -- I'm pretty
10 sure it says may be posted.

11 MR. ADKINS: It says may be.

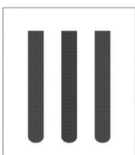
12 MR. MCINTOSH: Oh, no --

13 MR. ADKINS: But, Keith, come on up and we'll
14 go through the -- Nick, in order to save time, would
15 you just rather go through the resolve, or you want
16 to go through the whole thing?

17 MR. MCINTOSH: Resolve.

18 MR. ADKINS: Okay. Scott, if you would scroll
19 up to the first resolve, please? Okay. Scroll back
20 down. Right there. Okay, Keith. We'll go ahead
21 and start.

22 MR. GRAY: All right. Keith Gray, Department
23 Commander, Arizona. "Duties of a National Officer,
24 Section 14, National Publication Relations, and that
25 can be changed from A: Be responsible for developing



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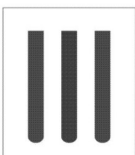
1 and promoting good publicity and public relations to
2 the National Corporation, National Convention -- and
3 the National Convention.

4 "B: Perform such other duties indicated in the
5 office -- such other duties as a commander may
6 direct.

7 C: As chapters and departments in developing
8 local public relations initiatives. D: Submit an
9 annual budget for request to the National Adjutant
10 to the National Finance Committee. E: Be an ex
11 officio member of the NEC with a voice and no vote.

12 "By adding Sections F: Subject to the approval of
13 the NEC, the Purple Heart Magazine editor. G:
14 Determined with approval of the National Executive
15 Committee, the orders printed and digital publishing
16 and advertising and editorial policies for the
17 Purple Heart Magazine, other national newsletters or
18 magazines and social media channels.

19 "H: Promote the order in both internally to the
20 membership and the auxiliary as well as externally
21 to other veteran service organizations and the
22 general public. I: May request a National Commander
23 appointed assistant, public relations director, and
24 social media director as deemed necessary to the --
25 assisting in conducting assigned duties.



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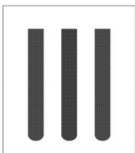
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1 "J: Direct, supervise, and coordinate all
2 activities of the assistant public relations
3 director and social media director appointed, and it
4 be further - scroll down -- resolved, Article 12
5 National Committee, Section 1, National Executive
6 Committee, Paragraph A be changed by deleting
7 National Publications Committee so as to be read A:
8 The National Commander and Past National Commanders,
9 National Senior Vice Commander, National Junior Vice
10 Commander, Six Region Commanders, National Finance
11 Officer, National Judge Advocate, National
12 Inspection, National Sergeant-at-Arms, Department
13 Commanders, National Finance Committee men, who
14 shall have a voice and a vote. "And it be further
15 resolved that Article 12, National Committee,
16 Section 2, duties of the National Executive
17 Committee, Section F be changed by adding Items 4
18 and Items 5, so it reads as F: The National -- the
19 NEC shall run one, meetings in accordance with
20 Robert's Rules of Order, Newly Revised. Two, be
21 recorded and transcribed by the National Adjutant's
22 office. Three, have the proceeding minutes
23 presented to the National Adjutant and to the
24 National Convention Body for consideration and
25 action. Four, approve the national publications



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1 director's selection of the editor of the Purple
2 Heart Magazine. Five, approve orders printed and
3 digitally published and advertising and editorial
4 policies for the Purple Heart Magazine or other
5 national newsletters or magazines and social media
6 channels. And it be further resolved Article 12
7 National Committee, Section 6, National Publications
8 Committee be deleted."

9 MR. ADKINS: Submitted by --

10 MR. GRAY: Submitted by the Department of
11 Arizona, signed Larry Leighton, Adjutant.

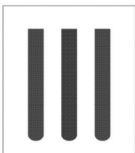
12 MR. ADKINS: Okay. All right. Any further
13 discussion? Any further discussion? All right.
14 All in favor of allowing the Department of Arizona
15 to submit the corrected resolution to the Bylaws
16 Committee, please stand. You want to count? I
17 think we've got a majority, so --

18 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: You want me to count the
19 names?

20 MR. ADKINS: Yes.

21 MR. FERGUSON: Yes. It would be easier to
22 count the names.

23 MR. ADKINS: Yeah. All right. Let's put the
24 -- all right. If you are opposed -- all right. So
25 please be seated. If you are opposed to allowing



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1 the Department of Arizona to resubmit, please stand.
2 Okay. One, two, three, four. All right. The
3 majority has it. All right. Robert, it's all aye.
4 Thank you.

5 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: You sent me that, right?

6 MR. ADKINS: Oh, yeah.

7 MR. MCINTOSH: Commander, request personal
8 privilege to speak?

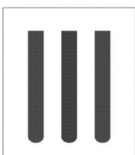
9 MR. FERGUSON: Permission granted. Nick
10 McIntosh speaking.

11 MR. MCINTOSH: Nick McIntosh, Historian. The
12 Public Bylaws Committee, after the 14 which came
13 from Kentucky, they had a meeting, voted against it
14 without having a hearing. Last night on this 15 --
15 14 and 15, there was no discussion allowed by the
16 Bylaws Committee so that members have not had any
17 opportunity to voice what their opinion is.

18 Are you going to direct the Bylaws Committee to
19 allow members to be able to ask questions and make
20 statements at the Bylaws Committee meeting?

21 MR. FERGUSON: I'll let the National Adjutant
22 address that.

23 MR. ADKINS: Okay. I know in Robert's Rules,
24 it says, should have a hearing. It doesn't say
25 shall, will, or must. All right. We had a



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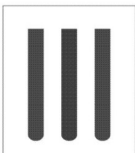
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1 discussion last night. That was a debate. When we
2 go through the Bylaws Committee today, we will have
3 a debate. That could be considered your hearing.

4 One of the reasons why the bylaws go out to the
5 NEC, at least -- because I sent it out to all
6 individuals that were coming to this convention for
7 them to review, all right, I saw e-mails go back and
8 forth with giving opinions on some of the bylaws.
9 So a debate could -- you can consider that a debate.
10 It was at least a discussion, even if it was by e-
11 mail.

12 So we are having a debate on the bylaws today.
13 We had one last night. Patriots were allowed to
14 speak by the chair of the Bylaws Committee. You had
15 your opportunity to be here to voice your opinions
16 to the Bylaws Committee. Thank you. Oh, Chuck
17 Adkins, National Adjutant. Sorry, Lynsi.

18 MR. MCINTOSH: Nick McIntosh. We were told,
19 specifically, we couldn't make comments. And this
20 -- in the meeting when they were in the meeting. We
21 had discussions on one or two bylaws. And then it
22 was said no more discussion from anybody. What I'm
23 asking for today is that any member that wants to go
24 to the Bylaws Committee because they get to put up a
25 recommendation. They have -- there's information



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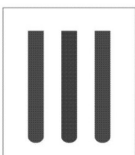
1 available sometimes that they don't know about.

2 If you come to a convention -- and being shut
3 out on the Bylaws Committee, that happened last
4 year. I take back -- I take that last statement
5 back. This year we were not -- no one was allowed
6 to speak on anything, much less 14 and 15. What I'm
7 asking and there is -- this will be the first time
8 we -- you -- the organization has not allowed a
9 patriot to be able to speak at a Bylaws Committee
10 meeting that was held at a convention.

11 MR. FERGUSON: So -- National Commander
12 Ferguson. I was sitting in the meeting. I did not
13 hear the statement that you could not talk about it.
14 I think the discussion was held, if I remember
15 right, and then they finished with the resolution
16 that was on that and moved forward. I remember
17 seeing all you guys come up to the microphone and
18 talking. I do have to admit that I don't remember
19 hearing all the conversations because I was over
20 there having another conversation on the side.

21 MR. MCINTOSH: Well, it was after the
22 discussion that happened on those two. It was
23 specifically said there will be no more discussion
24 on --

25 MR. FERGUSON: Is that correct?



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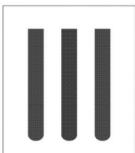
1 MR. ADKINS: Yeah.

2 MR. FERGUSON: Okay. I got -- I got that part.
3 Before you come -- Middleton, we have a -- Raymond
4 Wetzel.

5 MR. WETZEL: Yeah. Raymond Wetzel, Senior Vice
6 to California, Bylaws Committee. There was a lot of
7 discussion going on and it kept going on, and going
8 on, and going on and hashing over the same items
9 that whole time. And it got to the point where we,
10 as a Bylaws Committee, could not perform our duties
11 last night. So at that point in time, the
12 chairperson said, is there any more questions?
13 There was no more questions, and he closed all of
14 the conversations.

15 So there was ample opportunity for
16 conversations at that point in time because I,
17 specifically, stated -- felt that I was challenged
18 by people that were making comments to the bylaws.
19 And I picked discussion to it. And it was stated.
20 So everyone had their opportunity last night. Thank
21 you.

22 MR. MIDDLETON: Doug Middleton, Delegate from
23 Georgia. First of all, the point of order, and that
24 is that that vote on that resolution we just had was
25 conducted at 0905 hours. Just for the record, it



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1 means we can't take it up again until at least 0905
2 hours tomorrow.

3 My recollection of last night's activities,
4 there was a bit of a robust discussion from outside
5 the membership. In other words, they allowed other
6 than the committee, to make comments and such to a
7 point. And then at one point, as I recall, the
8 chairman asked for a vote of the committee to -- a
9 motion was made to cut off all the outside dialogue.

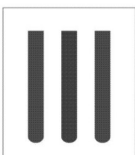
10 And it was moved, seconded, and passed by the
11 committee to end that discourse, and only new
12 committee business -- in other words, only
13 recognized committee members. That's my
14 recollection of what happened. Up until that point,
15 there was some pretty robust discussion from --

16 MR. FERGUSON: Correct.

17 MR. MIDDLETON: -- other than members of the
18 committee.

19 MR. FERGUSON: Thank you. Patriot Smrt.

20 MR. SMRT: Patriot Smrt, Kentucky Chapter 146.
21 Reinforcing what Patriot Middleton said, ditto. But
22 to put the final point on this, it is the
23 opportunity for us, at least from Department of
24 Kentucky, for which I had responsibility as the
25 Adjutant, to ensure that it passed, you know, and



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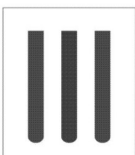
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1 was properly annotated, signed, and sent forward,
2 you know, for the packet.

3 When it came to individually walking the dog
4 for each amendment, not resolution, guys, we're
5 doing interchangeable. These are bylaw, you know,
6 amendments to possibly change. We weren't allowed
7 -- one by one, the chairman and all the committee
8 just talked. How about one, you still agree? How
9 about two, do you still agree? How about three? We
10 were waiting for our opportunity for 2024-14 to come
11 up so we could defend it. But we were told we could
12 not speak at that time.

13 Then there was an opportunity at the very last
14 end of the meeting to comment. But by that time,
15 all the votes, all the activity, and all approval of
16 the committee had already been conducted so that we
17 couldn't, at least even as the Department of
18 Kentucky, defend the bylaw that had been submitted.

19 So there was a six and one-half dozen of the
20 other open at the front of the meeting, but in order
21 to get the meeting concluded, then we were locked
22 out and couldn't comment on each individual passage,
23 even if we had pertinent information to prove that
24 there was issues, problems, or, you know, things
25 that should have been considered.



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1 But thank you. That's my recollection of being
2 there, being very robust and on and off the mic for
3 the first 20 minutes.

4 MR. FERGUSON: Patriot McIntosh.

5 MR. MCINTOSH: Patriot McIntosh, National
6 Historian. I still haven't gotten an answer. Are
7 you going to direct that anybody that wants to go to
8 the Bylaws Committee meeting on this can speak?

9 MR. FERGUSON: Every -- everybody can come and
10 speak. But it's also -- it's the Committee Chairman
11 who is trying to conduct a business that's there. I
12 -- and I understand that. So the same thing was
13 setting up and attending to an agenda to a meeting,
14 that's your -- the person who can change the agenda
15 is the chairman that's on that.

16 MR. MCINTOSH: Yes. But what I want was -- I
17 asked for, as you supersede an appointed chairman,
18 to direct that the patriots here be allowed to speak
19 not at the will of the chairman.

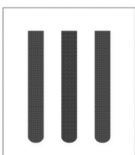
20 MR. FERGUSON: You got a comment online.

21 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Yeah.

22 MR. FERGUSON: Go ahead and speak.

23 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Just go ahead, Larry.

24 MR. LEIGHTON: Just a reminder that the Bylaws
25 Committee is going to meet this afternoon at the set



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1 time. Should only be recorded or discussing the
2 resolution that was just approved to go to the
3 Bylaws Committee. Everything else has already been
4 taken care of.

5 MR. FERGUSON: Everybody, do you understand
6 that?

7 AUDIENCE: No. No. We didn't hear a thing.

8 MR. FERGUSON: Can you get him to restate that?

9 MR. LEIGHTON: Larry Leighton, Department of
10 Arizona. The Bylaws Committee meeting that is going
11 to meet today should only be referring or, at least,
12 reviewing the resolution that was just passed to be
13 sent to the Bylaws Committee. All other resolutions
14 have already been ruled on.

15 MR. FERGUSON: Did everybody hear that, again?

16 AUDIENCE: No.

17 MR. FERGUSON: Okay. Can you put the
18 microphone next to the speaker, please?

19 MR. ADKINS: We're going to start. One more
20 time, Larry.

21 MR. LEIGHTON: Larry Leighton, Department of
22 Arizona. The Bylaws Committee that meets today
23 should only be reviewing the resolution of the
24 amendment that was just passed to go to the Bylaws
25 Committee. All other resolution amendments have



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1 already been ruled on by the committee and reviewed
2 by the committee.

3 AUDIENCE: That's correct. Yes. That's
4 correct. That's correct.

5 MR. FERGUSON: So everybody understand that?

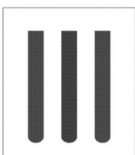
6 AUDIENCE: Yes.

7 MR. FERGUSON: Okay. PNC Garcia.

8 MR. GARCIA: Thank you, National Commander.
9 Past National Commander Garcia. Sir, in the past
10 conventions, it has been to where the Bylaws
11 Committee, where Victor (phonetic) McIntosh had been
12 the secretary has not -- at times has not allowed
13 any comments or questions from the floor.

14 Last night, when we had the Bylaws Committee,
15 the conversations back and forth lasted about 30
16 minutes. At that time, I got up, and I made a
17 recommendation to the chair to stop taking questions
18 from the floor and start moving with the Bylaws
19 Committee. They had everything in half an hour. We
20 would have continued -- it would have probably took
21 -- taken three, four hours to get through these
22 things.

23 But, National Adjutant, you've been at some of
24 these conventions where you asked for permission to
25 ask questions or make comments and you haven't been



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1 allowed where I was in the Bylaws Committee, myself.

2 Thank you.

3 MR. FERGUSON: Yeah. Okay. All right. I'm
4 just going to stop this.

5 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: What? No --

6 MR. FERGUSON: No. It's fine. So, again, we
7 will be able to talk about the resolutions when they
8 come up, or you can give your comments when they
9 come up, on what we're doing with -- on the voting
10 next year. Because if we're going to keep doing this
11 -- we've got a timeline that we're going to keep to.

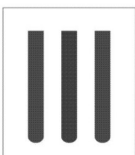
12 Other than that, we're going to be way late
13 into the -- tonight. So my ruling is just go by
14 what we have that was here and start in with the
15 bylaws. We're at minutes.

16 MR. WITT: Commander?

17 MR. FERGUSON: Go ahead. Yes. I'm sorry,
18 Sergeant-At-Arms.

19 MR. WITT: So Gary Witt, National Sergeant-At-
20 Arms. Just a reminder that I'm going to be making a
21 timer, three minutes speaking, and I'll cut you off.
22 I'll let -- make a reminder after one -- you got one
23 minute left. And then you can just keep that in
24 mind. Okay.

25 MR. ADKINS: Thank you, Sergeant-At-Arms.



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1 National Adjutant, Chuck Adkins. Yeah. And I
2 concur with what PNC Garcia said. Having attended
3 some of the Bylaws Committees before and was told I
4 couldn't speak, but it was through the good graces
5 of the chairman, Doug Middleton at the end, he did
6 open it up, and we were allowed.

7 All right. The bylaws. Okay. The bylaws
8 state there are no closed meetings in a national
9 convention with the exception of disciplinary
10 hearings and region caucuses. So Bylaws Committee
11 is open, okay? Anybody can come in and attend. So
12 they can attend any of the meetings with the
13 exception, if you're not in Region 4, you can't go
14 to Region 4's caucus. You have to go to your own.
15 Obviously, for privacy reasons, you know, you just
16 can't march into the DHP without being invited.

17 All right. One of the first things we need to
18 take care of this morning before we go into the
19 bylaws, there were six actions taken by the National
20 Executive Committee between the conventions. The
21 very first one was to adjust the budget. And it was
22 a vote that was taken by the NEC from 2 to 5 October
23 to approve or disapprove the revised MOPH budget,
24 all right? And all the adjustments and everything
25 was there.



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1 Out of the ballots that were received, 45 voted
2 yes to approve, one voted not to disapprove, and two
3 abstained, okay? The tellers were Shar Gatlin,
4 Department of Montana, Douglas Middleton, Department
5 of Georgia, and Deron Santiny of the Department of
6 Louisiana. All right. If -- and now we need the
7 Supreme Body to either ratify, approve, or reject,
8 disapprove, the budget adjustment. Patriot
9 Middleton?

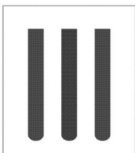
10 MR. MIDDLETON: Doug Middleton, Delegate,
11 Georgia. I move that the Supreme Body approve the
12 vote of the National Executive Committee on
13 adjustment of the budget.

14 MR. J. ANDERSON: Jim Anderson. I second the
15 motion.

16 MR. ADKINS: Okay. All in favor of approving
17 the NEC action of adjusting the 2023, 2024 ballot,
18 please stand. Yes. If you can't stand, please
19 raise your hand. Thank you. All right. Please
20 remain standing or your hand up while the Sergeant-
21 At-Arms grabs our count. Okay. Oh, yeah.

22 MR. SMRT: 65.

23 MR. ADKINS: 65. All right. Please be seated.
24 All of those opposed to the adjustment of the
25 budget, please stand or raise your hand. All those



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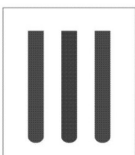
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1 opposed, either please stand or raise your hand.
2 None? Any abstentions? One. Two. Where is the
3 other one? Oh, okay. Got you. All right. Thank
4 you.

5 The second one, this one will be tough, was to
6 the National Adjutant confirmation ballot, okay?
7 Patriot Charles W. "Chuck" Adkins volunteered to
8 serve as the 2023, 2024 National Adjutant. And per
9 Article 11, Duties of the National Officer, Section
10 1, National Commander, Paragraph E1, the National
11 Executive Committee must confirm the appointment.

12 There were three voting choices. Yes to
13 approve, no to disapprove, three to abstain. A
14 ballot of 77 voting members of the National
15 Executive Committee was conducted from 2 to 5
16 October 2023, to approve or disapprove the
17 confirmation of Patriot Adkins as the National
18 Adjutant. Of the 44 ballots received of -- let's
19 see, 44 -- excuse me, okay, 47 ballots received, 44
20 voted yes to approve, two voted no, and one
21 abstained. Okay. The tellers were Shar Gatlin, the
22 chief of staff of Montana, Douglas Middleton,
23 Delegate from Georgia, and Deron Santiny, at that
24 time, was the Senior Vice of Louisiana.

25 Do we have a motion to either approve or



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1 disapprove the National Adjutant Ballot
2 confirmation?

3 MR. MIDDLETON: National Adjutant Doug
4 Middleton, Delegate from Georgia. I move that we
5 approve the vote of the NEC for the appointment of
6 the National Adjutant.

7 MR. ADKINS: Thank you, sir.

8 MR. J. ANDERSON: Jim Anderson. I second.

9 MR. ADKINS: All right. We have a first and
10 second. Is there any discussion? Any discussion?
11 Any discussion? Hearing none, all those in favor of
12 approving the NEC's ballot to confirm the National
13 Adjutant appointment, please stand or raise your
14 hand.

15 MR. WITT: 68.

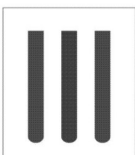
16 MR. ADKINS: Thank you. Please be seated. All
17 those in favor of rejecting or disapproving the
18 ballot, please stand or raise your hand. Okay. Any
19 disapprovals? Seeing none. All those who abstain?
20 One? Okay. One.

21 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Two.

22 MR. ADKINS: Where is the other one?

23 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Jack Hanson.

24 MR. ADKINS: Oh. Okay. It keeps doing that.
25 Can't see it for some reason. All right. So we



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1 have two. All right.

2 The next one was the confirmation on the
3 Legislative Officer. We had to appoint a new one
4 because of the resignation of Brian Ore. So then,
5 past National Commander James McCormick volunteered
6 to step up. And as of 70 -- a ballot was sent to
7 the 77 voting members of the National Executive
8 Committee, which was conducted 20 to 30 November
9 2023, to approve or disapprove the confirmation of
10 PNC McCormick as the National Legislative Director.

11 Of the 39 ballots that were received, 32 voted
12 yes to approve, three voted no, and four abstained.
13 The tellers were once again, Shar Gatlin, Chief of
14 Staff at Department of Montana, Delegate Douglas
15 Middleton, Department of Georgia, and Deron Santiny,
16 the then Senior Vice Commander of the Department of
17 Louisiana. Do I have a motion from the floor?

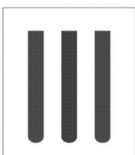
18 MR. MIDDLETON: Patriot Adjutant Doug
19 Middleton, Delegate from Georgia. I move that the
20 Supreme Body approve the vote of the NEC to confirm
21 our new National --

22 MR. ADKINS: Legislative.

23 MR. MIDDLETON: -- Legislative Director.

24 MR. J. ANDERSON: Jim Anderson. I second.

25 MR. ADKINS: Okay. Any discussion? Yes, sir.



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1 MR. ABBEY: Ed Abbey, Parliamentarian.
2 Administrative note. The title for Shar Gatlin
3 would be National Chief of Staff for the State of
4 Montana. There is no Department of Montana.

5 MR. ADKINS: Thank you for the correction. Yes,
6 sir. Okay. Thanks, Ed.

7 MR. ABBEY: You're welcome.

8 MR. ADKINS: Okay. All in favor of confirming
9 PNC McCormick as the National Legislative Director,
10 please stand or raise your hand.

11 MR. WITT: Keep your hands up.

12 MR. ADKINS: He's got the badge. Keep your
13 hands up.

14 MR. WITT: Keep your hands up.

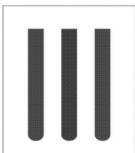
15 MR. LEIGHTON: Larry Leighton, Arizona. Vote
16 to approve.

17 MR. ADKINS: Thank you, Patriot Leighton.

18 MR. WITT: 64.

19 MR. ADKINS: Okay. 64 with Patriot Leighton.
20 All right. All those who are not in favor and vote
21 to disapprove or reject PNC McCormick as the
22 Legislative, please stand or raise your hand.
23 Seeing none. Any abstentions? One. Thanks. Okay.
24 It passes.

25 All right. The next one was the Military of



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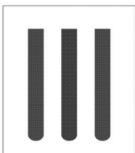
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1 the Purple Heart, an association of the United
2 States Army affiliate partnership program. The
3 Military Order of the Purple Heart, the Order,
4 negotiated with the AUSA to form a partnership at no
5 cost to the Order or any of its members, where our
6 veteran members, regardless of the military branch
7 in which they served, can benefit from products and
8 programs offered by either AUSA or through it.

9 Okay. The partnership helped formulate a
10 cohesive message with AUSA, providing a louder voice
11 on Capitol Hill, like when we went to the march on
12 the hill, as we advocate for legislation, which is
13 important to us and our fellow veterans. Okay.
14 Even though there was no cost to the Order, the
15 bylaws require that all contracts or agreements be
16 reviewed by the National Finance Committee, the
17 National Judge Advocate, and make recommendations to
18 the voting members.

19 Both the Judge Advocate and the NFC recommended
20 approval. Okay. The NEC voted to approve because
21 out of the 77 ballots sent out from 18 to 22
22 November of 2023, of the 38 received, 31 voted yes
23 to approve, two voted no, and five had abstained.
24 The tellers were Patriot Shar Gatlin, National Chief
25 of Staff of the Department of Montana, Delegate Doug



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1 Middleton from the Department of Georgia, and Deron
2 Santiny, the then Senior Vice of the Department of
3 Louisiana. Do I have a motion from the floor to --
4 regarding the affiliate program?

5 MR. MIDDLETON: Doug Middleton, Delegate from
6 Georgia, who still is capable of standing. I move
7 that we approve the vote of the NEC for the
8 affiliation with USAA; is that right? AUSA --
9 pardon me, AUSA, the Supreme Body approve that vote.

10 MR. ADKINS: Thank you, sir.

11 MR. MIDDLETON: I'm trying not to trip over my
12 baggage.

13 MR. ADKINS: Yeah.

14 MR. J. ANDERSON: Jim Anderson. I second.

15 MR. ADKINS: Okay. All right. All those in
16 favor to approve the affiliated partnership between
17 the MOPH and AUSA, please stand or raise your hand
18 to vote.

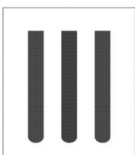
19 MR. J. ANDERSON: Point of order, sir.

20 MR. ADKINS: Patriot Anderson.

21 MR. J. ANDERSON: Yes. Jim Anderson. Call for
22 a discussion.

23 MR. ADKINS: Oh, yes. You're right. Any
24 discussion? My apologies.

25 MR. SEGUIN: I just had a question. This is



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1 Shawn Seguin, Patriot out of Chapter 455 in
2 Pittsburgh. My question involving the AUSA, which
3 I'm not against, is did we provide them an e-mail
4 list of our members? Because I started getting e-
5 mails having never actually signed up with them.
6 And if so, who approved to giving out our contact
7 information to another organization?

8 MR. ADKINS: Okay. Yes. We -- as part of the
9 agreement, we were required to provide AUSA the
10 contact list. And that was approved by the
11 leadership. And it was also part of the ballot
12 that, you know, because it was all sent out, and
13 that was approved by the NEC as what -- you know,
14 which is also our leadership. It's our governing
15 board. So yes, that was done.

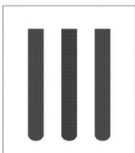
16 Now, if you do not want to receive those e-
17 mails in the future, you know, you can go in your e-
18 mail, and you can block them.

19 MR. FERGUSON: And they also have the
20 unsubscribe --

21 MR. ADKINS: Yeah. And they have the
22 unsubscribe button.

23 MR. SEGUIN: Thank you.

24 MR. ADKINS: You're welcome, sir. Recognize
25 Patriot Abbey? Now he's doing the karaoke.



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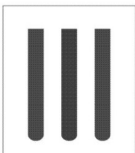
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1 MR. ABBEY: So many of you have raised the
2 issue at one time or another with new potential
3 members. And they always hit you with the same,
4 what's in it for me? If you go to the AUSA's
5 website and look up member benefits, if, over a
6 lifetime, they can't get their \$200 back in spades,
7 they're not using anything. This is everything from
8 travel discounts, free SAT assistance for your
9 children, your grandchildren. There are
10 possibilities beyond limited. What happened to
11 trigger this response was, as a member, I get the
12 almost weekly, have you used this benefit?

13 A contact was reached out to their director of
14 programs, and their board of governors had just
15 testified before Congress that they weren't doing
16 enough, and they wanted to create more
17 relationships. If you go to the members' affiliation
18 with AUSA, you will see we are not the only partner.
19 But we're the only one that branches all the
20 branches of service. And what was supposed to have
21 happened was every member would give an opt-out at
22 the beginning.

23 MR. ADKINS: Yes.

24 MR. ABBEY: Once the members don't respond to
25 that, then and only then would you start getting the



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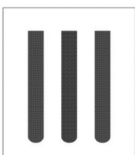
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1 solicitations. An additional membership benefit of
2 this will be as a member of AUSA, you will be able
3 to attend their meetings as a member. You will also
4 be able to go to the symposiums. We will be able to
5 exhibit at their meetings. We will be able to get a
6 better outreach than we've ever had before. And we
7 go up on their page as a partner. So we get free
8 advertisement every time that somebody hits their
9 website. So with that, I will humbly move back into
10 my quiet spot.

11 MR. ADKINS: And I want to thank Patriot Abbey
12 because he was our lead on putting this all
13 together, and he did a great job, so -- and he is
14 correct. Because you're now a member, you can go to
15 their symposium. And I look forward to running with
16 you all in the AUSA ten-mile. Yeah. That's the one
17 in October. All right. Patriot Everston.

18 MR. EVERSTON: Patriot Ed. Patriot Ed. This
19 question is for you. With the AUSA, I guess who --
20 Patriot Ed, this question is to you, since you are
21 the connection between the two. With that said, are
22 we allowed to -- because they have one of the
23 largest conferences in the country that's coming up
24 in Washington, D.C. I know one of them is in
25 Washington, D.C. Are we to have a display and show



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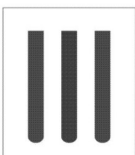
1 who we are at --

2 MR. ADKINS: Yes.

3 MR. EVERSTON: No, no, no. I'm talking to Ed.

4 MR. ABBEY: All right. The Director of
5 Programs, Susan Rebel, has promised us that we can
6 have an exhibitor table at every symposium, be it
7 the SeaLand in Hawaii, be it the Land Forces in
8 Alexandria, any of them. As a partner, we are
9 welcome to be exhibitors. They were actually
10 expected to be here to do a Q-and-A session. So any
11 of you that have questions, if you have anything --
12 and I know the word is never volunteer, but if you
13 need information, you can either -- e-mail me at
14 edabbey@hotmail.com. I'm on the directories. If I
15 don't have an answer, I will get one for you. But
16 this is the best win-win situation we've been
17 offered in a -- well, other than the kind offer of
18 the VFW to support us with PSOs, this is the best
19 thing. And again, for all the youngsters that say
20 \$200 is too much, I'm sorry, poo-poo.

21 MR. EVERSTON: I asked that question because I
22 know those tables are very expensive and that space
23 is very expensive. So could you ask to make sure
24 that we have the space? If so, let the Department
25 of Maryland in the Washington D.C. area know about



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1 it, so we can do that.

2 MR. ABBEY: Copy that.

3 MR. ADKINS: Patriot Everston, yeah, to further
4 answer your question, yes. And the e-mail was
5 shared, and I will make sure it goes out. But yes,
6 we'll be given a space to put our stuff out there at
7 no cost at the AUSA symposium.

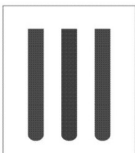
8 MR. EVERSTON: If you need help, you got to
9 wash together --

10 MR. ADKINS: -- I will make sure my successor
11 gets the information out. Okay. So any further
12 discussion? Any further discussion? Yes, sir.

13 MR. MIDDLETON: Doug Middleton, Delegate from
14 Georgia. I have -- I have a personal comment, if I
15 may, about the NEC votes. I had the privilege of
16 being a teller on all four of those votes. What is
17 very disappointing to me is there were 77 members of
18 the NEC. Most of those votes, as you recounted the
19 tally, we had about 30 -- 38 or 39 votes returned.

20 MR. ADKINS: Yes, sir.

21 MR. MIDDLETON: That's about a 50 percent
22 return rate. Every department commander in here is
23 a member of the NEC, as are other elected officers
24 and such. And to think that on issues that should
25 be very important, that we actually require



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1 ratification by the Supreme Body at a convention,
2 that we can only get 50 percent of the people doing
3 what I consider their part of their duties in their
4 position, is abyssal.

5 And I -- I know there have been comments and
6 maybe even will, again, be comments this year about
7 bylaws and such, about eliminating the Finance
8 Committee members as voting members of the NEC, and
9 the Publications Committee as voting members of the
10 NEC. Yes, there's four votes in each of those
11 committees. But if half of -- roughly half of the
12 other members of the NEC don't take the time to even
13 turn in a ballot by e-mail, is abysmal.

14 MR. ADKINS: Yeah. Yeah. ElectionBuddy is
15 really easy to use. Any further comment? Any
16 further comments? Hearing none, all in favor of
17 ratifying the MOPH and AUSA affiliate partnership,
18 please stand or raise your hand.

19 MR. LEIGHTON: Larry Leighton. I vote to
20 approve.

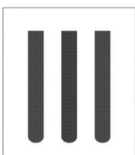
21 MR. ADKINS: Okay. Thanks, Larry.

22 MR. WITT: Okay. You can put your hands down.

23 MR. ADKINS: Yes. Yes, sir?

24 MR. WITT: 69.

25 MR. ADKINS: I'm sorry?



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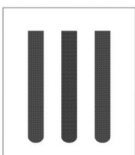
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1 MR. WITT: 69.

2 MR. ADKINS: 69. It'll be 70 counting Patriot
3 Leighton. All right. Yeah. All those who vote to
4 reject or disapprove the affiliation with AUSA,
5 please either stand or raise your hands. All those
6 -- one. Okay. All those who abstain, please either
7 stand or raise your hand. One, two, three, four.
8 Okay. Thank you very much. The motion passes.

9 All right. We've only got two more, so bear
10 with me. All right. The next one was the PCI
11 history project program. The Order was approached
12 by the Publishing Concepts International, PCI, to
13 publish an oral history book along with the digital
14 versions of our membership that we've done in the
15 past, which, you know, featured our membership and
16 had initiatives. And, you know, they provided a
17 gratuity. But it took them two years to get it to
18 us.

19 All right. The agreement from PCI sought the
20 Order's participation. And pursuant to the bylaws,
21 the National Finance Committee assessed the
22 agreement and did not recommend approval. In
23 addition, the National Judge Advocate reviewed the
24 contract, and while he deemed it legally sufficient,
25 he found it to favor more PCI than it did the Order.



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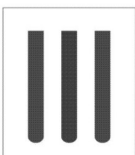
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1 All right. A ballot of the 77 voting members
2 of the National Executive Committee was conducted 5
3 to 9 February. All right. The number required for
4 a quorum was 26. All right. The National Commander
5 appointed the following as the tellers: Doug
6 Middleton, Delegate from the Department of Georgia,
7 Deron Santiny, the then Senior Vice of Louisiana,
8 and Shar Gatlin, the National Chief of Staff of the
9 State of Montana. Only 23 eligible members of NEC
10 cast a vote. Therefore, the measure failed. Okay.
11 All right. All in favor of -- and in this case,
12 it's a little tricky. So somebody is going to have
13 to help me. All right. In this case, we would be
14 ratifying the failure of the ballot. You know, in
15 other words, we're disapproving the contract with
16 PCI. Okay.

17 MR. MIDDLETON: Doug Middleton, Delegate from
18 Georgia. I'm not sure we even did vote on that
19 since it was disapproved. There's really nothing to
20 ratify.

21 MR. ADKINS: Okay. All right. Patriot
22 Anderson, you had a comment? Okay. Moving on. The
23 last one was the second adjustment to the budget.
24 That was the transfer of some of the VAB investment
25 funds. And it was during a meeting of the National



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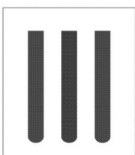
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1 Finance Committee held on Thursday, the 1st of
2 February. A motion was made by NFC member Jim
3 Anderson to transfer \$30,000 from the Veterans
4 Affairs Service, VABS investment account, into the
5 2023, 2024 operating budget.

6 And the funds would be broken out and placed in
7 the following budgetary lines. \$15,000 was
8 deposited into the scholarship restricted bank
9 account to replenish the \$15,000 expense in
10 scholarships this year. 5,000 was to be allocated to
11 the -- to the educational software instruction
12 classes. 5,000 went to the suicide awareness
13 program. 5,000 was to be allocated to cover the
14 line item for the VABS program. Per Patriot Dennis
15 Wallot, chair of both the National Finance and
16 Investment Committees, there was more than
17 sufficient funds in the VABS investment account to
18 cover the request. The voting members of the NFC
19 recommended the National Executive Committee approve
20 the transfer. Okay. The members were National
21 Commander Carder Ferguson, National Finance
22 Committee Chair Dennis Wallot, NFC member Paul
23 Picker, and NFC member Jim Anderson, and NFC member
24 Craig Warthog Wertheim.

25 In accordance with the bylaws, the National



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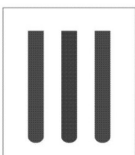
1 Committee Section, Duties of the National Finance
2 Committee, the NEC was required to, you know,
3 approve any adjustments to the budget. A ballot was
4 sent to the 77 voting members of the NEC, conducted
5 12 to 16 February 2024, to approve or disapprove the
6 adjustments to the 2023, 2024 budget. The quorum
7 required was 26. Okay. Out of the -- out of the 43
8 ballots that were cast, 34 voted to approve, five
9 voted to disapprove, and four had abstained. All
10 right. The Commander appointed the following as the
11 tellers: Delegate Doug Middleton from the Department
12 of Georgia, Patriot Deron Santiny, the then Senior
13 Vice of the Department of Louisiana, and Patriot
14 Shar Gatlin, the National Chief of Staff for the
15 state of Montana. Do I have a motion to approve or
16 disapprove the adjustment -- the second adjustment
17 to the 2023, 2024 budget?

18 MR. MIDDLETON: Doug Middleton, Delegate from
19 Georgia. I move that the Supreme Body approve the
20 vote of the NEC to make the budget adjustment that
21 they voted affirmative.

22 MR. ADKINS: Thank you, sir. Patriot Anderson.

23 MR. J. ANDERSON: Jim Anderson. I second the
24 motion.

25 MR. ADKINS: All right. We have a first and



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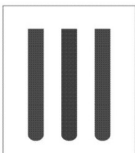
1 second. Do we have any discussion? Anybody need to
2 make comments? Anybody have concerns? Any
3 discussion? Any discussion? Hearing none, all those
4 in favor of approving the NEC action of adjusting
5 the budget, please stand or raise your hand. Keep
6 your hand up. Yes, sir. Did Patriot Leighton? Is
7 Patriot Leighton still on? Did he --

8 MR. LEIGHTON: Yeah. I'm on.

9 MR. ADKINS: Okay. So I'll add one. Okay.
10 Okay. All right. Anybody who wants to vote to
11 reject or disapprove, please either stand or raise
12 your hand. All right. One. Anybody who wants to
13 disapprove or reject, please stand or raise your
14 hand. All right one. All right. Any abstentions?
15 One, two. All right.

16 Thank you, Patriots. That was the last one.
17 Thank you for your patience and your deliberations.
18 I now yield to the National Commander.

19 MR. FERGUSON: Actually, I was trying to see
20 what time that we can have a break. That's why --
21 we actually will have some snacks at break. But I
22 had to coordinated with the Department of Florida to
23 see when they're going to get some stuff out there.
24 So I wasn't going to break this early, but just for
25 a few minutes. But it sounded like we may have to



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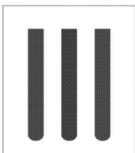
1 wait until he gives me the coordination on that, so
2 -- oh, we're good? Okay. I got the thumbs up. That
3 was right there. So first thing is, we'll take a
4 break. We'll get back in here about -- probably
5 about 10:15. What I would like for us to do is
6 remember what we just went through. This was a
7 preliminary coming up with the bylaw, so that was a
8 practice. Okay. So that way you got an idea of
9 what's going on.

10 So the key thing is -- again, remember what
11 we're here for. And don't forget that. I mean,
12 we're here to conduct business, be social, be civil
13 to everybody that's on this, and remember that we're
14 going to move this order forward. Anybody got any
15 questions? Sergeant-at-Arms.

16 MR. WITT: All right. Please stand. Face the
17 flag. Attention. Salute. Two.

18 (A recess was taken.)

19 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Okay. We're getting
20 ready to starts, so take your seats please. Keep
21 your voices down. Make sure your cellphones are
22 either off or in the fine print position. If you
23 have any talking that you need to do with someone
24 else, please take it outside, and then come back in
25 when you finish. All right. Take your seats



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1 please. Seats. Close the doors. Sergeant-at-Arms,
2 close the doors. Commander? Commander, we're back
3 from the break.

4 MR. FERGUSON: So everybody got their legs
5 stretched? Gone to the bathroom?

6 AUDIENCE: Yeah.

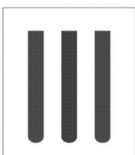
7 MR. FERGUSON: Think everybody is good that's
8 on that. So one of the things I noticed as I was
9 goin through, and get so excited to get these, spoon
10 and fork, but I think somebody had a -- kind of, a
11 guiding hand to guide this, because I forget --
12 we're going to go in for the bylaws. So one of the
13 things that I did not remember was to give the
14 vendition. So I'm --

15 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Invocation.

16 MR. FERGUSON: Invocation. I'm sorry. I --
17 thank you. I -- you get me squared away. So before
18 -- after we do the salute, we're going to have the
19 chaplain come up here and turn around and give us
20 our invocation. Give us a good guiding prayer for
21 what we're fixing to go through. Sergeant-at-Arms.

22 MR. WITT: Stand up. Face the flag. Attention.
23 Salute. Two. Uncover.

24 MR. CANNON: Thank you, Commander. Everybody
25 enjoying themselves? I just heard -- someone came



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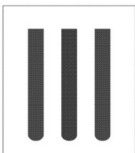
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1 up to me and said, you know, this is a great PTSD
2 therapy. And, you know, I said -- I said to myself,
3 wait a minute. Let me think about that. And I --
4 of course, I have PTSD, and I thought, see, you know
5 what? That was resolute. That was affirming. And
6 when we get together like this, you know, we have
7 the opportunity to share, and discover things, and
8 to fellowship, you know. That's a great therapy for
9 us.

10 So as we open up the prayer, I appreciate each
11 and every one of you as the time goes on, and I'm
12 enjoying myself. I am enjoying myself. I -- I want
13 to ask you as a body to pray for my -- my wife. She
14 is recovering from two back surgeries, although
15 she's upstairs now, but she needs some prayer. And
16 there might be others that are in that sort of realm
17 also. So let us pray.

18 Dear Heavenly Father, we thank you, Lord, for
19 this time of gathering. As I related to the PTSD,
20 this is a thera -- therapeutic type of atmosphere,
21 fellowshiping with our friends, those that have
22 been in harm's way and have come through with
23 stories to tell, and just a time of letting loose.
24 And I thank you for that.

25 Now, as we are preparing ourselves for this



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1 session of deliberations and discussion, we're
2 asking your divine coverage and your divine
3 leadership. Continue to touch our adjutant and our
4 commanders. I thank you for what you've done thus
5 far. Now be with us is my prayer. In your Son's
6 name, we pray. Amen.

7 AUDIENCE: Amen.

8 MR. WITT: Recover.

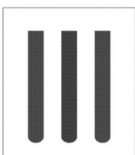
9 MR. ADKINS: Take your seats, please. All
10 right. We're going to go through a quick roll call
11 because, you know, we're going to vote for the
12 bylaws and that does require votes. And before we
13 can do a vote, we must have a roll call to see who
14 is here. So I want Region 2 to come to mic 1,
15 Region 3 to mic 2. As Region 1 finishes, then, you
16 know, Region 4 will move up and so forth and so
17 forth. Come on. Quickly now. Come on. Let's
18 start with -- all right. National Commander Carder
19 Ferguson.

20 MR. FERGUSON: Here.

21 MR. ADKINS: National Senior Vice Robert
22 Olivarez.

23 MR. OLIVAREZ: Here.

24 MR. ADKINS: National Junior Vice Tracey Brown-
25 Greene.



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1 MR. FERGUSON: She'll be back.

2 MR. ADKINS: I believe he's online, please
3 verify National Judge Advocate Walter Kroptavich.

4 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: I don't think he's
5 there.

6 MR. ADKINS: He's not? Okay.

7 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: He's not? He's not.

8 MR. ADKINS: He must have fallen off. National
9 Finance Officer Bernie Rivera.

10 MR. RIVERA: Here.

11 MR. ADKINS: National Inspector David Jackson.
12 National Inspector David Jackson. Where? Oh, he
13 just came in. All right. He's here. National
14 Finance Chair Dennis Wallot.

15 MR. WALLOT: Here, sir.

16 MR. ADKINS: Thank you. National Finance
17 Committee Member Paul Pickart.

18 MR. PICKART: Here, sir.

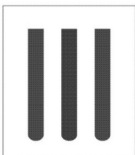
19 MR. ADKINS: National Finance Committee Craig
20 Wertheim.

21 MR. WERTHEIM: Here.

22 MR. ADKINS: National Finance Committee Jim
23 Anderson.

24 MR. J. ANDERSON: Here, sir.

25 MR. ADKINS: National Publications Committee



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1 Chair Larry Leighton. Is he online?

2 And National Publications Committee member Alan
3 Gibson. Is he logged back on? Good. All right.

4 MR. GIBSON: Yes.

5 MR. ADKINS: Okay. We will start with Region
6 2. Commander of Region 2.

7 MR. T. ANDERSON: Here, sir.

8 MR. ADKINS: All right. State your name.

9 MR. T. ANDERSON: Excuse me, Terry Anderson.
10 Here, sir.

11 MR. ADKINS: Okay. Department Commander of
12 Illinois Dan Welman.

13 MR. WELMAN: A-O-W-L.

14 MR. ADKINS: Okay. Department of Indiana
15 Commander Tom Moorman. Is he logged on? Okay.
16 Yes, sir?

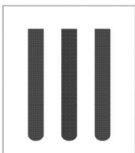
17 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Walter is back.

18 MR. ADKINS: Walter is back? Okay. All right.

19 So Tom Moorman is not on. Let's see. Then we go
20 down to -- where is my next one? Jack Hanson,
21 Commander, Department of Owa -- Iowa. I was going
22 to say Hawaii. Jack?

23 MR. HANSON: Present.

24 MR. ADKINS: Okay. And Steven Schaltenbrand,
25 Commander, Department of Kentucky.



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1 MR. SCHALTENBRAND: Present.

2 MR. ADKINS: Ronald Allen, Commander,
3 Department of Michigan.

4 MR. ALLEN: Present.

5 MR. ADKINS: Dave Bellis, Commander, Department
6 of Minnesota. Is he online?

7 MR. BELLIS: Present.

8 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: No, he's here.

9 MR. ADKINS: Oh, he's here? Oh, okay.
10 Excellent. Are you really here?

11 MR. BELLIS: I'm here.

12 MR. ADKINS: All right. My apologies. Garfield
13 Pellhum, Commander, Department of Missouri.

14 MR. PELLHUM: Garfield Pellhum, Department of
15 -- Command of Missouri.

16 MR. ADKINS: And his dog. Okay. Michael
17 Sheets, Commander, Department of Nebraska.

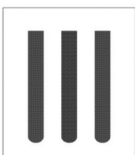
18 MR. FERGUSON: Absent, sir.

19 MR. ADKINS: Command -- Dennis Hannerman,
20 Commander, Department of Ohio.

21 MR. FERGUSON: Absent, sir.

22 MR. ADKINS: David Duffer, Commander, West
23 Virginia.

24 MR. BROWN-GREENE: Dan Green, Senior Vice
25 Commander.



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1 MR. ADKINS: Okay. That'll work. All right.
2 Going to Region 3. Oh, wait a minute. I got one
3 more. Yeah, right there. Okay. George, are you
4 here?

5 MR. BANDA: I'm here.

6 MR. ADKINS: Okay. George Banda, Commander,
7 Department of Wisconsin is present. All right.
8 Next region, line up, starting with Region 3. Larry
9 Rupp, Commander of Region 3.

10 MR. RUPP: Here, sir.

11 MR. ADKINS: Stephen Blair, Commander,
12 Department of Alaska.

13 MR. S. BLAIR: Present.

14 MR. ADKINS: All right. Keith Wittnebel,
15 Department of Oregon.

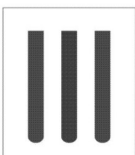
16 MR. WHITTENBEL: Here.

17 MR. ADKINS: Okay. And just like we did, if I
18 called the Commander's name, and he's not here but
19 the voting rep is, please state your name. That was
20 great. Department of Dakotas. I know it's not
21 Connie.

22 MR. FLIPPO: Bill Flipppo, Senior Vice
23 President.

24 MR. ADKINS: Thank you, sir. And --

25 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: -- Ferguson, Captain of



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1 the 355.

2 MR. ADKINS: Well, it's only the one. Okay. Is
3 Jennifer Horn online? Commander Department -- okay.
4 Barry Gasdek, Department of Wyoming.

5 MR. GASDEK: Present.

6 MR. ADKINS: Okay. All right. Next region,
7 start lining up. We're starting with Region 4.

8 MR. NICKEL: Sir?

9 MR. ADKINS: Yes.

10 MR. NICKEL: You missed Idaho.

11 MR. ADKINS: Oh, my apologies. Commander,
12 Department of Idaho, George Nickel.

13 MR. NICKEL: Senior Vice.

14 MR. ADKINS: All right. And state your name,
15 sir.

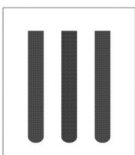
16 MR. NICKEL: George Nickel, Senior Vice,
17 Department of Idaho.

18 MR. ADKINS: Okay. Thank you. I couldn't hear
19 you, so thanks. All right. Back to Region 4.
20 Francis Figueroa, North Carolina.

21 MS. FIGUEROA: Francis Figueroa, Region 4
22 Commander, present.

23 MR. ADKINS: All right. I think I'm just going
24 to say, Department of Alabama, anybody here?

25 MS. FIGUEROA: Absent.



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1 MR. ADKINS: Okay. Department of Florida?

2 MR. WERTHEIM: Craig Wertheim, Commander,
3 Department of Florida, present.

4 MR. ADKINS: All right. Department of Georgia?

5 MS. FIGUEROA: Absent.

6 MR. GIBSON: Junior Vice.

7 MR. ADKINS: All right. Pardon?

8 MS. FIGUEROA: Junior Vice.

9 MR. ADKINS: Junior Vice?

10 MR. GIBSON: Junior Vice Officer.

11 MR. ADKINS: Okay. Just go ahead and state the
12 name. Alan Gibson? All right. Alan Gibson. All
13 right. All right. Alan, I know you're both on the
14 MPC and you're representing the -- your department,
15 but you can only have one vote. So you have to
16 figure out which hat you're going to wear.

17 All right. Department of Georgia -- I think we
18 did that. Department of Mississippi.

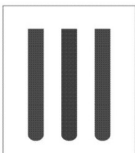
19 MS. FIGUEROA: Absent.

20 MR. ADKINS: Department of North Carolina?

21 MR. LAZZARA: Lenny Lazzara, Department of
22 North Carolina.

23 MR. ADKINS: Department of South Carolina?

24 MR. LOPEZ: Department Commander Carl Lopez,
25 South Carolina.



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1 MR. ADKINS: Hoo-ah. And Department of the
2 Caribbean?

3 MS. FIGUEROA: Absent.

4 MR. ADKINS: Okay. Next region, start lining
5 up. Region 5 Commander?

6 MR. WITTSCHACK: Gus Wittschack, Commander,
7 Region 5.

8 MR. ADKINS: All right. Arkansas, Department
9 of Arkansas?

10 MR. EZEAGWULA : Ezeagwula, Sergeant-at-Arms,
11 Arkansas.

12 MR. ADKINS: Department of Colorado?

13 MR. WITT: Should be online.

14 MR. ADKINS: Is Pete Dowding online?

15 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: No, he isn't.

16 MR. ADKINS: Okay. Paul, see if you can get a
17 hold of him.

18 MR. GRAY: National Adjutant, Department of
19 Arkansas, and Sergeant-in-Arms. Are we doing this
20 for a roll call vote and is that counted?

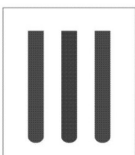
21 MR. ADKINS: Yes. If he's an elected officer.

22 THE REPORTER: Who is speaking at the moment?

23 MR. GRAY: Keith Gray, National, sorry.

24 THE REPORTER: Thank you.

25 MR. ADKINS: Okay. Where did we leave off?



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1 Okay. Colorado -- Department of Kansas?

2 MR. WITT: Absent. They're absent.

3 MR. ADKINS: Department of Louisiana?

4 MR. SANTINY: Deron Santiny, Commander.

5 MR. ADKINS: Department of New Mexico?

6 MR. NEWALL: Roger Newall, Finance Officer.

7 MR. ADKINS: Department of Oklahoma?

8 MR. REED: Mitch Reed, Senior Vice Commander.

9 MR. ADKINS: Department of Texas?

10 MR. MATTHEW: Michael Matthew, Commander.

11 MR. ADKINS: All right. Let's see. Region 6.

12 Yeah. Yeah. They're waiting on you.

13 MR. LAZOLI: Paco Lazoli (phonetic) Senior Vice

14 Commander -- National Senior Vice Commander for

15 life. That's right. There's only two of us here.

16 Pete Dowding, Commander of Colorado, is waiting for

17 someone to let him online.

18 MR. ADKINS: Okay. Jennifer Horn is online?

19 All right. Check for Pete Dowding again. I've sent

20 him the link twice. All right. We'll work on it,

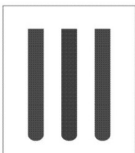
21 Paco. Tell him we'll work on it. Okay. Region 6.

22 Commander.

23 MR. C. ANDERSON: Region 6 Commander here.

24 MR. ADKINS: Hey, welcome. All right. Arizona?

25 MR. GRAY: Keith Gray, Department of Commander



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1 Arizona, present.

2 MR. ADKINS: Department of Asia Pacific?

3 MR. FERGUSON: Absent.

4 MR. ADKINS: Department of California?

5 MS. KELLER: Jo Keller, present.

6 MR. ADKINS: Department of Hawaii?

7 MR. TANAKA: Aloha.

8 MR. ADKINS: That will be Tommy Tanaka. He is
9 the Senior Vice -- correction, Junior Vice. All
10 right. Department of Nevada?

11 MR. LEPEILBET: Andrew LePeilbet, Commander,
12 Department of Nevada.

13 MR. ADKINS: Okay. Let's see. Past National
14 Commander, Frank Athanason.

15 MR. FERGUSON: Not here.

16 MR. ADKINS: Let's see. Where did it go? I
17 just somehow lost it. All right. Boyd Barclay --
18 PNC Barclay?

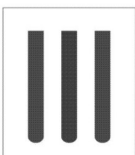
19 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Absent.

20 MR. ADKINS: PNC Blaylock? PNC Durkin? PNC
21 Garcia?

22 MR. GARCIA: Here, sir.

23 MR. ADKINS: PNC Hershel Gober? PNC William
24 Hutton?

25 MR. BOSSONG: You forgot Region 1.



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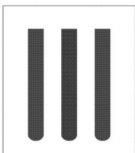
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1 MR. ADKINS: Oh, I'll get you. All right. PNC.
2 James McCormick. Is he online? PNC Bruce McKenty?
3 PNC Ernie Rivera?
4 MR. RIVERA: Present.
5 MR. ADKINS: PNC Jeff Roy? PNC Rod Siebels?
6 MR. SIEBELS: Here, sir.
7 MR. ADKINS: PNC Alfred Silvano? PNC Fred
8 Taylor?
9 MR. TAYLOR: Present.
10 MR. ADKINS: PNC Cornelius Van-Ess? Going back
11 to Region 1. All right. Region 1 Commander?
12 MR. BOSSONG: Absent.
13 MR. ADKINS: Okay. Department of Connecticut?
14 MR. BOSSONG: Bryan Bossong, Region 1 Adjutant.
15 MR. ADKINS: Okay. Region 1, you don't have a
16 vote?
17 MR. BOSSONG: I don't have a vote.
18 MR. ADKINS: No, sir. All right. Michael
19 Perron, Department of Connecticut?
20 MR. THOMPSON: Nate Thompson (phonetic),
21 Department Finance Officer --
22 MR. ADKINS: For Connecticut?
23 MR. THOMPSON: No --
24 MR. ADKINS: Okay.
25 MR. THOMPSON: Region 1 --



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1 MR. ADKINS: I'm sorry?

2 MR. THOMPSON: Nate Thompson, Department
3 Finance Officer for Pennsylvania, Region 1.

4 MR. ADKINS: Okay. Well, I was on Connecticut,
5 but all right. Stand by. All right. Again,
6 Department of Connecticut?

7 MR. WITT: Absent.

8 MR. ADKINS: Department of Delaware?

9 MR. WITT: Absent.

10 MR. ADKINS: Department of Maryland? Department
11 of New Jersey?

12 MR. EGCELSTON: Charles Egcelston, Maryland.

13 MR. ADKINS: You don't have a vote, Charles.

14 MR. EGCELSTON: All right. I can't believe.
15 Maryland absent.

16 MR. ADKINS: Okay. Department of New Jersey?

17 MR. WITT: Absent.

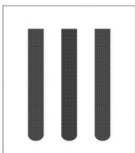
18 MR. ADKINS: Department of New York?

19 MR. PRATTS: Commander Ruben Pratts, Department
20 of New York.

21 MR. ADKINS: All right. The gentleman from
22 Pennsylvania -- he was the Finance Officer? Was
23 that -- the Commander is here?

24 MR. THOMPSON: Yeah.

25 MR. ADKINS: Okay. Philip Arnold.



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1 MR. ARNOLD: Present.

2 MR. ADKINS: Okay. We're good to go. And then
3 Department of Virginia?

4 MR. KING: Ben King, Commander, present.

5 MR. ADKINS: Thank you. All right.

6 MR. GRAY: National Adjutant Keith Gray,
7 Credentials. Need some clarifications for voting.

8 MR. ADKINS: Okay.

9 MR. GRAY: I need to clarify Department
10 Commander of Florida. Is he voting as Department
11 Commander of Florida or as the Finance Committee?

12 MR. WERTHEIM: Florida.

13 MR. GRAY: Okay. Same with Finance Officer.
14 Are you voting as Finance Officer or past National
15 Commander?

16 MR. RIVERA: Finance Officer.

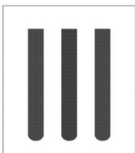
17 MR. GRAY: And then the last one I need is
18 Georgia. Are you voting as the Department of
19 Georgia or the National Publication Committee?

20 MR. ADKINS: Alan? Can you ask him?

21 MR. GIBSON: Yes. I will -- I will vote for
22 Georgia.

23 MR. GRAY: Okay.

24 MR. ADKINS: Thank you, sir. All right. I
25 yield back to the National Committee -- oh, I take



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1 that back. Are we going to him? I yield to the
2 Senior Vice Chairman of the Bylaws Committee.

3 MR. HANSON: Department of Iowa Commander Jack
4 Hanson. I take exception of the National Adjutant
5 showing favoritism. When South Carolina said they
6 were present, he went hoo-ah. Thank you.

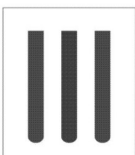
7 MR. FERGUSON: Point taken. I'll do this.
8 Patriot Hansen, hold your hand out. There you go.

9 MR. HANSON: Use the big hand.

10 MR. FERGUSON: No. I got to make sure the hand
11 works later.

12 MR. RIVERA: PNC Rivera. I want to clarify
13 something. Yesterday I had made a motion on a vote,
14 and there was some questions regarding that vote
15 that was passed by the Body. And I don't -- what
16 the vote was passed for was, we currently have a
17 \$304,000 in an account of money that's there that
18 has been being sent up out of our life member rebate
19 to National to utilize. And it's piled up to
20 \$304,000.

21 The vote -- the motion that I made, which
22 passed, was to pay a second rebate. The current
23 rebate is approximately \$209,000. That's the
24 chapters' and departments'. So the vote was for a
25 second rebate for that amount of 209,000. That is



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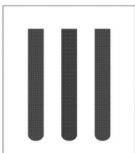
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1 our money that is in that account because we've been
2 sending it to National.

3 So to clarify that, the vote for that -- and I
4 know that there were some questions regarding that,
5 and if we need to redo it -- if people think that we
6 shouldn't do it or should do it, we could redo the
7 vote because there's been questions about it. But I
8 wanted to make very clear that the money is not
9 coming from the Life Member rebate. It's coming
10 from an account that -- the money is sitting in that
11 account right now, which we have been sending to
12 National over the last few years.

13 MR. ABBEY: National Adjutant, Ed Abbey,
14 Parliamentarian. I'm the burr under the saddle. I
15 stated, for the record, that the motion was not
16 passed with a monetary amount and, therefore, you
17 know -- you know, it needed clarification. All of
18 you that have signed warrants understand that if you
19 pass a motion that does not have a financial amount,
20 it creates a, you know, invalid warrant. And that's
21 the last thing we need to do, is come back a year
22 later and say, why didn't we get the money? So I
23 wanted clarification. And yes, if they want to bring
24 the motion back up, I have no objection. I just
25 needed clarification that the motion was without a



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1 finance amount.

2 MR. OLIVAREZ: Would you guys like to bring the
3 motion back up?

4 AUDIENCE: Yes.

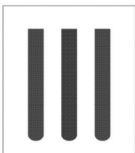
5 MR. OLIVAREZ: Yes? Okay. I will.

6 MR. RIVERA: PNC Rivera. I make a motion that
7 we pay a second rebate of approximately 209,000.
8 Currently, there is a -- money in the bank. We have
9 a -- the -- there's \$304,000 in a bank account that
10 is not included in the current budget. That money
11 we have been paying 60 percent to National to
12 utilize that money. The money has not been used.
13 That is our money that we've been sending to them.
14 I make a motion that we pay a second rebate to the
15 departments and the chapters of approximately
16 209,000.

17 MR. MIDDLETON: Doug Middleton, Delegate from
18 Georgia, second.

19 MR. OLIVAREZ: Any discussion?

20 MR. FERGUSON: National Commander, thank you,
21 from the floor. Only discussion I got about this
22 is, do we know what the next couple of years' budget
23 is going to be and what we're going to get in with
24 money? I don't have a problem that we give money
25 out to the departments, but one of the things we



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1 need to look at is, how we're going to -- this year,
2 we got the budget covered for what's going to cover
3 for next year.

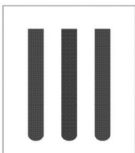
4 So having that money, giving it down to the
5 departments or to chapters, that's 209,000 that we
6 divide out. What is the next year's budget going to
7 be for that? So that would be my only question
8 that's on that. Looking for the future where we got
9 -- if we can keep that and take that money and maybe
10 invest it to make sure we get it for the next year.
11 So that's about my only thought of that.

12 MR. OLIVAREZ: Patriot Smrt.

13 MR. SMRT: Smrt, Patriot, Kentucky Chapter 146
14 vote. Is there a delta there? If yes, we now have
15 a fixed 209 initial and a duplicate 209. Is there a
16 delta of what funds are still in the general funds
17 that were Life Membership Funds dispersed under the
18 60-20-20 plan? And if so, why aren't, you know, the
19 remaining balance of that returned to the Life
20 Membership Fund so that it can build up, obviously,
21 the fund, the principle. And then we can have that
22 invested. It -- what is the difference? You first
23 said 309,000.

24 MR. RIVERA: 209 -- approximately 209.

25 MR. SMRT: 209.



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1 MR. RIVERA: Yeah. National Finance Officer
2 Rivera. There is a bank account currently that has
3 \$304,000 in the account that has been pushed over.
4 Each year they've spent less and less. That money
5 was provided to National in the 60 percent. It was
6 not utilized. And so that money is there that's our
7 money that we sent and gave to National. And my --
8 my motion was to provide that money back to us in a
9 second rebate.

10 MR. SMRT: And what is remaining in that
11 general fund that is still part of that 60? That's
12 what I really want to hear a number of.

13 MR. RIVERA: Oh, 100,000.

14 MR. SMRT: And why is it remaining there? Is
15 it a slush fund? Is it a rainy day fund?

16 MR. RIVERA: It's not a slush fund. It's not a
17 slush fund at all.

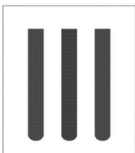
18 MR. SMRT: I know it's in general accounting.

19 MR. RIVERA: Right. It's a -- it's the general
20 account.

21 MR. SMRT: All right. Thank you.

22 MR. FERGUSON: Patriot Abbey?

23 MR. ABBEY: You're all going to throw rocks at
24 me, and I'm ready for it, but I would really like
25 you to understand. We can vote this, but we just



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1 talked earlier in this convention about the fact
2 that while we can pay ourselves, we're talking about
3 trying to go ahead and improve our non-profit image
4 across the board.

5 I would much rather you consider that we could,
6 you know, vote against this motion. And yes, it
7 might not be paying ourselves, but if we can have
8 that money then sent to other programs that have
9 either been underfunded or have not even been
10 brought to life yet, we can have that money to
11 improve our credit ratings with the nonprofits so
12 when we do go asking the people with deep pockets
13 for more money in the future, we have a legal leg to
14 stand on. Thank you.

15 MR. ADKINS: Jim Anderson. Pay attention.

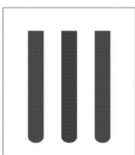
16 MR. OLIVAREZ: Patriot Anderson.

17 MR. T. ANDERSON: Patriot Anderson speaking for
18 the fund --

19 MR. OLIVAREZ: Right behind you. Right behind
20 you, Terry -- Jim Anderson, sorry.

21 MR. T. ANDERSON: Sorry, Jim.

22 MR. J. ANDERSON: That's all right, Terry. Jim
23 Anderson, National Finance Committee. Currently in
24 the general bank account for the order, there's
25 277,000, as of this morning when I looked. The



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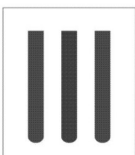
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1 209,000 that Ernie is suggesting is coming from the
2 Life Membership rebate. The Life Membership rebate
3 currently right now is 514,000. Out of that, 40
4 percent is 209,000 that goes to the department and
5 chapters. The balance goes to National
6 headquarters.

7 He's suggesting to take it out of the general
8 fund, another 209,000, and submit it back out as a
9 second distribution to departments and chapters. If
10 we do that, and I ran some figures last night, at
11 the end of 2025, we could have -- if no other
12 expenses pop up, we could have 342,000 rough figures
13 left in the bank account if we do not distribute
14 that 209,000 out. If we distribute that 209,000
15 out, it's going to leave us a little over 100,000.

16 There are possibilities of some expenses that
17 we do not know that we're going to get hit with from
18 the IRS because of the 990s for prior years not
19 being filed. They're being worked on now to try and
20 get them together to get them filed, but the IRS can
21 come back and penalize us. So keep that in mind.

22 I, you know -- yeah, if the money is there. But
23 yet, we could end up having problems later down the
24 line. I would rather see that money distributed out
25 into the programs that the Order is supposed to be



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1 doing. Thank you.

2 MR. OLIVAREZ: Patriot Terry Anderson.

3 MR. T. ANDERSON: Terry Anderson, Vice Chair of
4 the fund. One of our problems is the rating that we
5 have that donations or donors look at. And we are
6 small. We need funds to help, like, with suicide
7 awareness and other programs that we have within the
8 Order. Using some of that money would help us
9 visibly with donations down the road.

10 And I agree with Ed, and I agree with Jim. I
11 don't think we should be giving it back. We don't
12 really need it in the chapters. There's very few
13 chapters that really need the funds. And I think it
14 would do us a better job down the road. Thank you.

15 MR. OLIVAREZ: Go ahead, Patriot.

16 MR. SEGUIN: Patriot Shawn Seguin. There's a
17 lot of stuff going on. I'm going to try to stick
18 with my main point because I just got tons of stuff
19 that I agree with it, but I don't know how to say
20 it. So I'm going to stick with what I was saying.

21 I agree with the man with the glorious goatee
22 that was up here before. I've been with a lot of
23 non- profits. I've worked at the DAV, VFW. All of
24 them have programs, and the program spends where
25 we're actually getting out there and taking care of

1 the veterans. Our overhead -- I was at the finance
2 meeting yesterday, sat in on it. It is on the high
3 end.

4 We are not on the charity rater right now. We
5 keep bringing that up. The foundation is on the
6 thing right now. We haven't even gotten to get
7 reestablished on it yet. To be reestablished, we
8 need to spend money on our veterans. We need to be
9 spending money on our purple heart recipients that
10 are in need.

11 So that 209,000, I would 100 percent agree that
12 it needs to be utilized and not just sitting in the
13 fund because we need to get our faces back out in
14 the public so they know that the Military of the
15 Purple Heart is the organization to take care of
16 Purple Heart recipients -- not the number two, not
17 the number three. Purple Harbor recipients should be
18 calling us first.

19 So I believe that, yes, those funds 100 percent
20 should be allocated back out. I just don't
21 necessarily think that going to the departments or
22 the chapters is the right mentality because we do
23 have programs. \$5,000, God bless it, for suicide
24 awareness for a national organization. Hey, it's a
25 start. I'm not knocking on it for what it was. But

1 that's a drop in the pool when you think nationwide,
2 right? We just divide that by 50 states we're down
3 to quite a little, right?

4 So I fully think that, yes, it should be, you
5 know, voted down. But then in place of that, we
6 should look at transferring those funds out to our
7 programs so we can get out there and take care of
8 some veterans.

9 MR. OLIVAREZ: Thank you. Patriot Middleton.

10 MR. MIDDLETON: Doug Middleton, Delegate from
11 Georgia.

12 MR. OLIVAREZ: It's not on. Turn it on and --
13 get a --

14 MR. MIDDLETON: Doug Middleton, Delegate from
15 Georgia. I think we may be confusing apples and
16 oranges here. The MOPH Fund is a 501(c)(3). And
17 yes, you need to look at Charity Navigator and
18 GuideStar and other places to see what the rating
19 is. But the Order is a 501(c)(19), I believe it is,
20 which is different.

21 The money that we're talking about is from the
22 501(c)(19), which is a Veteran Service Organization.
23 That money -- so you would have to transfer money
24 from the organization to the MOPH Fund, and you
25 don't want to do that. You're -- that's acting in

1 reverse. The MOPH Fund was established to support
2 the Order, not the Order to support the fund.

3 MR. OLIVAREZ: Patriot Wetzel.

4 MR. WETZEL: Yes. Raymond Wetzel, Department
5 of California, Senior Vice. Yes, our chapter could
6 use the money. However, a point was brought up
7 yesterday. If we're going to start transferring
8 money, as it was stated yesterday, our -- excuse me,
9 our auxiliary needs it more than anything else, and
10 really within that, they're a big support of us.

11 So I would reiterate what was said yesterday. I
12 feel if we're going to start dispersing money and
13 taking money and putting it back, I would say we
14 would up that because a comment was made of \$30,000.
15 I -- I would -- I would up that to a \$100,000 for
16 the auxiliary to be able to be here and support our
17 veterans at these conventions.

18 MR. WALLOT: That \$30,000 for the lineage
19 auxiliary, that was just to cover their convention
20 expense. Dennis Wallot, Chairman of National
21 Finance Committee. And then pass on the floor.

22 MR. OLIVAREZ: Thank you. Patriot Smrt.

23 MR. SMRT: Smrt, Delegate, Kentucky. I want to
24 reorient everybody's focus. These are Life
25 Membership Funds. Okay. By the bylaws, those were

1 supposed to be sacrosanct principle, and we were
2 only supposed to disperse in interest on that in
3 order for the Life Membership rebate. I checked my
4 pockets. I checked everything else. Someone stole
5 the keys to the good idea books, and they're running
6 around right now.

7 Life Membership Funds were tapped. And
8 unfortunately we lost a 6 million principle and had
9 been drawn down over multiple years, secured loans
10 versus unsecured loans in past administrations.
11 This is not the Order's money. It is the membership
12 money that was sacrosanct and only supposed to be
13 invested and distributed back before the bylaws'
14 five-year sunset for 50-50 chapter and department.
15 The commanders, and the potential next year
16 commander, must submit budgets and run their
17 programs.

18 Apples and oranges, guys. Life Membership
19 Funds were never intended to be the piggy bank for
20 the Order. We only did that as an emergency because
21 we lost the Foundation's support. We created
22 another 501(c)(3), separate entities. Do not
23 confuse the two. Do not co-mingle.

24 The monies that we were promised that was
25 desperate 60-20-20 for five years, and it sunsets in

1 '25, was to help operate the headquarters.
2 Surprising to a number of us, they didn't use it.
3 They didn't need it. But they didn't tell us they
4 were squirreling it away.

5 It is not the Order's fund. It is the
6 Membership Life member fund monies. And those were
7 always dedicated or adjusted to support the chapters
8 and the departments, and under the current bylaws,
9 allowed for five years to do 60-20-20

10 MR. RIVERA: PNC Rivera requests to speak one
11 more time.

12 MR. OLIVAREZ: Request to have a PNC Rivera
13 speak for a second time. All approved?

14 AUDIENCE: Aye.

15 MR. OLIVAREZ: Any nays? All right. Go ahead.

16 MR. RIVERA: PNC Rivera. So this money is our
17 money that -- I was National Commander when this was
18 passed to give 60 percent to the headquarters. It
19 passed at my convention. My year, we had to borrow
20 400- and-something-thousand dollars. It's paid back
21 now. So that year is taken care of.

22 This is our rebate money that we gave to
23 National to utilize. When I came back in as the
24 National Finance Officer, and we got everything
25 straightened out, there's \$304,000. There's 255,000

1 in the bank account. And there's another 60,000 in
2 an escrow account. There's \$304,000 that's
3 available that is our money that has been rolling
4 over. I'm just asking you to support to give our
5 rebate money back, a few years late, back to us.

6 MR. LEIGHTON: Larry Leighton, National
7 Publication Chair.

8 MR. OLIVAREZ: What did he say?

9 MR. FERGUSON: Go ahead, Larry Leighton.

10 MR. LEIGHTON: This is Larry. This is two
11 points. One, Charity Navigator does not rate
12 501(c)(19) --

13 MR. FERGUSON: Just a second. Tell him to hold
14 a minute. Okay. Go ahead, Larry.

15 MR. LEIGHTON: Two points. Number one, the
16 Charity Navigator that people are referring to only
17 rates 501(c)(3)s not 501(c)(19)s. That's why we're
18 not rated with Charity Navigators.

19 Second point, the money that came out of the
20 rebate was given to the national headquarters, not
21 necessarily for operations of the headquarters, but
22 the operations of the Order. The fact that it is
23 still sitting there is because program chairmans
24 have not submitted budgets. They have not submitted
25 a program that says, this is how we support our

1 veterans.

2 If the suicide awareness or the women's
3 veterans advocacy program chairs would submit a
4 budget, that money would have been submitted. I
5 submit that the money be saved there for the
6 programs and not for the rebates for the chapters.
7 Thank you.

8 MR. FERGUSON: Thank you. Thank you. Patriot
9 Leighton. It's National Commander again. I want to
10 make sure everybody understands because I was
11 listening to the numbers that's out there. So in
12 Article 8, Dues, Section 2, Life Membership Rebate,
13 "Departments and chapters be annual rebate with all
14 eligible life members as of 30 June to 1 October."

15 MR. MCINTOSH: Point of order Commander.

16 MR. FERGUSON: I'm reading something here, so
17 I --

18 MR. MCINTOSH: No. Just put it like this.
19 You're out of order because if you're going to do
20 something in discussion, you have to come down here.

21 MR. FERGUSON: Okay. All right. I'm fine,
22 sorry. Thank you. We're fine. Yes. National
23 Commander from the floor. Again, reading where I
24 was at in Article 8, Section 2, Life Membership
25 Rebate. Let me just go down to B. "Per capital

1 payment will be paid 60 percent to National
2 headquarters, 20 percent to the Chapters, 20 percent
3 to the departments, and the Life Membership rebate
4 distribution will remain at 50 percent in the
5 departments of 50 percent. After the five years
6 ending in 2026, rebates will not be made to the
7 department or chapter that fails to submit a timely
8 election report by National by June 30th."

9 So we keep saying 2025. It's 2026. So we have
10 another year. So that's one of the things we need
11 to look at in our calculations. Thank you.

12 MR. MIDDLETON: Middleton, Georgia. Call for
13 the question.

14 MR. OLIVAREZ: Call for question.

15 MR. FERGUSON: Call for the question is the
16 vote, guys.

17 MR. OLIVAREZ: All in favor, say aye.

18 AUDIENCE: Aye.

19 MR. FERGUSON: Stand up.

20 MR. OLIVAREZ: Stand up vote, so everybody who
21 is in favor, please stand up and raise your hand.

22 AUDIENCE: Restate the vote --

23 MR. FERGUSON: Every person in here gets a
24 vote.

25 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Clarify.

1 AUDIENCE: Restate the vote.

2 MR. OLIVAREZ: Region of assembly, so --
3 division of assembly, sorry.

4 MR. MCINTOSH: Repeat the -- may I request to
5 repeat the motion?

6 MR. OLIVAREZ: Oh, go ahead and repeat the
7 motion.

8 MR. ADKINS: You're supposed to restate the
9 motion.

10 MR. OLIVAREZ: Oh, restate the motion.

11 MR. RIVERA: Okay. The motion is to pay a
12 second rebate in the -- of approximately \$209,000
13 from the general fund.

14 MR. FERGUSON: To the Chapter --

15 MR. RIVERA: -- our money to the chapters and
16 the departments.

17 MR. FERGUSON: Now, get up here and --

18 MR. MIDDLETON: Middleton, Department of
19 Georgia. Finance Officer, would you -- to clarify
20 that motion and not get in trouble with our
21 Parliamentarian, why don't you say not greater than
22 rather than approximately?

23 MR. RIVERA: Okay. Not greater than. Not
24 greater than 209,000.

25 MR. OLIVAREZ: If you're for it, all stand or

1 raise your hand. How many online? One?

2 MR. WITT: Total of 53.

3 MR. OLIVAREZ: 53. And then you and online?

4 MR. WITT: 53.

5 MR. OLIVAREZ: Did you count that one?

6 MR. WITT: Yeah. It's 53.

7 MR. OLIVAREZ: Did you count us up here?

8 MR. WITT: Yeah.

9 MR. OLIVAREZ: All those opposed, stand up or
10 raise your hand.

11 MR. LEIGHTON: Larry Leighton votes no.

12 MR. WITT: 18.

13 MR. OLIVAREZ: So it passed. Sorry. Sorry. 54
14 approved, 18 for nay. So it passes. All right.
15 Moving on with the bylaws, it's going to be
16 exciting. 2024 --

17 MR. MIDDLETON: Chairman, may --

18 MR. OLIVAREZ: Doug Middleton.

19 MR. MIDDLETON: I just want to make a comment
20 before you start this. When we were provided the
21 bylaws, it was sent out to the membership. There
22 was a two- or three-page summary of the bylaws that
23 was sent out. I was -- and some of the comments I
24 would think would be considered somewhat prejudicial
25 to some of these bylaws. I would ask that the

1 committee in the future no longer do that.

2 We're all adults in here. We can all read the
3 bylaws by our own, make our own decisions without
4 having somebody else digest it and regurgitate it to
5 us with their spin. We can all put our own spin on
6 them. So I would -- I don't think we need to do
7 this. I think it's prejudicial. I would suggest we
8 no longer do that in the future.

9 MR. OLIVAREZ: Point taken. I'll make sure
10 that the next committees are aware of it. All
11 right. Continuing with 2024-01, National Finance
12 Committee meetings, the result is the National
13 Committee, Section 4, Duties of National Finance
14 Meeting, Paragraph C can be amended or corrected to
15 read, "Present all budgets within 30 calendar days
16 after the close of each National Convention and/or
17 adjust thereto to the NEC for its final action,
18 therefore -- for further review." Resolved.

19 Article 12, National Committee Section 4,
20 Duties of National Finance Officer Committee,
21 Paragraph G to be amended or corrected to read,
22 "National Finance Committee meeting held immediately
23 after the closure of the National Convention will
24 set the high price capital expenditure criteria."

25 MR. WALLOT: I'm not sure what the change is.

1 Chairman of the National Finance Committee, Dennis
2 Wallot. What changes there from what we do now?
3 Are we reading from the resolve -- first resolved
4 amendment?

5 MR. OLIVAREZ: Yes, sir, sorry. Let's go down
6 to the -- yeah. So the first resolve is the
7 National Committee, Section 3, National Finance
8 Committee, Paragraph G be amended to read, "The
9 National Finance Committee shall meet as follows:
10 One, the night before the start of the National
11 Convention. Two, immediately the following the
12 closure of the National Convention. Three, every two
13 months until the next National Convention. Four,
14 the minutes of the pre-convention and post
15 convention NFC meetings shall be included as part of
16 the overall minutes of the National Convention. "The
17 minutes of all other NFC meetings shall be recorded
18 by the National Adjutant as secretary of the NFC and
19 distributed to the NFC within 30 days after the
20 meeting, therefore, to be further" -- do you have
21 any -- any ideas, Patriot Middleton?

22 MR. MIDDLETON: Doug Middleton, Delegate from
23 Georgia. That first resolve, one, the -- it says
24 that the NFC will meet the night before the start of
25 the National Convention. Now, if we had done that,

1 that means we would have had that meeting Sunday
2 night. And that means in the future, that meeting
3 will be the day before the convention starts.

4 The Delegates do not -- would not have
5 necessarily needed to be here before Monday morning.
6 That means if that committee meets the night before
7 the actual convention starts, when many of the
8 Delegates may or may not be present, they do not
9 have the opportunity to watch and/or make comments
10 to the National Finance Committee. And I think
11 that's bad, bad precedent.

12 Furthermore, we did not do -- you didn't --
13 when you scheduled this in convention, you scheduled
14 that meeting for Monday morning, which I guess is in
15 violation of the bylaws if that's the way the term
16 reads. So I think that's a flaw, and I think it's a
17 fatal flaw. Thank you.

18 MR. OLIVAREZ: Oh, sorry. Patriot Smrt.

19 MR. SMRT: Patriot Smrt, Delegate in Kentucky.
20 For the benefit of those who didn't stay for the
21 wonderful meeting we had and the spirited
22 discussion, it was pointedly exercised as well as
23 investigated. And I turned to the representative,
24 the Chairman of the Finance Committee, and I said,
25 whomever wrote this, whomever generated this -- and

1 it was rebroadcast from a previous thing, didn't go
2 through the department but was submitted and now
3 presented to you as something coming from the Bylaws
4 Committee. I said, did they coordinate with the
5 Finance Committee? And I turned to the chairman,
6 Dennis Wallot. And, Patriot Wallot, your answer
7 was?

8 MR. WALLOT: No, sir.

9 MR. SMRT: You have an amendment, not a
10 resolution, an amendment to the bylaws that seems to
11 be poorly constructed, poorly crafted, and did not
12 coordinate it with the most important element, the
13 actual Finance Committee themselves. So I would
14 preserve, obviously, the right to be able to say
15 that it seems to me a little too sketchy by half.

16 Not imputing anybody's character, but if you
17 are going to make changes to a particular
18 independent committee, you better coordinate ahead
19 of time. Do your due diligence. And work in
20 cooperation with them before you try to rule them by
21 bylaw at a later date.

22 MR. OLIVAREZ: Thank you. Patriot Middleton.

23 MR. MIDDLETON: Middleton, Delegate from
24 Georgia. I believe we've got a cart before the
25 horse. And I don't think there's even been a motion

1 yet on whether to -- you know, so therefore, I move
2 that we disapprove Resolution number 2024-01-NFF.

3 MR. MCINTOSH: Second that --

4 MR. SMRT: Smrt. Second. Department of
5 Kentucky and --

6 MR. OLIVAREZ: Call to question all those in
7 favor of disapproving 2024-001. Raise your hand or
8 stand, please.

9 MR. J. ANDERSON: Commander of -- Jim Anderson.
10 You do have to hold a discussion. Once a second is
11 done, it is open for discussion before the vote.

12 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Correct.

13 MR. OLIVAREZ: Right. Open for discussion,
14 sorry. -- we'll vote.

15 MR. WALLOT: Is there a discussion?

16 MR. OLIVAREZ: Open for discussion.

17 MR. WALLOT: Commander Dennis Wallot, Chairman
18 of the National Finance Committee. As we went
19 through this, like we had just mentioned, it was --
20 I was not involved with this at all. Most of these
21 things that aren't covered, we used to send out a
22 monthly financial report to the Finance Committee,
23 which included ten members in the chain of command.
24 Apparently that's what this is all about.

25 We have always set a high-priced capital

1 expenditure. That's been \$10,000 in the past -- for
2 the last 20 years that I've been in this position.
3 The extra day coming in the night before, since our
4 expenses are no longer reimbursed, would be added
5 expenses to the committee as well as anyone else
6 that would want to get involved with it. And to
7 have a meeting every two months, according to this,
8 we have a managed fund. That means we pay a fund
9 manager to do this.

10 We have no control over that. If we -- they
11 buy 38 shares of Tesla and 52 shares of McDonald's,
12 we can't jump in there and give them our percent --
13 we can give them our we want to have an 80/20
14 portfolio, 80 percent equities, 20 percent fixed.
15 So we really have no control over the monies that
16 are involved with this, except for a small portion
17 that goes back and forth and in and out of the
18 checking account, which is basically a transfer.

19 Everything else on here, it seems, even though
20 I was not the consulted or no one on the committee
21 was even consulted, all of these pertaining to the
22 Finance Committee, it seems like it's an overdone --
23 someone that does not know anything about this
24 committee and the way it operates are making the
25 laws for it. And if you follow the Supreme Court at

1 all, the Chevron case that just went through is
2 exactly what this is. That's all.

3 MR. MIDDLETON: Middleton, Georgia calls to
4 question.

5 MR. OLIVAREZ: Okay. Question.

6 MR. WALLOT: Second. Wallot, Chairman Finance
7 Committee.

8 MR. OLIVAREZ: Okay. And all those in favor of
9 disapproving 2024-001, please stand or raise your
10 hand.

11 MR. WITT: 65.

12 MR. OLIVAREZ: All in favor of approving,
13 please stand or raise your hand.

14 MR. WITT: Opposed to --

15 MR. OLIVAREZ: Sorry. Sorry. Opposed to this
16 -- sorry. All those in favor to oppose
17 disapproving. Anybody abstain?

18 MR. WITT: Six.

19 MR. OLIVAREZ: Six. Yep. So the approves --
20 disapproves have it.

21 MR. FERGUSON: Numbers?

22 MR. OLIVAREZ: Number 65, zero, and six
23 abstentions.

24 MR. FERGUSON: Thank you.

25 MR. OLIVAREZ: Moving on to 2024-02. So 20 --

1 2024-02 resolved, as reads that the Article 12
2 National Committee, Section 4, Duties of the
3 National Finance Committee, be changed to read as,
4 "A, NFC shall be solely responsible for preparation
5 and review of the annual budget of the National
6 Corporation after receipt of the budgetary request
7 from officers and committees. The NFC shall consider
8 input from those patriots seeking election as
9 National Commander without relinquishing its
10 authority and responsibility for the preparation and
11 review of annual budgets." "B, the NFC shall
12 supervise and control all expenditures and handling
13 of regular funds and those of all incoming producing
14 programs of the National Corporation to ensure that
15 the budget is kept within the approved limits for
16 the fiscal year. C, the NFC shall present all
17 budgets within 30 calendar days after the close of
18 each National Convention or adjustment thereto the
19 NFC for its final action." "One, the National
20 Finance Committee shall have the authority, subject
21 to approval of the NFC, to allowance of the
22 budgetary proposes of all funds received from any
23 source within the limitations prescribed in these
24 articles. Two, the NFC shall have the authority to
25 approve expenditures beyond budgetary limits by up

1 to 10 percent of the individual line item request
2 for the expenditures in excess of 10 percent
3 allowance shall be submitted to the NEC for
4 approval. It shall require the majority of the NEC
5 votes received by ballots of -- or at the National
6 Convention to approve expenditures greater than 10
7 percent." "The NFC shall exercise unquestioned" --
8 I'm sorry, "D, the NFC shall exercise unquestioned
9 fiscal responsibilities. Unquestioned does not mean
10 that the members of the Order cannot ask NFC
11 questions regarding the budget. It is defined by
12 the Cambridge Dictionary as accepted as true or
13 right by everyone." "E, any person or persons
14 approving warrants, vouchers, and/or checks in the
15 amount exceeding the approved or amended budget line
16 items without approval of the NFC or NEC for
17 Paragraph C2, above, shall be personally liable for
18 overdrafts. One, such person or a persons shall
19 reimburse the corporation in the amount of the
20 overdraft. Two, the National Adjutant, National
21 Commander, National Finance Officer shall each be
22 jointly and severally liable for such repayment --
23 liable for each payment of this corporation." "F,
24 contracts of employment of employees' rental or
25 purchases of new office space or other high- priced

1 capital expenditures shall be reviewed by the
2 National Judge Advocate for correctness prior to
3 submission to the National Finance Committee. G,
4 the National Finance Committee meeting held after
5 the National Convention will set the high-price
6 capital expenditure criteria. H, NFC shall be
7 charged with the investigating and the reporting to
8 the NEC of all contracts submitted to LPH." "I, the
9 NFC shall render advice to NEC on all financial
10 questions. J, the NFC shall not only allow any
11 chapter, department, auxiliary or other units of the
12 Military Order of the Purple Heart USA to raise or
13 acquire any monies, funds, or other things of value
14 with help of or assistance of paid or otherwise
15 compensated persons, employees, individuals, or
16 companies without approval." "One, the chapter
17 departments, the auxiliary, and its units and/or
18 other subsidiaries of the Military Order of the
19 Purple Heart USA shall submit written notification
20 to the National Commander, National Adjutant,
21 National Judge Advocate, and the Chairman of the
22 National Finance Committee as to the details of the
23 fundraising project." "A, the chapter unit,
24 department auxiliary, and its units or any
25 subsidiary of the -- the corporation requesting

1 permission to -- request permission for such
2 funds-raising activities shall comply with local
3 ordinances, codes, and laws, and federal ordinances,
4 codes, and laws or regulations covering various
5 funds-raising activities for event insurance. Event
6 insurance is recommended." "B, the NFC shall ensure
7 funds raised such -- by such fundraising activities
8 or programs shall be used only for the purpose or
9 purposes that are advertised in a solicitation for
10 which approval has been granted. The NFC is the --
11 C, the NFC shall institute, as required, additional
12 policies and procedures or licensing fees and
13 overall supervision of all funds-raising activities
14 by all subsidiaries of the corporation. It shall
15 ensure that the policies and procedures are fully
16 complied with by all concerned and updated as
17 needed." "Two, it shall be the duty of the National
18 Commander, National Judge Advocate, and National
19 Adjutant within 30 days of the receipt or such
20 request to make recommendations to all the National
21 Finance Committee members regarding such fund-
22 fundraising projects. Three, the National Commander
23 or the NFC Chair shall forthwith call for a vote of
24 the National Finance Committee to approve or
25 disapprove a fundraising project or seek additional

1 information from the entity making the request. If
2 there is not enough information or there are
3 questions concerning the information contained in
4 the request or a majority of the National Finance
5 Committee shall approve such fundraising projects."
6 "K, the National Commander shall have the National
7 Adjutant's certified approval or rejection for the
8 fundraising project or projects by the NFC, as
9 defined for the National Finance Officer in detail."

10 MR. WALLOT: Senior Vice Commander.

11 MR. OLIVAREZ: Yes, sir.

12 MR. WALLOT: Pardon the interruption.

13 Considering the length of this proposal, six pages
14 long, looks like they copied the bylaws for about
15 two days on this. There's not a whole bunch here
16 that's really different when you go through the
17 whole thing. So the main purpose of this is what?

18 MR. OLIVAREZ: Okay. So it's --

19 MR. SMRT: We're not in a discussion phase.
20 This hasn't been thoroughly presented, nor does it
21 have a motion to move one way or the other, nor a
22 second.

23 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: And who are you?

24 MR. SMRT: Smrt. Kentucky Delegate.

25 MR. ADKINS: Keep reading.

1 MR. OLIVAREZ: "One, the accounting system to
2 be used by the corporation. Two, the form,
3 frequency, and regular and special reports that may
4 require the NFO to cover all funds, offices,
5 officers expenditures, and similar items." "L, the
6 NFC shall be responsible for the annual audit of all
7 funds of the National Corporation by an independent
8 certified public accounting and shall audit on
9 specifically designated dates. And the NFC shall
10 ensure that the reports of the National Finance
11 Officer and the independent certified public
12 accountant CPA are in compliance with all
13 requirements as set forth by Congressional Charter
14 Public Law 71168 Congress, as amended by 36 USC,
15 Subtitle 2." I'm just going to go down to 0 so -- I
16 don't want to lose my voice today.

17 It says, "O, the NFC shall assign each
18 committee member a duty or set duties to ensure
19 proper financial responsibility and maintain
20 throughout the fiscal year of duties are, but not
21 limited to, one, all contracts and rentals of
22 Building C. Two, restricted funds accounts, i.e.,
23 VF scholarship youth services, youth leadership
24 program, disaster relief, et cetera. General
25 operating fund accounts. Headquarters expenditures

1 to include payroll, utilities, supplies, equipment
2 requiring contracts and National Convention travel,
3 and et cetera."

4 MR. SMRT: Am I recognized?

5 MR. OLIVAREZ: Yeah. Sorry.

6 MR. SMRT: Smrt, Kentucky Delegate, motion to
7 disapprove.

8 MR. MIDDLETON: Middleton, Delegate, Georgia.
9 Second.

10 MR. OLIVAREZ: Now in discussion.

11 MR. SMRT: Smrt. Delegate, Kentucky. Ditto
12 from the previous thing, but I have to put it
13 forward so that the Patriots on the floor
14 understand. And I appreciate your patience. God
15 bless every one of you.

16 To the chair of the Finance Committee, Dennis
17 Wallot, were you or any committee members involved,
18 allowed to review, comment, or provide input to
19 whomever authored this and moved this as an
20 amendment, which of course is in absolute precise
21 detail and controls and directs the Finance
22 Committee, which is really a duly elected and
23 independent committee? Your answer, sir?

24 MR. WALLOT: Answer is short. No.

25 MR. SMRT: Thank you, sir.

1 MR. FERGUSON: National Commander from the
2 floor. Reading through this on this bylaw that is
3 here, the only thing should have been at the bottom
4 that's here. One of the points I want to point out,
5 yes, they should have gotten in with the National
6 Finance Committee. I do understand that.

7 But one of the things that we've been having a
8 problem, why are we behind on three audits? Why did
9 we have problems that a bookkeeper stole money from
10 us? Why did we turn around and have finances not put
11 in the proper area?

12 What this is trying to state is that we need to
13 turn around and have more people on there. The only
14 one you have involved with this is the Finance
15 Officer. The Finance Officer is supposed to be
16 directly working with the Finance Committee. That
17 is what is stated in his job duties.

18 Dennis has asked for a budget for that. I have
19 asked for a budget for monthly. And that's the
20 problem we have. That communications is not here.
21 So what this is -- what we're trying to point out is
22 that we need to have a better communication and not
23 leave one person responsible for all the funds in
24 the order. We need to delegate that out, get the
25 Finance Committee, and get them the information.

1 They can get involved, so then, now, we can turn
2 around and save the things we have in the order. We
3 won't -- wouldn't have to have this discussion
4 trying to decide where monies and things are at.
5 That's the problem we got. Contracts come back up.

6 You talk about this year of clean up, that's
7 what's happening. We've had to clean things up,
8 especially one of the audits that people don't
9 understand in the 990s. Just because we were three
10 years late, we almost had a \$50,000 fine for one
11 audit. We still got two more audits to go through.

12 Don't know what the fine is going to be on
13 that, but having somebody in here on top of that and
14 telling us, hey, we need to make sure we get this
15 report filed in. You need to turn around and make
16 sure the contractors are done. Make sure the
17 donations are correct. That information needs to
18 get to that Finance Committee. And I'm totally for
19 that. But the point is now we're having to clean up
20 a mess that's been over four years. Thank you.

21 MR. OLIVAREZ: Patriot Middleton.

22 MR. MIDDLETON: Middleton. Delegate from
23 Georgia. Particularly at -- without the input of
24 the Finance Committee, particularly of the chairman,
25 but none of the members as well, I'm kind of

1 wondering what -- in six pages, what problem we're
2 really trying to solve with this?

3 It -- it basically is directing the Chairman of
4 the Finance Committee how to do everything except
5 maybe boil an egg. It is -- this is needless. This
6 is just, you know, bylaw for the sake of something
7 to discuss. I strongly urge that we disapprove
8 this.

9 MR. OLIVAREZ: Patriot Smrt.

10 MR. SMRT: Smrt. Call to question.

11 MR. OLIVAREZ: Question.

12 MR. SMRT: Kentucky.

13 MR. OLIVAREZ: The motion is to disapprove. All
14 those in favor of disapproval, please stand or raise
15 your hand.

16 MR. WITT: 54.

17 MR. OLIVAREZ: 54. All those in favor -- all
18 those opposed to disapprove, please stand or raise
19 your hand. Any abstentions?

20 MR. WITT: 26.

21 MR. OLIVAREZ: So the numbers are 54 to
22 disapprove, four to oppose the disapproval, and 26
23 abstentions. So the pass is -- the pass is
24 disapproved. The amendment fails.

25 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Can't hear you.

1 MR. OLIVAREZ: The amendment fails. Move on
2 to --

3 MS. FIGUEROA: Okay. This is resolution
4 20243NFF. This is Francis Figueroa, Bylaw
5 Secretary. Suspension of inactive and non-
6 participating National Executive Committee members,
7 resolved. The following paragraph shall be added to
8 Section IB. "Any NEC member who misses three or
9 more consecutive meetings of the National Executive
10 Committee, NEC, which shall include National
11 Conventions, digital NEC meetings, and ballots
12 between the National Convention shall be suspended
13 from the NEC by order of the National Commander
14 unless a legitimate excuse can be made for each
15 absence." "One, NEC members who will miss any NEC
16 meeting as defined above shall obtain in advance a
17 written excusal of absence from either the National
18 Commander or National Adjutant. The written excusal
19 may be either by letter or by e-mail." "Two,
20 suspended NEC members shall have the right to appeal
21 the National Executive Committee within 60 days from
22 the date of the National Commander's order declaring
23 his or her suspension from the NEC. The order date
24 shall be the date of such notification to the NEC
25 member, either by e-mail or postal letter." "Three,

1 a decision to uphold or remove the suspension shall
2 be conducted by ballot of the NEC within 30 days of
3 receipt of the NEC member's request to remove the
4 suspension. Four, should the suspension occur
5 within 60 days of the National Convention, the
6 suspended NEC members shall have the right to have
7 his or her appeal heard by the NEC during the pre-
8 convention NEC meeting." "Five, should the
9 suspension be upheld by the NEC, the suspended NEC
10 members shall have the right to appeal to the
11 Supreme Body during the next National Convention and
12 be it further. Six, NEC members who are suspended
13 from the NEC shall retain all other MOPH membership
14 rights and privileges in accordance with the MOPH
15 Bylaws and Constitution."

16 MR. OLIVAREZ: Patriot Middleton.

17 MR. MIDDLETON: Middleton. Delegate, Georgia.

18 I move that Resolution 2024-03-NFF be disapproved.

19 MR. SMRT: Smrt. Kentucky. Second.

20 MR. OLIVAREZ: Point of discussion

21 MS. FIGUEROA: Discussion.

22 MR. MIDDLETON: Middleton, Delegate from
23 Georgia. My concern with this is, we are suspending
24 elected members, people that are elected by chapters
25 and departments to represent them in the NEC. I

1 don't think that the NEC should be the one that --
2 that is doing this. I think if your department
3 commander, or your committee chairman, or whoever it
4 is that's carrying a vote in the NEC is not doing
5 their job, the way to solve this problem is at the
6 ballot box at the department level, not by dictating
7 it from the top down.

8 You're disenfranchising members, you know, who
9 -- their representative that should -- it -- this
10 should be done from the bottom up, not from the top
11 down. Thank you.

12 MS. FIGUEROA: Smrt.

13 MR. SMRT: Smrt, Kentucky Delegate. Reinforce
14 the statements previously noted by my compatriot and
15 companion. This is ham-handed, punitive, unwieldy,
16 and unenforceable. And that's the most positive
17 thing I can talk about this because it would lock
18 the Commander, who has command authority, whomever
19 he or she shall be, and assumes that the Adjutant
20 and appointed member has the same level of
21 actionable, you know, review.

22 And that's not the job of the adjutant to keep
23 control or tallies of this. This is impossible to
24 actually enforce, much less put into the bylaws.
25 And I urge you strongly to drop this and vote for

1 disapproval.

2 MS. FIGUEROA: McIntosh.

3 MR. OLIVAREZ: No. Wetzel. Wetzel.

4 MS. FIGUEROA: Wetzel.

5 MR. WETZEL: Yes. Raymond Wetzel, Senior Vice,
6 California, Bylaws Committee. I'm sorry, I disagree
7 with everyone. Everyone here is a volunteer. You
8 have stepped up to the plate to accept a position,
9 and one of your jobs is to vote, as pointed out
10 earlier. And if you can't do that, then step down.
11 And if you don't want to step down, then this
12 section needs to be taken care of, if you don't want
13 to do your job.

14 So I believe that this should be passed and
15 held up -- held these -- hold these commanders that
16 are not voting are -- for whatever reason,
17 responsible. And if you don't want to do the job,
18 then get the hell out. Sorry.

19 MS. FIGUEROA: Siebels.

20 MR. SIEBELS: Siebels, PNC. In accordance with
21 Robert's Rules, this vote has to be known because
22 it's a conflict with its own bylaws. Where they're
23 going to assert this in the bylaws, if you read the
24 following paragraph -- sentence, it says, these
25 people will retain an NEC vote. You can't say you

1 don't have to vote because next paragraph you have
2 voters. It has to be legally voted down.

3 MS. FIGUEROA: Online?

4 MR. KROPTAVICH: Okay. I have to agree with
5 Siebels here. This is a legal problem. Even if we
6 have the authority to do this, we have one major
7 issue: there's no way to restore the rights under
8 the way bylaw is written. So even if we wanted to
9 do it, we have not closed the loop. There needs to
10 be -- this is not actionable as-is. And as you know,
11 I have not reviewed this prior to the approval. So
12 I was not able to point that out. So then there --
13 again, a couple weeks.

14 MR. ADKINS: Who was that?

15 MR. PRATTS: National Judge Advocate --

16 MR. WITT: Judge Advocate --

17 MR. PRATTS: -- Walter Kroptavich.

18 MR. WITT: Walter.

19 MS. FIGUEROA: Inspector Jackson.

20 MR. JACKSON: Yeah. Delegate Jackson, the
21 National Inspector. While I agree with everyone
22 that wants to disapprove this, what I look at with
23 everything else is, how do you manage this? There
24 is no way that headquarters or the national
25 leadership can manage this appropriately. There's

1 going to be people just getting lost in the shuffle.

2 And there's one other thing that everyone needs
3 to think about. If I'm ill, and I'm in the hospital
4 or whatever, whose responsibility is it in my family
5 to notify you that I can't attend a meeting? This is
6 just not a manageable resolution for anyone. Thank
7 you.

8 MS. FIGUEROA: Patriot Abbey.

9 MR. ABBEY: Patriot Abbey, Parliamentarian. I
10 asked the resolution drafters, why is it that there
11 was no consideration for the appropriate
12 notification verification? Because all of us have
13 experienced more than one meeting we were supposed
14 to attend to that we never heard about, and we
15 understand it goes into the ethernet and dies.

16 Second issue, we have a chain of custody of our
17 department responsibilities. If a department
18 commander is not present, the senior vice should be
19 present. And that should not count as an unexcused
20 absence on the commander if a duly appointed
21 delegated replacement is available. You know, but
22 it is a succession, I mean, because if you remove
23 the Commander by succession, the senior vice would
24 come in play.

25 MR. PRATTS: Commander Ruben Pratts, Department

1 of New York. My issue is I'm one of those
2 neanderthals with this internet stuff. And I know
3 I've done votes because I know with Chuck, those
4 buddy votes. That I was able to do here. But I
5 can't do everything you guys want yet. I'm not an
6 intimate person, you know? That's my issue right
7 there. Thank you.

8 MS. FIGUEROA: Adjutant?

9 MR. ADKINS: Yeah. Chuck Adkins, National
10 Adjutant.

11 MR. MCINTOSH: Tell us about from the floor.

12 MR. ADKINS: From -- yeah, from the floor.

13 MR. MCINTOSH: Thank you.

14 MR. ADKINS: In terms of the -- who represents
15 the departments on the NEC, our bylaws state it is
16 only the department commander. The junior and
17 senior vice do not have an NEC vote. If they are
18 representing their departments here at the
19 convention, they don't get an NEC vote, but they do
20 get to vote from the floor on all other actions. So
21 I just wanted to make that clear. And that would
22 even be true during -- in between convention NEC
23 votes or actions.

24 MS. FIGUEROA: Historian McIntosh?

25 MR. MCINTOSH: Thank you. Where I have a major

1 problem with this, everything everybody said about
2 trying to keep track of it would be a nightmare. We
3 have very few staff. Why burden them with
4 additional trying to keep track?

5 But, as far as I'm concerned, the one thing
6 that is the most damaging is the sentence that says,
7 "NEC members who will miss NEC meetings as defined
8 above shall obtain in advance a written excuse of
9 absence of either the National Commander or the
10 National Adjutant." Putting an appointed member to
11 grant or disapprove an excuse is beyond the pale, as
12 far as I'm concerned, because the adjutant is
13 appointed, not elected, and you put a non-elected
14 individual making decisions.

15 MS. FIGUEROA: We are going to withdraw this
16 amendment -- the resolution. No call for question.
17 The resolution will be withdrawn. Okay.

18 MR. MIDDLETON: Is that -- is that by the chair
19 of the Bylaws Committee?

20 MR. OLIVAREZ: Yes. Yes.

21 MR. MIDDLETON: Would you state that, please?

22 MS. FIGUEROA: By the chair of the Bylaws
23 Committee --

24 MR. OLIVAREZ: By the chair -- I withdraw this
25 resolution as the chair of the Bylaws Committee.

1 MS. FIGUEROA: We will move on to the next
2 resolution, 2024-04-NFF, regarding e-mail and spam,
3 Article 12, National Committee, Section 2, Duties of
4 the National Executive Committee, Subsection I1D3
5 and Article 2, Membership Section 5, resolved that
6 Article 12, National Committees, Section 2, Duties
7 of the National Executive Committee, Subsection I1D
8 be amended by deleting Paragraph 3, the National
9 Adjutant, other MOPH officers, or members shall not
10 spam an NEC member's designated voting e-mail
11 address.

12 And be it further resolved that Article 2,
13 Membership Section 5, Membership Code of Conduct
14 shall be amended to read by adding "E, members
15 having a @purpleheart.org e-mail address shall only
16 use it for official MOPH business. F, embers,
17 associate members, or affiliates of the Military
18 Order of the Purple Heart USA, Inc., the Order,
19 shall not send spam or other unwarranted or
20 unsolicited, degrading or harmful correspondence,
21 including e-mails, to any members of the Order's
22 purpleheart.org e-mail and/or personal e-mail."
23 "Members who have received a request to stop send --
24 to stop sending spam or other unwarranted or
25 solicited, degrading, or harmful correspondence,

1 including e-mails, and fails to do so shall be
2 subject to grievance under Article 15, Section 12,
3 and/or charges under Article 15, Section 13.
4 Reference, Merriam-Webster definition, spam:
5 unsolicited, usually commercial messages, such as e-
6 mails, text messages, or internet postings sent to a
7 large number of recipients or posted in a large
8 number of places."

9 MR. WERTHEIM: Craig Wertheim, Department of
10 Florida Commander. I make a motion to accept
11 Resolution number 2024-04-NFF.

12 MR. SMRT: Smrt, second.

13 MS. FIGUEROA: And for a second?

14 MR. SMRT: Smrt, Kentucky, second in order to
15 move us to discussion.

16 MS. FIGUEROA: Discussion? Smrt.

17 MR. SMRT: Smrt, Kentucky. I will repeat that
18 it's unwieldy, ham-handed, unenforceable. And
19 honestly, you know how much I love the microphone.
20 You how much I love my dulcet tone and voice. And
21 even when I deprive you of those docent tones by
22 sending e-mails, opinions, or things like that, who
23 is it that determines whether it's considered spam,
24 unwanted, unwarranted, or unsolicited? Who is it
25 that says I can't say something?

1 If I had an official e-mail, I can understand
2 the limitations on that. Then I think that's
3 appropriate. If you're an officer with
4 purpleheart.org, understandable, decorum, and
5 everything else. If you are a member, God-given
6 right, First Amendment, you can say whatever you
7 want to say. I kindly encourage you not to be
8 incorrigible, not to be rude, not to be disparaging,
9 and not to be the total PTS A-holes that we have
10 normally embraced and usually execute on a regular
11 basis.

12 However, I can't control that, my wife can't
13 control that, and no one else seems to be able to
14 control that. But it is your right to be able to
15 address things. It's like petitioning your
16 representatives. They don't want to hear from you
17 except at election time. But our elected members,
18 or appointed members, or chairmans, or people who
19 are doing the work of the Order can't do it in
20 secret without reproof of people who are paying
21 attention.

22 They might not like it, but it is not
23 considered spam just because you are coming up on
24 the net and telling them that they are exercising
25 poor judgment. So I urge, you know, that you truly

1 look at this and state that this is not something
2 that we want to go. And it's unenforceable. Thank
3 you.

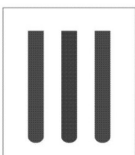
4 MS. FIGUEROA: Commander Wertheim.

5 MR. WERTHEIM: Commander Wertheim, Department
6 of Florida. This amendment only refers to those
7 having an @purple -- in reference to the members
8 having an @purpleheart.org e-mail that is given to
9 them by the national headquarters e-mail address.
10 So it's those that are issued the Purple Heart e-
11 mail address by the Order for official business
12 only, which, by law, can be controlled because
13 they're using it on, quote unquote, "company time."

14 MR. SMRT: Point of order and correction. Smrt,
15 Kentucky. F is not about patriot.org [sic]. It
16 said, any members, associate members, or affiliates
17 are also restricted and cannot come up out of that.
18 F is not subordinate to Echo. It is a whole new
19 paragraph, and it addresses all those who don't have
20 e-mail addresses that are purpleheart.org.

21 MS. FIGUEROA: Adjutant?

22 MR. ADKINS: Chuck Adkins, National Adjutant
23 from before. Back in the 2016, '17 rewrite, it was
24 placed into the NEC that you could not spam members
25 of the NEC. And the e-mails that we're talking



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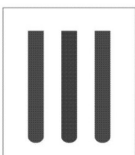
1 about, and there were a lot of them, that were
2 harmful, hurtful, hateful, disparaging, and just
3 downright despicable.

4 Why was it only limited to the members of the
5 NEC? Why didn't that apply to all -- I asked the
6 question, but at that time, the e-mails were
7 actually directed to members of the NEC. But
8 lately, and as of last week, and yes, some people
9 are maybe just expressing their opinions, but there
10 were some disparaging remarks made back and forth
11 among some individuals. That's what this is trying
12 to control.

13 And yes, it can be controlled. And yes, it can
14 be enforced. Yes, people are expressing their First
15 Amendment rights. But courts have ruled on language
16 that could be deemed hurtful, harmful, disparaging,
17 and et cetera. I think we need this in our Code of
18 Conduct.

19 MS. FIGUEROA: PNC Siebels.

20 MR. SIEBELS: PNC Siebels. I'm totally opposed
21 to this because one key factor has not come out yet.
22 In this amendment, they talked about some of the
23 warehouses. One of those warehouses talks about the
24 Information Technology Act, Section 66. That
25 particular legislation didn't come from the United



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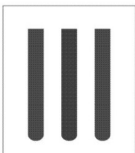
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1 States folks. That came from the nation of India, is
2 where that came from. Shouldn't be in here. This
3 is a bad proposal. I'm going against it.

4 MR. FERGUSON: National Commander from the
5 floor. I understand how this is written it may not
6 make sense. But one of the problems we're having is
7 -- let me ask this question for everybody. Once you
8 do an e-mail that is permanent, it is on record.
9 So we at the national headquarters at
10 purpleheart.org have to save every e-mail that comes
11 across that's on there.

12 So that's why the National Commander at
13 purpleheart.org, National Adjutant, when we pass
14 that on, those e-mails were in there. So that's in
15 the transactions of what we have, have the
16 disparaging, degrading e-mails and things back and
17 forth at the purpleheart.org. We do not need to
18 have that. So what if that e-mail somehow
19 inadvertently got out and maybe came to one of the
20 donors that wants to do this. And they say, oh,
21 wow, you can't even control your inside stuff.
22 You're sending this out.

23 This sets a precedent for us. We're supposed
24 to be professionals that's here. That's what we're
25 looking at to make sure that we get this thing taken



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1 care of. You personally can do whatever you want on
2 your e-mails. That's what I'm not asking that's on
3 this. I'm asking that we protect what we do as the
4 Order. If you were at a business that has anything
5 else on that, and you were corresponding like that,
6 do you think they would let you stay in that
7 business anymore? Thank you.

8 MS. FIGUEROA: Patriot Smrt.

9 MR. SMRT: Permission to address the assembly a
10 second time.

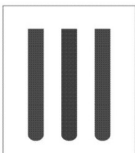
11 MS. FIGUEROA: All in favor to allow Patriot
12 Smrt to speak a second time?

13 AUDIENCE: Aye.

14 MR. WETZEL: Any opposed?

15 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Aye.

16 MR. SMRT: Wow. I love you guys. Smrt,
17 Kentucky. Refocusing. With this, we want to
18 ensure, obviously, civility and things of that
19 nature. The conclusion and the direction, laudatory
20 as it may be, does not meet its mark. No one who
21 takes a position, elected or appointed, should be
22 shielded just because they have a purple.org
23 official e-mail. Sometimes they use that.
24 Sometimes they have backup e-mails. That's fine,
25 too. And I strongly encourage the use of BCC. When



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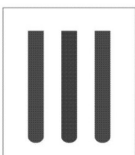
1 you guys want to post, you know, your opinions,
2 identify the individual that you want to address.
3 But don't include 375 other additional addresses out
4 in the open on the to block. That's a pet peeve of
5 mine.

6 But with this, please look at the fact that you
7 have the right, obviously, to petition your
8 leadership. Purpleheart.org address does not shield
9 them from criticism, critique, or your opinions.
10 And I encourage you strongly to understand that that
11 is your privilege, that is your right, and that's
12 how we reprove one another and make this
13 organization better. And that is why I'm
14 encouraging you guys to, obviously, disapprove this.

15 MS. FIGUEROA: Commander Anderson.

16 MR. T. ANDERSON: Region 2, Terry Anderson. I'm
17 a constitutionalist. I fought for my country for
18 the freedom of speech, freedom of rights to be able
19 to make my own decisions and live with them. I have
20 been in positions where I've been attacked and
21 called everything except a white man, which I am.

22 Bottom line is, they had the right to speak
23 their mind. I might not have liked what they said,
24 but they had the right. I have the right. And I
25 feel this is -- this just goes against the



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1 Constitution, period, and I think we should reject
2 it.

3 MS. FIGUEROA: Patriot Middleton.

4 MR. MIDDLETON: Middleton, Delegate of Georgia.
5 On Page 61 of 94 pages in our current bylaws, it
6 talks about the grievance process. It says, "A
7 grievance is a complaint from a member for some
8 action which causes disruption within the Order."
9 Obviously, spamming people, whatever it is, would be
10 considered disruption within the Order. I think we
11 already have the ability to sanction, or whatever it
12 is, anybody that's considered to be spamming,
13 whether it be from the top down or from the bottom
14 up. So I urge we disapprove this resolution.

15 MS. FIGUEROA: Call for a vote.

16 MR. SMRT: Call to question. Smrt, Kentucky.

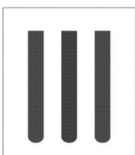
17 MS. FIGUEROA: Okay. The motion on the floor
18 is to approve this resolution. So the motion -- all
19 in favor to approve this resolution, please stand or
20 raise your hand.

21 MR. FERGUSON: I'm here to agree to disagree.

22 MS. FIGUEROA: Okay. All in favor to
23 disapprove, stand or raise your hand. Any abstains?

24 MR. KROPTAVICH: NJA, abstain.

25 MR. OLIVAREZ: Hold your hands up if you're



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1 abstaining.

2 MR. FERGUSON: Give them the numbers.

3 MR. OLIVAREZ: Nine. Nine. Nine approved, 57
4 disapproved, and 11 abstentions. The motion --

5 MS. FIGUEROA: The motion fails.

6 MR. MIDDLETON: Doug Middleton, Delegate of
7 Georgia. I move that we disapprove Resolution
8 number 2024-04-NFF.

9 MR. FERGUSON: It just failed.

10 MR. OLIVAREZ: It just failed.

11 MR. SMRT: Doug.

12 MR. MIDDLETON: Yeah.

13 MR. SMRT: We're talking about 24-04.

14 MR. MIDDLETON: It failed to be approved. It
15 has --

16 MR. SMRT: Oh.

17 MR. MIDDLETON: It has not --

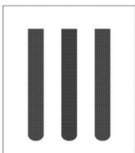
18 MR. FERGUSON: It has to be failed to be.

19 MR. MIDDLETON: It has not --

20 MR. SMRT: Second to formally disapprove. Smrt,
21 Kentucky

22 MR. FERGUSON: All right.

23 MS. FIGUEROA: Discussion? Call to question?
24 Motion is to disapprove 2024-04-NFF. All in favor
25 to disapprove this resolution? Any opposed to



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1 disapprove? Any abstain?

2 MR. KROPTAVICH: NJA, again.

3 MR. WITT: Nine abstain.

4 MR. OLIVAREZ: So the counts are 56 to approve
5 the disapproval, zero to oppose, and nine
6 abstentions. Motion fails.

7 MR. SMRT: Motion passes.

8 MR. OLIVAREZ: Passes. Sorry.

9 MR. ADKINS: Motion passes.

10 MR. OLIVAREZ: Sorry. Motion passes --

11 MR. ADKINS: To disapprove. To disapprove.

12 MR. OLIVAREZ: -- for disapproval.

13 MR. FERGUSON: Wow. That was close. I just
14 want to make sure we got that. Hey, I appreciate
15 everybody that's on, and guess what? It's about
16 lunchtime. Is everybody ready to take a break or we
17 want to continue on? Oh, yeah. No, I've said that
18 -- can't forget. Sergeant-at-Arms?

19 MR. WITT: Disbanded. Face your left.

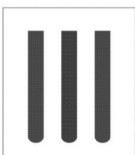
20 Attention. Salute. Two.

21 MR. FERGUSON: So in the madness of time, if we
22 can get back here by 1:30.

23 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Wow. Hour and a half.

24 MR. FERGUSON: Oh, I need 1:00. I'm sorry.

25 1:00 p.m., sir. 1:00 p.m.



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1 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: 1:00 p.m. sir.

2 MR. FERGUSON: 1:00 p.m.

3 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: --

4 MR. FERGUSON: Thank you. 1:00. Sorry. I
5 don't know why I was thinking 1:30.

6 (A recess was taken.)

7 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Commander? --

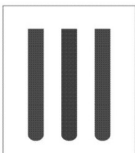
8 MR. FERGUSON: Sergeant-at-Arms?

9 MR. WITT: Stand. Face the flag. Attention.
10 Salute. Two.

11 MR. FERGUSON: Okay. Everybody enjoy your
12 lunch? All right. Good break? I guess so. Make
13 sure I get everybody in there, sorry. Right now,
14 before we move on, I'm going to have a guest come up
15 from AIL, Cece, to come talk to us real quick. If
16 you want, come on up.

17 MS. ODELL: Good morning. How are you? Good
18 morning -- or we -- or afternoon. American Income
19 Life has partnered with the Military Order since
20 April of 2022. American Income provides every
21 member of the Military Order with an accidental
22 death and dismemberment benefit. This benefit
23 started at \$2,000 per member and was increased to
24 \$2500 per member of last year.

25 Since April of 2022, we have paid 12 claims for



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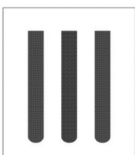
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1 a total of \$24,000. This total consists of 11
2 accidental death claims and one dismemberment claim.
3 I'm sure we have missed claims due to members not
4 realizing that they have this benefit. We can
5 always back up and pay those claims. If a member
6 would reach out to us at any time, we can back up to
7 April of 2022.

8 At last year's convention, it was voted to
9 allow American Income to assist in running our
10 membership list through the National Change of
11 Address database. This flagged 4,167 bad addresses
12 and 4,232 changed addresses. Now, we know this in
13 turn caused a lot of additional work for the ladies
14 at headquarters and for your state offices. But we
15 also hope that it helped clean up your membership
16 records.

17 With this partnership, we prepare and do a
18 notification mailing to your members every 15 to 18
19 months to let your members know that this benefit is
20 in place, the amount of the benefit, the other no-
21 cost benefits that we offer. And your members have
22 the ability to name a beneficiary if they would
23 like. But they're not required to name that
24 beneficiary to have the benefit. So every single
25 member of the Military Order has the accidental



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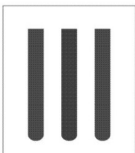
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1 death benefit, regardless of whether or not they've
2 ever completed that beneficiary card.

3 In October of 2023, we did send out 43,807
4 members notifications. 7,456 members responded,
5 which is about 17 percent. That's higher than our
6 normal response. And of that, we had 868 of your
7 members ask for additional, supplemental coverage,
8 whether it be a burial policy, a mortgage coverage-
9 type policy. So for that, it kind of shows us that
10 there's, you know, a need for additional life
11 insurance, and we're glad that we're able to offer
12 that.

13 My husband is actually a disabled veteran.
14 Unfortunately, he is uninsurable through our
15 company. So we know that there is a chance that
16 there are veterans that reach out to us for coverage
17 and are uninsurable. And, unfortunately, that does
18 happen in the underwriting process. But luckily,
19 like I said, we have been able to cover 868 members.

20 American Income appreciates the time, the
21 additional work of the members of leadership and the
22 staff, that you guys have put in to help and make
23 the partnership successful. I had the pleasure of
24 meeting with Commander Ferguson and others in March
25 at headquarters to present this year's donation,



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1 which was \$3,450. And I hope the upcoming
2 leadership and this Body will vote to continue the
3 partnership into next year. And then I will go see
4 you guys in Reno, hopefully.

5 If there are ever any questions, my name and my
6 number are always printed at the bottom of the
7 letter, and that letter is available on your
8 website. So there's always -- if there's ever a
9 question, anybody can always reach out to me.
10 Chuck, the girls at headquarters, everyone has my
11 number. So please, any other questions, please
12 reach out, okay?

13 And God bless you guys. And hope you guys have
14 a great convention. Unfortunately, I will not be
15 able to stay. I have left some MedVacs kits out at
16 the booth here, where they're selling T-shirts. But
17 I will be moving out shortly. So thank you. Thank
18 you, Order.

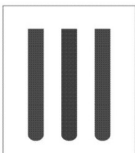
19 MR. FERGUSON: We appreciate it.

20 MS. ODELL: Thank you so much.

21 MR. ADKINS: Good to see you, ma'am.

22 MS. ODELL: Good to see you. Thank you, guys.
23 Thank you so much. Thanks for having me talk today.

24 MR. FERGUSON: We're waiting on the Bylaws
25 Committee chairman for a minute. He had to take



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1 care of something. So we're going to get another
2 guest speaker up here real quick. And this is from
3 American Dreams. This is Pen. If you all have any
4 compliments for her.

5 PEN: Thank you, Carder.

6 MR. FERGUSON: You're welcome.

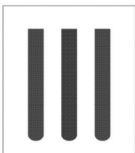
7 PEN: Well, good afternoon.

8 AUDIENCE: Good afternoon.

9 PEN: My name is Pen, and I'm going to ask you
10 all to join me in something for a quick second.

11 ALL: Oh, beautiful for spacious skies, for
12 amber waves of grain, for purple mountains majesties
13 above the fruited plains. America. America. God
14 shed his grace on thee and crown thy good with
15 brotherhood from sea to shining sea.

16 PEN: Come on. You know, God said, make a
17 joyful noise. I just did. Listen, the American
18 Dream Programs is a program being used by the MOPH
19 Funds for you all. And what I'm doing during this
20 convention, this 91st convention -- and
21 congratulations to every one of you. And I mean it
22 from my heart when I say thank you. It comes from
23 deep in my soul because the freedom that I
24 experience every day is because of the service that
25 you gave as a country to the United States of



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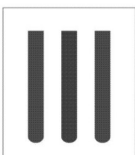
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1 America. And I take it so seriously.

2 My family members were service men and women. I
3 never signed on that dotted line. None of you knew
4 where you were going, not one of you, and I just
5 want you to know I appreciate you. I don't know who
6 you are individually. Some of you I do. I just
7 want to say thank you, thank you, thank you.

8 This MOPH Fund, I am waiving \$25 on it, which
9 basically is my company saying, don't send it to our
10 company to support the efforts that you're doing.
11 You will get -- during the convention, for \$75, the
12 MOPH Fund charges each individual that wants to sign
13 up for it \$100, and that goes to all the services,
14 and -- and things that you do to serve your
15 brothers, your comrades. It's from anything that
16 you can think of, and it's a program for renovating,
17 building, repairing your home, or the apartment that
18 you live in, okay? And it doesn't matter. It can
19 be something as simple as a hinge. One gentleman --
20 and I said, or some 14/2 wire that you want to buy.
21 He said, oh man, I just paid \$98. Where's that
22 gentleman? Where's he at? Is he in here? He said,
23 I just paid \$98 for a roll of wire. I said, you
24 could have probably saved at least 30 percent on
25 that.



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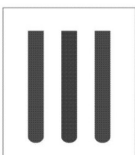
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1 You'll save anywhere from 20 to 60 to 70
2 percent on materials or products that you use every
3 day for maintenance, for repairs, for renovating.
4 If you went into Home Depot and you wanted a
5 countertop for your wife, because she wants a new
6 kitchen, even the cabinets, you'll get major
7 discounts on. That countertop is \$160 in Home
8 Depot, to be purchased and installed. That same
9 countertop through this work -- through this program
10 for you all, is \$65. You go into Sherwin-Williams,
11 you want to buy the tile. I was just talking to
12 somebody, oh, my wife only wants to buy Behr paint
13 in Home Depot. I said, why not go into Sherwin-
14 Williams and buy their \$150 a gallon, and walk out
15 with it for \$60? So it touches everything, from
16 carpet, to hinges, to wire, to faucets, to lights,
17 fans.

18 Somebody just -- somebody just said, oh man, we
19 just bought fans for our entire house. I said,
20 well, you could have saved probably 20 to 30
21 percent. If that's not of interest to you, the MOPH
22 has other programs that you can also fund. But this
23 is 100 percent deductible. Did I say that right?

24 MS. FIGUEROA: You did.

25 PEN: And Tracey has been kind enough to work



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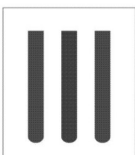
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1 with me, along with Carder, to get this program out
2 there. And I think there's some misunderstanding
3 about what it can do for you all. Please use this
4 for your benefit. It does not benefit me or the
5 American Dream programs. Just look at that, go to
6 americandreamprograms.com. You'll see all the
7 vendors.

8 But more importantly, go to the mophfund.org,
9 and it's in there. There's a way to purchase it.
10 You register. Our support staff will send you a
11 welcome packet and say thank you. And we will
12 support you through anything you need. I just was
13 talking to another one of the Purple Heart
14 recipients who said, we want to buy a generator. Do
15 you have generators? I said, yes, that's the
16 toolbox. Go out and find a generator that you like,
17 and I'll see if it's on there.

18 I think Carder told me at one point, yes, I
19 need a five-ton air conditioner. But you look at
20 the cost for five-ton air conditioners, and you look
21 at what you can get through this program, and you
22 might pay closer attention to it.

23 I just want to say thank you from my heart, for
24 everything that you've done. I thank my father, who
25 was in World War II. I thank my brother, who was in



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1 during Vietnam. And I thank each and every one of
2 you. If I could have you -- if you could feel this,
3 you would feel my passion and my appreciation for
4 you. Thank you so much. God bless you.

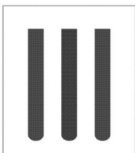
5 MR. FERGUSON: So I asked her, during the
6 congratulations behind me, one of the things about
7 the MOPH Fund when you go online -- we had talked
8 about this last year. So the \$100 that goes in
9 there, she's waiving the -- if you signed it up here
10 at that, waiving the \$25. So then the other \$75 is
11 split up.

12 \$50 actually goes to the Fund, which that helps
13 the programs and support the order that's there.
14 Then the other \$25, if you registered as your
15 chapter, your chapter can get that \$25, or your
16 department, so more people can get registered. So
17 that's money that you can go to a
18 chapter/department. Everybody got that one?

19 AUDIENCE: Yeah.

20 MR. FERGUSON: Okay. And so, actually, we're
21 still waiting on the Bylaws Committee chairman.
22 Yes. You got something, Ruben?

23 MR. PRATTS: Ruben Pratts, Commander, the
24 Department of New York. The previous person that
25 was talking about life insurance on that accident --



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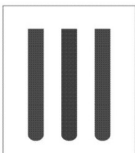
1 MR. FERGUSON: AIL, Cece.

2 MR. PRATTS: Okay. One of the members of --
3 there's a patriot that received a phone call from a
4 Globe Life. Are we associated with them? Have we
5 ever heard of them?

6 MR. ADKINS: Chuck Adkins, National Adjutant.
7 Globe Life is a subsidiary of AIL in New York.
8 That's who represents them in the State of New York.
9 So I understand why there might be some confusion
10 because I did go look into that. I thought I sent
11 the, you know, information back out. If I didn't, I
12 apologize. But yes, basically the same company.

13 One thing I will state. Yes, if you do get a
14 call from AIL or Globe Life, and you have issues
15 with the person, you know, they make -- you might
16 think they're rude or whatever or trying to force
17 you to get into something you don't want, all you
18 have to do is politely say, I'm not interested and
19 hang up. Let the National Adjutant know, because
20 then working, you know, with the leadership, a note
21 goes back to the company to resolve the issues with
22 the individuals that are calling, you know, the
23 agents.

24 MR. PRATTS: Right. Because when he mentioned
25 to me that he gave them his Social Security number,



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1 for me that's a red flag.

2 MR. ADKINS: I do not know how that could have
3 happened because that is not information that is
4 given to them.

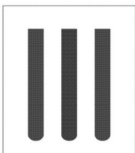
5 MR. PRATTS: Okay. Thank you.

6 MR. ADKINS: You're welcome, sir.

7 MR. FERGUSON: Going to get the computer up and
8 going, then Chuck is going to go into roll call. One
9 of the things the auxiliary came down and asked me
10 -- he said that they were going to turn around.
11 There's a handmade quilt, I think a Dixie Pickart
12 (phonetic) had turned around and made this. So go
13 up there to see her. And I'm not sure if they're
14 doing, like, a silent auction, or if they're going
15 to do tickets, but go see her if you're interested
16 in the quilt.

17 Some of you all might be cold, so we might need
18 it down here because I think the air conditioner got
19 turned on here. So yeah. Dixie, yeah. And I know
20 there's one on the silent auction is back there. I
21 kind of strolled back there, too. So you need to
22 get that in, and you might go back there and borrow
23 that, too. Okay. Ready?

24 MR. ADKINS: All right. Let's line up for roll
25 call. Region 2, Region 3, and Region 1, I'll try



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1 not to forget you before the PNCs, like I've been --

2 MR. FERGUSON: He's got a tag --

3 MR. ADKINS: -- I've got a note here. Yeah.

4 Patriot Commander Ferguson remembers it, remember to
5 go to one. I'll skip three this time. Let's move
6 quickly, everybody.

7 All right. Region 2, Commander.

8 MR. T. ANDERSON: Region 2 Commander, Terry
9 Anderson. Present.

10 MR. ADKINS: Department of Illinois Commander.

11 MR. T. ANDERSON: Absent.

12 MR. ADKINS: Department of Illinois Commander.

13 MR. T. ANDERSON: Absent.

14 MR. ADKINS: Department of Kentucky Commander.

15 MR. SCHALTENBRAND: Steven Schaltenbrand,
16 Commander, Department of Kentucky.

17 MR. ADKINS: Department of Michigan Commander.

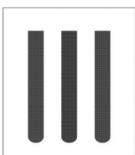
18 MR. ALLEN: Department of Michigan Commander
19 Ron Allen.

20 MR. ADKINS: Department of Minnesota Commander
21 is --

22 MR. BELLIS: Dave Bellis, Minnesota.

23 MR. ADKINS: Well, thank you sir. Department
24 of Missouri Commander.

25 MR. PELLHUM: Department of Missouri,



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1 Department Commander Garfield Pellhum.

2 MR. ADKINS: Department of Nebraska Commander.

3 MR. FERGUSON: Absent.

4 MR. ADKINS: Department of Ohio Commander.

5 MR. FERGUSON: Absent.

6 MR. ADKINS: Department of West Virginia

7 Commander.

8 MR. DEVINE: Danny Devine (phonetic), Senior

9 Vice Commander.

10 MR. ADKINS: Okay. All right. Region 3.

11 MR. FERGUSON: No, no.

12 MR. ADKINS: Oh, I'm sorry.

13 MR. T. ANDERSON: You missed the Iowa. You

14 missed Iowa.

15 MR. ADKINS: Department of Iowa.

16 MR. HANSON: Jack Hanson, present.

17 MR. ADKINS: Sorry, Jack.

18 MR. HANSON: Hoo-ah.

19 MR. ADKINS: All right. Now, Region 3 --

20 MR. FERGUSON: Wisconsin.

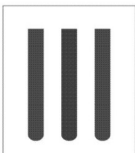
21 MR. ADKINS: Wisconsin. Okay. Sorry. Go

22 ahead.

23 MR. BANDA: Department Commander George Banda

24 here.

25 MR. ADKINS: I'm short and can't see it. All



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1 right. Now, Region 3. So now we get Region 5 to
2 start -- no, four, come to the -- all right. Region
3 3 Commander.

4 MR. RUPO: Region 3 Commander, Larry Rupo.
5 Present.

6 MR. ADKINS: All right. Department of Alaska.

7 MR. S. BLAIR: Steve Blair, Commander.

8 MR. ADKINS: Department of Oregon.

9 MR. WHITTENBEL: Keith Wittnebel, Commander,
10 Department of Oregon.

11 MR. ADKINS: Department of the Dakotas.

12 MR. FLIPPO: Department of Dakotas, Senior
13 Vice, Bill Flippo.

14 MR. ADKINS: Okay. Department of Washington.
15 Is she on lunch? Or --

16 MR. OLIVAREZ: I'm calling her right now.

17 MR. ADKINS: Okay. Department of Wyoming.

18 MR. GASDEK: Barry Gasdek, Commander,
19 Department of Wyoming.

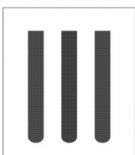
20 MR. ADKINS: Did I miss anybody in Region 3?
21 Okay.

22 MR. OLIVAREZ: Idaho.

23 MR. ADKINS: Idaho. Department of Idaho.

24 MR. NICKEL: George Nickel, Senior Vice.

25 MR. ADKINS: Okay. Region 4 Commander.



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1 MS. FIGUEROA: Francis Figueroa, Region 4
2 Commander.

3 MR. ADKINS: Department of Alabama.

4 MS. FIGUEROA: Absent.

5 MR. ADKINS: Department of Florida.

6 MS. FIGUEROA: Around here somewhere.

7 MR. ADKINS: Yeah. Okay. We'll have to get
8 him when he gets back.

9 Department of Georgia.

10 MR. FERGUSON: Online?

11 MS. FIGUEROA: It's Alan.

12 MR. ADKINS: Not online? Okay.

13 MS. FIGUEROA: Absent.

14 MR. ADKINS: All right. Department of
15 Mississippi.

16 MS. FIGUEROA: Absent.

17 MR. ADKINS: Department of North Carolina.

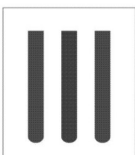
18 MR. LAZZARA: Lenny Lazzara, Department of
19 North Carolina, Commander.

20 MR. ADKINS: Present and company only.
21 Department of South Carolina.

22 MR. LOPEZ: Carl Lopez, Department Commander,
23 South Carolina.

24 MR. ADKINS: And Department of the Caribbean.

25 MS. FIGUEROA: Absent.



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1 MR. ADKINS: Okay. Region 5. Region 6, please
2 move up. Okay. Region 5 Commander.

3 MR. WITTSCHACK: Region 5 Commander Gustav
4 Wittschack.

5 MR. ADKINS: Department of Arkansas.

6 MR. DUSDEY: Tommy Dusdey (phonetic), Sergeant-
7 in-Arms.

8 MR. ADKINS: Department of Colorado. Is Pete
9 Downen (phonetic) online?

10 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Should be.

11 MR. ADKINS: All right. Pete Downen is online.
12 All right. Department of Kansas.

13 MR. WITT: Absent.

14 MR. ADKINS: Department of Louisiana.

15 MR. WITT: Missing.

16 MR. OLIVAREZ: He's on his way.

17 MR. ADKINS: Okay. We'll have him check in.
18 Department of New Mexico.

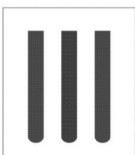
19 MR. NEWALL: Roger Newall, Finance Officer.
20 Present.

21 MR. ADKINS: Department of Oklahoma.

22 MR. WITT: He's at lunch with Louisiana.

23 MR. FERGUSON: Go check he's --

24 MR. ADKINS: Yeah. Well, Sergeant-at-Arms will
25 have those who come in late check in at the first



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1 mic after they're here -- and there he is. Mitch,
2 get over to the mic and --

3 MR. REED: Present.

4 MR. ADKINS: Department of Oklahoma is present,
5 is Mitch Reed the Senior Vice. And then we have
6 Department of Texas.

7 MR. MATTHEW: Michael Matthew is present.

8 MR. ADKINS: Okay. Now we go to Region 6.

9 MR. C. ANDERSON: Region 6, Managerial
10 Adjutant. Present.

11 MR. ADKINS: Okay. Department of Arizona.

12 MR. OLIVAREZ: He's on his way.

13 MR. ADKINS: All right. Have him check in.

14 MR. C. ANDERSON: Busy.

15 MR. ADKINS: Yep. Department of Asia Pacific.
16 There he is.

17 MR. C. ANDERSON: Absent.

18 MR. ADKINS: Department of California.

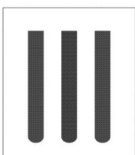
19 MS. KELLER: Department of California, present.

20 MR. ADKINS: Department of Hawaii.

21 MR. TANAKA: Aloha.

22 MR. ADKINS: Let it be known that Patriot Tommy
23 Tanaka, Department Junior Vice, is present. All
24 right. Department of Nevada.

25 MR. LEPEILBET: Andy LePeilbet, Commander,



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1 Department of Nevada.

2 MR. ADKINS: Okay.

3 MR. LEPEILBET: Arizona is here.

4 MR. GRAY: Keith Gray, Department Commander,
5 Arizona. Present.

6 MR. ADKINS: Okay. State your name. I didn't
7 hear it. I'm sure you did. I just didn't hear it.

8 MR. GRAY: Keith Gray, Department of Arizona.
9 Present.

10 MR. ADKINS: Thank you, sir. All right. Region
11 1.

12 MR. FERGUSON: Thank you.

13 MR. ADKINS: Commander, Region 1.

14 MR. BOKAN: Frank Bokan, Acting Commander,
15 Region 1.

16 MR. ADKINS: There's no Acting Commander.

17 MR. BOKAN: Elected official.

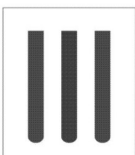
18 MR. ADKINS: What? What?

19 MR. MIDDLETON: He's the Region 1 Commander,
20 though.

21 MR. ADKINS: Say again?

22 MR. BOKAN: Finance Officer for Pennsylvania
23 but acting --

24 MR. ADKINS: You can't be acting. Acting
25 regional commanders don't get a vote. There is no



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1 acting vote.

2 MR. FERGUSON: Only region commanders.

3 MR. ADKINS: Only region commanders. Department
4 of Connecticut.

5 MR. PRATTS: Absent.

6 MR. ADKINS: Department of Delaware.

7 MR. PRATTS: Absent.

8 MR. ADKINS: Department of Maryland.

9 MR. PRATTS: Absent.

10 MR. ADKINS: Department of New Jersey.

11 MR. PRATTS: Absent.

12 MR. ADKINS: Department of New York.

13 MR. PRATTS: Commander Ruben Pratts, New York
14 Commander Department.

15 MR. ADKINS: Department of Pennsylvania.

16 MR. ARNOLD: Philip Arnold, Commander.

17 MR. ADKINS: Department of Virginia. Where's
18 Ben? Ben not here?

19 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: He's missing --

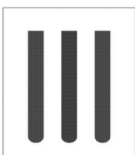
20 MR. ADKINS: Okay.

21 MR. PICKART: Colorado in online.

22 MR. ADKINS: I'm sorry, who?

23 MR. PICKART: Colorado is online.

24 MR. ADKINS: Department of Colorado. Is Pete
25 Downen online? I'm just checking with him.



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1 MR. OLIVAREZ: He told me yes earlier.

2 MR. ADKINS: No, he has him on now. Thank you,
3 sir.

4 MR. WERTHEIM: Sir, Craig Wertheim, Department
5 of Florida, Commander. Here.

6 MR. ADKINS: Thank you for checking in, sir.

7 MR. OLIVAREZ: Louisiana just walked in.

8 MR. ADKINS: Okay. And you'll check in.
9 Department of Louisiana, please check in.

10 MR. SANTINY: Department of Louisiana,
11 Commander, Deron Santiny.

12 MR. ADKINS: Okay. Thank you. Past National
13 Commanders. PNC Frank Athanason. PNC Boyd Barclay.
14 PNC James Blaylock. PNC James Durkin. PNC Felix
15 Garcia.

16 MR. GARCIA: Here, sir.

17 MR. ADKINS: PNC Hershel Gober. PNC William
18 Hutton. PNC James McCormick. PNC Bruce McKenty.
19 PNC Ernie Rivera. PNC Jeff --

20 MR. OLIVAREZ: He's out in the hallway.

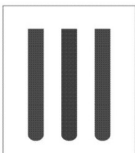
21 MR. ADKINS: -- Jeff Roy. PNC Ron Siebels.

22 MR. SIEBELS: Here, sir.

23 MR. ADKINS: PNC Fred Taylor.

24 MR. TAYLOR: Present.

25 MR. ADKINS: PNC Cornelius Van-Ess. Okay. Be



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1 it noted that the Department of Washington Commander
2 is now online. National Commander.

3 MR. FERGUSON: National Commander Ferguson,
4 present.

5 MR. ADKINS: National Senior Vice.

6 MR. OLIVAREZ: National Senior Vice Olivarez,
7 present.

8 MR. ADKINS: National Judge Advocate. Walt
9 Kroptavich, is he online? National Junior Vice
10 Tracey Brown-Greene.

11 MS. BROWN-GREENE: Present.

12 MR. ADKINS: Okay. National Finance Officer
13 Ernie Rivera. National Sergeant-at-Arms Gary Witt.

14 MR. WITT: Present.

15 MR. ADKINS: National Finance Chair Dennis
16 Wallot.

17 MR. WALLOT: Yes, sir.

18 MR. ADKINS: National Finance Member Paul
19 Pickart.

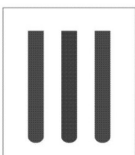
20 MR. PICKART: Here, sir, at your service.

21 MR. ADKINS: National Finance Committeeman
22 Craig Wertheim.

23 MR. WERTHEIM: Here.

24 MR. ADKINS: And you'll be voting as how, sir?

25 MR. WERTHEIM: Department of Florida Commander.



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1 MR. ADKINS: Okay. And National Committeeman
2 Jim Anderson. Have him check in when he comes in.
3 National Public Publication Committee Larry
4 Leighton, is he online? Okay. Be it noted that
5 he's online. And National Post Committee Member
6 Alan Gibson. Is he online? Okay. If he checks in,
7 please let us know. National Commander.

8 MR. FERGUSON: I guarantee you, we'll get a
9 roll call a little better, huh?

10 MR. ADKINS: That's right.

11 MR. FERGUSON: Yeah. He's working on it. I'm
12 going to get him a Hooked on Phonics type of thing
13 so we can at least get the numbers right in the
14 first place. You know, that's what you get when you
15 get good volunteers. So keeping things here. So I
16 know we're going to get ready to go right into the
17 bylaws. So without further ado, I hope that with
18 all this talking, we might warm the room up.

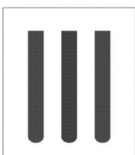
19 MR. KING: Commander Ben King, Department of
20 Virginia, present.

21 MS. FIGUEROA: Thank you. Okay. Check in, Jim
22 Anderson.

23 MR. J. ANDERSON: Jim Anderson. Yes, I'm here.

24 MR. OLIVAREZ: Finance Committee.

25 MS. FIGUEROA: Francis Figueroa, Bylaw



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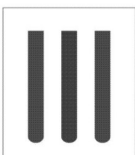
1 Secretary. We are going to continue with the
2 bylaws, and we are picking up with resolution number
3 2024-05-NFF. Question? Let it be known that Walter
4 Kroptavich checked in. Patriot Smrt?

5 MR. SMRT: Point of order. May I ask the
6 Parliamentarian for wisdom? I believe we addressed
7 this last year. You may be online, but we have
8 never allowed for online people to digitally vote.
9 That only was allowed at the chapter and department
10 letter by change of bylaws because of COVID. We
11 have never approved digital voting from online.
12 Your -- your comments, sir?

13 MR. ABBEY: I was waiting to be recognized. But
14 Ed Abbey, Parliamentarian. While it does not
15 stipulate yes or no, unfortunately by the practice
16 being permitted at the last convention, we set a
17 precedent. It was not approved, but it was not
18 disapproved. It was not called to question, you
19 know -- you know, to the best of my recollection. I
20 yield the floor to the patriot from Kentucky.

21 MR. SMRT: In rebuttal to the previous comment,
22 I did raise this at the last convention, which is
23 why then --

24 MR. ADKINS: Point of order. We need to -- you
25 need to seek approval to speak for a second time.



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1 MR. ABBEY: Negative. Parliamentary procedure
2 is, if a person is speaking to rebuttal, they may
3 speak for one minute.

4 MR. ADKINS: I stand corrected.

5 MR. ABBEY: You sit corrected. Now you sit
6 corrected a second time.

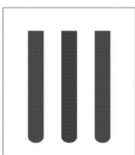
7 MR. SMRT: For multiple applications in
8 previous conventions, I did point out at one time,
9 bylaws were forwarded to allow digital voting. They
10 never made it through. That change never happened.
11 And we disregarded and told the people that were
12 online at previous conventions that they had voice
13 but no vote.

14 MR. ABBEY: But they did vote.

15 MR. SMRT: No sir, they did not.

16 MR. ABBEY: I also have the dubious honor of
17 running the digital, and I did transmit votes. They
18 were recorded into the records. You know, we can go
19 offline later for the brevity for the Body. You
20 know, if you would like to research, we can go back
21 online.

22 But, you know, I would like to state that my
23 recollection is what the basis for my ruling would
24 be, and it is that the body at the time accepted it
25 and therefore set a precedent. That could be ruled



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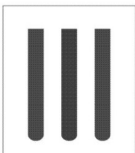
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1 on by the Judge Advocate, but once you do something,
2 you can't take it back.

3 Well, that's what I'm saying, but I don't have
4 access to it. The question was, can we check last
5 year's minutes? And that's what I'm saying exactly
6 needs to happen and then get a ruling and
7 determination. But for those of you that were there,
8 you would see that I was sitting over there, and I
9 would raise my hand and state that a, you know,
10 participant was voting, and it was recorded into the
11 record. Commander, I yield to floor to the chair.

12 MR. FERGUSON: Thank you. So let me ask this
13 couple question that's here. So why did we do an
14 online registration for them to come in? So that's
15 one of the things that was done so we can have
16 people who not make it by physical means, or it
17 could be financial means that's here. So that way
18 they can have in this. So one of the key things is,
19 like the Parliamentarian said, we have done this.
20 So actually we started out in South Dakota, then it
21 went to Baton Rouge, and now it's coming towards
22 here. Oh, and West -- I guess he's reminded me of
23 West Virginia, too.

24 So voluntary -- so I guess you said it's been
25 set to precedents. So I'm wondering what few people



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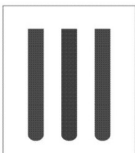
1 that we would have to vote, they need to have their
2 vote. And I would think that would be -- we would
3 do them injustice if they could not vote. Go ahead,
4 Parliamentarian. Then I'll get to you, Smrt.

5 MR. ABBEY: Ed Abbey, Parliamentarian. The
6 online registration does not distinguish between
7 voice only or voice and a vote. The same price, but
8 otherwise, we are disenfranchising people that for
9 whatever reason may not be in physical attendance at
10 the convention. And I think that's something that
11 we, as patriots that understand sacrifice, should be
12 willing to acknowledge and accept a modification of
13 behaviors.

14 But to supplement what, you know, Patriot Smrt
15 is saying, we need to codify this so that it is not
16 challengeable. It needs to be something. And, you
17 know, I -- the last thing I want to see is one more
18 amendment, but I think we should have an
19 administrative SOP that we can go ahead and do most
20 of this paper drill with, instead of beating
21 ourselves up for a day and a half on amendments to
22 bylaws.

23 MR. FERGUSON: Correct. Thank you. Thank you,
24 Patriot Abbey. Yes.

25 MR. KROPTAVICH: I just want to make point for



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1 order here. And I was going to write a nice long
2 note, or if I was in person, while I wish I could.
3 But due to family situation this year, I'm very tied
4 up with a brand new infant, just for everyone to
5 know.

6 And what I would bring up is, we need to think
7 about sustainability. We no longer have funding to
8 keep having people travel to these things. We don't
9 have the funding for the structure or environment.
10 We don't have the membership anymore. We need to
11 start looking at it long term, a better mechanism
12 for certain types of participation beyond one
13 national Body and one National Convention that
14 requires us to be physically present. That's what we
15 have now. But I do think we need to start thinking
16 about that alternative format.

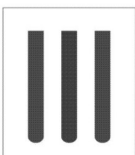
17 MR. FERGUSON: That was for the Judge Advocate.
18 PNC Rivera.

19 MR. RIVERA: Yeah. PNC Rivera, checking in.

20 MR. LEIGHTON: Larry Leighton, National
21 Publication Chair.

22 MR. FERGUSON: PNC -- I mean, Publication Chair
23 Leighton?

24 MR. LEIGHTON: I would like to read Article 19,
25 Conduct of Meetings, Section 2, Voting, Paragraph C.



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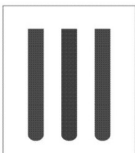
1 "Votes held at an executive committee meeting or
2 convention may be taken in person, internet meeting
3 service, telephone or a combination thereof."

4 Unquote.

5 MR. FERGUSON: Got it. Any other questions?

6 Thank you. We're going to continue on.

7 MS. FIGUEROA: All right. Let's start over
8 again. Francis Figueroa, Bylaw Secretary. We're
9 going to continue with Resolution number 2024-05-
10 NFF, regarding duties of the National Adjutant.
11 Resolved that Article 12, National Committees,
12 Section 3, the National Finance Committee, NFC,
13 Paragraph E be amended to read by adding:" "Four, be
14 responsible for the recording and transcription of
15 the minutes of the National Finance Committee
16 meeting and distributing to the members of the NEC.
17 Five, the National Adjutant shall not be signatory
18 on any of the Order's banking or other financial
19 accounts, but the permission of the National
20 Commander may have viewing only authority. See
21 Article 11, Section 5." And be it further resolved
22 that Article 12, National Committees, Section 5,
23 Paragraph A, Investment Committee be amended to read
24 as follows: "Includes the Chair of the National
25 Finance Committee, the National Finance Officer, and



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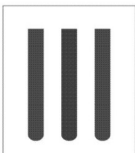
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1 the voting members of the National Finance
2 Committee." And be it further resolved that Article
3 12, National Committees, Section 5, Investment
4 Committee, to be amended to read by adding: "D, the
5 National Adjutant shall not be a member of the
6 Investments Committee, but shall, one, attend
7 meetings to provide information and ask questions,
8 and two, be the ex officio secretary responsible for
9 the recording and transcription of the minutes of
10 the Investment Committee meeting and distributing to
11 the members of the NEC. E, the National Adjutant
12 shall not be signatory on any of the Order's
13 investment accounts, but, with the permission of the
14 National Commander, may have viewing only authority.
15 See Article 11, Section 5." And be it further
16 resolved that Article 11, Duties of the National
17 Officers, Section 5, National Adjutant, be amended
18 by adding: "T, the National Adjutant shall not be a
19 signatory on any of the Order's bank, investment or
20 other financial accounts. The National Adjutant,
21 with the approval of the National Commander, may
22 have viewing only authority in order to help the
23 National Commander, National Finance Committee, and
24 National Finance Officer make informed decisions
25 regarding the budget and investments." And be it



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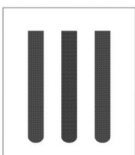
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1 further resolve that Article 11, Duties of the
2 National Officers, Section 5, National Adjutant,
3 Paragraph H3, be amended to read: "When amendments
4 to the Constitution bylaws and/or rituals are made
5 by National Conventions, the National Adjutant shall
6 be responsible for ensuring all changes are
7 incorporated into these documents. A copy of these
8 documents shall be used for this purpose, to ensure
9 the integrity of the current master while the
10 changes are made. The National Adjutant may seek
11 assistance from the trusted key employee, or member
12 of the Bylaws Committee, to type the changes." And
13 be it further resolved that Article 11, Duties of
14 the National Officers, Section 5, National Adjutant,
15 Paragraph H5-A, be amended to read: "When the
16 National Adjutant has need of updating the bylaws, a
17 duplicate will be made to allow a trusted key
18 employee or member of the Bylaws Committee to type
19 the changes." Patriot Middleton?

20 MR. MIDDLETON: Doug Middleton, Delegate,
21 Georgia. I move that we vote to approve resolution
22 Number 2024-05-NFF.

23 MS. FIGUEROA: Second?

24 MR. SMRT: Smrt, Department of Kentucky, and
25 from Kentucky, Chapter Representative. Seconded.



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1 MS. FIGUEROA: Discussion?

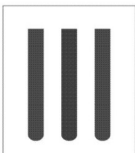
2 MR. RIVERA: Yeah. PNC Rivera. And this is a
3 very critical bylaw. When I became a National
4 Adjutant, and I went up there in 2019. The Adjutant
5 was signed on to the accounts. Multiple other
6 people were signed onto the bank account. So there
7 was money missing. There was another time we went
8 up there, the same thing had happened there.

9 The bylaws are very clear that the National
10 Finance Officer, the National Commander are
11 signatories on the account. The National Finance
12 Committee Chair is signature on the investment
13 account, along with the Finance Officer and the
14 National Commander. It's critical that that's the
15 -- it has to be that way.

16 In the past, it would say well, it doesn't say
17 that the National Adjutant can't be a signatory on
18 it. So that's why this bylaw is critical, so that
19 anybody that gets up there can't just go in and
20 change the bank accounts, set up bank accounts, and
21 -- and become a signature on it because we've had
22 people that have taken quite a bit of money and
23 spent money unauthorized by doing that.

24 MS. FIGUEROA: Patriot Smrt?

25 MR. SMRT: Smrt, Kentucky. I could assume, but



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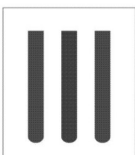
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1 I don't need any assistance to be an ass. I just
2 want to be egalitarian in my query. Did the
3 Adjutant coordinate with himself to ensure that
4 these duties are within his scope and that he was
5 consulted in order to make these changes? Thank
6 you.

7 MR. ADKINS: Okay. Patriot Adkins, National
8 Adjutant. It wasn't done by one single person --
9 from the floor, I said that. I actually coordinated
10 with the National Finance Officer on this because
11 when he and I served together before, as you heard
12 him state, we had found that the adjutant had taken
13 it upon himself to go get him signed on to our bank
14 accounts.

15 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: I don't think he did the
16 investment accounts.

17 MR. ADKINS: But we know he did the bank
18 accounts. And then, when I came back this year, and
19 Ernie came back as Finance Officer, we found out it
20 happened again with my predecessor. The Adjutant
21 should not have any signatory, you know,
22 responsibilities. Viewing, yes. But even under, you
23 know, controlled measures from, you know, the
24 National Commander, which is what this is going to
25 do.



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1 The National Adjutant needs to see, so he can
2 make informed decisions for the budget regarding the
3 headquarters, okay? But should not have any
4 signatory authority. Thank you.

5 MR. MIDDLETON: Thank you, Patriot.

6 MR. WALLOT: The only time the National
7 Adjutant has to sign any financial or bank papers,
8 he has to authorize that the signatures on the
9 account were duly elected by the corporation. And
10 that's the only time -- one place is Daniel Ramirez
11 (phonetic). Dennis Wallot, Chairman, Finance
12 Committee.

13 MS. FIGUEROA: Call for question? The motion
14 on the floor is to approve resolution 2024-05-NFF,
15 Duties of the National Adjutant. All in favor of
16 the approval of this resolution, either raise your
17 hand or stand.

18 MR. LEIGHTON: Larry Leighton, most agree.

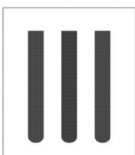
19 MS. FIGUEROA: Any opposed? Any abstentions?

20 MR. WITT: 84, zero, and two.

21 MR. HANNERMAN: I vigorously abstained.

22 MS. FIGUEROA: The motion passes as 84
23 approved, zero opposed, two abstentions.

24 MR. OLIVAREZ: Robert Olivarez, Bylaws
25 Chairman. I am going to withdraw 2024-06.



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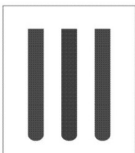
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1 MS. FIGUEROA: Resolution number 2024-06-NFF
2 has been withdrawn by the Bylaw Chairman. All
3 right. This is resolution number 2024-07-NFF
4 regarding duties of the National Judge Advocate.
5 Resolved that Article 11, Duties of National
6 Officers, Section 8, National Judge Advocate be
7 amended to read by adding, "G, in the event that the
8 position of the National Judge Advocate becomes
9 permanently vacant for any reason, the National
10 Commander shall perform the following action: "One,
11 appoint a past National Judge Advocate or a
12 Department Judge Advocate to fulfill the duties of
13 the National Judge Advocate until such time the
14 position is permanently filled by election of a new
15 National Judge Advocate. The individual shall meet
16 the same requirements specified in Paragraph A
17 above." "Two, should a past National Judge Advocate
18 or Department Judge Advocate not be available, the
19 National Commander, with the approval of the NEC,
20 may obtain outside legal counsel to handle legal
21 matters or disciplinary hearings until such time the
22 position is filled." "H, in the event that the
23 position of the National Judge Advocate is
24 temporarily unavailable for any reason to include
25 military, personnel, and employment or must recuse



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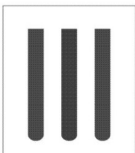
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1 themselves from a particular matter due to the
2 conflict of interest, the National Commander shall
3 perform the following actions." "One, shall appoint
4 a past National Judge Advocate or a Department Judge
5 Advocate to fulfill the duties of the NJA until the
6 earliest time of the conflict of interest is
7 resolved, the period of the unavailability is
8 resolved, or the matter is closed. The individual
9 shall meet the same requirements specified in
10 Paragraph A above." "Two, should a past National
11 Judge Advocate or Department Judge Advocate not be
12 available, the National Commander, with the approval
13 of the NEC, may obtain outside legal counsel to
14 handle legal matters or disciplinary hearings until
15 the conflict of interest is resolved, the period of
16 unavailability is resolved, or the matter is
17 closed." "Three, the position of the NJA shall be
18 deemed vacant if the period of unavailability is not
19 resolved within 90 consecutive days of the first
20 notice of unavailability due to military, personnel,
21 or employment reasons. This provision does not
22 apply to conflict of interest on individual
23 matters." Patriot Middleton.

24 MR. MIDDLETON: Doug Middleton, Delegate
25 Georgia. I move that we approve resolution number



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1 2024-07-NFF.

2 MS. FIGUEROA: Motion to approve the
3 resolution. Is there a second?

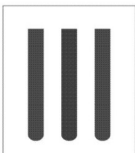
4 MR. ADKINS: Patriot Chuck Adkins, National
5 Adjutant from the floor. I second.

6 MS. FIGUEROA: Motion approved and second.
7 Discussion?

8 MR. ADKINS: As you heard the Secretary of the
9 Bylaws Committee read, you know, there is a need
10 when our Judge Advocate -- like, say, for instance,
11 Walter all of a sudden becomes unavailable. We've
12 had this in the past where we've had Judge Advocates
13 have to recuse themselves or withdraw from, like, a
14 disciplinary hearing because of their relationships
15 with an individual who is being charged.

16 What happens when that position becomes vacant?
17 Okay. The Judge Advocate is not there. The Judge
18 Advocate said, well, I sent the charges over to the
19 National Senior Vice for him to look at and approve,
20 you know, whether or not this should go forward.

21 Nowhere in the bylaws does it state that you
22 could do that. So there is a need to find a way
23 that when the Judge Advocate is not available, you
24 know, we have the tools that, you know, available
25 for the Commander to fill that position to get key



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1 input on any type of legal or disciplinary that we
2 have within the order. Thank you.

3 MS. FIGUEROA: PNC Siebels.

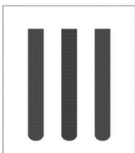
4 MR. SIEBELS: PNC Siebels. I'm generally a
5 favor of this, but I would like to hear from the
6 National Commander or Finance Officer, if we hire
7 outside an attorney, how is this going to fit in the
8 budget? Are we prepared for that?

9 MR. FERGUSON: PNC Siebels, this is National
10 Commander Ferguson. I had to think there for a
11 minute so to make sure I was on the right tire.
12 That's what we got in our contingency fees as legal
13 fees. So we do have -- that's down there at, I
14 think I remember, at \$5,000. So we do have that
15 just in case that did happen. And we actually had
16 that for last year, too.

17 MR. SIEBELS: Thank you, Commander.

18 MS. FIGUEROA: Patriot McIntosh.

19 MR. MCINTOSH: National Historian McIntosh. I
20 agree with an awful lot of this thing. There is
21 just one problem that I foresee. The very first
22 sentence in the bylaw of the duties of the Judge
23 Advocate is, "The National Judge Advocate shall be
24 an active, licensed attorney in good standing with
25 the higher Bar association or licensed to practice



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1 law."

2 The problem is, if you appoint somebody pro tem
3 from a department that is not a lawyer, you're not
4 filling the position with the lawyer. Now we have
5 someplace like Maryland, they have a number of
6 lawyers in their chapter and department. But you
7 have to go someplace else, you can't put in just
8 anybody there. So the fact that it didn't restrict
9 it.

10 If they -- check with the wording that the
11 department, Judge Advocate, that met their
12 requirements of being a lawyer, that's fine. But
13 without that, this is bag of problems because you
14 had to put in a bylaw where potentially you could
15 put somebody in that does not meet the
16 qualifications.

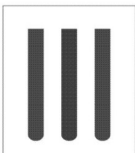
17 MS. FIGUEROA: Francis Figueroa, Bylaw
18 Secretary. In number one, that last sentence, it
19 does say the individual shall meet the same
20 requirements specified in Paragraph A above, which I
21 believe is the paragraph that you read from.

22 MR. MCINTOSH: I stand corrected.

23 MR. EGCELSTON: What? What?

24 MS. FIGUEROA: Patriot Eggelston.

25 MR. EGCELSTON: On the record. Hey, you took



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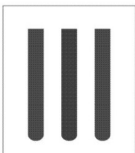
1 my breath over that one. Charles Eggelston, Service
2 Director. I never heard you say that, Nick. So I'm
3 about to fall on it.

4 I just want to make sure that the section where
5 it was talking about disciplinary actions, are these
6 being advised from an outside lawyer? It cannot be
7 from an outside lawyer. Has to come from internal.
8 So is that just, you know, advice when it comes to
9 the disciplinary actions, or is that from the here
10 of that lawyer? He cannot give a punishment. He
11 can only advise. He's going to have to look at the
12 particulars with that because he may not even be
13 able to that.

14 MS. FIGUEROA: Yes. Any outside legal counsel
15 will only be able to advise. Patriot Taylor.

16 MR. TAYLOR: Fred Taylor, Past National
17 Commander. This particular issue has been a thorn
18 on our side for a while. The Judge Advocate should
19 be sitting right there in this convention. You're
20 not going to get many attorneys who earn 3 to \$500
21 an hour to sit here for nothing. This needs to be
22 addressed.

23 A couple of years ago I was called. I'm a
24 Florida Supreme Court qualified arbitrator. I'm a
25 Florida certificated mediator in criminal law and



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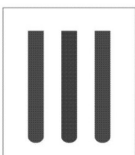
1 Florida certificated mediator in family law. They
2 called and asked if I would do it. And I said, yes,
3 but do I have to be a lawyer? They looked into it
4 and said, you know what? We can't accept you
5 because you're not an attorney.

6 I'm qualified, but I'm not an attorney. This
7 is a problem. If that Judge Advocate isn't sitting
8 right there, but we have these kinds of discussions
9 to render an opinion, and that's all they do, the
10 Commander makes a decision, then we're shooting in
11 the dark with 100 different interpretations. Not a
12 legal interpretation, a personal interpretation.

13 I think next year we need to address this. And
14 if a person comes that is imminently qualified with
15 a legal background, that may not be a lawyer, I
16 think we need to take a look at this because, like I
17 said, that person should be sitting right there --
18 the Judge Advocate, right there, to answer these
19 things instantly. Thank you.

20 MS. FIGUEROA: Point taken. Thank you. Call
21 for question. The motion on the floor is to approve
22 resolution 2024-07-NFF regarding duties of the
23 National Judge Advocate. Anyone who approves,
24 please stand or raise your hand. Any opposed?

25 MR. ADKINS: Hold your hand up.



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1 MS. FIGUEROA: Any abstentions?

2 MR. WITT: 79, two, and five.

3 MS. FIGUEROA: The resolution passes with 79

4 approved, two opposed, and five abstentions.

5 Resolution number 2024-08-NFF resignation from and

6 reinstatement into the Military Order of the Purple

7 Heart. Resolved that Article 2, Membership, Section

8 6, Resignation be amended to read, "Section 6

9 Resignation and Reinstatement. A, Resignation.

10 One, to protect the rights of the members, Patriots

11 no longer desiring to be considered a member of the

12 Military Order of the Purple Heart must submit a

13 statement of resignation of member -- membership."

14 "Two, a signed statement making mails or attached to

15 an e-mail to the national headquarters. If sent by

16 mail, the membership card should accompany the

17 statement of resignation. Three, the effective date

18 of the resignation is the postmark date on the

19 envelope of the resignation letter. If e-mailed and

20 no signed statement is attached, the effective

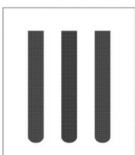
21 resignation date is the date the e-mail was sent.

22 The National Adjutant shall date stamp the receipt

23 of resignation notification and give to membership

24 office for processing." "Three, a member may resign

25 from the order at a convention by submitting a



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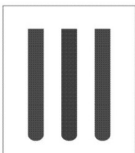
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1 written notice to the Commander presiding at the
2 convention. The membership card should accompany
3 the written notice. The date and time of receipt by
4 the presiding Commander is the effective date of the
5 resignation. The resignation shall be turned over
6 to the National Adjutant and membership office for
7 processing." "Four, a resignation to escape charges
8 may not be accepted. The charges may be preferred,
9 and the disciplinary hearing should proceed the same
10 as if the resignation had not been sent in. A
11 request for resignation to escape charges may be
12 submitted to and accepted or rejected by a Commander
13 at any level within the member's direct chain of
14 command. The individual shall be notified in
15 writing via any shipping service entity, certified
16 mail returned receipt requested, whether or not the
17 request for resignation to escape charges is
18 accepted. Article 15, Section C1D, a copy of the
19 request for resignation and notice of acceptance or
20 rejection shall be sent to the National Adjutant."
21 "Five, a member who resigns or whose resignation in
22 lieu of charges is accepted shall no longer have
23 rights, privileges, or consequences of membership in
24 the Military Order of Purple Heart." "B,
25 Reinstatement. One, to regain membership, the

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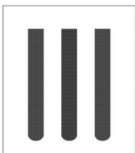
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1 patriot must reapply and provide documentation of
2 the award of a Purple Heart and pay the current
3 dues. Two, the determination to be re-accepted into
4 a Chapter is made by the assigned Chapter, Article
5 2, Section 2C. Three, before an individual who
6 resigned to avoid charges under Article 15, Section
7 13 can be reinstated, a National Judge Advocate
8 review shall be conducted in accordance with Article
9 15, Section 13 A2D." "Four, the Jurisdictional
10 Commander at the level which the adjudication was
11 halted with advice from the National Judge Advocate,
12 may reject an individual's application for
13 reinstatement in the order for poor moral character
14 if information regarding this individual's
15 resignation after charges were filed was considered.
16 Article 15, Section 13, Paragraph A2, if the
17 Jurisdictional Commander declines to reject the
18 applicant, the National Adjutants shall deliver the
19 information to the gaining Chapter for its
20 consideration. The Chapter may accept or reject the
21 applicant in accordance with Article 2, Section 2B
22 and C." "Be it further resolved that Article 15,
23 Section A2 be amended by adding, "Section A,
24 Charges. Three, no charges may be adjudicated
25 against a member or associate member who has



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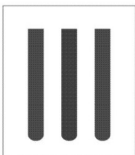
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1 submitted a resignation from the order and said
2 resignation has been accepted. However, a request
3 for resignation to escape charges need not be
4 accepted. The charges may be preferred and the
5 disciplinary hearing should proceed the same as if
6 the resignation had not been sent in, Article 2,
7 Section A4." "A request for resignation to escape
8 charges may be submitted to and accepted or rejected
9 by a Commander at any level within the member's
10 direct chain of command. The individual shall be
11 notified in writing via any shipping service entity,
12 certified mail, return receipt requested, whether or
13 not the request for resignation to escape charges is
14 accepted. Article 15, Section C1D, a copy of the
15 request for resignation and notice of acceptance or
16 rejection shall be sent to the National Adjutant."
17 "3A, if accepted the effective date of a request for
18 resignation is the date on the postmark of the
19 envelope of the resignation letter or other written
20 correspondence. The National Adjutant shall date
21 stamp the receipt of the resignation notification
22 and give to the membership office for processing.
23 Article 2, Section 6A3." "3B, the effective date on
24 an accepted request for resignation sent by e-mail
25 is the date it was sent. A printout copy will be



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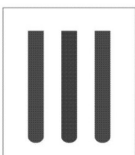
1 made as evidence of the resignation date and shall
2 be retained as part of charges evidence package and
3 a second copy will be given to the membership office
4 for processing. Article 2, Section 6A3." "3C, the
5 charges, evidence, statements, testimony, and all
6 other documents will be put in a sealed file and be
7 retained by the National Adjutant. Three, the former
8 member reapplies for membership, the charges will be
9 reviewed by the National Judge Advocate, also see
10 Article 2, Section 6B3, who will then, one, confer
11 with the Commander now at the level in the chain of
12 command where the adjudication was called in because
13 of the resignation." "Two, make a recommendation to
14 the Jurisdictional Commander as to whether the
15 adjudication should proceed from the point where the
16 procedure stopped. Three, the Jurisdictional
17 Commander will make the decision about proceeding
18 with or dropping the charges. Also see Article 2,
19 Section 6B4." Patriot Middleton.

20 MR. MIDDLETON: Doug Middleton, Delegate,
21 Department of Georgia. I move that we pass
22 resolution number 2024-08-NFF.

23 MS. FIGUEROA: Motion approved. Second?

24 MR. SMRT: Smrt, Kentucky for discussions.

25 Second.



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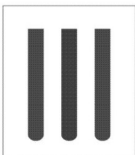
1 MS. FIGUEROA: Discussions. Patriot Smrt.

2 MR. SMRT: I appreciate obviously the author
3 and/or authors helping us out by putting in bold the
4 actual changes because you'll see that there's some
5 significant adjustments and -- and modifications
6 that they think are likely as well as necessary.
7 Most of the stuff is not in bold because there's
8 already precedents, bylaws, and things of that
9 nature.

10 I do want to point out -- and the only point of
11 order that I would like to look at is, if I'm not
12 mistaken, this is a voluntary service organization.
13 My statement would be, if I got a case of the mm
14 today and submitted my letter of resignation, most
15 of you would celebrate it. But if I resign, I
16 resign. There's no way you could compel me to
17 remain.

18 If I do not remain, you cannot charge me. You
19 cannot waste money trying to, you know, bring me to
20 a disciplinary panel or a grievance panel. And that
21 is the only concern that I have because some of the
22 other stuff is legitimate and explanatory as well as
23 perfunctory in order to be able to clearly identify
24 the process. But the point is, you can't make me.

25 And if I have resigned, then I cannot defend



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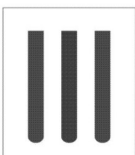
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1 myself if you still bring up charges. And I do
2 resolve that this has happened before. Changes have
3 been made to Article 15 because of that because
4 almost ten years ago, an individual that was brought
5 under charges as well as chapters and other things
6 that caused a major disruption to this association
7 and order, was brought by a gentleman that was
8 stolen valor and was proved that was stolen valor.

9 We lost a good chapter. We lost units. And
10 the individual sent his letter to the National
11 headquarters and resigned. And yet we still
12 impaneled charges, you know, for money and
13 everything else. And they prosecuted this
14 individual in absentia when he had resigned on
15 Friday. But the Adjutant did not let the impaneled
16 committee know that the gentleman had already been,
17 you know, received.

18 So I do not like the idea that "an individual's
19 letter of resignation must be accepted." It is
20 acknowledged. The person is gone. It has been
21 adjudicated and requested as well as modified so
22 that those charges, grievances, whatever they, may
23 or may not have "avoided" stays in, you know,
24 abeyance in suspension, in cryogenetic, you know,
25 chamber waiting if and only if that individual tries



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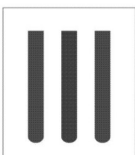
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1 to return. And if that does, there's already
2 procedures that said the charges can be reinstated
3 as of that date. I do not like the fact that
4 someone can tell me, I can't resign.

5 MS. FIGUEROA: Patriot Middleton.

6 MR. MIDDLETON: Doug Middleton, Delegate
7 Georgia. Despite not having the dulcet tones of my
8 compatriot back there, we had an issue similar where
9 we had a patriot in a significant position that was
10 brought up on charges, and he resigned in lieu of
11 facing the charges. And then later, another
12 individual as Patriot Wallot would call, the WCE,
13 reinstated that particular patriot to full
14 privileges as such and totally disregarding the fact
15 that he had been under charges. But the charges were
16 never preferred because we couldn't do it at that
17 time.

18 So I disagree with Patriot Smrt on this one.
19 And I think that this makes sense that we get it
20 into the record that the person was in fact on
21 charges, that we go ahead and adjudicate those
22 charges be they, you know, fulfilled as being
23 correct or they're thrown out whatever. But we had
24 an issue that totally became unresolved because we
25 didn't clarify in our bylaws exactly how we should



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1 handle that. So I think we really should pass this.

2 MS. FIGUEROA: Patriot from Pennsylvania. I'm
3 sorry, I don't remember his name.

4 MR. SEGUIN: I yield to the -- actually, he was
5 next.

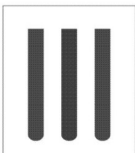
6 MS. FIGUEROA: National Adjutant.

7 MR. ADKINS: National Adjutant Chuck Adkins
8 from the floor. I understand what the Patriot Smrt
9 was trying to say. But it is actually in Robert's
10 Rules of Order that we do not have to accept the
11 resignation and that we can proceed with the
12 disciplinary hearings as if the individual of the --
13 you know, had not resigned. So that actually comes
14 from Robert's Rules.

15 And our current bylaws state, you don't have to
16 be present to win, you know. If you don't show up,
17 our current bylaws say they can do the DHP without
18 you. We're not going to compel you to come if you
19 resign, but we can still proceed. Thank you.

20 MS. FIGUEROA: Patriot Smrt.

21 MR. SMRT: Smrt, Kentucky, in rebuttal to the
22 previous comments. I was intimately involved, I
23 believe, with the incident because I was one of the
24 individuals charging that person. Not bragging, I'm
25 just saying that I was there. And I know in



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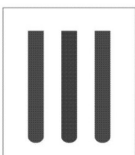
1 subsequent bylaws that was adjusted and changed so
2 that couldn't happen. But it unfortunately did.

3 Like I said, the only thing I'm concerned about
4 is the acceptance, and we just not automatically
5 revert to Robert's Rules when we don't like what our
6 bylaws already encompass and state. We clearly have
7 bylaws in effect that say, if the individual
8 resigns, the individual, obviously, the charges or
9 whatever else is pending, go into suspension. And
10 only if they attempt to reapply, then we bring it
11 back.

12 MS. FIGUEROA: Patriot from Pennsylvania.

13 MR. SEGUIN: Shawn Seguin, paying attention. So
14 I'm going to kind of 50/50, and then I have a small
15 little sidebar. But the 50/50 on this is, I think
16 this does need to be reworked just because there's
17 some Hispanic language in it.

18 He's absolutely right that if I quit today,
19 there's nothing you can say. I'm not going to a
20 disciplinary meeting. I'm just walking out the
21 door. Whether or not you accepted this means nothing
22 to me. I disagree with the gentleman. We still
23 need to do the paperwork on the back end. So those
24 in the future, if I try to reapply or there's other
25 assets involved in it, it came to final solution.



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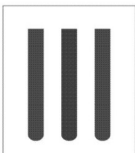
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1 So when I reapply, it's like, no, no, no. We
2 already have this on file and went through it. If I
3 choose to leave and not defend myself, that's on me,
4 right? So being charged and going through the
5 process and the absentia, and I can't pronounce that
6 word, so I apologize, that's on me for saying, nope,
7 I'm just out.

8 So whether or not I can defend myself is me
9 saying, yes, I'll be there. But the lines in there
10 about, you know, we have to accept it. I can walk
11 out the door right now and never return and just
12 tell you guys, I'm out. And that's me giving
13 notice. Ideally, we do get notice. We get it done
14 the right way. But I think that there's just some
15 semantical language in there that can get cleaned up
16 and it fits.

17 And my little sidebar, it's something I
18 noticed. And I know that there's a Rules Committee
19 person that's going to interrupt me. So just give
20 me a sentence first. Give me a minute to spin
21 around. Just kidding. All right. It's a -- it is
22 a very small thing, right? We ought to say our
23 piece. We can say what we want to say. I
24 understand by the Rules of Robert you can step in
25 and interrupt in order, but if you shoved your hand



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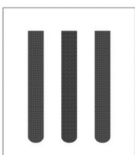
1 in my face to grab a mic, that's just being
2 disrespectful. And it wasn't just me happening
3 right now, but it is happening throughout yesterday
4 and today.

5 Can we please give just a common courtesy to
6 our fellow members? I was just standing in line.
7 He did ask her, after I stared at him for a second
8 -- he was like, oh, wait, do you mind if I step in?
9 I wasn't part of the conversation. A general tap
10 like, hey, do you mind if I do my rebuttal? I can
11 just step back.

12 So I'm not saying don't speak. Don't take your
13 advantage. But let's respect ourselves here. We're
14 brothers and sisters all trying to go in the right
15 direction. Give us a small bit of courtesy and go,
16 hey, do you mind if I grab that mic? And not just
17 snap it out the speaker's face. Because I don't
18 know about you all, but I don't like hands in this
19 area.

20 MS. FIGUEROA: Patriot Abbey.

21 MR. ABBEY: First, may I acknowledge Patriot
22 Smrt's actions there on the floor. That is the most
23 civil behaviors that I think we fail to acknowledge.
24 We notice the backstabbing often enough, but it's
25 nice to give somebody props for doing the right



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1 thing for the right reason at the right time. That
2 into my three minutes.

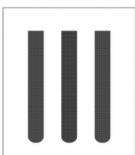
3 The one thing we forget is, we're forgetting
4 the judicial precedence of trial in absentia. If
5 you leave the country, you can still be found guilty
6 in a court, and then, like that, the conviction is
7 still on the record. If somebody chooses not to
8 defend themselves, that's another thing. My point
9 is more administrative and parliamentarian. All of
10 this is great, but right now I can pull up 77 names
11 that are still on the national rosters that say, not
12 a member.

13 I do not see that this addresses a mechanism
14 that once a process is completed, that we call the
15 record and whoever preferred the charges,
16 administered the punishment, it needs to happen
17 because we need to get better housekeeping. And the
18 fact that we have somebody from all six regions
19 that's not a member, still getting vote counts,
20 rebate counts. This is wrong. We should never
21 accept that.

22 MS. FIGUEROA: Patriot McIntosh.

23 MR. ADKINS: I would like to yield to Patriot
24 McIntosh. You can go first.

25 MR. MCINTOSH: No, go ahead.



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1 MR. ADKINS: Okay. I just need to ask
2 permission to speak for about 30 seconds a second
3 time.

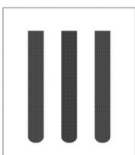
4 MS. FIGUEROA: Does everyone allow National
5 Adjutant Adkins to speak for a second time? Any
6 opposed?

7 MR. ADKINS: All right. I -- one thing I
8 forgot to mention was about the reinstatement
9 because there was nothing in our bylaws that covered
10 the reinstatement. We've had people resign, not
11 under charges, but then later on, wanted to come
12 back, and then say, hey, well, I paid my dues years
13 ago, so just give me my membership back.

14 To me, that's a no-no. If you left for
15 whatever reason and then want to come back in, you
16 should provide the same documents. You may have to
17 pay a higher fee. But, you know, that -- that's a
18 consequence of your actions from previously. So we
19 just need, you know, to be aware of that. That's
20 why that was put in there. Thank you.

21 MS. FIGUEROA: Patriot McIntosh.

22 MR. MCINTOSH: Patriot McIntosh, National
23 Historian. I was on the Bylaws Committee that wrote
24 our current bylaws, and this issue came up, and we
25 had a lot of discussion on it. And one of the



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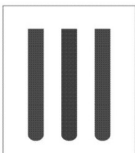
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1 things that we have noticed is that there was no
2 provision for somebody who resigned and then came
3 back in -- tried to come back in trying to avoid
4 charges. The way the bylaws read on the charges, if
5 somebody resigns the package that they have, bring
6 the charges, is maintained by the Adjutant. If the
7 individual comes back and wants in again, the
8 charges resume from the point where they stopped.
9 So there is no problem with somebody coming back in
10 and getting away.

11 Over a period of years, there was a lot of
12 problems. We had a lot of money on lawsuits. And
13 one of them involved, as Patriot Smrt mentioned,
14 somebody who had resigned. To me, if somebody has
15 resigned, and they're no longer wanting to be a
16 member, how can he defend himself if somebody is
17 bringing something up? Because in there, he no
18 longer has rights as a member according to the way
19 this is. So I can only think of one word to
20 describe what this is: Vindictive.

21 MS. FIGUEROA: Call for question? The motion
22 on the floor is to approve resolution 2024-08-NFF,
23 resignation from and reinstatement into the Military
24 Order of the Purple Heart. Anyone who approves,
25 please stand or raise your hand.



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1 MR. LEIGHTON: Larry Leighton, motion to
2 approve.

3 MS. FIGUEROA: Any opposed? Any opposed?

4 MR. WITT: Raise your hand one more time.

5 MS. FIGUEROA: Any opposed? Please re-raise
6 your hand, please. Any abstentions? The motion
7 passes with 69 approved, six opposed, seven
8 abstains. Do you have a question, Patriot Hanson,
9 Commander Hanson?

10 MR. HANSON: No, ma'am. I'm waiting for you to
11 tell me I can put my hand down.

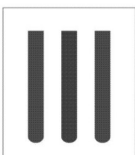
12 MS. FIGUEROA: Commander Hanson, you can put
13 your hand down.

14 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: You should have waited.

15 MS. FIGUEROA: You know what? I should have.
16 Just let him stand up there the whole time.
17 Resolution number 2024-09-NFF.

18 MR. WITT: All right. Keep it down. Keep it
19 down.

20 MS. FIGUEROA: Prohibition on political
21 endorsements while wearing the MOPH uniform.
22 Resolved that Article 15, To Preserve the Integrity
23 of the Corporation, Section 6, Politics, Section 6,
24 Paragraph A be amended to read, "The Corporation's
25 national region, department, or chapter officers,



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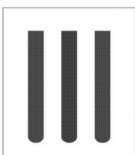
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1 elected or appointed, and/or members shall not
2 contribute to, otherwise support or assist, any
3 political party or candidate for public office as a
4 representative of the Military Order of the Purple
5 Heart."

6 And be it further resolved that Article 15, To
7 Preserve the Integrity of the Corporation, Section
8 6, Politics, to be amended by adding Paragraph D.
9 "In accordance with the Article 14, Section 4, no
10 member of the Military Order of the Purple Heart,
11 MOPH, shall wear the MOPH uniform, in whole or part,
12 and/or any item displaying the MOPH logo at any
13 campaign event where a political candidate
14 endorsement can be sought." "In addition, no member
15 who is the candidate themselves shall wear the MOPH
16 uniform, in whole or in part, and/or items
17 displaying the MOPH logo while campaigning for a
18 local, state, or federal elected office. Also see
19 Article 14, Section 4."

20 Be it further resolved that Article 14,
21 Uniforms and Supplies, Section 4, Uniforms, be
22 amended by adding Paragraph D. "In accordance with
23 Article 15, Section 6, no member of the Military
24 Order of the Purple Heart, MOPH, shall wear the MOPH
25 uniform, in whole or part, and/or any item



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1 displaying the MOPH logo at any campaign event where
2 a political candidate endorsement can be sought."

3 "No member who is the candidate themselves shall wear
4 the MOPH uniform, in whole or in part, and/or item
5 displaying the MOPH logo while campaigning for a
6 local, state, or federal elected office. No member
7 shall wear the MOPH uniform, in whole or in part,
8 and/or item displaying the MOPH logo at any event
9 where it may be construed that MOPH is supporting or
10 bring discredit to the Military Order of the Purple
11 Heart." Patriot Middleton.

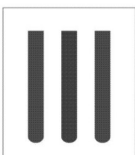
12 MR. MIDDLETON: Doug Middleton, Delegate,
13 Department of Georgia. I move that we approve
14 Resolution number 2024-09-NFF.

15 MS. FIGUEROA: Motion to approve. Is there a
16 second?

17 MR. ADKINS: Chuck Adkins, National Adjutant
18 from the floor. I second.

19 MS. FIGUEROA: Motion approved. And second.
20 Discussion.

21 MR. SMRT: Smrt, Kentucky. I do want to go on
22 record that I like Ike. It obviously dates me. The
23 whole and in part -- and I am obviously gravitating
24 towards this, and I appreciate this. I actually ran
25 for both local and state level office, and I was



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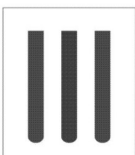
1 very judicious and careful on that. So I do like to
2 move forward on that.

3 But technically, my Military Order of the
4 Purple Heart uniform is a blazer, shirt, maybe my
5 regimental tie, not the baldric or the logo of the
6 Military Order of the Purple Heart. But if I have a
7 Purple Heart pinned to my chest, which I earned,
8 that, obviously, is outside the bounds, as long as
9 it's, quote, not the official logo of the Military
10 Order of the Purple Heart. That's my question of
11 clarification to the bench to the bounds.

12 MS. FIGUEROA: I think that is correct. Yes.

13 MR. ADKINS: Yes. Chuck Adkins, National
14 Adjutant. Well, you are correct, Patriot Smrt, that
15 you can wear the medal. You earned that. But there
16 are IRS rules and other rules that prohibit non-
17 profits from engaging in political activities. And
18 we fall under that.

19 In 2021 -- no, 2022, we had Patriots violating
20 the bylaws as it was currently stating, you know,
21 and making endorsements, and they were caught. I
22 had to -- because I was the Adjutant, and they sent
23 pictures. So we actually have that. We've actually
24 had Patriots, that were candidates themselves,
25 wearing either all or in part of their MOPH uniform.



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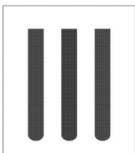
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1 We've got pictures of that. And we've just had --
2 I'm not going to name which state, but we've just
3 had two in a state up north of Virginia, be seen
4 wearing their MOPH uniform endorsing a political
5 candidate. And that infers or implies that the
6 Order itself is endorsing those individuals, you
7 know, the candidates. If they had just worn their
8 medal, probably nobody would have said anything.
9 But when you've got your hat, your blazer, and the
10 logo on, uh-uh, that's wrong.

11 MS. FIGUEROA: PNC Taylor.

12 MR. TAYLOR: Fred Taylor, Past National
13 Commander. This goes back away, but when George W.
14 Bush ran for his first presidential election, at the
15 convention, it showed a person with a Purple Heart
16 hat. It didn't say MOPH. It had a purple heart.
17 And some of our members were wearing it. It just
18 says, purple heart, maybe it says, Vietnam veteran
19 or whatever.

20 And it was an uproar because it was a well-
21 known member. I don't know if some of the people
22 was around remember that. He was perfectly legal.
23 You could wear your purple heart. You could wear
24 your purple heart hat. You could wear anything like
25 that. I highly encourage you to do so. Don't



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1 represent yourself with the purple heart -- go for a
2 Purple Heart logo, though. Just the purple heart.
3 Thank you.

4 MS. FIGUEROA: Call for question. The motion
5 on the floor is to approve Resolution number 2024-
6 09- NFF, Prohibition on Political Endorsements While
7 Wearing the MOPH Uniform. Any approve, please stand
8 or raise your hand.

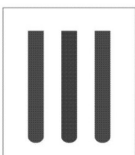
9 MR. LEIGHTON: Larry Leighton, vote to approve.

10 MR. GIBSON: Alan Gibson, Junior Vice
11 Commander, vote to approve.

12 MS. FIGUEROA: Just to make a note, Alan Gibson
13 is Department of Georgia and is checked in online.
14 Any opposed? Any abstentions? The resolution
15 passes. 82 approved, zero opposed, one abstention.

16 MR. ADKINS: Put your hand down, Jack.

17 MS. FIGUEROA: I was going to -- wanted to see
18 how long he could go. Resolution number 2024-10-
19 NFF, Punishments or Abridgment of Membership Rights.
20 Resolved that Article 15, To Preserve the Integrity
21 of the Corporation, Section 13, Discipline,
22 Transfer, and Expulsion of Members, Paragraph A,
23 Charges, be amended to read, "One, no member or
24 associate member of the Military Order of the Purple
25 Heart of the USA, Inc.



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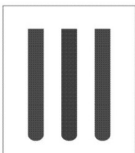
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1 shall be punished or have any membership rights
2 abridged without a disciplinary hearing panel, and
3 in which a recommended abridging punishment,
4 suspension, or expulsion is upheld by the NEC
5 between National Conventions or the Supreme Body
6 during National Conventions." "Two, punishments or
7 an abridgment of membership may be imposed for the
8 following reasons: A, intentional, willful, and/or
9 malicious violations of the constitution and/or
10 bylaws of the MOPH. B, misfeasance or malfeasance.
11 C, refusal to comply with the lawful order as
12 defined in the constitution and/or bylaws of a
13 Commander or the National Convention Supreme Body.
14 D, willful misconduct and/or malicious violation of
15 the oath of office." "One, repeated violations of
16 the oath of office are considered willful
17 misconduct, which is chargeable under this
18 subsection. Two, the repeated violations do not
19 have to be from the same part of the oath but can be
20 used to establish a pattern of willful misconduct.
21 Three, a claim of ignorance of the bylaws is not a
22 defense against willfully violating the oath of
23 office. "3E, actions which bring discredit to the
24 Order. 3F, convictions of a crime involving theft
25 or moral turpitude. The current Paragraph A2



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1 becomes A3." Patriot Middleton.

2 MR. MIDDLETON: Doug Middleton, Delegate,
3 Department of Georgia. For the purpose of
4 discussion, I move that we accept this Resolution
5 number 2024-10-NFF.

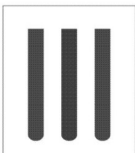
6 MS. FIGUEROA: The motion is to approve. Any
7 second?

8 MR. SMRT: Second for the purpose of
9 discussion. Smrt, Kentucky Delegate.

10 MS. FIGUEROA: Second. Any discussion?

11 MR. SMRT: If I'm not mistaken, at the Bylaws
12 Committee last night, which I wished everybody would
13 have attended -- Smrt, obviously, Kentucky, for lack
14 of proper annotation of written Section 14 when it
15 should have been Section 6, that was corrected and
16 brought back to the floor as of 9:15 this morning in
17 order for the 24-hour clock to start. Because
18 spelling and grammar may be adjusted by the
19 committee for assistance to make it, you know, nice,
20 but they cannot change the substance.

21 I'm sorry, but if you'll note the actual
22 numbers, whether I like it or not, under the resolve
23 for Article 15, we have one, we have two, (2), then
24 sub- paragraphs Alfa, Bravo, Charlie, and Delta, and
25 then it goes back to redo the numbers of (1), (2),



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1 (3), and then subordinate Echo and Foxtrot. It is a
2 format issue. And I'm not trying to be the turd
3 blossom that I actually am. I'm just pointing out
4 that it was considered a flaw for a single number in
5 Arizona, and they were able to get online and
6 correct. But as formatted, this just doesn't read.

7 And if we approve it, it's going to be crazy
8 because we can't change it without the individuals,
9 obviously, going back and readjusting it because the
10 numbering is just not right. And the number was
11 just not right for Arizona, but they put it on the
12 floor at 9:15 this morning.

13 MR. OLIVAREZ: Robert Olivarez, Committee
14 Chairman. I'm going to withdraw 2024 -- is that
15 correct?

16 MS. FIGUEROA: Yes.

17 MR. OLIVAREZ: -- -10.

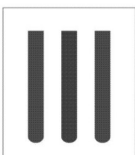
18 MR. FERGUSON: All right. Guess what? I think
19 it's break time. Yeah. All right. So, Sergeant-
20 at-Arms.

21 MR. WITT: Everyone please stand. Face the
22 flag. Attention. Salute. Two.

23 MR. FERGUSON: Come back in here at 3:05.

24 3:05.

25 (A recess was taken.)



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1 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Sergeant-at-Arms?

2 Sergeant-at-Arms?

3 MR. WITT: Everyone stand and face the flag.

4 Attention. Salute. Two. --

5 MR. FERGUSON: Everybody get a good break?

6 AUDIENCE: Yeah.

7 MR. FERGUSON: All right. Got some snacks. I
8 think I grabbed a bag of chips, and then I found out
9 somebody brought me a soda or something else up
10 here. So I guess -- I don't know. Are they cookies?

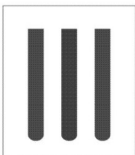
11 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: They're good.

12 MR. FERGUSON: They're good. Okay. I just
13 want to make sure before I dig into them. I think
14 that's the last one. Okay. Okay. So at least
15 somebody is looking out for you. Yes, PNC Taylor?

16 MR. TAYLOR: Commander Fred Taylor. I want to
17 take one minute of personal privilege. You know, we
18 have been blessed in this organization with some
19 amazing, amazing -- if you've been around for a
20 while, you're going to know exactly what I'm talking
21 about, Sergeants-of-Arms. We've had Todd Vern
22 (phonetic), legend. We had Little Joe Hidalgo
23 (phonetic), legend. We had Ransom Jordan (phonetic).

24 MR. MIDDLETON: Handsome Ransom.

25 MR. TAYLOR: Handsome Ransom Jordan, legend.



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1 And you know what? One of our other legends are
2 standing right up here. And Katie Sorge (phonetic)
3 is in that group. If you haven't been around, you
4 don't know what I'm talking about, trust me, the
5 legacy of a great Sergeant-at-Arms and corporal of
6 the Armed Forces. Thank you.

7 MR. FERGUSON: Thank you, PNC Taylor. Let's
8 give him a round of warm applause for our National
9 Sergeant-at-Arms.

10 MR. WITT: It's just something I've always had
11 a passion to do, and I still --

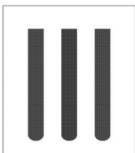
12 MR. FERGUSON: He's got that passion, and he
13 said he's done it for so many years. But I can tell
14 you this, he also corrected me getting on and off
15 the stage. So I knew I had something done right, so
16 -- which I had no problem.

17 MR. MIDDLETON: He was my chapter commander.

18 MR. FERGUSON: He was your chapter commander.
19 He kept you in line, too, right?

20 MR. GARCIA: Kenny started when I was three.

21 MR. FERGUSON: He started when you were three.
22 All right. All right. So I know they're doing some
23 raffle tickets for some hats. So if you haven't got
24 one, they're coming by to get you for that. And I'm
25 fixing to say, we're getting ready to continue on.



1 I know we're behind. But if we can move forward on
2 some of these things, we'll get on time, because
3 we've got a few things that you're -- I'll tell you
4 what.

5 Before I do something that was on this, if you
6 don't mind, because I know the time frame, he just
7 actually just walked in the door. I'll catch him so
8 he doesn't have time to sit down yet. Mr. Al. He's
9 looking at me real quick like, wow.

10 MR. LIPHEART: I didn't hear you.

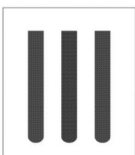
11 MR. FERGUSON: Didn't hear me.

12 MR. LIPHEART: No.

13 MR. FERGUSON: That's good. Would you like to
14 come over here to the stage?

15 MR. LIPHEART: Sure.

16 MR. FERGUSON: All right. If you all don't
17 mind, we just have a couple minutes here. The next
18 Commander in Chief of the VFW, Al Lipheart. I
19 personally have known him, I guess, for several
20 years now. I think we've become more as friends and
21 understanding each other. But we both had the
22 vision at this time, and I wasn't even -- I didn't
23 even make a Junior Vice yet, okay, had the vision of
24 maybe how to get Purple Heart and the VFW to work
25 together. And we've both been just collaborating on



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1 this for quite a while.

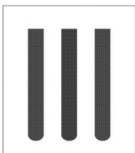
2 So please give your attention. And let's give
3 a round of warm applause for the next -- yes,
4 absolutely, the chapter -- warm applause for the
5 next commander-in-chief of the VFW.

6 MR. LIPHEART: Thank you, Comrade Commander or
7 Patriot Commander, because we all say different
8 things. Can you see me?

9 MR. PICKART: The mic.

10 MR. LIPHEART: Yeah, I asked could you see me
11 because I -- but I was more interested in could you
12 hear me. And now I know you couldn't, so now I know
13 you can. How's this? Okay, good. All right.
14 Again, thank you for allowing me to come back to
15 visit with you and have the honor of standing here
16 at the podium with you.

17 When I came here last year, we talked about an
18 MOU that we agreed upon to provide opportunities for
19 members of the Military Order of the Purple Heart to
20 receive accreditation for service officer work
21 through the Veterans of Foreign Wars. You must be a
22 VFW member in order to receive that accreditation.
23 Who cares? You can go help your MOPH brothers and
24 sisters with their claims through that
25 accreditation.



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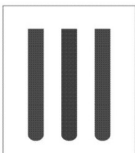
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1 Ernie and I, Past National Commander, we had a
2 conversation now, and I just came from a Zoom
3 meeting. Going to put him in touch with Mike
4 Figlioli, who is the director of our veterans
5 military service, so they can talk. I understand
6 that there is a -- there is a VFW national
7 department member in the -- I believe it's Lake
8 Park. I think it's Bill McGraw (phonetic) is --
9 there you are. We were talking about you outside.

10 It looks like I talked to Mike, and Mike is
11 going to talk to the PNC, and I think we're going to
12 be able to pull the trigger and get that done -- get
13 the first one done. And then we'll see how that
14 goes to move on to the next one. So that's looking
15 very favorably. So that brings you up to date on
16 that.

17 Now, I don't know how many VFW members that are
18 in here that are going to the VFW National
19 Convention. There is a change coming in the Manual
20 of Procedure concerning the Purple Heart Medal. The
21 Purple Heart Medal, what's being proposed is the
22 Purple Heart Medal is eligibility for the Veterans
23 of Foreign Wars. Long, long overdue. So what that
24 means -- and I expect to have pushback. But what
25 that means is that it doesn't say you must be



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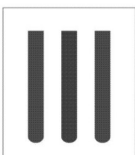
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1 deployed overseas in a hostile zone in order to
2 receive the Purple Heart because that's what
3 happened at Fort Hood, and at the recruiting in
4 Chattanooga, and the others. In my position -- and
5 I'm asking you when you're in attendance, and
6 hopefully you're a delegate, come to the mic and
7 speak up. Support this.

8 What the verbiage says for the -- I guess for
9 the CIV, there's no requirement for hostile fire.
10 To get a Combat Medic Badge, there's no requirement
11 for hostile fires for being there. For Combat
12 Action, there's no requirement. So why is there a
13 requirement for a Purple Heart? It shouldn't be.
14 It's another -- you can't get a Purple Heart unless
15 it's been caused by enemy action that you've been
16 treated for. That's what the -- that's what the reg
17 says.

18 So we're putting it -- there's a listing of
19 three pages under Campaign Medals, Service Medals,
20 Expeditionary Medals that are qualifying. And the
21 last item for eligibility is hostile fire for
22 imminent danger pay. There's no dates. Right
23 underneath that is going the Purple Heart note.
24 There won't be any dates on there. So hopefully
25 we're going to be able to get this done so that



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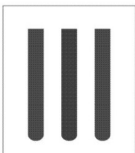
1 those who have received this Purple Heart are
2 respected for the service and sacrifice that they
3 made. And you certainly should have been eligible
4 to be a member of the Veterans of Foreign Wars. And
5 that foreign wars part. That was what a lot of the
6 pushback comes on it.

7 But this is 2024. The enemy is here. They're
8 not -- you don't have to go overseas. So it's a
9 global war on terror, and that needs to be
10 recognized. And that's why the Purple Heart Medal
11 is being received.

12 So, again, that's all I wanted to share with
13 you. Just know that I'm going to be pushing, and --
14 as with the MOPH and other veteran service
15 organizations. If it doesn't pass this year, I'm
16 going to do it again next year. Only next year,
17 I'll be the guy. And I think I could probably push
18 it a little harder. But we're going to -- we're
19 going to get this done.

20 So, again, it's truly an honor to be here
21 amongst you, to be with you, to be one of you. So
22 thank you very much. That's all I wanted.

23 MR. FERGUSON: So one thing I will tell you
24 there, I will be there at the National Convention of
25 the VFW and be representing this. So that's one



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1 thing I know. And I think the Senior Vice and the
2 Junior Vice is also going to be there, if I'm
3 correct.

4 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: In what city?

5 MR. FERGUSON: This is going to be in
6 Louisville, Kentucky, and it's going to be on, I
7 think, the 26th is Friday -- I think 27th.

8 MR. SMRT: Just a light point of order, sir.

9 MR. FERGUSON: Yes, sir.

10 MR. SMRT: Do not say Louisville or Louisville
11 when you come into our fair Commonwealth and in my
12 city, where you're more than welcome, and I would
13 love you to come to my house. We welcome you. It's
14 Louisville.

15 MR. FERGUSON: Yes.

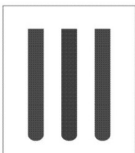
16 MR. ADKINS: Louisville.

17 MR. FERGUSON: Louisville.

18 MR. ADKINS: Roger that. Thank you.

19 MR. SMRT: Otherwise, they'll kick you out
20 across the Ohio River, and you'll never be allowed
21 back in. Louisville.

22 MR. FERGUSON: Thank you for that good, great
23 information. That's a Patriot. Thank you. Thank
24 you. All right. We're going to get ready to move on
25 with the bylaws. I sure appreciate everything. And



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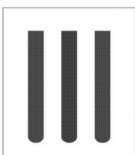
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1 thank you all for your time.

2 MS. FIGUEROA: Francis Figueroa, Bylaw
3 Secretary. We're continuing on with Resolution
4 number 2024-11-NFF, Restriction and Suspension.
5 Resolved that Article 15, To Preserve the Integrity
6 of the Corporation, Section 13, Discipline,
7 Transfer, and Expulsion of Members, Paragraph E3 be
8 amended to read, "Any member placed on suspension
9 shall be removed from any elected or appointed
10 officer or committee positions at all levels and
11 from membership of the Order for a period of not
12 more than one year from the date of receipt by the
13 member as determined by the -- any shipping service
14 entity, certified mail return receipt requested. As
15 a suspension is an abridgment of membership, it
16 shall be the responsibility of the National
17 Commander and National Adjutant to ensure the term
18 and conditions of the suspension are enforced."

19 And be it further resolved that Article 15, To
20 Preserve the Integrity of the Corporation, Section
21 13, Discipline, Transfer, and Expulsion of Members,
22 Paragraph E4, Restriction, be amended to read, "Any
23 member placed on restrictions shall be allowed to
24 remain a chapter member with a voice and a vote but
25 shall be restricted from holding any elected or



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1 appointed officer or committee position at all
2 levels of the Order for a specific length of time or
3 permanently for life." "The member shall have a
4 voice but no vote at the department, region, or
5 national levels during the period of restriction.
6 As the restriction is not an abridgment of
7 membership, it shall be the responsibility of the
8 Commander and Adjutant at the level in which the
9 restriction was imposed to ensure the term and
10 conditions of the restriction are enforced." Do we
11 have a motion on the floor for this resolution?
12 Patriot Middleton.

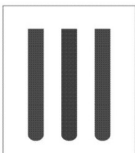
13 MR. MIDDLETON: Doug Middleton, Delegate from
14 Department of Georgia. I move for discussion
15 purposes that we move to approve Resolution number
16 2024-11-NFF.

17 MS. FIGUEROA: Motion to approve. Do we have a
18 second?

19 MR. SMRT: Second. Smrt, Delegate, Kentucky.

20 MS. FIGUEROA: We have a motion to approve and
21 a second. Any discussion? Patriot Smrt.

22 MR. SMRT: Smrt, Kentucky Delegate. In the
23 whereas, obviously, which was not indicated, it does
24 put a sort of date stamp in of May 2022. It was an
25 opinion because it clearly states it was opined by



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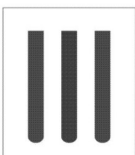
1 the then- National Judge Advocate. Do we have an
2 opinion that was given to the command and/or the
3 committee by the current Judge Advocate? Because I
4 think that might be two different people, if I'm not
5 mistaken, or maybe I could be corrected on that.
6 Someone is still eating a cookie.

7 MR. FERGUSON: Sorry, eating my cookie. I also
8 plugged up some of my ears. Can you say part of
9 that again, Patriot Smrt?

10 MR. SMRT: Yes. It was referenced in the
11 whereas, it was May 2022. It was opined by the
12 National Judge Advocate, who obviously makes
13 opinions and recommendations to the command and then
14 backs away, and it is then the Commander to make the
15 decision. But do we have the "opinion" ready to the
16 command or the current Bylaws Committee of the
17 current National Judge Advocate?

18 MR. FERGUSON: I think that is a positive that
19 we do have that. I'm going to verify that again
20 that we got an opinion of the current National
21 Adjutant on this resolution. Yes.

22 MR. SMRT: Thank you. And then point of order,
23 in the future, and this is just an annoying, it is
24 easier, and I would encourage, having sat on those
25 boards in the past, you have under Subparagraph Echo



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1 3, "any shipping service entity" bold and
2 highlighted. But that was already accepted in the
3 previous iterations.

4 And right after that, anything that's new and
5 changed for the alternate for the amendment, if we
6 can clearly identify those as changes by using
7 either bold, italics, underlined, things like that,
8 it helps the membership understand what's actually
9 changed. But beyond that, that is more
10 administrative. And I encourage adoption of this
11 amendment.

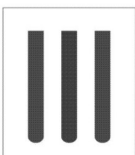
12 MS. FIGUEROA: Point taken. Thank you. Any
13 further discussion? Call for question? The motion
14 on the floor is to approve Resolution 2024-11-NFF,
15 Restriction and Suspension. All approve, please
16 stand or raise your hand.

17 MR. GIBSON: Alan Gibson, Junior Vice
18 Commander. Approve.

19 MR. LEIGHTON: Larry Leighton. Move to
20 approve.

21 MR. WITT: Guys, put your hands up.

22 MS. FIGUEROA: Any opposed? Any abstain? The
23 motion passes with 81 approved, zero opposed, one
24 abstained. Moving on to Resolution number 2024-12-
25 NFF, Regarding Rules of the National Convention.



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1 MR. ABBEY: Point of privilege. Point of
2 privilege. Ed Abbey, Parliamentarian. The motion
3 earlier from the Body was that we divide for voting.
4 But we can go ahead and, by the Body, go ahead and
5 select to go back to by acclimation and speed this
6 process up, unless there is the Body not wanting to
7 speed this up.

8 AUDIENCE: Speed it up.

9 MR. ABBEY: Somebody has to make a motion. I
10 cannot.

11 MS. FIGUEROA: Does anyone want to make a
12 motion to --

13 MR. FERGUSON: Got to get a person to second,
14 so I need somebody behind you.

15 MR. ABBEY: Can't have two motions --

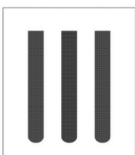
16 MR. REED: Senior Vice Commander Victor Reed
17 from Oklahoma. I make a motion that we speed this
18 process up. Period.

19 MR. WITT: Gary Witt, Sergeant-at-Arms. Make a
20 motion -- I'll second the motion.

21 MR. TAYLOR: And I second that.

22 MS. FIGUEROA: We have a motion on the floor
23 and a second, any discussion? PNC Taylor.

24 MR. TAYLOR: Past National Commander Taylor. In
25 the past what we've done is, we've taken a visual



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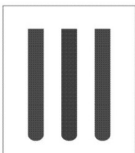
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1 count, and unless there was a challenge from the
2 floor that says I want a head count, you just say it
3 looks to me like the ayes have it or the nays have
4 it. And then if it -- if it is disputed, do the
5 head count. No questions, just acknowledge it.

6 MS. FIGUEROA: Thank you.

7 MR. MCINTOSH: Nick McIntosh, National
8 Historian. Past National Commander Fred is right.
9 It's a lot easier if you just, when you have them
10 stand, put their hands up. And if it looks like
11 it's the majority, you can go ahead and do that.
12 But once you get in a yelling contest, it's who can
13 yell the loudest.

14 MS. FIGUEROA: Thank you. Hanson, put your
15 hand down. Resolution number 2024-12-NFF, Regarding
16 Rules of the National Convention. Resolved that
17 Article -- there you go, I'm sorry, that Article 9,
18 National Convention, Section 5, Rules of the
19 National Convention, Paragraph N be amended to read,
20 "Article 9, National Convention, Section 5, Rules of
21 the National Convention, Paragraph N,
22 recommendations for consideration and action of the
23 convention shall be in the form of resolutions, as
24 advanced by chapters, departments, or official
25 committees." "Resolutions to amend the bylaws shall



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1 have been first proposed by the Department
2 Convention, Department Executive Committee, and
3 National Bylaws Committee for the NEC. Also, see"
4 -- excuse me, "Article 18, Amendments Section 1,
5 Amendments, Paragraph A1." Patriot McIntosh?

6 MR. MCINTOSH: National Historian McIntosh.
7 From experience, I know some information I'll
8 discuss it later, but I move that this be
9 disapproved.

10 MS. FIGUEROA: The motion on the floor is to
11 disapprove Resolution 2024-1-2 NFF. Is there a
12 second?

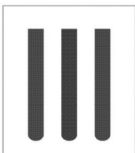
13 MR. MIDDLETON: Middleton, Delegate from
14 Georgia. I second.

15 MS. FIGUEROA: Motion is to disapprove this
16 resolution, and a second. Any discussion?

17 MR. ADKINS: Chuck Adkins, National Adjutant
18 from the floor. The reason why this amendment was
19 put forward is because it resolves a flaw, you know,
20 between Article 9 and Article 18. It makes them
21 identical. Because one says -- one doesn't say it
22 has to be signed, dated and so forth, and the other
23 one did. So --

24 MR. FERGUSON: The mic.

25 MR. ADKINS: -- this resolves the flaw.



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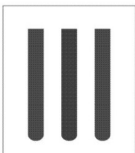
1 MR. MCINTOSH: When we did the 2016, 2017
2 complete review of the bylaws, which took over 3,000
3 hours, what happened is, we had a lot of things like
4 the current proposed amendment, where you have long
5 paragraphs and long sentences. And there were a lot
6 of mistakes made in -- particularly in Article 15,
7 Section 13, where people did not follow step by step
8 by step.

9 So what we resolved, as a committee, that we
10 would take any incident or any bylaw that requires
11 multiple steps, we would put in multiple steps like
12 it currently reads. And what our criteria was, we
13 attempted to make it idiot-proof. We never
14 succeeded. But anyway, that is the reason that it is
15 currently in the version it is.

16 MS. FIGUEROA: Patriot Smrt?

17 MR. SMRT: Patriot Smrt, Kentucky, mirroring,
18 obviously, my mentor. There has been a nasty habit,
19 and I think it's more laziness, not, obviously, by
20 commission as much as it is omission. At one time,
21 we used to have the constitution bylaws, rituals,
22 you know, things like that.

23 If you look at the two different sections that
24 we're trying to address, one specifically talks
25 about resolutions. Resolutions has been, shall we



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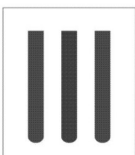
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1 say, lazily used as the moniker for amendments. Two
2 distinctive things. And by the way this is written,
3 to say parentheses, also see Article 18, Amendment
4 Section 1, you know, Amendments Paragraph 1A, that
5 specifically addresses only the procedure for how to
6 amend the bylaws. Sometimes we had a separate -- in
7 the past, separate Resolutions Committee.

8 Sometimes, without that being designated at
9 convention, it's fell upon the shoulders of the
10 Bylaws Committee to conduct that. But resolutions
11 are different because they have the force of nature
12 for one year.

13 Bylaws changes require the two-thirds majority
14 -- obviously, change the way we do business. And
15 presently, the Article, you know, 18, Amendment
16 Section 1, amendments of the Paragraph Alfa 1, talk
17 about how to amend the bylaw. It does not talk
18 about resolutions. The previous iteration that was
19 trying to be changed was talking under Article 9,
20 Section 5, Resolutions. I resolve that on this day,
21 such and such. And we all, by simple majority vote,
22 by acclimation, say for one year, that's the way we
23 feel, and that's the way the order is moving
24 forward.

25 We have to be very careful not to interchange



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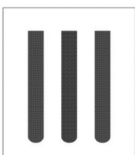
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1 those monikers and those titles or those specific
2 language. So therefore, I'm asking that this seems
3 to be fatally put together by convoluting resolution
4 with amendment. And I caution, you know, that we
5 should not do that. Because as the parliamentary
6 says -- Parliamentarian says, once you start doing
7 something, then you're sort of reiterating and
8 enforcing something that is not authentic and
9 legitimate. Thank you.

10 MR. OLIVAREZ: Robert Olivarez, Bylaws Chair.
11 I'm going to withdraw 2024-12.

12 MS. FIGUEROA: Resolution 2024-12-NFF has been
13 withdrawn by the Bylaws Chairman. We move on to
14 Resolution number 2024-13, Terms of Office, Term of
15 Office National Commander, National Senior Vice
16 Commander, and National Junior Vice Commander.
17 Resolved that Article 10, National Officers, Section
18 4, Term of Office, Paragraph B be changed to read,
19 "The National Commander, the National Senior Vice
20 Commander, or the National Junior Vice Commander may
21 succeed themselves by re-election to a second full
22 term. They cannot not serve more than two
23 consecutive terms if re-elected to a second term."
24 "If said National Commander, National Senior Vice
25 Commander, or National Junior Vice Commander are



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1 considering serving a second term, said officers
2 should notify, in writing, by April 1st of the year
3 prior to the National Convention, through the
4 National Adjutant, who will then notify the body of
5 the order of said notice, by April 5th of said year.
6 Said written notice can be by digital means. Said
7 officer's position for the second term must be
8 nominated from the floor during the nomination
9 procedure at the National Convention." Patriot
10 Wetzel.

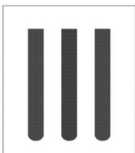
11 MR. WETZEL: Yes. Senior Vice Commander,
12 California, Raymond Wetzel. I make a motion to
13 disapprove this resolution.

14 MS. FIGUEROA: Motion on the floor is to
15 disapprove. Is there a second?

16 MR. MIDDLETON: Middleton, Delegate from
17 Georgia. I second it.

18 MS. FIGUEROA: There's a disapproval motion and
19 a second. Any discussion?

20 MR. MIDDLETON: Middleton, Georgia. This has
21 been tried before, and I know that a lot of the PNCs
22 would probably agree that having a second term, in
23 many cases, would be great because it would give
24 them an opportunity, that second year, to fulfill
25 some of the projects and such that they want to do.



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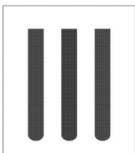
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1 However, this really is going to bog down the
2 procedures of leadership, where people go through
3 the -- hopefully go through the various chairs and
4 progress.

5 So it -- it's been my personal experience that
6 if you're going through the chairs, say from Region
7 Commander, to Junior, to Senior, and hopefully then
8 to National Commander, that -- that is a learning
9 process, as you sit at each level. I can tell you
10 from personal experience that being on a committee,
11 being one of the Junior, Senior Vice Commanders,
12 every one of them is a learning opportunity.

13 And no matter how much you think you know about
14 how this organization works, you're going to learn a
15 heck of a lot in the year when you sit in a chair in
16 one of the Finance Committees or the Publications
17 Committee or the Bylaws Committee, what have you.
18 So to me, the mentoring thing or the learning thing
19 is, as you go through the chairs.

20 So the junior vice is learning and watching how
21 the senior and the commander are working in the
22 programs and such. And hopefully that leadership
23 team is coordinating with each other. And they're
24 all lockstep, more or less, at least able to voice
25 their opinions but, basically, cohesive in the plan



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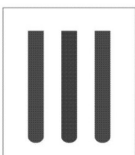
1 of action as the Order moves forward.

2 And then as you move from junior to senior,
3 you're developing your own thoughts and your
4 leadership style and the programs that you want to
5 develop if you are lucky enough to be elected to be
6 the national commander. So although there is a lot
7 to be said for the thought that you get a two-year
8 term, I think we are smarter to just keep the one-
9 year term and go through the mentoring process and
10 such. So I would recommend that we disapprove this.

11 MS. FIGUEROA: Senior Vice Wetzel.

12 MR. WETZEL: Yeah. This is Raymond Wetzel
13 again, California, Senior Vice. I know what the
14 intent is. However, we do have good commanders.
15 We've had not so good commanders. Just like has
16 been said, right now it's working. And we stand to
17 lose younger patriots who are in line, that if they
18 had to do a total of six years of waiting to get to
19 become a commander, they might be burnt out or just
20 unavailable after that point in time.

21 And now the Order has invested five years of
22 them setting up there and trying to learn. But then
23 on the sixth year, for whatever reason, they become
24 unavailable. So that is the reason why, from the
25 start, that I have disapproved this. And I feel



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1 that if the wheel is not broken, don't fix it.

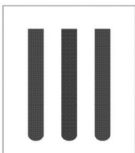
2 Thank you.

3 MS. FIGUEROA: Patriot Eggelston?

4 MR. EGCELSTON: National Service Director
5 Eggelston. You know, it's not even something that
6 perplexes me. It's something that's reality. Let
7 me break it down to you to simply -- hey, Florida --
8 Department of Florida, step to the side one sec,
9 thank you, sir, before I come up there and throw an
10 orange at your leg.

11 Let's put it this way. You know, the next
12 senior vice commander to come into play and becomes
13 the commander, do you not know that commander will
14 not get a chance to even have his footprint, or her
15 footprint, or its footprint, until, at best, six
16 months into their job? Because they're trying to
17 clean up the junk from the last commander, or
18 they're trying to get their foot set from the last
19 commander. All right?

20 If you want some type of civilized
21 identification as a commander, I think it requires
22 at least -- as a national commander, I don't agree
23 with all the other two that comes behind, you know.
24 All three have to sit in place. I think that's
25 vulnerable. But the commander, if he's doing or



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1 she's doing a great job, they have that option of
2 the second year.

3 We can always say no. No, they're not good
4 enough. It's not automatic. That option of the
5 second year is to do greater things and have their
6 own identity. That's the reason why I love that
7 because you give you a chance to change the destiny
8 of the whole community. To give us a good
9 footprint, to change the tide from where it's at now
10 or where it was, you know.

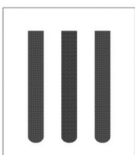
11 Let's do this thing the right way. Let's use
12 common sense. Sometimes it takes two, not one year.
13 Because I'm still cleaning up the stuff that Carder
14 had to do last year. And he just caught on to his
15 own identity. When was it, Carder, when you caught
16 on to? Around what? Probably April? No. No, no,
17 I'm being real. Probably around, you didn't have
18 your own identity until probably January or
19 February, correct?

20 MR. FERGUSON: 30th June 2024.

21 MR. EGCELSTON: You know something? You wait
22 until I catch you off that stage.

23 MR. MIDDLETON: August of '23.

24 MR. EGCELSTON: All right. Roger that. But
25 you know, you want to be able to stand on your own



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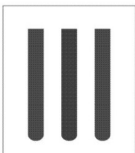
1 foot. But you have to clean up stuff from the last
2 commander. It's not a cut dog system. You come in
3 and everything just goes to the back. No. You got
4 to pick up and you got to move with the flow. It's
5 a wave. So to stop that wave, and I don't want to
6 take too much time, you want to have your own
7 identity. So that's why I'm with that.

8 Now you can go back to it, big guy from
9 Florida, you throw that other guy out the way.
10 That's all I have to say.

11 MS. FIGUEROA: PNC Taylor?

12 MR. TAYLOR: Past National Commander Taylor. I
13 want to make a couple comments for the delegation to
14 ponder, that's all. I -- I'm not offering a
15 position. But I know when I was elected, I met with
16 the National Adjutant after being elected. I said
17 -- his name was John Curry (phonetic). I said,
18 John, we're going to start these projects
19 immediately. And he looked at me and says,
20 Commander, you can't.

21 Now, I don't see Commander Ferguson going like
22 this, but about one minute, I'll be surprised. I
23 said, what do you mean, we can't? He said, you got
24 four major mandated and funded programs that are not
25 completed that have to be done left over from the



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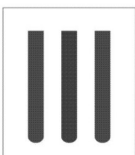
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1 previous administration. We started on those, we
2 finished those in December. I started my stuff in
3 January. We worked on it until May, when all the
4 conventions started, the party conventions, we
5 continued up until the convention. We just got them
6 ready to be in place. The next Commander came in
7 and said, everything he worked on, Fred Taylor,
8 we're stopping.

9 All the things we had going, we stopped. So my
10 point is this. You barely get your stuff started if
11 you inherit a bunch of stuff from a previous thing.
12 And then your stuff ends before you really get a
13 traction with it. So it's just something to ponder.
14 And I'm not even suggesting one way or the other,
15 I'm just saying it's something we all need to
16 consider. Thank you for the good of the Order.

17 MS. FIGUEROA: Commander Wertheim?

18 MR. WERTHEIM: Craig Wertheim, Commander of the
19 Department of Florida. So I served on trade
20 association boards similar to this for many years on
21 the board. And then I moved up and was the Junior
22 Vice President, then Vice President, then they
23 switched it to two year terms. So I served two
24 years as the Vice President. Then I was two years
25 as the President and then two years as the advisor



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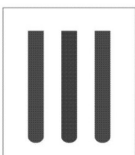
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1 to the President.

2 And we were all, great, this is good. We're
3 going to have two years to be able to shape the
4 board how we wanted to do it. It was a long, four-
5 year process. And then another two years as the
6 Advisor. Now, I'm still on the board because I'm
7 passionate about the industry, that's my civilian
8 career. But it is a long process, and you do get
9 burnt out.

10 One year, especially as a volunteer
11 organization, you got to hit the ground running.
12 And you should really use your two years coming,
13 your year as a Junior Vice and Senior Vice, and you
14 should have a game plan coming in. If you don't
15 have your game plan coming in, as the Senior Vice,
16 to hit the ground running, then you're probably not
17 ready to become the National Commander. And we, as
18 a Body, have made a mistake.

19 Whether you're coming from the floor running
20 for the National Commander position, or you're
21 coming from the seat to the right of the Commander
22 now, you've got to be ready for the job. And if you
23 haven't been all year getting the information,
24 gathering the information, and you're ready for that
25 position, you're setting yourself up for failure no



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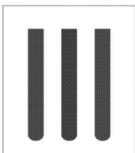
1 matter what.

2 So I think that one year is probably enough.
3 Two years, it's a lot of work. It's a big country.
4 And you're going to get burnt out. And you're not
5 going to do yourself any good. And you're not going
6 to do the Order any good for that second year. But
7 you got to be prepared for it. And if you're not
8 prepared for it, you're not good to yourself, you're
9 not good to the Order. Thank you, sir.

10 MS. FIGUEROA: Patriot McGinnis.

11 MR. MCGINNIS: William McGinnis, Senior Vice,
12 Louisiana. I think this is actually a good idea.
13 As anybody that's ever been in a leadership
14 position, when you first step into those shoes,
15 you're not going to hit the ground running. You're
16 not going to have everything figured out and know
17 what you're doing. So by the time you do figure it
18 out, you're moving out.

19 So a second year, it is not a guarantee, you
20 know. We still, as a Body, have to re-elect, but it
21 gives that person an opportunity to do what they
22 want to do to improve. And this -- I feel like we
23 do a lot of things because that's the way they were
24 done. And it's, honestly, as a younger person in
25 here, it's time to change some things. And I think



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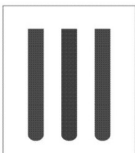
1 this is a good thing to change. And if they're
2 going to get burned out, and they're not up for the
3 task, don't re-elect them or don't try to go for a
4 second year.

5 MS. FIGUEROA: Commander Anderson.

6 MR. T. ANDERSON: Okay. Preaching to the --
7 Commander Terry Anderson. I'm going to say a bad
8 word, so don't throw me out, thanks. When we first
9 started, when I first came in, we had a group called
10 the Foundation. You went through the steps, one,
11 two, three, you jumped into a seat on the
12 Foundation, and life was blissful.

13 We don't have that anymore. We have nothing
14 past the Commander's position. One of the things
15 that needs to be done and has been reiterated by
16 some of the younger men in this organization, and I
17 approve, we've heard the statement, we've tried this
18 before. If it ain't broke, don't fix it. Those are
19 all nice statements. But in this organization, we
20 need business acumen for our leadership people that
21 know their way around and can get things done.

22 What we have to do is give them time. Time to
23 grow and prosper in their position. By going one
24 year, it just doesn't work. Now, here's the thing.
25 One person might come in and in one year, that's all



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1 they want, well and good. But each time they're
2 going, let's say it's two years for the Commander
3 and two years for these, they're growing in their
4 position. They're getting more proficient. They're
5 becoming a better -- excuse me, a better junior
6 commander, a better senior commander.

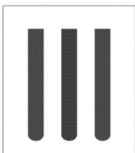
7 So am I getting close to my time? Okay. I
8 just think that by utilizing good commanders, we as
9 an Order grow. We've had some really bad
10 commanders. I was just going to tell you, we've had
11 some really lousy commanders, and they've caused us
12 harm, and they shouldn't even have been in there in
13 the first place.

14 What I would like to see is us choose our
15 commanders very wisely, with the idea that when we
16 put them into that bottom slot, or if they step up
17 and become commander, that they have the ability to
18 lead us and not just put the damn hat on and say,
19 I'm the Commander. Those that chase the hat, I
20 don't want them. I don't want them. I'll fight
21 against them. I want to see people that work within
22 the Order, that put their time into the Order.

23 Three minutes? Three seconds?

24 MR. WITT: Seconds.

25 MR. J. ANDERSON: I'm done.



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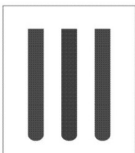
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1 MS. FIGUEROA: PNC Garcia?

2 MR. GARCIA: Thank you. PNC Garcia. On this
3 bylaw amendment, I don't think people understand
4 what it actually says. This -- this is just giving
5 the commander an opportunity, and the senior and the
6 junior, it's an option, just like the chapters and
7 departments. It doesn't change. Right now,
8 everybody is like, well, it's six years. It's not
9 six years.

10 If you have a commander that's no good, you get
11 rid of him. Senior Vice can run against the
12 commander if the commander decides I want to stay
13 for another year. Senior Vice can run against that
14 person. There's nothing saying that they can't. So
15 the whole idea about them being there for six years
16 as Junior Vice, six years to move up to commander,
17 that's not what it is.

18 This is saying that it gives them an option.
19 Because right now, we're in a critical position
20 because these commanders are sitting there trying to
21 make this organization better. From my time from
22 being National Commander during COVID year, no money
23 from the Foundation -- a little bit, but then it
24 just went -- everything went down. And we started,
25 I mean, we have to start from the bottom. We're



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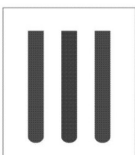
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1 getting better, but we need to get there.

2 Some of these commanders got to get that
3 opportunity and that chance. Like PNC Siebels, PNC
4 Taylor, all the other PNCs around here, we had great
5 PNCs in the past. But they didn't get that
6 opportunity to continue making this organization
7 better. We had millions of dollars that were given
8 to us by the Foundation. We don't have them more.

9 So, again, this is just giving them an option.
10 So for myself, I always said -- I always said, why
11 is it that a national portion of the organization is
12 different from the department and the chapter.
13 Because there's chapter commanders that have been
14 there for five years. They're doing great things.
15 There's Department Commanders that have been there
16 -- some of you guys here have been there for five
17 years. It doesn't change to anything. National
18 organization, we don't have anybody here.

19 Commander Carder, it took you, by January,
20 you're barely getting yourself -- your feet wet.
21 Come in -- you're not coming in and hitting the
22 ground running because you can't. You got things
23 you got to do. Doug, when we were in office, when
24 we came in, we had to attend the Foundation
25 meetings. That took us away from our job. So by



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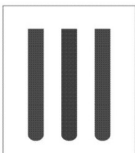
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1 the time we got to be able to do -- like, Hurricane
2 Harvey, all that stuff, it put me -- it got me busy.
3 But again, this is -- I don't think anybody
4 understands this bylaw -- or this amendment. It's
5 not giving them two years. It's giving them an
6 option to run for a second year. That's all it is.
7 Thank you.

8 MS. FIGUEROA: PNC Rivera.

9 MR. RIVERA: PNC Rivera. As a past National
10 Commander, the -- I can tell you it's a tough year.
11 It is some -- within -- by January, February time
12 frame, I guarantee you, the stuff you start getting,
13 no matter what you do, half the people are going to
14 be mad, half of them are going to be happy. No
15 matter, you can give them a pot of gold, and they
16 would say the pot is the wrong color.

17 This is a -- you know, some people probably --
18 I think this is an excellent option, based on the
19 fact that they have the opportunity to state, I'm
20 going to put my hat in the ring to run again. So
21 what that's going to do now is, if you're a junior,
22 you're a senior, and as you're moving through, the
23 days of you just kind of hanging out and not getting
24 all the stuff done that needs to get done, well, if
25 you do that, because I've seen quite a few through



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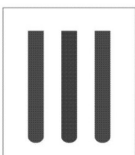
1 my time, if you do that, that commander stays there.

2 There's going to be more time. You know, and I
3 can tell you, people will run against you. I think
4 this makes it way more competitive for all three of
5 those positions, way more competitive for those
6 three positions. There should be no reason why
7 that, if there's a person in one of those positions,
8 why somebody else doesn't step up and run against
9 him. Even if it's the junior trying to go to the
10 senior, the senior trying to go to the commander, or
11 somebody else coming in as a junior.

12 So the organization needs to get people that
13 are a lot more business savvy, business minded, and
14 people that are willing to put in -- this is a full-
15 time job when you're a junior, senior, or the
16 national commander, the National Adjutant or the
17 National Finance Officer. It's a full-time job.
18 For free. Thank you.

19 MS. FIGUEROA: National Commander.

20 MR. FERGUSON: National Commander from the
21 floor. You know, this one, I heard that this
22 amendment that was supposed to be going forward.
23 And, you know, my heart kind of went up. And it's
24 like, wow, you know, would this do anything any
25 good?



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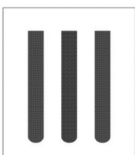
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1 If you all remember when I was at the
2 convention last year, I put out SMART goals, what I
3 was wanting to get accomplished. And those goals
4 are on there. I can tell you, and I hate to say
5 this in front of you, I feel like a failure because
6 I did not get all my goals done. But we got a lot
7 of goals going forward.

8 Because here's the thing about it, it's the
9 team that you line up with. If we don't get the
10 right people in the right positions, you are not
11 going to accomplish your task. You know, they said,
12 when I got my feet wet. Well, I hate to tell you,
13 when I jumped in here, I was covered up to --
14 something in brown all the way up to about my chest
15 or neck. And I'm not sure what all that stuff was,
16 but it didn't smell too good.

17 But the key thing is that I turned around and
18 dug it out and got us up and going. Several
19 comments had been saying our ship was going down.
20 And what I did was I turned around and took that
21 ship and leveled us back out and get us going into
22 the forward direction. So the key thing would be, if
23 you're looking at this, I can tell you this
24 honestly, and the Senior Vice and Junior Vice and
25 all the command staff can tell you, they were



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1 involved in every step that I did.

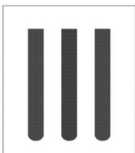
2 That's what a commander has got to do. Involve
3 your team to let them know. I didn't turn around
4 and make all the decisions just by myself, even
5 though I got the ultimate authority of that. But I
6 want to make sure that everybody gives me the proper
7 instructions of what we have to have, and ideas of
8 moving things forward. That's the key of this, the
9 moving forward.

10 And, again, if the commander is good for two
11 years, I understand that. That's fine, and that's
12 if you got the team there. But what happens if
13 somebody else can't make that? Who can be a part of
14 that team? So I can tell you this, you know, it's no
15 credit on me, it's the team that's here.

16 And I can tell you this, the only way we're
17 going to move it -- and I can guarantee you one
18 thing that will be in the Order, there will be
19 change. Change will always be there. It's how do
20 we adapt and move forward and grow stronger at it.
21 Thank you.

22 MS. FIGUEROA: Patriot Seguin.

23 MR. SEGUIN: Hey, I've been annoying enough
24 that people are learning my name. Hey, guys. Shawn
25 Seguin out of Pittsburgh.



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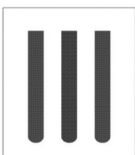
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1 I just wanted to throw something down there
2 because the first gentleman said something that kind
3 of annoyed me, aggravated me personally. And this
4 part here is going to annoy, probably, almost
5 everybody in this room. But as a member of the
6 under 40 club -- sorry guys, but as a member of the
7 under 40 club, when you say that I'm going to get
8 burned out, and I don't have that motivation, please
9 do not speak for me.

10 If you look around this room right now, you see
11 a lot of -- all right? We may have a problem
12 getting people in, but once they're in, they're
13 sitting on that table up there. They're sitting
14 right over there. They're sitting over there. So
15 please do not limit our passion by saying that we're
16 going to get burnt out because of a two-year tour if
17 we decide to go for it again, right?

18 We have that passion. You got to be strong
19 people. So don't -- please do not underestimate the
20 young guns that are volunteering. I know I'm not
21 one of them currently. Do not try to appoint me.
22 That being said, you have some amazing ones here.

23 And on the flip side of that, as a business
24 professional, right, just like a lot of us here,
25 working in the real world, what is being said here



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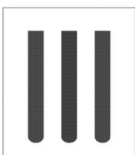
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1 about needing that time to get on your feet, you
2 could be the number two. I was the number two for
3 my position I'm in right now. I was in that
4 position for four years. And I moved up to be the
5 boss.

6 Guess what? I had to re-learn all of my
7 relationships with everybody on that team. Because
8 now it's no longer just hey, it's me and my peer,
9 and we're having some fun, but now it's me going,
10 like, hey, where's that report? And you're re-
11 learning all of this. So now we're dealing with the
12 fires, you're rebuilding relationships, finding what
13 that team mentality is, checking in with your new
14 senior, checking in with your new junior. Maybe
15 they're new as well. Maybe they're repeats because
16 they got to do their two- year term, and you got to
17 jump up. There is a lot of learning involved in
18 that. So I really do think that two-year term -- or
19 opportunity, I should say, for a two-year term,
20 makes perfect sense for those three seats up there.
21 Thank you.

22 MS. FIGUEROA: Patriot Middleton.

23 MR. MIDDLETON: Just a point of personal
24 privilege, if I may, for just a second. As a member
25 of the over 80 club, I am so thrilled to hear you



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1 say that. Because us old long in the tooth guys need
2 to get the hell out of the way and let you guys move
3 up. And you have plenty of energy, and -- and I
4 want to encourage that as much as I possibly can,
5 that it's time for you guys to take over because you
6 know how to move us ahead in this century. So go
7 for it.

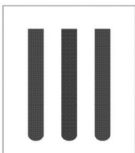
8 MS. FIGUEROA: Senior Vice Wetzel.

9 MR. WETZEL: Yes, Raymond Wetzel, California,
10 Senior Vice. PNC Garcia touched on a point, and I
11 would like to reiterate that, is that if a commander
12 decides to run for the second time, whatever, but
13 then you have a Junior Vice or Senior Vice that
14 wants to challenge that position, and they lose,
15 they're out.

16 They don't -- they don't back down. They don't
17 go back down. They're out. So I mean, that's
18 another thought right there is that, you know,
19 again, I revert back to the loss of talent. If that
20 person loses the -- loses. That's all I have to
21 say.

22 MS. FIGUEROA: PNC Siebels.

23 MR. SIEBELS: PNC Siebels. Speaking from
24 experience, I can tell you there's a lot of things
25 as a National Commander that you want to get done,



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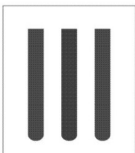
1 but you can't because of outside forces. I could
2 write a book about outside forces. So I think it --
3 I used to think this was a bad idea. Now I think
4 it's a great idea. I'm going to vote in favor.

5 But I can tell you, as a National Commander you
6 -- things happen you don't have any control over it.
7 But yet you still have that desire to get something
8 done. And if we pass this, keep in mind, that
9 doesn't mean the commander gets to jump in for a
10 second term. It's up to this Body to decide if he's
11 going to get a second term. So I'm going to go to
12 approve.

13 MS. FIGUEROA: Parliamentarian Abbey.

14 MR. ABBEY: Thank you. Parliamentarian Ed
15 Abbey. Most of you remember when you were still
16 fresh into the military, one of the first things you
17 had to do was learn your honors in history. Now,
18 what's the most Purple Hearts received by any
19 Patriot in your record? Ten. Gentleman from
20 Georgia, correct.

21 What's the youngest Patriot to receive the
22 medal? 12. He lied about it at enlistment, joined
23 the Navy, got bombed. And his parents were notified
24 while he was unconscious in Honolulu. He woke up,
25 regained consciousness, and was handcuffed to his



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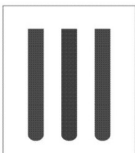
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1 bed because the MA said, you lied. Unfortunately,
2 the president had already said everybody that's on
3 active duty is in for the duration. And he spent
4 the rest of his tour -- that might have been a Navy
5 thing, but -- no.

6 Now, the most important question yet is, how
7 many times in our history, and you can go right to
8 our webpage, have we already had commanders that
9 served two tours? Three times. So this is already
10 just legitimizing what we've already done. Once
11 again, we have set the precedent. Again, the tool
12 is just being put into place for those that might.

13 Now, the rest of us that have not leadership
14 jobs but support roles as an adjutant, I can tell
15 you, I'm already on -- I'm trying to remember if I'm
16 on my fifth or my sixth department commander. So it
17 doesn't mean your staff is not going to give you
18 institutional knowledge. It's the team that you
19 come to the war with. You go to war with what you
20 got, not with what you wished you had.

21 Now, these people are in here. It is, as we
22 all said, it is a volunteer position. But if
23 everybody doesn't get the chance, how many war
24 presidents did we have that we didn't change halfway
25 through the war? How many presidents do we wish we



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1 could have kept a little bit longer? George
2 Washington said one term is enough for anybody. FDR
3 is going for his fourth.

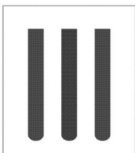
4 It is based on the individual, and if we limit
5 them because of our precepts about what we think one
6 person can have -- I got my purple on my ninth
7 combat deployment at the age of 55. Don't tell me
8 what an old man can do because I scared -- well,
9 some 18-year-olds. But here's the thing -- and
10 that's the 80-year-olds, but --

11 MR. WITT: Time.

12 MR. ABBEY: All right.

13 MS. FIGUEROA: National Senior Vice Olivarez.

14 MR. OLIVAREZ: National Senior Vice Olivarez. I
15 think some people are forgetting the word "option"
16 in this. You have to realize that when the current
17 National Commander, if this passes, puts out that in
18 writing he will run for a second year, that notifies
19 the senior and junior vice. And so it gives them
20 the option to stay in that position or run against
21 the National Commander. So this isn't hurting
22 anybody because they will be aware. It's not coming
23 out of the left side anywhere. Everybody on the NEC
24 will know that that current National Commander, if
25 this passes, is giving them the option to the rest



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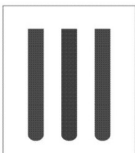
1 of the team. So if it passes, great. If it doesn't,
2 we'll have to do something new or what I was always
3 talking about: ensuring that our PNCs are there to
4 assist the current National Commanders due to the
5 fact that they might have knowledge, institutional
6 knowledge, from stuff that they did back in 2000,
7 2012, whenever, that might come up again because
8 history always repeats itself. So to have them
9 present and helping us out is also a plus. But if
10 they're unavailable, and you get that second year,
11 just know that it's an option for them to do it and
12 that they're learning. And just keep on learning
13 and making everything better for the organization.

14 Thank you.

15 MS. FIGUEROA: Patriot Jackson.

16 MR. JACKSON: Patriot Jackson, National Home
17 Inspector. I think everybody is forgetting the one
18 thing that I keep hearing here about the team. What
19 this does -- and I was initially against this
20 because I said, well, six years. But what it does
21 for the Commander, the Senior Vice, and the Junior
22 Vice, it gives them an opportunity to work as a team
23 for a longer period of time.

24 So by the time that Junior Vice gets to the
25 commander position, they're well versed in what they



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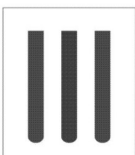
1 need to do for this order and to move us forward.
2 So like I said, I initially was against this. But I
3 think this is going to affect the team in terms of
4 making the leadership team a viable -- more viable
5 group that'll benefit the Order more than anything
6 else. Thank you.

7 MS. FIGUEROA: Chaplain Cannon.

8 MR. CANNON: I'm in favor of the option for two
9 years. And I think we're on the right track. I
10 really do. I heard -- oh, yeah, 80 years old and 40
11 years old. I'm 76, and I look around -- as I look
12 around, we need to begin to train.

13 For instance, going the way we are now, I don't
14 know if we -- I went in the Marine Corps before I
15 became an officer, we always looked at the position
16 ahead of us, the rank ahead of us. And what
17 happened was, the fitness reports and those things
18 and those superiors there, they noticed the talents
19 that you had. That's probably what moved me up from
20 the enlisted ranks to officer. And I can stand here
21 and tell you, I made gunnery sergeant in ten and a
22 half years. And then on an officer.

23 Now, as a chaplain, I -- the first under
24 Commander Rivera, the -- I told him if I knew what
25 it was in chaplain to be, I would have bailed out



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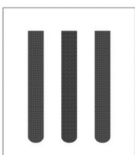
1 because it was stuff that I saw that needed to come
2 together. This is why I began the chaplain's
3 training, which was almost disappointing because we
4 had no participation. And I said to myself, okay,
5 what am I going to do? And the good Lord just let
6 me know, keep on, keep on. So to where we are now
7 -- and then we started our prayer team, et cetera,
8 et cetera, and then we started our prayer time, ten
9 minutes of the first 90 days of the year, January
10 through March, ten minutes at noon time.

11 And what I'm trying to get to is, this is a
12 great idea. Great idea. Those guys that's coming
13 in, we have to look at we going over the hill and
14 the others coming up. We've got to look at that.
15 You know, when I'm not a chaplain, I'm going to be
16 gone, and somebody else is going to come up because
17 I'm training for that. Thank you.

18 MR. JENKINS: Theodore Jenkins.

19 MS. FIGUEROA: Patriot Jenkins.

20 MR. JENKINS: I was kind of reluctant about
21 getting up. I'm in a position right now that it
22 going to take time because of the vision that I
23 have. I oversee an organization. And it scares me
24 not to be in a position because of the vision that I
25 have and the lack of a vision for those behind me.



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1 Where there is no vision, the people perish.
2 Where there's no vision for this organization, this
3 organization going to perish. I agree that you got
4 to have a good staff. Your staff got to be on it.

5 I will vote in favor of extension because
6 whoever's in that position, we as patriots shouldn't
7 be guessing at the way they want to take the
8 organization. They should be selling us on where and
9 how they're want to take this organization. Thank
10 you.

11 MS. FIGUEROA: We have a patriot online.

12 MR. PICKART: Technical difficulties.

13 MR. SMRT: Smrt, Kentucky. Call the question.

14 MS. FIGUEROA: The motion on the floor is to
15 disapprove this resolution. And there was a second.
16 All in favor to disapprove this resolution say, aye
17 -- nay.

18 AUDIENCE: No, aye.

19 MS. FIGUEROA: Aye. Okay.

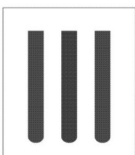
20 AUDIENCE: Aye.

21 MS. FIGUEROA: Disapprove.

22 AUDIENCE: Disapprove.

23 MR. FERGUSON: Raise your hand. Raise your
24 hands.

25 MS. FIGUEROA: Raise your hand or stand up. All



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1 in favor to oppose the disapproval.

2 MR. LEIGHTON: Larry Leighton, opposed.

3 MS. FIGUEROA: Any abstentions?

4 MR. GIBSON: Alan Gibson, State of Georgia,
5 opposed -- opposed.

6 MS. FIGUEROA: Okay. So the motion is not
7 disapproved. So we need a motion to approve.

8 Patriot Smrt.

9 MR. SMRT: Smrt, Kentucky Delegate, motion to
10 approve the amendment as presented.

11 MR. LEIGHTON: Commander Leighton, second.

12 MS. FIGUEROA: We have a motion to approve and
13 a second. Any discussion?

14 MR. J. ANDERSON: I thought I got the
15 discussion.

16 MR. EGGELSTON: Charles Eggelston, National
17 Service Office. I second.

18 MS. FIGUEROA: All in favor to approve?

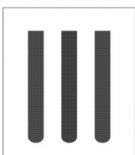
19 AUDIENCE: Aye.

20 MS. FIGUEROA: Any to disapprove?

21 AUDIENCE: Aye.

22 MS. FIGUEROA: Any abstentions? Okay. The
23 motion passes.

24 MR. C. ANDERSON: Panel. Commander Charles
25 Anderson, National Service Director. Just a



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1 question about the last. So that amendment starts
2 on the next National Commander, correct?

3 MR. OLIVAREZ: Correct.

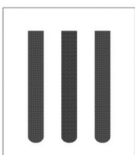
4 MR. J. ANDERSON: Roger that.

5 MR. FERGUSON: No. It can start now.

6 MR. J. ANDERSON: It's got to start. I -- I'm
7 clarifying --

8 MR. RIVERA: PNC Rivera. So the motion is you
9 have to notify him by April 1st of the year, but
10 we're a little bit past that. So next year is when
11 it will go into effect. It's immediately a bylaw,
12 but it's impossible for it to be enforced until
13 April 1st of next year.

14 MS. FIGUEROA: Okay. Moving on to Resolution
15 2024-14: changes to Article 18 Amendment
16 Section 1A -- Amendment Section 1A and 1A1 and
17 Article 12 Subparagraph 4. Resolve that Article 18
18 Section 1A and Section 1A1 be changed to read:
19 "Section 1 Amendments. A, these bylaws may be
20 amended by a roll call of two-thirds -- two-third
21 vote of the votes cast by the National Executive
22 Committee members only in the case of a dire
23 emergency. A dire emergency is defined as a severe
24 or terrible situation or event, which, left
25 unaddressed, would have a detrimental effect on the



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1 order." "One, the proposed amendment will first be
2 proposed by the Department Convention, Department
3 Executive Committee, or the NEC. An amendment
4 emanating from the National Bylaws Committee can
5 only be considered at the National Convention.
6 Therefore, be it further resolved that Article 12
7 Sub-Paragraph 4 be added to Section 8." "Four, the
8 Bylaws Committee will not be allowed to propose an
9 amendment for passage by the NEC between
10 conventions. Any Bylaws Committee amendment must be
11 heard and discussed at the National Convention. The
12 discussion must be open to any convention delegate."
13 Patriot Smrt.

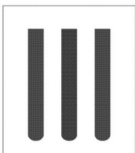
14 MR. SMRT: Smrt, Kentucky. I motion to approve
15 this amendment.

16 MS. FIGUEROA: Motion on the floor to approve.
17 Is there a second?

18 MR. MIDDLETON: Middleton, Delegate from
19 Georgia. I second the motion.

20 MS. FIGUEROA: Motion to approve and a second.
21 Is there any discussion?

22 MR. MIDDLETON: Middleton, Delegate from
23 Georgia. I also was a member of that 2017 Bylaws
24 Committee where we rewrote the bylaws. And it was
25 our intent that there would be no bylaws between



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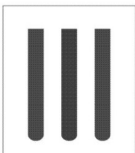
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1 conventions, except in -- in some unbelievably
2 unusual circumstance. A couple of years ago, the
3 Bylaws Committee went a little renegade, I thought,
4 and we had four or five, I think, amendments that
5 were proposed between the convention that were
6 ratified by the NEC. And then when we came to
7 convention, we had to go through them all again and
8 ratify them. And I think as I recall, most of which
9 were not ratified.

10 So there's -- you know, I cannot imagine a
11 circumstance that a -- that there is something that
12 is so critical that has to be changed in these
13 bylaws that it can't wait until the next convention.
14 It just -- it's just preposterous.

15 MR. BRANDON: Commander Schaltenbrand,
16 Department of Kentucky. So this is the famous
17 resolution. They've got the editorial comments.
18 Here's the deal. What Patriot Middleton says is
19 correct. One bylaw committee went a little crazy.
20 They wrote bylaws and passed them through the NEC,
21 and they had to be rewritten.

22 Now -- or -- now, all we are trying to do is
23 things that Commanders see. So at the Department
24 Convention, the, NEC, National Executive Counsel, is
25 -- make sure that those bylaws that have to go to



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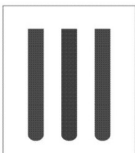
1 the NEC for approval come from command source, not
2 the Bylaws Committee.

3 MS. FIGUEROA: National Adjutant.

4 MR. ADKINS: National Adjutant Chuck Adkins
5 from the floor. Having seen a lot of the discussion
6 on e-mails about this. One of the big questions
7 that came up is, dire emergency is not fully
8 defined. Is it a snowstorm in Montana? California
9 getting slipped off into the ocean due to an
10 earthquake? Tornado in Texas? A fire at the
11 headquarters?

12 Trying to put -- yeah. It's kind of
13 subjective, and, you know, it doesn't really define
14 it. And you know, I agree that the intentions of the
15 Bylaws Committee in 2017, you know, put an amendment
16 in there of such importance that consequences
17 waiting to have it voted on it at the National
18 Convention would be detrimental to the Order. And
19 we had some. We can have more again.

20 So I think that this resolution should be
21 disapproved. I do ask that -- yes, I agree with
22 Patriot Schaltenbrand. Set the Judge Advocates',
23 you know, comments aside. But I think if you pass
24 this, it is going to hamper -- this is my opinion,
25 not from the Judge Advocates, it will hamper the



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1 National Commander, whoever he or she may be, and
2 the NEC's ability to govern the best interest of the
3 order.

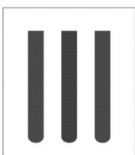
4 MS. FIGUEROA: PNC Siebels.

5 MR. SIEBELS: PNC Siebels. The bylaws require
6 the Bylaws Committee to provide full details about
7 any bylaw that should be unanimously opposed. I
8 would like to hear the full details of why the
9 Bylaws Committee opposed it.

10 MR. OLIVAREZ: Rob Olivarez, Bylaws Committee
11 Chair. So this bylaw was given to us at the last
12 minute. And I had to call an emergency bylaws
13 meeting. I sent that out to all of our members to
14 have them review it. So when we went over it, it
15 was vague with no real clarification on what a dire
16 emergency was. It also stripped the Commander at
17 NEC, you know, to be able to do the abilities to
18 take care of our organization. So that was one of
19 the main reasons why everybody on the committee was
20 opposed to this -- this bylaws.

21 MR. FERGUSON: Patriot Wetzel.

22 MR. WETZEL: Yes. Raymond Wetzel, Senior Vice
23 Commander, Bylaws Committee. When I considered this
24 before I cast my vote on this, I looked at the
25 amendment already. Granted, it does not say dire



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1 emergency, but yet it is still showing two-thirds
2 vote by the NEC. It still has to go. And the thing
3 is, nothing is permanent. Even if something
4 happened, it still has to be voted on by the Body.

5 MR. OLIVAREZ: It takes effect immediately.

6 MR. WETZEL: Pardon me? Only temporary. It's
7 only a temporary thing. It's not permanent.

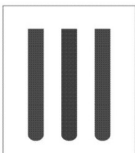
8 MR. OLIVAREZ: But it's immediate.

9 MR. WETZEL: But it's not permanent, and
10 everybody needs to understand that. It's not a
11 permanent change.

12 MS. FIGUEROA: Patriot McIntosh.

13 MR. MCINTOSH: McIntosh, National Historian.
14 Patriot Middleton, I'm also a member of the over 80
15 club. But I'm also a member of the over 50 club.
16 I've been over 51 years as a member of the Military
17 Order of the Purple Heart. Last year we brought
18 this up, and the question was, from the floor, what
19 is a dire emergency? When we went back, reviewed it,
20 and decided to do this, we defined a dire emergency
21 is defined as a severe or terrible situation or
22 event, which, left unaddressed, would have a
23 detrimental effect on the order.

24 The last -- or 2023, there were seven bylaw
25 amendments to the NEC to vote on. There was no



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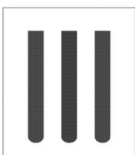
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1 input on -- before the NEC voted from the
2 membership. That, number one, I find a travesty.
3 Also, they did not fare well in the last year's
4 convention. Most of them went down. Most -- most
5 of the bylaws that come out of a committee usually
6 would have no problem if it was held until the
7 convention. It doesn't have to be done now. We need
8 to have input.

9 And I'll give you an example of no input. In
10 2024, we voted down the first four bylaws that came
11 out of the Bylaws Committee. That gives you an
12 example of what happens when you don't have bylaws
13 vetted by the membership. So it's one of those
14 situations where we are not denigrating the
15 committee. What we are trying to do is make sure --
16 and it has happened in three or four conventions in
17 a row, where the Bylaws Committee came up with
18 extensive bylaw amendments that ended up going down
19 for one reason or another.

20 So I strongly encourage everybody here to make
21 it -- to approve this. So you have an input when
22 any new bylaw amendment comes out from any -- from
23 the Bylaws Committee between conventions.

24 MR. MIDDLETON: Patriot Middleton. Permission
25 to speak for a second time.



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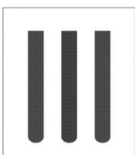
1 MR. FERGUSON: Patriot Milton wants to ask
2 permission to speak again. Will we give him a
3 second?

4 AUDIENCE: Aye.

5 MR. FERGUSON: Any opposed?

6 MR. MIDDLETON: Thank you. I'll be very brief.
7 If this year's bylaws resolutions that we've been
8 presented -- there's 16 of them. We've gone through
9 most of them. Just think that -- is there anything
10 here that you have heard today that was so pressing
11 that it that even if we didn't pass it today,
12 wouldn't be okay next year? And -- and that's been
13 my -- you know, looking at the last ten years or so
14 of Bylaws Committee's work, there's very few that
15 are of such immense importance that if it didn't
16 happen this year, we could take it up again next
17 year.

18 The one year, we had a bunch of bylaw
19 resolutions presented to the NEC, that then still --
20 they went into effect immediately. Keep that in
21 mind. It does go into effect immediately, even
22 though it must be ratified at the convention. So
23 that could be 11 months of something that you really
24 don't want to happen because there's been no robust
25 discussion about it taking place and then has to be



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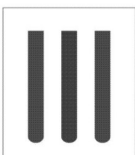
1 disapproved by the Supreme Body here. So there just
2 is seldom anything that is so critically important
3 it just has to be done by the NEC in between
4 conventions.

5 MR. FERGUSON: PNC Rivera.

6 MR. RIVERA: Yeah. So I've been involved with
7 -- I was the advocate when Felix -- when we got
8 those passed, those bylaws that were sent out and
9 were immediately passed. And I can tell you now,
10 the bylaws were rewritten and had to be resubmitted
11 when I was the commander in West Virginia. And they
12 all did pass. The only issue with them is there was
13 some wording stuff in them.

14 We needed to have those so that the departments
15 and the chapters could have meetings and vote
16 because of COVID. So some people said COVID was not
17 an emergency. Some people to this day think it's
18 not an emergency, right? So I'm completely opposed
19 to this.

20 Being a National Commander, when I picked the
21 people, I had nothing to do with it. Each person
22 does whoever they want to do it. But I mean, if you
23 elect somebody to be your National Commander, and
24 then you want to say, well, but we're going to --
25 you're not going to be able to pass that or --



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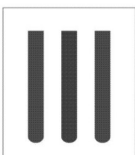
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1 you're going to -- who dictates if it's an emergency
2 or not? Who dictates that?

3 Felix, I think that COVID was an emergency.
4 Wouldn't you think so? Yeah, 100 percent. My year,
5 we did it -- yeah, see, now we go, right. We
6 couldn't have meetings. So what, we just stop the
7 order? The order just stops because somebody says
8 it's not an emergency. So, I mean, I think that you
9 start getting down this rabbit hole on these things
10 like this, and it's why? Because we have a few
11 people that might not be happy with the way things
12 are going so we're just going to punish everybody.
13 That's the wrong way to do it. What we talked about
14 being a team -- you know, I've been involved, and
15 it's -- I've seen the bylaws. I've been a
16 commander. I know.

17 Look, you got to give that person up there the
18 ability to lead. We talked about giving them two
19 years and all this. Give them the ability to lead.
20 Give them that opportunity to pick their bylaw
21 committee, right, their bylaw committee that they
22 want for their year. And then if they want to do it
23 again, they can do it again.

24 The problem with this ever -- I need to be on a
25 bylaw committee. No, I do. No, I do. No, I want



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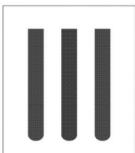
1 to rewrite this and stuff. Look, that's the reason
2 why guys like me get burnt out on this, the
3 fighting, the arguing, and this. You know, I came
4 here to have a good time. That's why I get up and
5 walk out at the beginning of the bylaws. It's just
6 like, Jesus, I don't want to hear everybody argue
7 and bitch, you know. That -- that's the thing, is
8 you guys, you take it, you give it away, you take
9 it, you give it away.

10 Look, the National Commander -- I can assure
11 you, the people that are coming up and all this,
12 whoever does it, and all the ones that I've worked
13 with so far, definitely have the capacity to put
14 together a good bylaw committee. And if there is a
15 serious emergency, I promise you, it will get sent
16 out to the NEC. And we will know about it. They
17 pulled it back this year. Why? Because it wasn't
18 emergency. The four they did through, we talked
19 about it and said, hey, we're not going to do it.
20 That's all. Thank you.

21 MR. FERGUSON: National Adjutant.

22 MR. ADKINS: Thank you. National Adjutant
23 requests to speak for a second time briefly.

24 MR. FERGUSON: Body gives National Adjutant
25 Adkins a second chance to speak?



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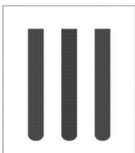
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1 AUDIENCE: Aye.

2 MR. ADKINS: All right. One of the things I
3 forgot to mention earlier -- Chuck Adkins, National
4 Adjutant from before. One of the things I forgot to
5 mention earlier is, you know, there was a question
6 last night during the bylaws meeting of whether or
7 not, you know, individuals had a chance to debate.
8 And in the bylaws, in between conventions and
9 immediately before convention, the bylaws,
10 amendments, resolutions, however we want to call
11 them, have to go to the NEC at least 15 days prior
12 to the date of the vote.

13 And during that time is when you have the
14 opportunity to do your debate. Trust me, on a
15 couple of the resolutions that were in the book,
16 trust me, I saw the e-mails. The debate was going
17 on, okay. So it -- you do have a chance to debate.
18 What do you think we're doing now on this floor? We
19 are debating the bylaws. Maybe the change to the
20 bylaws, because I do agree, maybe the entire
21 membership ought to have the opportunity to see
22 them. I thought so because I also sent them out by
23 Constant Contact. That wasn't done before. That
24 gives those that are not on the NEC a chance to
25 review them and contact their NEC representative and



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1 say, hey, yay or nay, depending on the proposed, you
2 know, action.

3 So, you know, I also find it interesting that,
4 yeah, okay, you know, two of the people, three, were
5 on there, you know. Again, what's dire emergency?
6 And what happens? You know, you know. So what's
7 the consequential, detrimental action going to
8 happen if nothing is taken up between?

9 MR. MCINTOSH: McIntosh requests the permission
10 to speed a second time. I have a definition of what
11 dire emergency is.

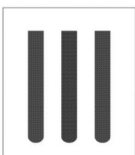
12 MR. FERGUSON: Can I -- can I turn around and
13 let me ask the Body. Body, do you -- will you all
14 allow McIntosh for a second?

15 AUDIENCE: Aye.

16 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: 30 seconds, like
17 everybody else.

18 MR. FERGUSON: You're granted.

19 MR. MCINTOSH: There has been a couple people
20 question what a dire emergency is. When the patriot
21 -- or past National Commander Rivera was up there,
22 he said that they had to -- during COVID, to pass a
23 bylaw amendment so that chapters and departments
24 could have digital meetings. That is a definition
25 of a dire emergency.



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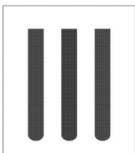
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1 MR. FERGUSON: I'll allow one more. Then we
2 need to call for the vote.

3 MR. SMRT: Smrt, Kentucky. Obviously
4 intimately involved in this process, it's my
5 signature at the bottom of that page. Thank you for
6 your patience. I think we clearly defined what dire
7 emergency is. I think that it is an option that is
8 available. As an example, in the past, there was an
9 attempt -- and the commander does not pick the
10 Bylaws Committee, he or she, in order to move that
11 person forward and their agenda forward and then try
12 to change the bylaws to support that.

13 Bylaws should be, unlike politicians, very
14 difficult to change. Politicians change often.
15 Okay. There shouldn't be a long, arduous bylaws
16 issue brought up at every convention. But we have
17 seen that they have ballooned and done that because
18 it was too easy.

19 And I think that what we're asking is that in
20 the past, and what we are encouraging forward, is
21 that it should be bottom up and not top down. And
22 yes, maybe messages did go out. But I don't think
23 fully so, because communication has been an issue.
24 Not everybody was able to be able to say, and most
25 of us didn't know what the schedule was, that you



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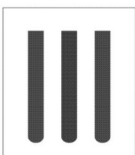
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1 guys met every second, Tuesday, Thursday, whatever,
2 early on. I take umbrage to the fact, and I had to
3 fight this because I was the Adjutant.

4 I gave on the 15th of June, this amendment,
5 that was signed by my department forward to the
6 National Adjutant because the bylaws does not
7 clearly state an end on date. But I gave that
8 person 15 days in order to be able to give it to the
9 committee. I was unaware that the committee met on
10 June 11th. And I do appreciate that the chairman of
11 the committee recognized that. We were in
12 communication. And he did the right thing by
13 bringing it up and allowing it. And then we
14 recognized that two more amendments came in, 16 and
15 17.

16 So, I mean, we tried to do that because I knew
17 that the Adjutant was under the gun and had to make
18 sure that, not like the past, if he didn't get it 15
19 days before the convention, we could have burned all
20 these to the ground. But I think it's important to
21 note, as an example, in the past, in between
22 conventions, the NEC by virtue of the Bylaws
23 Committee, decided to say they had the ability to
24 contract multi-year contract subsequent to the
25 approval by the next convention.



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1 But once you would have entered into a contract
2 for multi years, and it didn't pass on the floor,
3 contractually, the whole order would have still been
4 obligated for the remainder of that contract. Good
5 ideas, but not soundly thought out, and I'm not
6 saying that everybody does stupid, you know, first.
7 But we have to be careful, which is why we really
8 want the Bylaws Committee to do their job, review
9 that. Part of their job, number one, is to be a --
10 time out?

11 MR. FERGUSON: Time.

12 MR. SMRT: -- is to help and assist in the
13 writing of those things rather than being the
14 progenerators of that. You help the departments
15 bottom up.

16 MR. FERGUSON: That's why I said call for the
17 question after he finished.

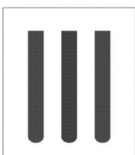
18 MS. FIGUEROA: Call for the question? The
19 motion on the floor is to approve resolution 2024-
20 14. All in favor of this resolution, aye.

21 AUDIENCE: Aye.

22 MS. FIGUEROA: All opposed, say nay.

23 AUDIENCE: Nay.

24 MR. SMRT: Request a division of the body. That
25 was sort of odd.



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1 MS. FIGUEROA: All in favor, please stand or
2 raise your hand. Any opposed, please stand or raise
3 your hand.

4 MR. LEIGHTON: Larry Leighton, opposed. Larry
5 Leighton, opposed.

6 MS. FIGUEROA: Any abstains? Five abstentions.
7 The motion -- the resolution 2024-14 fails. The
8 two-thirds vote should be 54. There was 42 to
9 approve the motion, 34 opposed, and five
10 abstentions. Patriot Wetzel.

11 MR. WETZEL: Yeah. Patriot Wetzel, Senior Vice
12 California. I make a motion to disapprove this
13 resolution.

14 MS. FIGUEROA: It's already disapproved because
15 the approval failed.

16 MR. MCINTOSH: Did you -- could you give the
17 numbers again, please?

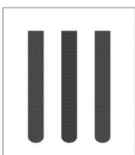
18 MS. FIGUEROA: 42 approved, 34 opposed, five
19 abstained.

20 MR. MCINTOSH: If they abstained, that is not
21 counted into the total.

22 MR. WITT: We had 76 total. We had 42 for it.
23 We had five opposed.

24 MR. MCINTOSH: I withdraw my motion.

25 MR. SMRT: Department of Kentucky acknowledges



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1 that the threshold would have been 50. Obviously,
2 it did not meet the two-thirds threshold. Move
3 forward, please.

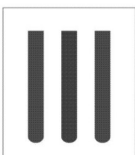
4 MS. FIGUEROA: Moving on to resolution 2024-
5 16-NFF, resolution regarding Article 5, meetings of
6 Chapters, Section 1.

7 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Of this one?

8 MS. FIGUEROA: That one is going to be done
9 tomorrow. That's the one that had to be changed
10 this morning at 9:04. We have one more? Resolved,
11 Article 5, meetings of Chapters, Section 1, Regular
12 Meetings. Paragraph C, be changed to read, "The
13 quorum of a regular meeting of the Chapter shall be
14 five members consisting of at least three or more
15 active patriots of the Chapter and the balance be
16 associate members. At least one of the three
17 Patriots shall be a required officer of the Chapter
18 to ensure/enforce the strict observance of the
19 bylaws and usage of the corporation. All orders from
20 proper authority." Patriot Middleton.

21 MR. MIDDLETON: Doug Middleton, Delegate
22 Georgia. To support my Georgia Department, I move
23 that we approve this resolution.

24 MS. FIGUEROA: Motion on the floor to approve
25 this resolution. Is there a second?



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1 MR. SMRT: Second, Smrt, Kentucky, for moving
2 for discussion.

3 MS. FIGUEROA: Motion to approve and second. Is
4 there any discussion? No discussion. Oh, I take
5 that back. Parliamentarian Abbey.

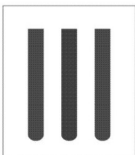
6 MR. ABBEY: Parliamentarian Abbey. I do not
7 see any place where it addresses the improper
8 positioning of officers within chapters. We have
9 multiple chapters within this organization that
10 have, you know, the same person holding two critical
11 positions out of the three. This is not addressed.
12 So if that one person shows up, do they get counted
13 twice?

14 AUDIENCE: No.

15 MR. ABBEY: But we're saying required
16 positions, and we've got people -- there's no way to
17 say it illegally.

18 MR. MIDDLETON: Doug Middleton, Department of
19 Georgia Delegate. Can I ask the Committee Chair,
20 that it is zero yays and seven nays from the
21 committee, what they discussed?

22 MR. OLIVAREZ: National Senior Vice Robert
23 Olivarez, Committee Chair on the floor. So after I
24 sent this out for review, I was under the
25 understanding and then I was educated by a good



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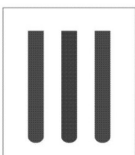
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1 patriot, Mister -- it sounds wrong the way to say
2 it, Mr. Raper. And so -- I see where he is coming
3 from, and I believe this will actually help our
4 organization.

5 When it comes to setting up the meetings at the
6 chapter level, a lot of our younger patriots that
7 are moving up and moving through the chairs don't
8 know exactly what to do or how to properly hold a
9 meeting. This right here will help them have the
10 right amount of people to have to hold a quorum and
11 teach them the right way to hold their meetings. It
12 wasn't specific.

13 I was always under the impression, coming up
14 through the chairs, and this is just the way I was
15 taught in my chapter is that your first five, if one
16 of the first five wasn't there, that would be your
17 commander, senior, junior, then your finance, and
18 sergeant-at-arm, one of them would be in charge if
19 the one above them wasn't there. But it doesn't
20 clarify this in our bylaws. But that would help
21 clarify it for the new guys coming in.

22 So, originally, we did disapprove as we felt
23 like National couldn't tell a chapter how to run
24 their meetings and how many people they needed
25 there. But seeing how Patriot Raper explained it to



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1 me, I think this would be beneficial in helping some
2 of the newer members knowing what the chain of
3 command is when it comes down to holding a proper
4 quorum.

5 MS. FIGUEROA: Question from online.

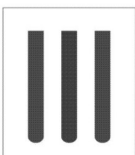
6 MR. KROPTAVICH: Well, I just -- I'm just try
7 to break you guys a National Judge Advocate opinion
8 real quick here. There is concern about whether a
9 person, when they hold more than one position,
10 whether they count as two. Legally a person does
11 not -- does not define -- is not defined as the
12 number of positions you hold, but you are still one
13 person, whether you hold one position or 1,000.
14 Hopefully that answers that issue.

15 MS. FIGUEROA: PNC Rivera.

16 MR. RIVERA: PNC Rivera. So I was looking at
17 this. At first, I was like the seven days myself,
18 and then when reading through it -- and I had got
19 clarification on it. So it requires, "One of the
20 three patriots shall be a required officer of the
21 chapter." So what that means is, we are required to
22 have a commander, a finance officer, and then the
23 appointed adjutant, right?

24 AUDIENCE: Right.

25 MR. RIVERA: So what that means is, one of



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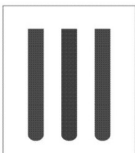
1 those three people have to be in attendance at the
2 meeting in order for them to run the meeting. So
3 there's times that maybe only one of those people
4 come. It happens with us a lot where the other two
5 may not make it. So now we're like, oh, we don't
6 have a quorum. We don't have the officers here.

7 So you know, a lot of times it burns people out
8 because of, man, I've been to a meeting, and maybe
9 the commander is sick, and he doesn't come here.
10 And they're like, I guess we can't have a meeting.
11 You know, it's not like we have -- in some of the
12 meetings that we have, we have over 200 and
13 something patriots. And I can tell you, we --
14 there's meetings that, you know, that maybe somebody
15 doesn't show up.

16 So something like this would actually be a good
17 way to show the Chapters, hey, you know, we
18 understand that we still want you to conduct
19 business. You still need to define quorum. So you
20 still got the five people to vote. I think this is
21 a good bylaw.

22 MS. FIGUEROA: Patriot Smrt.

23 MR. SMRT: Smrt, Kentucky. The only confusion
24 that I have is required officer. Because it was
25 just recently titled, I would assume that it is an



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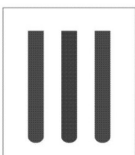
1 elected officer because an adjutant could be
2 appointed and is appointed, obviously, and cannot do
3 that. It should be an elective officer, if that is
4 the meaning. But I'm not certain that that is.

5 Because in some cases, because of chapter
6 divination and the way they do it, you could have a
7 Commander, a Senior Vice Commander that also has the
8 responsibility as the devoted adjutant, you know.
9 But the adjutant can't be the finance officer. A
10 Commander could be a finance officer, but it -- you
11 know, adjutant could be one of the elected officers.
12 So we're sort of playing semantics. And we all wish
13 we had a plethora of associates to be able to assist
14 us. I would be more than happy over a tall adult
15 beverage this evening to ask whether or not, you
16 know, how they have, in the past, really bolstered
17 and proved that.

18 Can someone prove -- come up online either from
19 Georgia or elsewhere that -- that's responsible for
20 this to clearly identify what the required officer
21 actually means?

22 MS. FIGUEROA: Online.

23 MR. LEIGHTON: This is Patriot Leighton, but as
24 Ernie Rivera put pointed out, bylaws change to
25 specify that required officers as chapter Commanders



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1 and Finance Officer as chapter adjutant, period.

2 MR. ADKINS: Chuck Adkins, National Adjutant
3 from the floor. We have -- the Department of
4 Georgia sent this to me. I got a call from Patriot
5 Wilder, and I'm trying to remember the name of the
6 other patriot that was on the phone, but it escapes
7 my mind. I specifically asked them about what this
8 order is talking about, you know, what's the
9 required officer. And they said -- and they were
10 specific, commander, finance, or adjutant. But I
11 see what you're talking about. But that's what they
12 defined as -- to me, as a required officer.

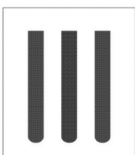
13 MS. FIGUEROA: Senior Vice Wetzel.

14 MR. WETZEL: Yeah. Raymond Wetzel, Senior Vice
15 California. The reason why I disapprove of it is
16 because an adjutant is not an elected officer. He
17 is an appointed officer. He cannot make a decision
18 for the Commander or the Finance Officer or any
19 other officer. He is just an adjutant. He does not
20 have a responsibility.

21 MS. FIGUEROA: Commander Pratts.

22 MR. PRATTS: Commander Ruben Pratts, Department
23 of New York. Question, do you have to physically be
24 at the meeting? What about telephone calls in?

25 MS. FIGUEROA: The digital attendance at the



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1 Chapter meetings are allowed.

2 MR. PRATTS: And phone calls? Because that I
3 have -- I have two that always call in. Thank you.

4 MS. FIGUEROA: Call for the question. The
5 motion on the floor is to approve resolution 2024-
6 16- NFF. All in favor of approving this resolution,
7 say aye.

8 AUDIENCE: Aye.

9 MR. LEIGHTON: Larry Leighton says aye.

10 MS. FIGUEROA: All opposed?

11 AUDIENCE: Aye.

12 MS. FIGUEROA: All right.

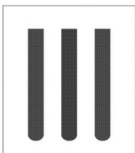
13 MR. SMRT: Smrt call for a division of the
14 body.

15 MS. FIGUEROA: All in favor, please stand or
16 raise your hand.

17 MR. LEIGHTON: Larry Leighton votes aye.

18 MS. FIGUEROA: All opposed, please stand or
19 raise your hand. Any abstentions? The motion to
20 pass Resolution 2024-16-NFF is approved with 60
21 approved, eight opposed, nine abstentions. And that
22 is our final bylaws. Tomorrow morning we will be
23 discussing the bylaw that was edited.

24 MR. FERGUSON: No, no, no, no. We'll discuss
25 it tomorrow.



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1 MS. FIGUEROA: Yeah. That's what I said.

2 MR. FERGUSON: Not tomorrow morning.

3 MS. FIGUEROA: Oh, okay. Tomorrow. I'm sorry.
4 Just tomorrow. No time.

5 MR. MCINTOSH: Commander Carder.

6 MR. FERGUSON: Patriot McIntosh.

7 MR. MCINTOSH: I request -- we request that two
8 things. Number one, when will we get a written copy
9 of what the revised version is of the proposed bylaw
10 number 15? The second is, when is the Bylaws
11 Committee going to meet to discuss?

12 MR. OLIVAREZ: I will e-mail -- I will e-mail
13 out the revised version here in a minute for
14 everyone to see. And then I will discuss with the
15 committee members and let you guys know what we will
16 have a meeting for tomorrow.

17 MR. MCINTOSH: Just to be a part of a personal
18 privilege.

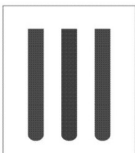
19 MR. ADKINS: You just want to know when it is
20 so people can attend, correct?

21 MR. MCINTOSH: Absolutely.

22 MR. MIDDLETON: At the bar at 1900 hours.

23 MR. FERGUSON: Yeah. What time did we do that
24 in South Dakota? Wasn't that, like, 10:00, 11:00?

25 MR. OLIVAREZ: We will hold the meeting right



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1 after we close today's session. Thank you.

2 MR. FERGUSON: There you go. Patriot Hansen.

3 MR. HANSON: Jack Hansen, Department Commander
4 of Iowa. I don't know her name. She was just up on
5 the podium. And the reason why I'm giving her a
6 compliment, which we should all do, is because she
7 can read well and has control of the whole room.
8 Thank you.

9 MR. ADKINS: That is correct.

10 MR. OLIVAREZ: One question for Jack. Is that
11 a stab at me because I'm a marine and I'm losing my
12 voice?

13 MR. HANSON: An acceptable marine. Being a
14 former marine myself -- there's no leftovers there.

15 MR. OLIVAREZ: Do some push-ups.

16 MR. HANSON: My family doesn't give me birthday
17 cards anymore because I can't read through them.

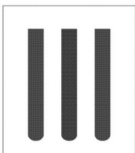
18 MR. ADKINS: Patriot Leighton has a question or
19 comment.

20 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: This got to stop. I
21 don't know when this crayon thing, but it wasn't
22 around when I was in.

23 MR. ADKINS: Recognize Patriot Leighton.

24 MR. LEIGHTON: Thank you. Thank you.

25 Tomorrow's resolution is going to be discussed.



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1 Hopefully, the Bylaws Committee will review it
2 tonight, and it will be available to me.

3 MR. ADKINS: Yes.

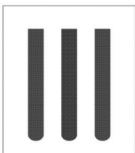
4 MR. FERGUSON: That will happen, Patriot
5 Leighton. They'll get you the link.

6 MR. LEIGHTON: Thank you.

7 MR. FERGUSON: Everybody is asking all these
8 questions. I'm trying to get things here. Sorry,
9 guys. So we need to cover a few more things. I know
10 we're trying our timeline was trying to get out here
11 at 1700, but if we don't cover a few of these
12 things, we're not going to get out here on time
13 tomorrow.

14 So one of the things we'll do after I get
15 finished is, we're actually going to have to open up
16 the floor for nominations. So we'll have
17 nominations for positions that we need, and then
18 we're going to turn around and have nominations in
19 the morning. So I know we need to make sure that --
20 so that the National Adjutant can get that ready to
21 go.

22 I know Ernie is going back out there to get the
23 guy so we can draw some tickets for those red
24 tickets. I guess there's a hat that's supposed to
25 be up. Sorry. Trying to get to my notes.



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1 One individual is in here, so I guess I can't
2 handle that one that was here. Time and place
3 committee -- and no, Gus, you said there wasn't
4 anybody in at the time and place committee?

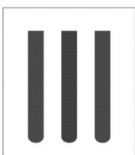
5 MR. WITTSCHACK: Correct.

6 MR. FERGUSON: All right. So now would -- do
7 we have the Department of California and, I think it
8 is, Nevada? Would you all like to give an update
9 for the 2025 convention? That would be greatly
10 appreciated. Department Commander.

11 MR. LEPEILBET: Andy LePeilbet, Department of
12 Nevada Commander. Next year's convention going to
13 be at the Nugget in Reno Sparks, Nevada. We only
14 just a couple of weeks ago finally got the agreement
15 together, and we're looking forward to entertaining.

16 It's an outdoor -- the entire area is an
17 outdoor adventure land for those of you that like
18 fishing, fly-fishing, hiking in beautiful mountains.
19 It's the Sierra Nevada mountains. There's still
20 some snow on some of those at this time of year,
21 some of those hills. The good news is they're 8,000
22 feet above us. So you don't have to worry about any
23 of that snow on your feet. And we're right next to
24 Lake --

25 MR. FERGUSON: Calm down so we can hear him.



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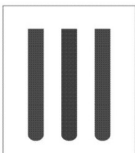
1 MR. LEPEILBET: We're right next to Lake Tahoe.
2 So for those of you -- anybody here been not been to
3 Lake Tahoe? It is one of the beautiful spots in
4 North America. It is one of the deepest high
5 mountain lakes in the world, and it is very
6 pristine.

7 The dates of the convention are coming in on
8 Sunday, July the 13th and out on Thursday, July the
9 17th. So we're looking forward to it. We brought a
10 brochure for everybody. We'll have here on the back
11 table. Just take one, and it gives you a little
12 insight to the Nugget hotel. And we're excited to
13 have you in Nevada.

14 And bring cash. That's how we keep Nevada
15 green this -- since you guys gamble, and we want to
16 keep it green. So bring lots of green cash.
17 Anyway, God bless. And we'll see you next year.

18 MR. FERGUSON: Thank you. I really appreciate
19 that. So everybody make sure you get a flyer and
20 keep up with some of the things that's there. All
21 right. We ready for the raffle?

22 MR. WERTHEIM: Ready for the raffle. You
23 didn't get one? No, no, no, it's fine. Here, take
24 this. This is yours. So we got five hats. This is
25 -- this right here is Lewis (phonetic). He's from



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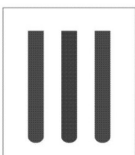
1 Pioneer Arms. He's actually the veteran who built
2 all five of the AK-47s. He built them. He is a
3 disabled Army veteran.

4 AUDIENCE: Hoo-rah.

5 MR. WERTHEIM: He actually -- so Pioneer Arms
6 donated five to this convention to help us pay for
7 it. We're doing a raffle. We still have some
8 tickets left. I've got some names of some people who
9 purchased tickets online. If you did purchase them,
10 get with me because I have your tickets. We need to
11 get the stubs. We're going to be doing the raffle
12 tomorrow night at the gala.

13 This is Pioneer Arms. The head guy over there
14 is C.J. Dillard. He's a four-time Purple Heart
15 recipient. He's a great guy. Myself and James
16 McCormick worked this out with them, and we're
17 trying to work something out for the next
18 convention, possibly, for another raffle of five
19 more.

20 Each one of these are Army Navy Air Force,
21 Marines, Coast Guard with a Purple Heart on them.
22 Now these are Serial number 1 of 1. So this is a
23 one-of-a-kind, special built AK-47. Okay. But
24 this company donated to us so we could raffle for
25 the Purple Heart. So we've got some hats right here.



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1 We will pull them out. Oh, you got a ticket. Okay.

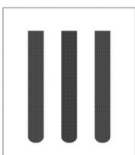
2 So we got five hats, right?

3 AUDIENCE: Yeah.

4 MR. WERTHEIM: All right. The first one,
5 2998412. Got it. All right. 2998389. Oh. All
6 right. 2998408, 8408. Can I get somebody to look at
7 the David Jackson? Tommy has got his ticket there.
8 8408. You got it. All right. Right there. There
9 it is. It woke up. All right. 8411, 2998411, like
10 Gus. Right there. Okay. 8411. All right. The
11 last one. We got one hat left. All right. So the
12 last one is 2998362. 8362. 8362. Re-draw. One
13 more time, 8362. All right. Not here. 2998443.
14 Oh. Right. Yeah.

15 I want to give a big thanks to Pioneer Arms.
16 It's an awesome organization. You can look them up.
17 They're going to be partners with us in the future
18 of all of our endeavors. So, if they do also sell
19 firearms on there, you can get them. And they
20 employ -- they are a USC certified disabled vet
21 manufacturing organization. Thank you.

22 MR. FERGUSON: All right, Patriots. I have one
23 thing that was brought in front of me. I need --
24 David Jackson, come to the microphone. He's going
25 to explain this proposal. Once he explains this



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1 proposal, then we need to carry this motion that's
2 on this. So David Jackson.

3 MR. JACKSON: I'm going to have our commander
4 explain it. She can explain it a little bit better
5 than I can.

6 MR. FERGUSON: No problem. Got you. It took
7 me a little bit to have to get this taken care of
8 real quick so -- Department Commander Carol Keller.
9 Kelley. You.

10 MS. KELLER: You look --

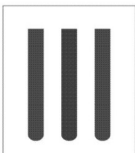
11 MR. FERGUSON: Yeah. Yeah. Yeah. I thought
12 it was somebody else. Okay. No.

13 MS. KELLER: Sorry. I was bringing it up on
14 the --

15 MR. FERGUSON: You're fine.

16 MS. KELLER: Jo Keller, Department of
17 California, Region 6. What we're proposing here
18 right now, it's just -- historically organizations
19 tend to name awards after an individual for their
20 dedication, commitment, and contributions to an
21 organization for their great contribution, right?
22 This is usually done once an individual has passed
23 or -- and presented to the family.

24 I understand the recognition is meant to honor
25 individual, although I understand I have -- we have



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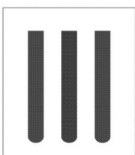
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1 always felt that it may be done while the honoree is
2 -- hang on. What we're trying to do is give an
3 honoree the honor while he's still alive, while he
4 still could recognize that this has been bestowed on
5 him. And so we are talking about the Patriot of the
6 Year Award. We would like to have it renamed the
7 Tommy Tanaka Patriot of the Year Award after a
8 patriot that we know has done great things, have
9 been here many years, and, you know, he exemplifies
10 what Patriot of the Year means.

11 He has been attending the National Convention
12 for over 40 years. And he, this year, although he
13 rolled his car, broke several ribs and everything
14 else, his motivation was always to attend the
15 National Convention. Every time I called him, he
16 goes, I'm walking. I'm moving. I'm doing this.
17 I'm doing that because I'm going to be at the
18 convention, is what he always said. This is what he
19 doesn't want to miss.

20 Also, I visited in Hawaii. What does he do? He
21 is constantly mentoring and embracing the new and
22 younger generation. He makes sure that they know
23 everything they need to know about the order and to
24 take over his position and any position of
25 leadership over there in the Department of Hawaii.



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1 MR. GRAY: Keith Gray, Department Commander of
2 Arizona, seconds that.

3 MR. RIVERA: PNC Rivera are -- seconded.

4 MR. FERGUSON: Okay. Second -- okay. She made it
5 -- I got a first and second, so this discussion --

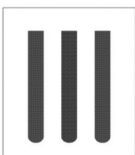
6 MR. RIVERA: Yeah. This is an amazing thing. I
7 think it -- to honor him would be a great legacy for
8 him and all the great stuff he's done. He's an
9 amazing patriot. He's always here. And I think
10 this would be something that would -- would carry on
11 his legacy for many years to come.

12 AUDIENCE: Call the question.

13 MR. MCINTOSH: Nick McIntosh, National
14 Historian. Just for your information, the
15 convention was in Honolulu, Hawaii, in 1988.
16 Unfortunately, because it was too expensive, I
17 couldn't go, but all the reports I got back, it was
18 fantastic. Tommy had a very big hand in putting on
19 an incredible convention. I met him -- met him in
20 '87. And we've been friends ever since. And
21 everything that Jo has said, I say in spades.
22 You're 100 percent right.

23 MR. FERGUSON: Call the question. I'm going to
24 call for a question.

25 MR. JACKSON: Just one last thing. Those of



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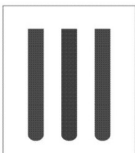
1 you, Commander and the Past National Commanders and
2 those of you, Doug, that have attended Pearl Harbor
3 Day, Tommy has been the consummate host for anybody
4 who has went to Hawaii, and that was one of my deals
5 in looking at him. The only one who may have been
6 to more conventions is Patriot McIntosh. But
7 they're running close together. So I thank you for
8 your hearing what we had to say.

9 MR. FERGUSON: Thank you, Patriot Jackson. So
10 we got to call for the question. All in favor.

11 AUDIENCE: Aye.

12 MR. FERGUSON: Any opposed? I'm going to keep
13 that hand up a while. I didn't tell you to put your
14 hand up. Any abstain? Motion passed. Awesome. So
15 one of the things -- I was going to make a comment.
16 I did go over there for Pearl Harbor Day. Tommy was
17 96 years old. He come and picked me up at the Hale
18 Koa Hotel. He drove me all around Hawaii, just
19 showing me the different spots. He is a perfect
20 host. He is taking care of everything. He knows
21 everybody there. If you've ever been to Hawaii,
22 Tommy will turn around and can take care of you.
23 And I will definitely tell you that 1,000 percent.

24 I was very fortunate because this is before he
25 had his accident because -- just about a month or



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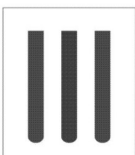
1 two later one of his chapter people called me up and
2 says, hey, you know what happened to Tommy? I said,
3 no. And I just -- you know, I feel fortunate to be
4 blessed and be around him. But it -- one of the
5 things I realized, you all know he was only 12 years
6 old when Pearl Harbor hit. And he was living on the
7 island. And he got to see that. The experience and
8 what he told me, so -- this would be a great honor
9 for him so thank you. Patriot Keller.

10 MS. KELLER: May I just -- one last thing to go
11 with what Commander Carder said. Everywhere I went
12 on the island with Tommy, everybody calls him Uncle
13 Tommy, all over the island. It was children, women.
14 He was in the parade. People would -- oh, Uncle
15 Tommy, Tommy. Everyone in that island is his
16 family.

17 MR. FERGUSON: That is -- that is true, so
18 true. Patriot Rivera.

19 MR. RIVERA: Patriot Rivera. So last night we
20 had an amazing time at the -- at the luau up there.
21 So what we did is we all collected up a little bit
22 of money to give to the sponsors of it, and we have
23 \$197 right here that I'm going to present to the
24 Department Commander of Florida to give him.

25 If anybody else wants to pitch in right here,



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1 we have \$197 to pay because I know it was donated by
2 them. But we want to give them a little bit of our
3 gratitude back. This is for Steve Hildman
4 (phonetic).

5 MR. FERGUSON: So now I'm going to turn around,
6 and we're going to open up the floor for
7 nominations. National Adjutant.

8 MR. ADKINS: All right. Good evening,
9 everyone. One quick question before we start. I'm
10 having difficulty connecting to Constant Contact.
11 I'm going to ask the body if they don't mind if I
12 ask Larry Leighton to send out that resolution to
13 all of you all so you can have it to look at tonight
14 for discussion tomorrow. Is there any objection?

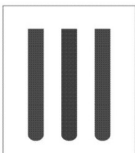
15 Well, I don't think we're going to discuss it
16 tonight because we're going to have to debate it
17 tomorrow anyways. Yeah. So if there's no
18 objection, would you call Larry? All right. We are
19 going to open up --

20 MR. SMRT: Excuse me. Point of clarification,
21 please. Confusion. Point of order. Will there be
22 a bylaws review of that tonight?

23 MR. ADKINS: Yes.

24 MR. SMRT: What time and where?

25 MR. OLIVAREZ: After we're done here.



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1 MR. SMRT: Immediately after?

2 MR. ADKINS: Yes.

3 MR. SMRT: Okay. And then it'll follow on with
4 hard copy through e-mail?

5 MR. ADKINS: Yes.

6 MR. SMRT: Or digital copy. Thank you. That's
7 what --

8 MR. ADKINS: That's I'm working on now. And I
9 can't get the Constant Contact -- Larry is at home.
10 He can, he's also the author of it, if you guys
11 don't mind, because I know it's usually the Adjutant
12 that's got to send it out. But this is one of those
13 things you can consider.

14 All right. We are going to open up the
15 nominations. We are going to open up the
16 nominations. Do I have any nominations for National
17 Commander? Do I have any nominations for National
18 Commander?

19 MR. T. ANDERSON: Terry Anderson, Region 2
20 National Commander. I nominate Robert Olivarez.

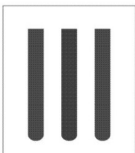
21 MR. ADKINS: Okay.

22 MR. OLIVAREZ: I accept.

23 MR. ADKINS: You don't have to accept today.

24 MR. OLIVAREZ: Tomorrow?

25 MR. SMRT: Nomination of Fred Taylor is being



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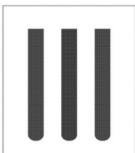
1 presented this evening for the position of National
2 Commander. It's a title where we obviously need
3 experienced mentors obviously to help advise, move
4 things forward. Fred is a recipient three times,
5 overachiever, of the purple heart for his military
6 service in Vietnam, followed by military service.
7 As he went from that into the business world, he
8 gave the -- gained the respect in a wide range of
9 different fields and civilian organizations.

10 Over the years, Fred has served as national
11 leader. Past National Commander is his title. Part
12 of the Combat Infantrymen's Association, and he was
13 -- as he led the order, he also had the great
14 respect of the service officers and the BSOs. And
15 at this point the MOPH really needs, you know, a
16 steady hand at the till, which he is willing to
17 forward. And for that reason, Fred Taylor's name is
18 in nomination for National Commander.

19 MR. ADKINS: Thank you, Patriot Smrt. Do we
20 have any other nominations for National Commander?
21 Do we have any other nominations for National
22 Commander?

23 MR. TAYLOR: Patriot Taylor accepts.

24 MR. ADKINS: Oh, you don't have to accept
25 tonight, but that's all right. All right. Do I



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1 have any other nominations for National Commander?

2 Hearing none -- oh, do we have a question?

3 THE REPORTER: I do apologize for interjecting,
4 but if we can minimize extemporaneous comments and
5 only speak into the microphone to keep my record
6 clear, I would really appreciate it. Thank you.

7 MR. ADKINS: All right. Do we have a question
8 online?

9 MR. LEIGHTON: For this nomination, I'm trying
10 to clarify whether or not if you had a specific list
11 to go to all the patriots or only the NEC for that
12 resolution.

13 MR. ADKINS: All.

14 MR. LEIGHTON: Thank you.

15 MR. ADKINS: Thank you, sir. All right.
16 Hearing none. All right. Next is National Senior
17 Vice. Do we have any nominations for National Senior
18 Vice Commander?

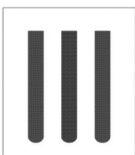
19 MR. FOOTMAN: I nominate Tracey Brown.

20 THE REPORTER: What is your name, sir?

21 MR. ADKINS: Greene. And your name?

22 MR. FOOTMAN: That's Tracey Brown-Greene. My
23 name is John Footman. I nominate her for -- that's
24 Junior Vice.

25 MR. ADKINS: No. Senior Vice.



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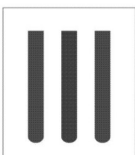
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1 MR. FOOTMAN: Senior Vice. That's Senior Vice.
2 I'm sorry. That's Senior Vice.

3 MR. ADKINS: Okay. All right. Are there any
4 other nominations for National Senior Vice? Are
5 there any other nominations for National Senior
6 Vice? Are there any other nominations for National
7 Senior Vice? Hearing none. National Junior Vice.
8 Do we have any nominations for National Junior Vice?

9 MR. SIEBELS: I nominate Francis Figueroa for
10 National Junior Vice commander. You all heard her
11 speech. She's an eloquent speaker. She's came up
12 through the ranks. In the military she rod with the
13 118th down east in Fort Bragg. She got deployed,
14 suffering numerous mortar attacks. She was wounded
15 in one of them. She's been through the ranks.
16 She's moving up. Everybody loves her. And she's
17 going to make an excellent Junior Vice Commander.
18 Francis Figueroa.

19 MR. ADKINS: Identify yourself there, Patriot.
20 That's Patriot National -- Past National Commander
21 Ron Siebels. Okay. Any other nominations for
22 National Junior Vice? Any other nominations for
23 National Junior Nice? Any other nominations for
24 National Junior Vice? Hearing none, we move on.
25 National Finance Officer. Do we have any



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1 nominations for National Finance Officer?

2 MR. WALLOT: Yes. I would like to nominate
3 Ernie Rivera, our current Financial Officer. I know
4 he had some sickness last year, as well as I, but I
5 think now he's got it pretty much together, and
6 we're going to follow a better format. With that,
7 he's done a good job. He's got a big heart. That's
8 my nomination, Ernie Rivera.

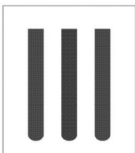
9 MR. ADKINS: Do we have any other nominations
10 for National Finance Officer?

11 MR. LEIGHTON: This is Larry Leighton. I
12 nominate Jim Anderson.

13 MR. ADKINS: Okay. All right. So we have
14 Ernie -- Patriot Rivera and Patriot Jim Anderson.
15 Are there any other nominations for National Finance
16 Officer? Are there any other nominations for
17 National Finance Officer? No, I -- are there any
18 other nominations for National Finance Officer?
19 Hearing none.

20 Are there any nominations for National
21 Inspector? Are there any nominations for National
22 Inspector?

23 MR. SIEBELS: PNC Siebels nominates Dave
24 Jackson. He's done a great job so far. I don't see
25 any reason we should change. I nominate David



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1 Jackson.

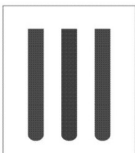
2 MR. ADKINS: Thank you, Patriot Siebels. Are
3 there any other nominations for National Inspectors?
4 Are there any other nominations for National
5 Inspector? Any other nominations for National
6 Inspector? Hearing none. All right. Regions.
7 Region 1. Oh. I thought I did Sergeant -- did I
8 not?

9 AUDIENCE: No.

10 MR. ADKINS: Oh, my apologies. Going back. Are
11 there any nominations for National Sergeant-at-Arms?
12 Are there any nominations for National Sergeants-at-
13 Arm?

14 MR. SORBES: Ken Sorbes (phonetic), National
15 Sergeant-at-Arms for Life. There's only one person
16 that I can recommend in that National Sergeant-at-
17 Arms position, and it's the -- it's the man I
18 trained. It's the man I put his name in for
19 nomination. He was unanimously elected. He and I
20 are the only two living sergeant-at-arms in the
21 military order of the Purple Heart. At this time,
22 I'm proud to put Gary Witt's name into nomination.
23 Thank you.

24 MR. ADKINS: Thank you. All right. Now we'll
25 move to regions. Are there any nominations --



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1 MR. J. ANDERSON: Jim Anderson. Point of
2 order. We do regions tomorrow. They are handled
3 independently. And I -- you have seven officers
4 that you have to get nominations. You're missing
5 one right now.

6 MR. ADKINS: Which one is that?

7 AUDIENCE: Judge Advocate.

8 MR. ADKINS: Judge Advocate. It's not on the
9 list. All right. Are there any nominations for
10 National Judge Advocate?

11 MR. GARCIA: Sir?

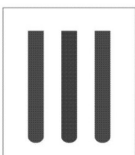
12 MR. ADKINS: Yes.

13 MR. GARCIA: Past National Commander Garcia. I
14 nominate Walter Kroptavich.

15 MR. ADKINS: Okay. And I do have his letter of
16 intent on file if anybody wants to see it. Are
17 there any other nominations for the National Judge
18 Advocate? All right. Any other nominations for
19 National Judge Advocate? Any other nominations for
20 National Judge Advocate? Hearing none.

21 Moving on. Okay. That closes the nominations
22 for this evening, but do remember they will be
23 reopened tomorrow morning. And we will go through
24 this process again.

25 Will Patriot Charles Anderson please come



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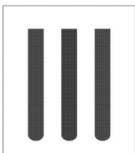
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1 forward? I know you're in here. Yeah. He did. He
2 knows what he did. Sir, please turn around and face
3 the Supreme Body. Would everybody join in with me
4 to sing to him happy birthday.

5 ALL: Happy birthday to you. Happy birthday to
6 you. Happy birthday, dear Charles. Happy birthday
7 to you.

8 MR. ADKINS: Patriot Anderson. Patriot
9 Anderson. Don't go away. I didn't have a cake, but
10 I did get you a birthday cookie. All right. I
11 yield back to the National Commander.

12 MR. FERGUSON: Oh, got to get him a picture
13 with the cookie before he gets a bite into it. All
14 right. We still are kind of behind on schedules on
15 a few things, but we got a lot of things. The first
16 thing is, I want you all to turn around and give you
17 a round of applause. We got through the bylaws. So
18 we'll have one more tomorrow. We'll probably maybe
19 have to do that after we do the caucus. The way
20 things are going and the time, we will do that
21 because our time to be in here is 8:00 in the
22 morning and -- well anyways, so we'll go back across
23 in here at 8:00. Same thing. We'll start out with
24 nominations. And then each region knows where you're
25 going in for your caucuses; am I correct?



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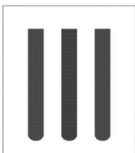
1 AUDIENCE: No.

2 MR. FERGUSON: Okay. Let the National Adjutant
3 go through that real quick. So I can tell you this.
4 I know 1 and 2 will be in this room. So one will be
5 on one corner over here, one will be on the other
6 corner, not side-by-side. So if you all take a
7 corner, that keeps this in case -- you don't hear
8 the other candidate or ask other questions or
9 something --

10 MR. ADKINS: Okay. Region caucus assignments.
11 Again, Regions 1 and 2 will be in here. Region 1
12 back there, where they're located. Region 2 will be
13 up front, okay? Region 3 will be in Salon 16.
14 That's upstairs that way. Region 4 will be in Salon
15 17. Region 5 will be in Salon 18. And Region 6 will
16 be in Salon 12.

17 Now, this information is located in your
18 delegate book on the schedule. But we will remind
19 everybody again tomorrow. I yield back to the
20 National Commander.

21 MR. FERGUSON: So in the event of saving some
22 time tomorrow -- I'm not telling you how to run your
23 region caucus, but I have a strong suggestion. The
24 suggestion is to turn around, have a sergeant-at-
25 arms at each one of the regions, and make sure you



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1 time your candidates and have certain questions
2 that's on that. Don't have everybody just browbeat
3 50,000 questions up, and you run some time limits on
4 that. Have -- select the questions that you, as a
5 region, want to come up and ask those candidates so
6 that way they can get things taken care of.

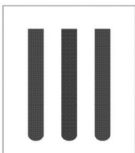
7 Tomorrow, one of the differences we have, we
8 have a box lunch. Department Commander Wertheim, do
9 we know where we're going to have the box lunch at?

10 MR. WERTHEIM: Probably outside.

11 MR. FERGUSON: So the box lunches will be
12 outside. So if you're still in your region caucus,
13 and we're looking at, what, about 11:30 they might
14 be delivered? If you're finished with your region
15 caucuses, and everything is done, you can come down
16 here and eat.

17 But if you're not, maybe send somebody down to
18 pick up the boxes. I think they'll actually be in a
19 sack, if I remember right. It may be easier to
20 carry that's on that. And they should have
21 everything that's on there. And you may have the
22 drinks separate, probably like how we had the sodas,
23 so you may have to get that.

24 So put that in your planning, Region
25 Commanders, so that way we have -- key thing is,



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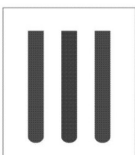
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1 after we get finished from the nominations, and then
2 we go into the caucuses -- after we go into the
3 caucuses, we'll finish up the caucuses and come back
4 in here for elections. So then after we get
5 finished with elections, then we'll go back in for
6 -- I call it the spit and swear act. So we get
7 everybody in there.

8 Yes, Sergeant-at-Arms. Sergeant-at-Arms making
9 sure to remind that everybody who is running for
10 office to be in your dress uniform, so I understand
11 that. Before I go on, yes, PNC Siebels.

12 MR. SIEBELS: Yes, sir. PNC Siebels. We had a
13 forgetful episode over here today. I had talked to
14 Bylaws Committee last night about bringing up a
15 motion today. The Bylaws Committee Chairman did
16 tell me he forgot. That motion is going to be that
17 I think that the Bylaws Committee should be elected,
18 not appointed.

19 I think that would solve a lot of problems. So
20 it's going to come up. I'll bring it up again
21 tomorrow, a motion if I have to. But that needs to
22 happen. They should be elected. That's going to
23 put experience in a board and solve a lot of these
24 problems. Bylaws Committee is a standing committee.
25 It should be elected, not appointed.



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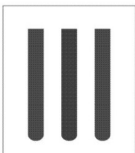
1 MR. FERGUSON: PNC Siebels, thank you. I think
2 isn't that written in the bylaws that they are
3 already appointed, so then that would be an
4 amendment in the bylaws? Wouldn't that be correct?

5 MR. SIEBELS: Whatever makes it happens, sir.

6 MR. FERGUSON: That's fine. That's fine. I
7 think that would be great. I think that's an idea.
8 That's the way we can look at solving this.

9 So, again, continuing on, once we get that
10 done, here's our goal tomorrow. We have to be out
11 of this room by 2:30 -- or you got 3:00. You got
12 3:00. All right. That's what I thought it was. So,
13 again, that's where we come back in and finish some
14 things up here, so after we get finished with the
15 elections, and everybody is sworn in, I have to say
16 I have a little bit of award time to give a few
17 awards out.

18 Then after that, we have to have our meetings.
19 So that's where it's going to come back in. When we
20 suspend that, then you're going to turn around and
21 go into your finance, and you're going to have the
22 national publications. So, in here -- so, in other
23 words -- and those will have to be recorded. That's
24 where they elect their chairmans and the same thing.
25 We have a two-year, I think, and one-year, I'm



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1 trying to remember, in publications so we may have
2 to elect a three- and a four-year people that's on.

3 Finance Committee, the way things are going,
4 possibility could be two positions, am I correct,
5 Dennis?

6 MR. WALLOT: Right.

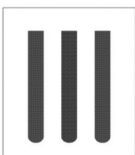
7 MR. FERGUSON: All right. So then that way we
8 can get those taken care of. So that's going to be
9 in the post-NEC. So as we get the things on that,
10 once we finish up the post-NECs, then we got to get
11 out of here and clean everything up because I know
12 they have to get this area set up.

13 So somebody asked the question. The only ones
14 running for offices are the ones who dress up. So
15 you should just wear a regular Purple Heart polo
16 shirt with your pants, shorts, like -- like Dennis.
17 I gave comment to his. You got some good colors
18 today. It matches -- I told him it matches with his
19 eyes, so I thought we did pretty good, considering.
20 Oh, his is toned down. Yes, yes Craig.

21 MR. WERTHEIM: Mind if I say something?

22 MR. FERGUSON: No, no. Go ahead and talk.

23 MR. WERTHEIM: Hello, everyone. Hope everyone
24 is having a good time. Just want a couple of
25 reminders. We have raffle tickets for the AK-47s,



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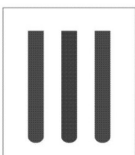
1 plus the scooter, which will be drawn at the gala
2 evening. You do not have to be there to win it.
3 Also, the silent auction, a lot of great items back
4 there. Please sign up. Put your name down. Again,
5 just your cell phone number, and we will let you
6 know if you win. We will take cash, of course, and
7 credit card.

8 Please take a look around. A lot of people
9 donated some great gifts and things, so give to the
10 Order. Thank you. Hope you're having a good time,
11 and if you're not, talk to Carder.

12 MR. FERGUSON: Right. Right. Thank you all
13 very much. So one of the last few things that we
14 want to make sure is, make sure you take all your
15 product, everything that's out here. Don't leave it
16 on the tables. I know some people have left some
17 things. Got reminded of that by the National
18 Adjutant.

19 Other than that, command team staff will come
20 in here just on this side over here because I know
21 the Bylaw is going to be back in here, finish
22 meeting up what they need to do. So command, we'll
23 meet just for a couple of minutes and make sure we
24 got everything covered for tomorrow.

25 MR. WITT: Group photo.



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1 MR. FERGUSON: Group photo.

2 MR. WITT: Right over here.

3 MR. FERGUSON: All right. Department Commander
4 wants to have a group photo, so as soon as we close
5 this, everybody come over here to get a group photo.
6 We're all in our nice shirts and things that we got
7 downstairs. Sergeant-at-Arms?

8 MR. HANSON: Commander.

9 MR. FERGUSON: Oh, sorry, Captain. Yes,
10 Patriot Hanson.

11 MR. HANSON: Jack Hanson, Department of Iowa
12 Commander. I request three minutes, maybe four, for
13 tomorrow at some point in time.

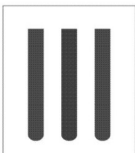
14 MR. FERGUSON: No problem. We will make sure.
15 Remind me of that, and I'll get you three,
16 possibility of four.

17 MR. HANSON: Thank you.

18 MR. FERGUSON: You're welcome. Sergeant-at-
19 Arms?

20 MR. WITT: All stand. Face the flag.
21 Attention. Salute. Two.

22 (Moph session concluded at 6:15 p.m. ET)
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STIPULATION

The PUBLIC MEETING was held at ROSEN PLAZA, 9700 INTERNATIONAL DRIVE, ORLANDO, FLORIDA 32819 on TUESDAY the 16th day of JULY 2024 at 8:07 a.m. (ET); said PUBLIC MEETING was taken pursuant to the AGREED UPON RULED OF THE PRESENT PARTIES.



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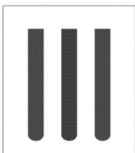
PROCEEDINGS

MR. LEIGHTON: -- National Publications Committee to order. Currently online is Alan Gibson and myself, and in the room is National Commander Carder --

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Yes.

MR. LEIGHTON: -- Ferguson. We have no other members to join. We have a very small agenda, unless something got brought up from the court yesterday. And the primary concern that we have, of course, is whether or not we're going to have a paper copy produced at any time soon. I believe that decision brief is ready to be handled by someone on the floor sometime today. I think that the decision pretty -- speaks for itself. Is there any question, Carder, with you or anybody else that's come up?

MR. FERGUSON: This is National Commander Ferguson. No, I don't think there's any questions on that. It's also been in with the delegate book, so everybody's had a chance to read that. So that's basically the report I'll be presenting out to there, showing them what the options were. Unless there's any other questions, I can't think of anything else that we need to cover on it.



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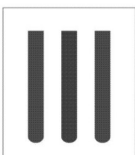
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1 MR. LEIGHTON: Okay. I think probably the --
2 the biggest question that -- if it is approved, is
3 how we're going to implement it. And one of the
4 things that I think we should try to get is
5 additional volunteers to get involved in this
6 project and probably help figure out how we're going
7 to implement it. Particularly the subscription
8 process with the webmaster support, to get that
9 advertised, set up, figure out how we're going to
10 use it. Whether the Publication Committee -- will
11 manage it, or some outside agency would manage it.

12 And the other big question, I think, is -- or
13 there's two more. One is the frequency and how long
14 should we be doing it, continue to do it bimonthly,
15 or do we do a paper copy semi-annually or annually,
16 have all been suggested. And how we lend the
17 content to something that is affordable, whether we
18 do it strictly the -- the features and some of the
19 date type stuff of this particular date and leave
20 out all of the chapter input, or whether we try to
21 do something for chapter input. But I think in
22 terms of cost, we probably -- should probably target
23 30 to 35 pages to keep it somewhere in the
24 reasonable range.

25 And then the -- the other -- the other main



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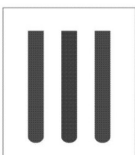
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1 reason -- or not reason, but to make consideration
2 for this is, how do we get everybody's attention to
3 subscribe with over 20,000 people not having a valid
4 e- mail address. That will be a significant cost.
5 It costs us over \$3,000 to mail 5,000 members.

6 Alan, do you have any input or questions?

7 MR. GIBSON: No, I'm good Larry. Listen to
8 you. I took notes. I agree. Those are -- those
9 are hard. Those are things we need to make when we
10 run it. We make -- and we have to have all the info
11 that you stated from the different districts or
12 chapters, you know. And -- and we -- as you know,
13 it's hard. We've been working this for past couple
14 of months now, and -- so we need to decide on what
15 we want to do and just -- and go with it.

16 MR. LEIGHTON: And I think it -- if decision is
17 approved, if the body's approve going to paper copy,
18 we've got to get them to sign on with the chapters
19 in saying, yeah, the chapters are going to make sure
20 that their members are informed either from their
21 output, their national -- or monthly magazine, or
22 whatever the chapters do to reach all of their
23 people. The ones that don't (audio cuts out) -- I
24 think you got to get -- I don't know. I know we
25 have to have something better than what we -- better



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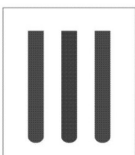
1 response than we had last time for the survey if
2 we're going to get this out, if it's approved.

3 But the other thing that I think is important
4 to come across in the decision brief is it has an
5 implementation plan that has to be developed and
6 it's not immediately ready.

7 MR. FERGUSON: Correct. This is National
8 Commander Ferguson. So one of the things you
9 remember in the meeting that we had is that we came
10 back in and we talked about having the regions to
11 scroll the departments in the chapters in -- in --
12 for the hard-copy magazine, and we have the regions
13 support the magazine. So they would pick through
14 each one of the departments, the chapters to put in
15 so we can keep it down at the 35 pages. Did I miss
16 something? Everybody's got quiet now.

17 MR. LEIGHTON: All right. I had -- you were
18 cut out, or somebody over -- you, popped over top of
19 you, Carder. I missed the part about regions.

20 MR. FERGUSON: Yeah. Remember, we had a couple
21 meetings ago in reference to -- where we were
22 talking about how to do the hard-copy magazine, and
23 that was referenced that we would do that as a
24 region. Can -- can you hold on, Larry? Can
25 everybody hear me?



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1 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Yeah.

2 MR. FERGUSON: Can everybody hear me?

3 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Yes.

4 MR. FERGUSON: Please keep it down. I have a
5 publications meeting that your -- thank you. So
6 Larry, as we were talking about was, again, the
7 region was going to scroll the departments and
8 chapters and select what they need to input, so then
9 that way we get the national information and the
10 region information out. That would include some of
11 the chapters and the departments, so then that way
12 that would go out.

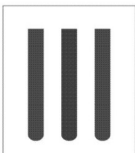
13 MR. LEIGHTON: Okay.

14 MR. FERGUSON: I think that would probably be
15 the best way in keeping at 35 pages. And then, that
16 way, all we had to do was divide it down by each one
17 of the regions would have so many pages.

18 MR. LEIGHTON: That -- that's a good point.
19 I'll make sure that that would go into the potential
20 for the contract when we go out -- ready to go out,
21 if we just have to go out, request for information
22 or request for bids from different publications.

23 MR. FERGUSON: Roger that. I appreciate that.

24 MR. LEIGHTON: And the only other thing I had
25 on the agenda would be, what are we going to do for



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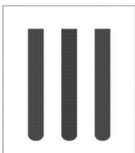
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1 September and October? What kind of theme do we
2 want? Obviously, the new national commander will
3 have some input that -- but in general, we'll
4 continue to go on the digital version the way we
5 have in the past. Chapter, department input and a
6 few feature articles that we get from -- that we
7 steal from other publications.

8 MR. FERGUSON: I think that would be correct.
9 Like I said, we just have to have another meeting to
10 decide on the theme that's on that. And then,
11 obviously, we have somebody to help us with the
12 magazine cover.

13 MR. LEIGHTON: Right. And the last thing I've
14 got, of course, is the resolution to -- to dissolve
15 the National Publications Committee. The wrong one
16 was put in the book. The wrong one was briefed to
17 the Bylaws Committee. A correction that was sent
18 back in May was sent again last night. I think
19 Keith, or someone, is going to bring it up on the
20 floor today so they could be considered. It was a
21 typo. It should have been considered a typo.
22 Section 16 -- or Section 6 versus Section 14 in the
23 last resolve. That's the only difference. But,
24 apparently, the Bylaws Committee were inundated with
25 people saying it was not valid because there is no



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1 Section 14 in that --

2 MR. FERGUSON: All right. I think --

3 MR. LEIGHTON: Hopefully --

4 MR. FERGUSON: I think that should go in front
5 of the Bylaws Committee and that they -- to
6 determine that. So --

7 MR. LEIGHTON: Yeah, but it has to be brought
8 up today.

9 MR. FERGUSON: Right.

10 MR. LEIGHTON: And then refer to the Bylaws
11 Committee. Because if the by -- if the resolution
12 is approved, then there's no Bylaws Committee. It
13 goes away immediately.

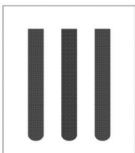
14 MR. FERGUSON: I understand.

15 MR. LEIGHTON: And then -- anything else,
16 gentlemen?

17 MR. GIBSON: Hey, Larry and Carder, both of you
18 probably can hear me. Hey, is there -- is there any
19 time in the -- I'm going to try to chime in -- I
20 mean, log in with the PayPal piece. I just got your
21 information today.

22 MR. FERGUSON: So --

23 MR. GIBSON: Are we going to do -- are we going
24 to have anything with, you know, some good of the
25 order to kind of get a feel for what the -- either



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1 the district or the region and how they feel about
2 the -- how we want to look at the publication, and
3 should we go forward? Because like you say, we're
4 not really getting a whole lot of input.

5 MR. FERGUSON: So that would probably be
6 something -- sorry.

7 MR. GIBSON: And maybe we can get a feel for
8 this here at the convention and decide a little bit
9 quicker where we want to go and where we can start.

10 MR. LEIGHTON: Well -- well, let's --

11 MR. FERGUSON: National Commander Ferguson.
12 Gibson, we'll probably get that in in the afternoon.

13 MR. LEIGHTON: -- on the agenda. And I mean, we
14 won't be doing -- it's too hard for them to hear us.

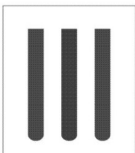
15 MR. GIBSON: Right.

16 MR. LEIGHTON: But once it gets brought up and
17 voted on, they'll have an opportunity to discuss the
18 decision brief, to discuss the motion to approve or
19 disapprove, and then go forward from there. That'll
20 be our only input at that point in time is during
21 that presentation.

22 MR. GIBSON: Okay. Sounds good.

23 MR. ADKINS: All right.

24 MR. LEIGHTON: Commander Ferguson. Anything
25 else, sir?



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1 MR. FERGUSON: I -- I can't think of anything
2 else. And then, Alan, if you turn around and you're
3 going to log in, please send them, like, a text to
4 me or Chuck, then that way we can notice that you
5 can be paid on PayPal and be able to log in.

6 MR. GIBSON: I can barely hear, Carder. What
7 did -- what did you say?

8 MR. LEIGHTON: Make sure that you text the
9 national adjutant when you've logged in and paid
10 your PayPal.

11 MR. GIBSON: Okay. Roger. Okay. Okay.

12 MR. ADKINS: Yeah. Alan, send me a --

13 MR. GIBSON: Okay. Fine.

14 MR. ADKINS: -- send me an e-mail and I'll put
15 the link in it and send it right back.

16 MR. GIBSON: Okay. Sounds good.

17 MR. LEIGHTON: All right. And then I think
18 this -- we're concluded, and we can let her go.
19 Alan, enjoy your vacation as much as you can.

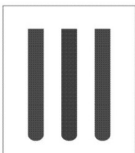
20 MR. GIBSON: Go on. Thank you, Larry.

21 MR. LEIGHTON: Take care now.

22 MR. GIBSON: Okay.

23 MR. LEIGHTON: For the recording, the meeting
24 adjourned.

25 (Meeting concluded at 8:18 a.m. ET)



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STIPULATION

The PUBLIC MEETING was held at ROSEN PLAZA, 9700 INTERNATIONAL DRIVE, ORLANDO, FLORIDA 32819 on TUESDAY the 16th day of JULY 2024 at 5:48 p.m. (ET); said PUBLIC MEETING was taken pursuant to the AGREED UPON RULED OF THE PRESENT PARTIES.



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PROCEEDINGS

MR. GRAY: All right, guys, so for the Bylaws Committee meeting tonight, we're going to start off with the roll call. Keith Gray, present. Raymond Wetzel.

MR. WETZEL: Here.

MR. GRAY: Mitch --

MR. REED: Reed.

MR. GRAY: Reed.

MR. REED: Oklahoma.

MR. GRAY: Gus.

MR. WITTSCHACK: Wittschack, Texas.

MR. GRAY: Keith Wittenbel.

MR. WITTENBEL: Here.

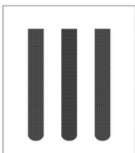
MR. GRAY: Craig.

MR. WERTHEIM: Craig Wertheim, Florida.

MR. GRAY: Chair.

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Florida's chair present.

MR. GRAY: Okay. And the secretary will be down in few minutes. We'll acknowledge when she's on the record. So what we have before us this evening is the former Article 15 that's been revised to change Section 14 to Section 6, which has all been mailed out to you. So what we're going to do first is we're going to take it up for a vote and



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1 then we'll open discussion once we get our first and
2 second.

3 MR. WETZEL: Okay. Clarification. It's the
4 last section, 14?

5 MR. GRAY: Yes, the last section, 14 changed --

6 THE REPORTER: I do apologize. If you don't
7 mind just stating your name before you speak. I'm
8 so, so sorry.

9 MR. WETZEL: Raymond Wetzel, Senior Vice,
10 Bylaws Committee. I'm just referencing the last
11 paragraph. This is the Section 14, correct?

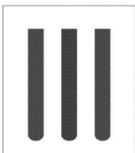
12 MR. GRAY: I need a first and second to open it
13 up to discussion.

14 MR. WETZEL: I'll make a motion that we pass
15 the resolution.

16 MR. GRAY: Okay. Raymond makes the first. I
17 need a second.

18 MR. WERTHEIM: Craig Wertheim, Department of
19 Florida. Second.

20 MR. GRAY: Craig gave us a second. All right.
21 So I'm going to open it up to discussion from the
22 committee, then we'll open it up to discussion from
23 the floor and online. Any discussion that we need
24 to have via the committee before we open it up to
25 the floor and online?



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1 MR. WETZEL: No, because -- Raymond Wetzel --
2 is that everything else was -- was found to be okay,
3 other than the fact is it was a typographical area
4 -- error with the -- with the numbering --

5 MR. REED: Agree.

6 MR. WETZEL: -- so from 14 to six.

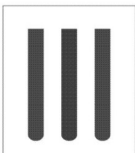
7 MR. GRAY: All right. Hearing no more from the
8 committee, I'm going to open it up to the floor, and
9 then we'll get to online just to make sure there's
10 nobody stepping over each other. So first from the
11 floor, Patriot McIntosh, go ahead.

12 MR. MCINTOSH: Could you -- I'm trying to --

13 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: -- next person?

14 MR. MCINTOSH: Could you read it, what it is,
15 because I haven't been able to see the written copy
16 of it?

17 MR. GRAY: So the change that I read this
18 morning to the entire body is the last resolved.
19 Article 12, Nomination and Committees changed from
20 Section 14, which was an error, to Section 6.
21 National Publications Committee be deleted. So I
22 can show you this right here. This last line here
23 where it says "Section 6 was Section 14," and I read
24 that to the whole body this morning. That was the
25 only change that took place in the document that



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1 went out.

2 MR. MCINTOSH: So what this does is, it wants
3 to do away with the Publications Committee?

4 MR. GRAY: That's what it says there, correct.

5 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Ultimately. Okay. Got
6 you. Maybe he did.

7 MR. ADKINS: I thought he did. Call him.

8 MR. FERGUSON: Is Larry online already?

9 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: He's online. Yeah.

10 MR. LEIGHTON: Larry is on the line.

11 MR. FERGUSON: Did you not send the Constant
12 Contact out?

13 MR. LEIGHTON: I have not yet. It's --

14 MR. REED: He hadn't had time to yet.

15 MR. LEIGHTON: -- to do it.

16 MR. FERGUSON: Yeah.

17 MR. ADKINS: Yeah -- up here because there's
18 things you got to do.

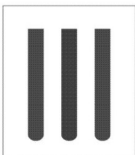
19 MR. GRAY: So Patriot McIntosh, while you're
20 still looking over that, I'm going to move on --

21 MR. FERGUSON: It's not -- Constant Contact.

22 MR. GRAY: -- to Patriot Middleton.

23 MR. REED: Here, Doug.

24 MR. MIDDLETON: Thank you very much. Doug
25 Middleton, delegate for Georgia. There's two things



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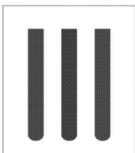
1 I think you guys can do. One -- one is keep in mind
2 we got a very high bar to meet tomorrow because you
3 have to get three-fourths of the delegate votes.
4 Had -- they had trouble even getting two-thirds on
5 some of these. Is this -- is this resolution so
6 important that you need to go for that high a bar or
7 is this -- maybe makes more sense to rewrite this
8 this coming year, present it at next year's
9 convention as a -- as a regular resolution that
10 would only require a simple two-thirds.

11 MR. GRAY: That --

12 MR. MIDDLETON: Because you're doing away with
13 a -- with a committee, an NEC committee. You're
14 also mixing up duties of a public relations
15 director, which is external communications, with the
16 Publications Committee, which is internal
17 communications. And they're two separate things
18 that require separate specialties.

19 MR. REED: Right.

20 MR. MIDDLETON: So I don't -- this is not meant
21 to sound as a threat, but I mean, if -- if we go
22 forward with this, I guarantee you there will be
23 some very robust discussion in -- against it. And
24 -- and you have the possibility that Larry, I think,
25 from Arizona, you know, could withdraw this and save



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1 all that hassle going on, which will happen tomorrow
2 most likely if we don't. Thank you.

3 MR. GRAY: Okay. Thank you for that and I will
4 defer that answer to Larry when we get to online.
5 I'm going to take everything in person first.

6 MR. REED: Anybody else? Anybody else? Here.

7 MR. RIVERA: Yeah, over here.

8 MR. REED: Here.

9 MR. RIVERA: PNC Rivera. The question I have
10 is what was changed in it? What's the exact -- so
11 -- because I reviewed the first one, but what was
12 the problem or what was it --

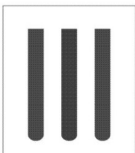
13 MR. GRAY: Keith Gray, Bylaws Committee. The
14 change was down here, the last resolve. It read,
15 "National Committee Section 14," which is non-
16 existent, so it was changed to Section 6 to be -- 6
17 to be correct.

18 MR. RANDOLPH: There's a fatal flaw in a
19 reference --

20 MR. SMRT: To be deleted, right?

21 MR. GRAY: To be deleted.

22 MR. SMRT: And it talks about the formation and
23 the responsibility of the Publications Committee.
24 Smrt, Kentucky. So he wants to eradicate the
25 Publications Committee as an NEC -- at, you know,



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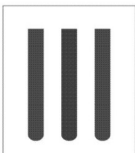
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1 just toss it, out and gone. What it references,
2 obviously, the other section, that is obviously who
3 the officers are, and in the past, there have been
4 robust public relations people, but there was
5 always, in my mind, a distinct difference.
6 Publication, long history of being internal
7 communications because it is the official
8 publication of the Order, period. I mean, that's
9 what their responsibility is. PR directors were new
10 folk, and they were more external, short term, get
11 the information out, and then sometimes they were
12 actually social media also, because they are far
13 more flexible to work directly with the commander to
14 get the information and the message out to the
15 community, where publications really was more
16 internal first. And then when we actually had a
17 hard copy, it by residual laying around had also an
18 external reach if a member received their copy and
19 passed it along because that was part of the
20 membership. That's why, you know, the forms, you
21 know, for the Order and -- and applications for
22 auxiliary and -- and others were obviously in there.
23 It was used as a tool, but it has, and always has, a
24 life for internal communications as well as the
25 official publication of the Order.



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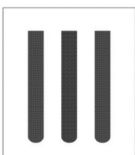
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1 And if you go back in there, it talks about
2 notices and how the command structure is supposed to
3 inform the population. And it gave, you know, the
4 -- the Order also a degree of, you know,
5 responsibility, no matter who the commander was,
6 which is why it was a four, three, two, one term,
7 because nobody, you know, was beholden to any one
8 person. You got elected by the NEC post-convention.
9 You served your terms. If you wanted to renew, you
10 could. Last year was a difficult year. There were
11 -- there were at least three of the four positions
12 filled. One person resigned that -- the day later,
13 and it ended up with only two people, so the
14 committee was immediately short two and never got
15 plussed up. So it put a burden upon former Adjuvant
16 Leighton, and he took that responsibility and he --
17 he did publish that.

18 But it's internal communications, whereas PR is
19 external with immediate information, but not, you
20 know, the -- the -- the long-term information that
21 has to go to the internal members of the Order as
22 well as auxiliary. And I don't see anything here
23 where -- you know, we still have a responsibility to
24 augment, and Publications says always had a section
25 of the magazine for the auxiliary.



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1 MR. RIVERA: PNC Rivera. I wasn't finished
2 yet, so I'll finish now. The question I have is,
3 we're going to remove all of the members of the
4 Publications Committee by doing this, and I -- maybe
5 Larry -- tell Larry he can -- he can call me later
6 and -- and -- or whatever he wants to do. I guess,
7 doing a public relations, that's an appointed
8 position, correct, by the national commander?

9 MR. BROWN-GREENE: Yes.

10 MR. REED: Correct.

11 MR. RIVERA: So how do you have any longevity
12 in the publications or any of that? So if we do one
13 year, one year, one year --

14 MR. REED: That's right.

15 MR. RIVERA: -- let's say if he doesn't --
16 don't get renominated or reselected or we're going
17 to do -- we're just going to do what? Our
18 publications are going to go from year to year to
19 year to year? I thought we were trying to do kind
20 of a more of a multi- year thing to try to help out
21 some -- some continuation of some good stuff.
22 Larry's doing a great job. I don't -- I -- look, I
23 love it. He's doing a great job, but I don't -- I'm
24 not sure if that's the answer to this.

25 MR. GRAY: Keith Gray, Bylaws Committee. Larry



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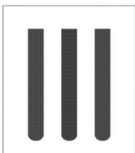
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1 is going to be on. He's going to talk in just a
2 minute. I just wanted to get all the stuff from the
3 floor so nobody's stepping over him when he's trying
4 to talk and vice versa. Go ahead, National
5 Commander Ferguson.

6 MR. FERGUSON: National Commander Ferguson. One
7 of the things. I don't think the intent was to get
8 rid of the Publications Committee and everything.
9 It's basically the intent was not to having an NEC
10 vote. The problem is, as even Patriot Middleton had
11 explained, when we had a cast of 77, we only had 33
12 people to vote. So that was one of the things about
13 it. These people were not voting and coming back,
14 and I'm not saying Publications Committee. There's
15 department commanders and things on it. It still
16 keeps their responsibility with the publication, and
17 I mirror what Smrt is saying that's on here is that
18 we keep that communications out from what it's
19 supposed to do.

20 So it does not change your responsibilities and
21 their titles of what they're doing -- still have a
22 committee chair that's on this, and turnaround, and
23 -- but it's now, you're going to have a person who's
24 in charge of them. So just as we did in the
25 military, you had one person who was accountable for



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1 these people. That's your -- so that's -- that was
2 the intent. Maybe that's not what's written in
3 there, but that was what the intent --

4 MR. SMRT: The Committee is deleted.

5 MR. FERGUSON: Okay. So I know that was the
6 intent. So, in other words, still keep that
7 continuity of one, two, three, and four years, so --

8 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Nope. No. No.

9 MR. FERGUSON: No, no, no. No, I'm not -- but
10 as a vote, but still keep that continuity. You can
11 turn around have it. So that was my thought of it.

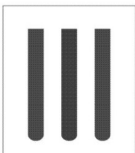
12 MR. GRAY: Okay.

13 MR. SMRT: Rebuttal?`

14 MR. GRAY: Go ahead.

15 MR. SMRT: Because it clearly says --

16 MR. FERGUSON: -- Patriot Smrt, resolve any
17 corrective. Article 12, National Committees.
18 Section 6, National Publications Committee,
19 completely deleted, period. It's out. It's gone.
20 And those responsibilities were suggested in the
21 earlier thing to go to the public relations of
22 which, I think, is too temporary since it appointed,
23 and we have no continuity, and it could be anybody,
24 and obviously internal publications and information
25 and communications is not a casual thing. Should



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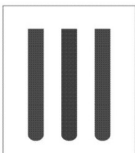
1 not be.

2 MR. GRAY: Okay. Patriot McIntosh, since
3 you've got -- had a chance to read it, let's go
4 ahead back to you.

5 MR. MCINTOSH: Yeah. I -- the way it reads
6 right now, this dissolves the National Publications
7 Committee. The reason the National Finance
8 Committee and the National Publications Committee
9 has been set up the way it is with rotating four-
10 year terms is the authors of the 1984 Bylaws
11 Committee, who were friends of mine, both of them
12 told me the same thing, that they wanted to keep the
13 Publications Committee and the Finance Committee in
14 the hands of the patriots, not a commander.

15 And in recent years, there was a few commanders
16 ago trying to force the magazine to run an
17 advertisement for the -- the CBD contract, five-year
18 contract. The five-year contract hadn't -- hadn't
19 gone through. So anyway, he threw Chris and I off
20 the Bylaws Committee because we told him that, no,
21 you're taking -- you're taking it away. You're
22 doing the wrong thing. So anyway, we were able to
23 protect the Order from getting in trouble and having
24 a five-year contract.

25 What happens is that a lot of times people do



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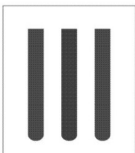
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1 not understand the difference between public
2 relations and publications of a magazine. Public
3 relations is under the command of the -- of the
4 commander. He needs to be able to make very quick
5 decisions.

6 MR. GRAY: You're good.

7 MR. MCINTOSH: Make very quick decisions as to
8 -- as to what needs to go out. The Publications
9 Committee puts out a magazine that, needless to say,
10 it's dated by the time it hits the -- hits the
11 printer, but the public relations director, John
12 Burcher, who was here, and -- and I, he was the
13 public relations director, because in 2008 they came
14 up with a bylaw amendment to combine the public
15 relations and the National Publications Committee.
16 John Burcher was the PR guy from '8 to 2012 when
17 that bylaw was changed back to make it public
18 relations director and National Publications
19 Committee.

20 For example -- and the coordination between the
21 public relations director and the chairman of the
22 Publications Committee was what it -- what it was.
23 If anything came from PR, it went in the magazine,
24 no ifs, ands, or buts. The fact that -- on that, I
25 know for a fact, because John was the public



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1 relations for four years. I was the chairman of the
2 Publications Committee. Neither one of us liked it.
3 Neither one of us wanted it the first time, but it
4 proved to be very, very bad bylaw amendment.

5 Keeping to the -- that gets to our membership
6 in the hands of the members, in my opinion -- and I
7 have 27 years on a publication committee, is
8 essential to being able to keep everybody informed.
9 PR guys, I guarantee you, have no clue what it takes
10 to edit. They can understand that, but to do layout
11 is another issue completely, and it's one of those
12 situations where you want to keep what has been --
13 worked for probably 60, 70 years, the same way. So
14 I would recommend disapproval of this.

15 MR. GRAY: All right. Patriot Reed.

16 MR. REED: Mitch Reed, Senior Vice Commander. I
17 -- can't we propose just that one sentence be
18 deleted until next year -- or be carried over, not
19 deleted?

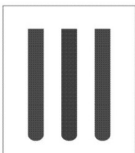
20 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: No. No.

21 MR. FERGUSON: Cannot edit --

22 MR. REED: Okay. All right.

23 MR. GRAY: So now I'm going to go to online.
24 Patriot Leighton. Go ahead. You have the floor.

25 MR. LEIGHTON: The -- all the things that



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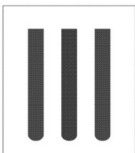
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1 Patriot McIntosh talked about, public relations
2 being external, I totally agree with. Publications,
3 all the things he said that the magazine is supposed
4 to do, I agree with. That's why all the things that
5 the publications used to do -- or should -- or
6 certainly do now by myself, with some input from the
7 command -- commander, get transferred to the public
8 relations director, who has the requirement to
9 select, with the approval of the NEC, the -- our
10 magazine editor. Anybody hear that?

11 MR. GRAY: Yep. We heard you. I was just
12 making sure you didn't have nothing else you were
13 going into.

14 MR. LEIGHTON: Well, I think the resolution
15 stands for itself and that the -- the public
16 relations director, which has been vacant for
17 multiple years, gives you more reason to have one,
18 and has all the authority to appoint, and with the
19 NEC's approval, the magazine editor who still,
20 basically, will be doing the function that the
21 magazine editor is doing today under the guidance of
22 the Publications Committee chief, which is one and
23 the same.

24 And we do not need to worry about a contract at
25 this point in time because we're not publishing



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1 anything by contract.

2 MR. GRAY: Okay.

3 MR. LEIGHTON: That's all I have to say.

4 MR. MCINTOSH: Can I -- can I have permission
5 to speak again on rebuttal?

6 MR. WERTHEIM: Patriot Leighton, are -- this is
7 Craig Wertheim, Department of Florida. Patriot
8 Leighton, are you leaving as the editor of the
9 magazine?

10 MR. LEIGHTON: Am I leaving? No, not unless
11 I'm told to.

12 MR. WERTHEIM: Okay. So who -- who is the P --
13 who is -- who is our PR director?

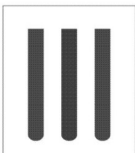
14 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: No one. We haven't had
15 one in years.

16 MR. LEIGHTON: We haven't -- there hasn't been
17 one for some years.

18 MR. WERTHEIM: So I -- I'm confused. We're --
19 so we're taking -- so in other words, you are
20 looking to find a boss?

21 MR. LEIGHTON: I'm looking to have -- as a
22 commander, have more reasons to select a public
23 relations director.

24 MR. WERTHEIM: So do we -- did we put in the
25 budget for a PR director?



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1 MR. LEIGHTON: I didn't say you had to hire
2 one.

3 MR. WERTHEIM: Right.

4 MR. LEIGHTON: You can appoint it --

5 MR. WERTHEIM: Yeah, but do we have money to
6 put --

7 MR. RIVERA: No, it's a patriot just like --

8 MR. WERTHEIM: So we're --

9 MR. RIVERA: -- travel --

10 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: -- communications.

11 MR. WERTHEIM: I understand that, but the --
12 but a PR director would be -- you can't have a full
13 -- you can't have a -- that's a full-time position.

14 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Right.

15 MR. WERTHEIM: You can't have somebody doing it
16 part-time in-between their regular life. That's a
17 full-time job that has to be taken and it -- a PR
18 director of 20-plus years ago is not the same as one
19 today, and I know we have the social media person,
20 but that's not just posting on Facebook, and
21 Instagram, and -- that, you need a whole campaign
22 that would be done -- it would encompass everything
23 that we're doing on a daily basis, and you need a
24 full-time person to execute that to the tune of,
25 probably, \$80,000 to \$100,000 that we would pay



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1 somebody to do that, and I don't think that we're in
2 a position to do that.

3 MR. SMRT: Burcher in the past didn't do it for
4 free.

5 MR. RIVERA: No. He didn't do it for free. He
6 averaged -- you know, he was a contracted -- sorry.
7 PNC Rivera. When Burcher did it before, he was --
8 he was contracted, and it was between 60,000 and
9 80,000 a year.

10 MR. WERTHEIM: And that was how long ago?

11 MR. RIVERA: It's been since 2018.

12 MR. REED: '18.

13 MR. WERTHEIM: Okay. So I'm probably pretty
14 close with those numbers of the salary for somebody
15 hired today.

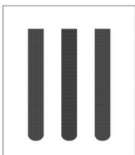
16 MR. REED: So that's --

17 MR. WERTHEIM: That's probably --

18 MR. REED: That's the reason I was trying to
19 take out that one word --

20 MR. WERTHEIM: -- a few years into their
21 career. So I -- I would say that we would keep our
22 magazine the way it is, and we need to find a couple
23 of other people to go on the Publications Committee
24 to help Patriot Leighton publish the magazine.

25 MR. GRAY: I'll take the last one and then



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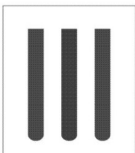
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1 we're going to close for comments and --

2 MR. MCINTOSH: I concur with that last thing
3 about putting two more people on there, on the
4 Publications Committee, because you do need a
5 committee that understands what's going on. And
6 we're talking about a PR guy selecting an editor for
7 a magazine. I would bet you any amount of money,
8 none of you can figure out a good way to try to test
9 out how an editor should be worked.

10 To fill you in, when we had to put an editor
11 in, we ended up two or three people, and what we did
12 is we had them -- gave them information on -- a
13 2,000-word article and said make it 500. Here's a
14 bunch of pictures. We only had one and she happened
15 to be a professional and she taught how to do this
16 at the university where she was working. What to --
17 what goes on is the PR guy, his total focus,
18 training, and expertise, if they're any good, does
19 not involve the grunt work it requires to put out a
20 magazine.

21 Frankly, one of the things that somebody asked
22 me, you know, "How's the magazine today?" I said,
23 "Well, one thing is obvious. Larry put in one hell
24 of a lot of hours. I would say 150 to 180 hours to
25 put out that magazine." So it's one of those



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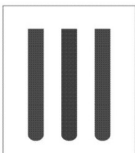
1 situations where you're trying to put somebody that
2 has no clue as to how to put out a magazine, how to
3 put it together. And I was blessed for what, 12 to
4 16 years? I can't remember which. Chris had been
5 the art director for a magazine. So anyway, he
6 taught me a hell of a lot. The former editor taught
7 me a lot to be able to do it for three years, so I
8 know how hard that is, and a PR guy -- I was
9 averaging, first time, it was 180 hours. Three
10 years later, I had it down to 85 hours.

11 MR. GRAY: Okay. And I'm not trying to cut you
12 off but one more rebuttal?

13 MR. SMRT: Yes, sir. Rebuttal.

14 MR. GRAY: Then we're going to close it up.

15 MR. SMRT: I -- I encourage everybody on the
16 committee to go tonight to Section 6 of Article 12,
17 which, according to the presentation, says "will be
18 deleted." Not parts of it. All of Section 6 is to
19 be deleted. In summary, the composition, the fact
20 that these are elected in four-year terms. Meeting
21 during the convention. The committee shall select
22 their own chair. The edit -- work on getting an
23 editor, if possible, if there's money, because
24 that's not free. Charge the chairman with a search
25 committee to move forward on things. Select



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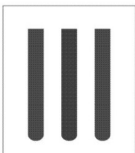
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1 editors. Determine publishing, advertising, and
2 editorial policies. PR directors don't know
3 anything about that. Promote the Order's social
4 media program, national websites, and any other
5 things that support, because, obviously, as the
6 official publication, you know, we want to promote
7 and every other source to be able to access.

8 Magazine shall be the official publication of
9 the Order, USA. Official notices and orders
10 published in the Purple Heart magazine shall be
11 deemed sufficient and lawful notice to all members
12 of all purposes whatsoever. That is probably the
13 missed -- most historic section of that because that
14 is the responsibility upon which all subsequent
15 things were there, because it's the official
16 publication and -- and that dates back to long, long
17 time, and we could do research.

18 Magazine sent to every member. We've fallen
19 because we didn't have money, but it -- but that was
20 still in there and the hope was that if we could get
21 money for donations or sponsorship, that would be
22 reinstated. That's why last year a single hard-copy
23 magazine was put out.

24 Hold the chairman responsible for preparation
25 of budgets. I mean, so if -- if there is a magazine



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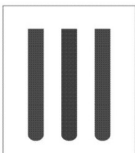
1 or a committee, obviously they have budget
2 responsibility. Publication Committee obviously must
3 provide editor staff and everything else to assist
4 in the publication and the editor production and
5 staff, if there is money for staff, obviously, even
6 if they're compensated as civilians, they have to
7 have the people here on the committee to be able to
8 assist. The ideal is that sooner or later monies
9 may be available and then we can execute and
10 reestablish things. We've been woefully inadequate,
11 but I don't have to tell you guys the difficulty
12 with money. But if we delete Section 6 -- please
13 look at that tonight. That is a killer, and a PR
14 director appointed, even if -- if their
15 responsibility is quote, "to find an editor," that
16 editor's not responsible for anything. And who do
17 they answer to? An appointed person who -- who
18 worked directly for the commander each year?

19 MR. GRAY: Okay.

20 MR. SMRT: So please read it. Thank you.

21 MR. GRAY: Thank you for that. And since we
22 had some rebuttals from the floor, I'm going to --
23 Larry, do you have anything that you needed to
24 rebuttal or are you good?

25 MR. LEIGHTON: I'm good. Thank you.



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1 MR. GRAY: Okay. So Keith Gray, Bylaws
2 Committee. At this time we're going to close the
3 discussion on the floor. I'm going to ask the
4 committee, Committee, do you have anything else you
5 want to add before we vote on this?

6 MR. REED: No.

7 MR. GRAY: Okay. Hearing none. So what we're
8 voting on now is, are we making the recommendation
9 to -- yes or no to the committee to pass this
10 tomorrow? So all in favor, yes, go ahead and raise
11 your hand.

12 MR. RIVERA: No, we don't. We have to pass it
13 forward.

14 MR. RIVERA: Yeah, we have to send it forward
15 with our recommendation. That's what I'm asking
16 for.

17 MR. RIVERA: -- recommendation.

18 MR. REED: -- recommendation.

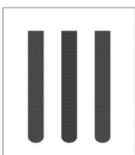
19 MR. GRAY: Are we making the recommendation to
20 approve it?

21 MR. RIVERA: -- recommendation --

22 MR. GRAY: Raise your hand.

23 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: -- recommendation say
24 aye.

25 MR. GRAY: Okay. Hearing none, all -- moving



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1 forward, but not recommendation, raise your hand.
2 Two, three, four, five, six. We have six that are
3 wanting to send it forward but not approving this to
4 go forward to the body tomorrow.

5 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Six opposing.

6 MR. REED: Six opposing.

7 MR. GRAY: Six opposing.

8 MR. SMRT: You recommend disapproval?

9 Recommending disapproval.

10 MR. REED: Right, recommend disapproval.

11 MR. GRAY: -- disapproval with six. Any
12 abstentions? One abstention. Okay. And with that,
13 there's nothing else on our agenda. We're going to
14 go ahead, and I'll take a motion to close the
15 meeting.

16 MR. REED: Craig?

17 MR. REED: I'll make a motion to close the
18 meeting.

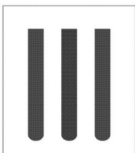
19 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Wait, wait, wait, wait,
20 wait.

21 MR. REED: You got -- you got something you
22 want to say?

23 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: No, go ahead.

24 MR. REED: Okay. You want to second it?

25 MR. WERTHEIM: Craig Wertheim, Department of



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1 Florida, second the motion to close the meeting.

2 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: I didn't know whether
3 you were finished or not.

4 MR. GRAY: Okay. We've got a first and second.
5 All in favor of closing the meeting.

6 AUDIENCE: Aye.

7 MR. GRAY: Any nos? Thank you. Meeting's
8 closed. Thank you --

9 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Thank you all very much
10 for --

11 MR. GRAY: -- for joining us for the Bylaws
12 meeting.

13 (Meeting concluded at 6:15 p.m. ET)

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C E R T I F I C A T E

STATE OF FLORIDA

COUNTY OF ORANGE

I, LYN SI HERGERT, Court Reporter and Notary Public
for the State of Florida at Large, do hereby certify
that I was authorized to and did report the foregoing
proceeding, and that said transcript is a true record of
the said proceeding.

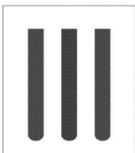
I FURTHER CERTIFY that I am not of counsel for,
related to, or employed by any of the parties or
attorneys involved herein, nor am I financially
interested in said action.

Submitted on: June 11, 2025.



LYNSI HERGERT

Court Reporter, Notary Public



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