



AMVETS

***Spring National Executive Committee
(NEC) Meeting***

**Saturday,
*March 7, 2026***

Held at the
AMVETS National Headquarters
Washington, Pennsylvania

AMVETS Spring National Executive Committee (NEC) Meeting

March 7, 2026

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KEYNOTE "----" indicates indiscernible in the transcript.

P R O C E E D I N G S

(8:35 a.m.)

Call to Order

by National Commander Paul Shipley

COMMANDER SHIPLEY: All right, AMVETS. Everybody ready to start the first NEC meeting in our new national headquarters?

(Applause.)

COMMANDER SHIPLEY: All right. God before country. Mr. Chaplain, would you please lead us in an invocation?

Invocation

by National Chaplain Jeremiah Botkin

CHAPLAIN BOTKIN: Before we start the invocation, I would like us to have a moment of silence for Deanna Maynard. She is the NEC from Kentucky. And unfortunately she passed away in a tragic car accident on her way to the LAW event in D.C. the other day. So if we could just have a moment of silence for her, please.

(Moment of silence.)

(Prayer.)

COMMANDER SHIPLEY: Mr. Provost Marshal, Honors to the Colors and the Pledge of Allegiance, please.

Honors to the Colors

by National Provost Art Majors

MR. MAJORS: AMVETS, attention. Hand salute.

1 (Pledge of Allegiance.)

2 COMMANDER SHIPLEY: Please be seated. Okay, a
3 couple of points. Just so everybody understands, we do have
4 the court recorder in here that is doing our recording, which
5 means, if you want to be heard, you have to go to the
6 microphone. Okay? We can't just shout for anything. It
7 needs to be on there so it is recorded so the minutes are
8 accurate.

9 Everybody know where the restroom is? It is outside
10 in the foyer right out there. If you need to use it, have
11 fun.

12 There is coffee in the back. You spill it on the
13 floor, it is a \$100 fine for the family services center.
14 Mostly because I will end up having to pay to get somebody to
15 come in and clean it. Anybody have any questions about
16 procedures today?

17 (No response.)

18 COMMANDER SHIPLEY: It is a little bit of a novel
19 thing. It is new here but every one of you all have been to
20 enough meetings over the years. We can muddle our way through
21 this appropriately.

22 Mr. Executive Director, could you please do the roll
23 call?

24

25

Roll Call

by National Executive Director Joe Chenelly

National Executive Committee Members

MR. CHENELLY: Thank you, Commander. Good morning, everyone.

(Chorus of "Good morning.")

MR. CHENELLY: Welcome to the first NEC meeting in the new national headquarters. I usually do roll call here by district. My roll call sheet today is alphabetical by the names of the states, so that is where I will be reading from. So I will be starting with Alabama here in just a moment.

I will do the NECs first. If you are not the NEC and you are an alternate waiting to be seated, please wait until -- and I don't call your name -- then please wait until I go through the alternates, which will be the second round.

Alabama, Ernestine Doubek?

MS. DOUBEK: Present.

MR. CHENELLY: Alaska, Terri Good.

MS. GOOD: Present.

MR. CHENELLY: Arizona, Bill Vanasdale?

(No response.)

MR. CHENELLY: Arkansas, Terry Gene Reece?

(No response.)

MR. CHENELLY: California, Derek Hendershot?

MR. HENDERSHOT: Semper Fi.

1 MR. CHENELLY: Connecticut, Dana Dillon.
2 MS. DILLON: Present.
3 MR. CHENELLY: District of Columbia, Rigley Jackson?
4 MR. JACKSON: Present.
5 MR. CHENELLY: Delaware, David Haines.
6 MR. HAINES: Present.
7 MR. CHENELLY: Florida, A.J. John.
8 MR. JOHN: Aim high.
9 MR. CHENELLY: Georgia, Brett Colbert.
10 MR. COLBERT: Here.
11 MR. CHENELLY: Illinois, Richard Shea.
12 MR. SHEA: Here.
13 MR. CHENELLY: Indiana, Richard Caldwell.
14 MR. CALDWELL: Here.
15 MR. CHENELLY: Thank you. Iowa, Mary Van Horn.
16 MS. VAN HORN: Here.
17 MR. CHENELLY: Thank you. Kentucky, Dean Frazier.
18 MR. FRAZIER: Here.
19 MR. CHENELLY: Louisiana, Laura McFarlain.
20 MR. : She is here.
21 MR. CHENELLY: Laura is here. Record show Laura is
22 here. She has checked in and she is in an emergency meeting
23 out there. Maine, James Laplin?
24 (No response.)
25 MR. CHENELLY: Maryland, Andre Martel?

1 MR. MARTEL: Yes, sir.

2 MR. CHENELLY: Massachusetts, Caroline Kenyon?

3 MS. KENYON: Here.

4 MR. CHENELLY: Michigan, Jean Hall?

5 MR. HALL: Present.

6 MR. CHENELLY: Minnesota, Mike Cook.

7 MR. COOK: Here.

8 MR. CHENELLY: Welcome back, Mike.

9 MR. COOK: Thank you. It is good to be back.

10 MR. CHENELLY: Missouri, Doug Johnson.

11 MR. JOHNSON: Here.

12 MR. CHENELLY: Nebraska, Carol --

13 MS. ZACH: Princess Zach standing in for Carol

14 Tcshampl-Diesing.

15 MR. CHENELLY: Princess, thank you. New Jersey,

16 Fred Vineyard.

17 (No response.)

18 MR. CHENELLY: New York, Joe Ashman.

19 MR. ASHMAN: Here.

20 MR. CHENELLY: North Carolina, Mark Beaver?

21 MR. BEAVER: Here.

22 MR. CHENELLY: North Dakota, Murray Strom?

23 MR. STROM: Here.

24 MR. CHENELLY: Ohio, Patrick Rowley.

25 MR. ROWLEY: Here.

1 MR. CHENELLY: Pennsylvania, is this Commander
2 Riley?

3 PNC RILEY: Present.

4 MR. CHENELLY: Thank you. South Carolina, Janice
5 Shelton?

6 MS. SHELTON: Present.

7 MR. CHENELLY: Tennessee, Lee Ann Adams.

8 MS. ADAMS: Here.

9 MR. CHENELLY: Texas, Curtis Thomas.

10 MR. THOMAS: Here.

11 MR. CHENELLY: Virginia, John Cooper?

12 MR. COOPER: Present.

13 MR. CHENELLY: Washington, Glen Skinner.

14 MR. SKINNER: Present.

15 MR. CHENELLY: West Virginia, Patricia Kishman?

16 MS. KISHMAN: Here.

17 MR. CHENELLY: Wisconsin, Duane Amborn.

18 MR. AMBORN: Here.

19 MR. CHENELLY: I have some others here but they
20 don't belong to states. District I, Les Baker.

21 MR. BAKER: Here.

22 MR. CHENELLY: District II, Ralph Hensley.

23 MR. HENSLEY: Hooah.

24 MR. CHENELLY: District III, Mark Frederick.

25 MR. FREDERICK: Here.

1 MR. CHENELLY: District IV, Sara Pierce.

2 MS. PIERCE: Here.

3 MR. CHENELLY: District V, Brian Bartlett.

4 MR. BARTLETT: Here.

5 MR. CHENELLY: District VI, Danelle Wyatt.

6 MS. WYATT: Here.

7 ***National Officers***

8 MR. CHENELLY: National Commander Shipley?

9 COMMANDER SHIPLEY: Here.

10 MR. CHENELLY: First Vice Commander Vorhies.

11 1ST VICE CMDR VORHIES: Present.

12 MR. CHENELLY: Second Vice Commander Studebaker

13 excused. Third Vice Commander Hartsfield.

14 3RD VICE CMDR. HARTSFIELD: Here.

15 MR. CHENELLY: Finance Officer McFarlain.

16 MR. MCFARLAIN: Navy.

17 MR. CHENELLY: National Judge Advocate Brown.

18 PNC J. BROWN: Present.

19 ***Past National Commanders***

20 MR. CHENELLY: I don't have a sign-in check-in for

21 our PNCs. So I am going to take my best shot here. So our

22 National Chaplain Jeremiah Botkin.

23 CHAPLAIN BOTKIN: Here.

24 MR. CHENELLY: PNC Joe Piening?

25 PNC PIENING: Here.

1 MR. CHENELLY: PNC Kilgore?

2 PNC KILGORE: Here.

3 MR. CHENELLY: PNC J.P. Brown?

4 PNC J.P. BROWN III: Here.

5 MR. CHENELLY: PNC Rege Riley?

6 PNC RILEY: Here.

7 MR. CHENELLY: PNC Greg Heun.

8 PNC HEUN: Seated.

9 MR. CHENELLY: PNC Don McLean.

10 PNC MCLEAN: Present.

11 MR. CHENELLY: PNC Jan Brown?

12 PNC J. BROWN: Here.

13 MR. CHENELLY: Are there other PNCs I have missed?

14 PNC Bill Clark?

15 PNC CLARK: Here.

16 MR. CHENELLY: Any other PNCs? I apologize.

17 (No response.)

18 MR. CHENELLY: Okay. For now, anyone else I have
19 missed for primary roll call? I will go to alternates in just
20 a moment.

21 MS. WYATT: Hawaii was skipped.

22 MR. CHENELLY: Yes, of course. I don't have them on
23 the list. I am sorry. Carl?

24 MR. VINCENTI: Hawaii is in the house. Aloha.

25 MR. CHENELLY: Aloha. And welcome back as well.

1 National Provost Marshall Arthur Majors.

2 MR. MAJORS: I am here.

3 MR. CHENELLY: Thank you. Okay.

4 ***Alternate NECs***

5 MR. CHENELLY: Alternates. I am just going to go
6 down by the state. If you are the alternate for the state,
7 please state your name. And Lisa is going to do her best to
8 capture it.

9 Alabama, Alaska, Arizona? Is there anyone here for
10 Arizona?

11 (No response.)

12 MR. CHENELLY: Anyone here for Arkansas?

13 (No response.)

14 MR. CHENELLY: California, Sandra Durbin. I did not
15 call Sandra Durbin before, but Sandra is here?

16 MR. : Yes.

17 MR. CHENELLY: Thank you. Is there an alternate for
18 Connecticut?

19 MR. NEWELL: Doug Newell, present.

20 MR. CHENELLY: Doug Newell? For DC?

21 MS. MCKNIGHT: Angela McKnight.

22 MR. CHENELLY: Angela McKnight. I am just going to
23 repeat it so it is in the recording. Delaware.

24 (No response.)

25 MR. CHENELLY: Florida?

1 MR. BULLOCK: Eddie Bullock.

2 MR. CHENELLY: Eddie Bullock. Georgia?

3 MR. MONTGOMERY: Juan Montgomery.

4 MR. CHENELLY: Mr. Montgomery. Illinois.

5 MS. HENNICK: Jean Hennick.

6 MR. CHENELLY: Thank you, Jean. Indiana?

7 (No response.)

8 MR. CHENELLY: Do we have anyone here for Indiana?

9 (No response.)

10 MR. CHENELLY: Okay. Iowa.

11 (No response.)

12 MR. CHENELLY: Kentucky is Dale Clark. I will note
13 it if I have it written down. I apologize. Dale Clark is
14 present. Louisiana?

15 MS. MCFARLAIN: Laura McFarlain.

16 MR. CHENELLY: So Laura, you are going to be seated
17 as NEC today. Maine?

18 (No response.)

19 MR. CHENELLY: Maryland?

20 (No response.)

21 MR. CHENELLY: Massachusetts?

22 MR. DAVITT: Tom Davitt.

23 MR. CHENELLY: Tom Davitt. Michigan?

24 (No response.)

25 MR. CHENELLY: Minnesota.

1 MR. URIBE: Trinidad Uribe.

2 MR. CHENELLY: Trinidad, thank you. Missouri,
3 Robert Lee.

4 MR. LEE: Here.

5 MR. CHENELLY: Nebraska, our alternate has been
6 seated. Is there a new alternate?

7 (No response.)

8 MR. CHENELLY: Anyone here for New Jersey?

9 (No response.)

10 MR. CHENELLY: New York, Marty Bugaj. Marty Bugaj,
11 thank you. North Carolina, North Dakota. Anyone here for -
12 we do have Murray here for North Dakota. Is there an
13 alternate for Ohio?

14 (No response.)

15 MR. CHENELLY: Is there an alternate for
16 Pennsylvania?

17 MR. FORESMAN: Paul Foresman.

18 MR. CHENELLY: Oh, it was Paul Foresman? Thank you.
19 South Carolina?

20 (No response.)

21 MR. CHENELLY: Is there an alternate here for
22 Tennessee?

23 (No response.)

24 MR. CHENELLY: Texas?

25 (No response.)

1 MR. CHENELLY: Virginia?

2 (No response.)

3 MR. CHENELLY: Washington?

4 (No response.)

5 MR. CHENELLY: West Virginia?

6 (No response.)

7 MR. CHENELLY: And Wisconsin.

8 (No response.)

9 MR. CHENELLY: All right. Commander, you have a
10 quorum.

11 COMMANDER SHIPLEY: All right. Mr. Provost Marshal,
12 can you bring Madam President and Commander Holcombe in,
13 please.

14 (Applause.)

15 ***Ladies Auxiliary***

16 ***by Mary Lanphere***

17 MS. LANPHERE: Thank you so much. Please be seated.
18 Commander, national officers, NEC, guests: I am so proud to be
19 here this weekend. God has blessed me that I was able to make
20 it this weekend.

21 I want to thank you so much for all the hospitality.
22 And I want to thank you for this beautiful building. I can
23 see a lot of good things coming out of here for our veterans
24 and our community.

25 I do want to say -- I am asking, I am asking not for

1 myself but for our veterans. My project this year is Tunnel
2 to Towers. Now more than ever, with everything that is going
3 on across the way. We lost six soldiers already. And I think
4 about their families. I think about the spouses that won't
5 have their soulmate to hug again. I think about the children
6 of these soldiers that won't see their mom or dad.

7 So please, when you go back to your departments and
8 your posts, if you do have a fund raiser for Tunnel to Towers,
9 please support this program. It is not for me. It is for our
10 veterans and their families.

11 We are blessed that we are able to sit in this hall
12 free people. We have comfortable homes. We have plenty to
13 eat. Also Tunnel to Towers is trying to eradicate veteran
14 homelessness across this nation. And as a dear friend of
15 mine, Commander John from New York, once said, there are two
16 things veterans should never experience. Number one is
17 homelessness. And number two is hunger.

18 So please, please support my program. Not for me
19 but for the veterans and their families. And thank you so
20 much for allowing me to come and speak to you. God bless you
21 all, and safe travels back home.

22 (Applause.)

23 COMMANDER SHIPLEY: Commander Holcombe?

24 (Applause.)

25

1 ***Sons of AMVETS***

2 ***by Patrick Holcombe***

3 MR. HOLCOMBE: It is only a brief statement. Hello
4 and goodbye. Good morning, AMVETS.

5 (Chorus of "Good morning.")

6 MR. HOLCOMBE: How is everyone today? I want to
7 make sure everybody is doing good. We had a good time last
8 night. I just want to say thank you all for the opportunity
9 to address the body, and the opportunity to come up and enjoy
10 the camaraderie and be able to finally come and witness our
11 new headquarters. This is awesome. I really appreciate it.

12 I will you a brief synopsis of how the Sons are
13 doing right now. Our membership continues to trend upward in
14 a very encouraging way.

15 We have grown from a total of 17,076 members last
16 year, which included 12,073 annual, and 5,003 life. To 21,000
17 at this point, in this time. Actually it is more because I
18 haven't checked. This was 3 days ago. 21,063 members, which
19 is 16,000 annual and 4,094 life.

20 Of course, attrition, you always have, you will have
21 people passing away. So that is why we are dropping in life
22 members. But the growth reflects not only a strong
23 recruitment effort but more importantly a renewed engagement
24 and belief in our mission.

25 Our project reporting to this date is \$3,212,889.

1 So -- and that is 15 percent higher than it was last year. So
2 we are actually growing in all areas of our organization.

3 I traveled all over the place this year, and we will
4 be doing a lot more because the problem is as I visited posts
5 and squadrons, it has become evident that there is a
6 significant and urgent need for structural training at every
7 level across all entities of our organization.

8 (Applause.)

9 MR. HOLCOMBE: So what I plan to do and strive to do
10 for the rest of my term is to start an organized training
11 program so that we can get our organization back on track
12 because we have gotten complacent and we have lost sight of
13 our mission I think.

14 But we remain committed to supporting our parent
15 organization and to strengthen the entire AMVETS family. When
16 one part of our family grows stronger, we all grow stronger.
17 So I want us to make sure that you know that we have your back
18 and we are here to support and help any way we can. So if you
19 need anything, please let me know.

20 And again I will yield back my time, and thank you
21 all for the opportunity to speak to you.

22 (Applause.)

23 COMMANDER SHIPLEY: Mr. Provost Marshal, could you
24 escort the White Clover princess? Please rise. This used to
25 be a church, so it is good for up, down, up, down, up down.

1 (Applause.)

2 ***White Clover Princess***

3 ***by Noel Ratiachek***

4 MS. RATIACHEK: Good morning, Commander Shipley and
5 all AMVETS.

6 (Chorus of "Good morning.")

7 MS. RATIACHEK: My name is Noel Ratiachek, and I am
8 Wisconsin's White Clover princess. For nearly 60 years,
9 Wisconsin has been one of the only departments to run the
10 White Clover princess program constantly.

11 I have had the honor to represent Wisconsin for two
12 terms. Two years ago I did not know what to expect. I was
13 shy, and the department events I was invited to were scary at
14 first.

15 My grandpa, Cletus Ratiachek, was Wisconsin's state
16 commander before I was born, had he loved being an AMVET.

17 Because of him, I met some great people in AMVETS.
18 I wanted to apply to make him proud, even though he never got
19 to see me wear the crown.

20 Through this program I learned more: to be
21 confident, outgoing and what it truly means to be an American.
22 I learned a lot about charity work and what our veterans need
23 to survive after service. And I would like to see this happen
24 for more young girls like me.

25 When the time came this year to apply again, I

1 jumped on it. I want to help get the word out about this
2 program so more states understand the impact it can have on
3 daughters, granddaughters, stepdaughters and nieces.

4 This program builds patriotism, confidence and
5 awareness. I am so blessed to have met so many veterans
6 through this program, both locally and nationwide.

7 I have been invited to do so many great things
8 through our department, and this year I get to do it with
9 grandma Emily, who is the Wisconsin department's AMVETS
10 Auxiliary president.

11 If anybody would like more information, the White
12 Clover princess program, they would e-mail Ralph Beck, the
13 Wisconsin White Clover liaison. Thank you for letting me
14 speak today. It has been an honor and a privilege.

15 (Applause.)

16 COMMANDER SHIPLEY: All right, stay up. Mr. Provost
17 Marshal, please escort national Juniors President Ash Stopyra.

18 (Applause.)

19 ***National Junior AMVETS***

20 ***by Ash Stopyra***

21 MR. STOPYRA: Greetings. My name is Ash Stopyra,
22 and my project is Founding Forward, and my theme is Teachings
23 that Shape our Tomorrow.

24 I want to come here today to tell you that I have a
25 goal and a mission. My mission is to send 15 kids to Founding

1 Forward. And my goal is to raise \$15,000. I believe that
2 with your help, this is possible because we are one. So thank
3 you for letting me speak today. I am very proud to be in this
4 organization. And I am very happy to see where we have gone.
5 And thank you.

6 (Applause.)

7 COMMANDER SHIPLEY: Ash, you may have been the most
8 popular guest on the floor today.

9 MS. DILLON: Only because it is all I have on me,
10 here is \$50 from Connecticut to start your --

11 (Applause.)

12 MR. HENSLEY: Hey, Ash, here is another \$100 from
13 Virginia.

14 (Applause.)

15 COMMANDER SHIPLEY: The finance officer gave a \$100
16 of his own money to it also.

17 (Applause.)

18 1ST VICE CMDR VORHIES: Do you want to introduce?

19 CHAPLAIN BOTKIN: I would be honored to introduce
20 our next guest. Our next guest is the current president of
21 American Gold Star Mothers, Incorporated, Annette Kirk.

22 (Applause.)

23 ***American Gold Star Mothers, Inc.***

24 ***by Annette Kirk***

25 MS. KIRK: Good morning, and thank you for having me

***Audio Associates
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1 here. It means so much to gather with people who understand
2 the importance of honoring our fallen heroes by supporting
3 their mothers and our veteran community.

4 Every step we take, every program we offer and every
5 moment we share is dedicated to carrying forward the legacy of
6 our sons and daughters who gave their lives for this nation.
7 American Gold Star Mothers is an organization no one every
8 hopes to join. But once we do, we find strength, purpose and
9 community.

10 We are mothers whose children died while serving in
11 the United States armed forces. From that unimaginable loss,
12 a legacy of compassion and service has endured for nearly a
13 century.

14 June 4, 2028, we will turn 100 years old. We honor
15 our children by serving others: veterans, families and
16 communities across the country. And we do it together as
17 sisters bound by love, sacrifice and resilience.

18 And I am so happy to be part of AMVETS. I am a
19 member myself, and I hope to --

20 (Applause.)

21 MS. KIRK: Post 44. I hope to get my membership
22 actively involved with AMVETS as well all across the country.
23 And I really appreciate being here for a special day.
24 Hopefully we can make this a signed deal today. So thank you
25 for having me.

1 (Applause.)

2 1ST VICE CMDR VORHIES: Okay so we have another
3 speaker. This is a gentleman that is going to speak to you.
4 A lot of you were asking about our shoes that have AMVETS on
5 them. And so we brought in Kayin McDonald to speak to you on
6 that and the foundation. Is Kayin in here?

7 MR. MCDONALD: Right here.

8 1ST VICE CMDR VORHIES: There he is. I should have
9 known. He has got the backpack.

10 (Applause.)

11 1ST VICE CMDR VORHIES: So we have got some AMVETS
12 socks, so when we are done we will, wow, okay.

13 ***In a Soldier's Shoes Foundation***

14 ***by Kayin McDonald***

15 MR. MCDONALD: I will get on the mic now to make it
16 easier for her over there. But my name is Kayin McDonald. I
17 am currently an undergraduate student at Ashland University in
18 Ohio. And I am one of the co-founders for the In a Soldier's
19 Shoes Foundation, a 501(c)(3) nonprofit that provides shoes,
20 socks and other essential items to veterans in need and their
21 families.

22 To give a bit of back story, I have been involved
23 since, you know -- I co-founded it. I have been involved with
24 it since the start. But one of the big reasons that we
25 started this program was myself, my two other co-founders were

1 involved with the Kappa Sigma Fraternity.

2 This will be important coming up in a bit but I will
3 explain a little bit now. The Kappa Sigma Fraternity is the
4 largest social fraternity in the world. It has hundreds of
5 thousands of living members. Over 400 chapters currently. It
6 is on almost every major college campus.

7 If you are familiar at all with Greek life, they are
8 some of the only organizations that consistently bring college
9 students in to volunteer, give service hours for various
10 organizations.

11 And there are a lot of different groups that try to
12 engage this community. But there is a pretty big problem.
13 Being a college student myself, I have a little bit of an
14 understanding about the college psyche. College students
15 don't like volunteering for stuff. They really don't. It is
16 the hard truth.

17 The only reason a lot of college students do is
18 because they are involved in these organizations that sort of
19 require it. College students typically are thinking about
20 their future. They are involved in various classes and
21 activities. And that is a real problem.

22 Various veterans' organizations have tried to engage
23 with this community but they run into that same issue where it
24 is hard to get these younger generation college students to
25 care at all.

1 One of the bigger problems is that most of the
2 groups that already do these service projects, they have their
3 own philanthropy components. So if you look at Delta Zeta for
4 example. It is one of the biggest sororities. Their project
5 is giving hearing aids or providing funding and support for
6 hearing aids for children that need it.

7 So they are not necessarily going to help veterans'
8 issues. They have their own programs, their own funding for
9 those purposes.

10 But the Kappa Sigma Fraternity, the biggest social
11 fraternity in the world on almost every major college campus,
12 is military heroes.

13 What this means is that on almost every major
14 college campus, there is a supposed to be a large group of
15 young men that are out there raising money, building awareness
16 and putting on events for the veterans in their community.

17 But there is another issue: They don't know how to
18 do it. They are not given a whole lot of guidance on what
19 this looks like, how to engage with veterans. And so often,
20 like with many of these other Greek life entities, their
21 philanthropy is treated like this ethereal blob.

22 In other words, veterans are treated like a category
23 for which they feel obligated to help but not actually
24 interact with.

25 I have been in Kappa Sigma for five years. And over

1 my time, before we had the foundation, we donated to various
2 organizations. We did various kinds of fund raisers. But
3 there was always a big problem. Certain groups that we would
4 raise money for, you know, very little would ever come back to
5 my local community.

6 I wanted to change that. And so that is why I
7 started the In a Soldier's Shoes Foundation. What we do is we
8 prioritize dollars donated to the communities that donate it.
9 And we do that through these Kappa Sigma chapters.

10 They are the boots on the ground interacting with
11 veterans, distributing shoes and socks and other items.

12 And with our big philanthropy event, Mile in a
13 Soldier's Shoes, hence the play on words, we help bring large
14 veteran populations and students together in one place for a
15 large ruck event on campuses.

16 Essentially what it is, is an annual ruck march, in
17 which brothers of Kappa Sigma, veterans, students, community
18 members will walk or run with weighted vests, and this year we
19 are using actual military-grade, previously used combat-worn
20 vests. I am sorry, ruck sacks with about 40 pounds in them.

21 I know that is a lot lighter than what a lot of
22 veterans actually use, but it helps put in perspective in a
23 small way the conditions faced by our soldiers in the line of
24 duty. And if you have seen some of these brothers, they
25 certainly need it.

1 Right now, this year alone, we have had tremendous
2 growth since our first year doing this program as a nonprofit.
3 The actual event has been going on, on Ash University's campus
4 for 12 years. But with the foundation's backing we were able
5 to grow it and this last year on Ash University's campus we
6 were able to walk hundreds of miles with dozens and dozens of
7 participants.

8 This year we are on 15 college campuses in 4 states.
9 We are all across Ohio. We are in Cincinnati, Bowling Green,
10 Akron, Ash and obviously Miami of Ohio and more.

11 We are all over Michigan. We are at Michigan State.
12 Michigan University, Northwood, Grand Valley. We even have a
13 couple in Pennsylvania and New York. SUNY Fredonia over in
14 New York and Penn State Behrend, the sister school to Penn
15 State. Next year, we will be on Penn State's main campus.
16 Their Kappa Sigma chapter is coming on next year.

17 But the whole point of this is that this kind of
18 event is different than what normal Greek life events look
19 like. You know, if you have been to these things before, it
20 is like bake sales. It is like throw a water balloon at a
21 brother or something.

22 There is no connection to the cause they are trying
23 to support at all. That is why we come in and help these
24 brothers because they can actually support their communities.
25 In order to fund raise, they have to go talk to veterans.

1 They have to go talk to their family members. They have to
2 invite veterans to come out and speak and be a part of their
3 event. And we allow them to do that.

4 We give them all the resources to be able to do that
5 while supporting a noble cause of providing shoes, socks and
6 other essential items to veterans in need and their families,
7 which are consistently some of the most requested items at
8 homeless shelters and from veterans in need.

9 So that is really the program that we have going on
10 here. The proposal that I gave you here, which I talk a
11 little bit about, we are actually expanding pretty fast
12 because the Kappa Sigma Fraternity, they are in desperate need
13 of, you know, sort of organizing these brothers to have good
14 events.

15 So next year we plan to be on 30 to 40 college
16 campuses in I believe it is seven states. So we will be in
17 Illinois, Kentucky, Indiana. We will be more engrossed in
18 Pennsylvania and New York as well as Ohio and Michigan. And
19 we plan to keep growing as these chapters are all over the
20 country.

21 Think of any major college campus, there is probably
22 a Kappa Sigma there, and it is likely the biggest chapter
23 there.

24 So this allows us to really help bring all of the
25 college community together. And the proposal I have, I have

1 given you, the pamphlet is just an example of what we provide
2 you know these college groups. So this is for Ashland's event
3 specifically.

4 But the proposal is for an internship program
5 because as you can imagine, having all these college students
6 try to organize the events can be sometimes hectic when there
7 isn't a good incentive structure in line.

8 We want to make sure we have the cream of the crop
9 from these groups. They are going out in their communities
10 being leaders of the pipelines at these institutions for the
11 veterans in their communities.

12 And so we are starting an internship program which
13 will allow three leaders on each of these campuses to sort of
14 be the backbone of these projects.

15 And so what we are looking for in terms of a sort of
16 national collaboration as we do expand nationally is for maybe
17 partnership with AMVETS for this internship program. And what
18 this might look like.

19 I am happy to talk more about that if you are
20 interested, but yes, that is sort of the stuff that we do.
21 Happy to take any questions if you have them.

22 ***Questions and Answers***

23 MR. : How do we get those shoes?

24 MR. MCDONALD: Sure. You ask for them. So in the
25 back you will see one of the shoes. And a pair of the socks.

1 But the sample pamphlets that we use at Ashland's event, they
2 are different based on universities. But on this, as well my
3 cards are back there, you can contact us directly. It doesn't
4 matter what the size is. We will directly ship them to you.
5 We will bring them to your house. We will -- as long as we
6 have a chapter nearby and we have funding for it.

7 Because we prioritize dollars donated to the
8 communities that donate it, we can only use, you know,
9 unrestricted funds for areas that haven't previously donated.

10 So we -- we are very strict on that. So an Ashland
11 post that donates, that is helping Ashland unless they
12 specifically tell us this can help this other area. And that
13 has been the case. So we do have some funds, and we have a
14 lot of shoes on stock currently, so if you do have a need, we
15 can ship them where you are. Even if you are in Hawaii, we
16 can try to get them to you.

17 But that is how you can get the stuff. And we
18 also -- this isn't the only brand that we have. So this is,
19 we get them straight from manufacturers so we get them at
20 cost. These are sort of modeled after the Nike Dunks, so they
21 are causal shoes that can be used in a lot of different
22 settings.

23 A lot of our older veterans have requested shoes
24 that aren't, you know, don't tie. And so we also have a Hey
25 Dudes model if you are familiar with that brand. Sort of like

1 a slipper.

2 We also are working on athletic shoes as well
3 although we currently are working on the sort of partnership
4 to get those at cost as well. But we can provide those shoes
5 too. So whatever your need may be, just let us know. We will
6 get it to you.

7 We have anonymous ways to ask for shoes as well on
8 our Website. Many posts have asked for bulk orders, so they
9 will tell us, hey, we need this many pairs, this size.
10 Deliver them here. We give them directly to them based on
11 their wishes.

12 1ST VICE CMDR VORHIES: Thank you so much.

13 MR. MCDONALD: Thanks, guys.

14 (Applause.)

15 1ST VICE CMDR VORHIES: These guys are great. They
16 come to Ohio's conferences and convention and meet a lot of
17 people there. Okay, so is the Wreaths Across America
18 representative here? Oh, there. Hiding in the corner.

19 (Applause.)

20 ***Wreaths Across America***

21 ***by Jeff Pierce***

22 MR. PIERCE: I didn't realize I was going to speak
23 but I never met a microphone I didn't like. I am Jeff Pierce
24 from Wreaths Across America. Some of you have heard of
25 Wreaths Across America, I assume.

1 I am going to give you the short version. Since
2 everybody has yielded their time today, I am going to make
3 this short, okay. Wreaths Across America is a national
4 nonprofit. Last year we were in 5,594 locations,
5 predominantly cemeteries, in all 50 states and overseas.

6 We have laid wreaths in Guam, Guantanamo Bay, Cuba,
7 and all of the American battle monuments locations had a
8 national Wreaths Across America Day ceremony.

9 Last year we laid 3.1 million wreaths to honor our
10 veterans, which is a --

11 (Applause.)

12 MR. PIERCE: Thank you. Which is a fantastic number
13 yet a teaspoon of sand against the tide to the number of
14 veterans who are no longer with us.

15 So the idea is to honor every American veteran that
16 has served this nation. Couple of ways that we do that. Our
17 mission is to remember the fallen on or all who served, and to
18 teach future generations the value of freedom.

19 So for those of you who have heard of Wreaths Across
20 America, I am going to give you a few data points, and there
21 may be some things you never heard of.

22 We have a K-12 education program available on our
23 Website absolutely free to schools.

24 Every month, a fresh curriculum revolving around a
25 patriotic holiday or other significant event is up on our

1 Website free to download. And those curriculums get thousands
2 of downloads each month from public schools, private schools,
3 charter schools, home school. You name the type of school,
4 they download those.

5 You can help in your communities by making people
6 aware of these free curriculums. Absolutely free, no
7 obligation, okay?

8 We also offer a fund-raising program. Some of you
9 will be hearing more about that later. Where for nonprofits,
10 we allow them to participate and elect to get \$5 bucks back
11 from each wreath sponsored to honor veteran. That program
12 gave back \$4 million to other nonprofits last year.

13 And in its lifetime, its given back \$32 million to
14 other nonprofits. Our philosophy at Wreaths Across America is
15 that our partners should grow as we grow.

16 Many of your posts participate in Wreaths Across
17 America. Many of your posts may donate to Wreaths Across
18 America. And many of your posts may be unaware of the \$5 back
19 program.

20 So Amber Karen, who is our director of
21 communications, is here with me, and we can talk to you in
22 between sessions and give you more information on that
23 program. It is a great program for fund raising. I also, by
24 the way, I am a member at large for the state of Maine so
25 apparently I am the only person here for the state of Maine.

1 But I also volunteer for the Civil Air Patrol.

2 And so in our poorest, most rural areas of the
3 state, it was the only way I was going to be an officer.

4 Usually I am 50 percent with that joke.

5 Our poorest, most rural area of the state, 20 cadets
6 got 1,700 wreaths sponsored last year to honor veterans.

7 Those of you in the finance roles can do some quick math.

8 That's about \$8,000 they raised for their squadrons.

9 Those of us who have had to buy uniforms understand
10 uniforms are expensive. Civil Air Patrol just switched over
11 to the OCP. They have got to buy new uniforms. Those cadets
12 are not going to have to buy their uniforms because they
13 honored veterans who are no longer with us.

14 You can't beat a deal like that. Honoring a veteran
15 and supporting the programs of your AMVETS posts or Civil Air
16 Patrol or whatever.

17 Other things we do: We have a mobile education
18 exhibit that goes around the nation, 160, 170 stops, various
19 communities. We take a regionalized approach. It is in the
20 shop right now. It will be rolling out sometime later this
21 spring but traditionally 160, 170 stops. It is a little mini-
22 museum for Wreaths Across America.

23 It is also a little 20-seat movie theater inside
24 with educational videos. But my favorite part of it is we use
25 it as a platform to recognize our Vietnam veterans and welcome

1 them home as we have pledged in partnership with Vietnam
2 Veterans of America to ensure, to continue the mission of the
3 now sunsetted 50th Vietnam War commemoration.

4 We do a lot more stuff that you have never heard of.
5 We have Wreaths Across America Radio. So I am set up
6 downstairs interviewing you folks about your service. And
7 more importantly, your why for serving in AMVETS. So if you
8 have time to stop by and be interviewed, it is fantastic. You
9 can catch Wreaths Across America Radio on I Heart Radio, Tune
10 in, Odyssey or on our Website, WreathsAcrossAmerica.org/radio.

11 And hopefully I didn't talk too much. Thank you for
12 your time.

13 (Applause.)

14 COMMANDER SHIPLEY: Thank you, Jeff, and thank you
15 for all the awareness the Wreaths Across America brings to the
16 veteran community each year.

17 All right. So that brings us to NEC reports.
18 District commanders --

19 1ST VICE CMDR VORHIES: Adoption of the agenda.

20 COMMANDER SHIPLEY: We haven't adopted the -- wow.

21 1ST VICE CMDR VORHIES: No, they have had speakers.

22 COMMANDER SHIPLEY: Look, I have got the Legislative
23 Advocacy Week Chairman Doug Brown coming in. Come on down,
24 Doug.

25 (Applause.)

1 COMMANDER SHIPLEY: We will get all these out of the
2 way and then we just get into business. Come on up, Doug.
3 And Dave. Well, it looks like Dave wants to take pictures.

4 ***Legislative Advocacy Week***

5 ***by Chair Doug Brown***

6 MR. BROWN: Good morning.

7 (Chorus of "Good morning.")

8 MR. BROWN: First and foremost, I would like to
9 thank everybody in here for their service. We had a pretty
10 good week up on LAW Week. I am going to give the report this
11 time. It shouldn't take more than 45 minutes.

12 I want to thank Commander Shipley for everything he
13 did. And giving such a prodigious testimony on the Hill this
14 week. Thank you, Joe, for getting us the folders and
15 materials.

16 I would like to thank Justin Brown, Danielle Foren.
17 They got us all the materials and the talking points. Made
18 LAW Week a very successful week again. On the Hill, we had
19 289 meetings. We were a little bit lower. It was kind of
20 chaotic up there on Wednesday. Thursday it slowed down a
21 little bit.

22 And then out of those 289, we met with 45
23 representatives. So as I said at the LAW meeting, we are up
24 there. We are trying to make a difference.

25 And I guess I kind of have to look back at a mentor

1 that I had when I first started teaching. And I think the
2 AMVET family unequivocally displays these values, where it is
3 important when you make a difference to help the helpless.
4 Parent the parentless, teach the unteachable, coach the
5 uncoachable and love the unlovable.

6 And I think the AMVET family does a great job of
7 doing that. So keep up the good fight here. The Sons are
8 here to help you. We will do anything you need. All you have
9 to do is ask. And if we see that you need something, we will
10 be there.

11 Also I want to give a special thank you to Third
12 Vice Sheldon for communicating. I appreciate everything you
13 did this year, Sheldon. It has been a great time working with
14 you, and I wish you the best of luck in the future.

15 Any question on LAW -- we did leave some of the
16 priorities and items down on the lower table. And those who
17 went up, you got a new challenge going. Thank you.

18 (Applause.)

19 COMMANDER SHIPLEY: Thank you, Doug, and thank you
20 to the Sons for every year organizing that event for us and
21 working with us to keep our legislative advocacy rolling. All
22 right. Any more speakers, Mr. Provost?

23 MR. MAJORS: Not at this time.

24 COMMANDER SHIPLEY: All right, everybody sit down.
25 Everybody wants to come to the new building and talk to you

1 guys, that is all.

2 ***Adoption of the Agenda***

3 COMMANDER SHIPLEY: All right, so adoption of the
4 agenda. Everybody has a copy of the agenda. I would
5 entertain a motion to adopt the agenda.

6 3RD VICE CMDR HARTSFIELD: So moved, Hartsfield.

7 COMMANDER SHIPLEY: Moved --

8 MS. PIERCE: Pierce.

9 COMMANDER SHIPLEY: -- Sheldon Hartsfield. Second,
10 Sara Pierce. Hartsfield is from Missouri. National Third
11 Vice. Pierce is National Fourth District Commander from Ohio.
12 Motion and a second. Do we have any questions on the agenda?
13 Any edits for the agenda.

14 (No response.)

15 COMMANDER SHIPLEY: Hearing none, all in favor,
16 state aye.

17 (Chorus of "aye.")

18 COMMANDER SHIPLEY: All opposed, same sign.

19 (No response.)

20 COMMANDER SHIPLEY: Agenda is adopted.

21 ***Adoption of Minutes***

22 COMMANDER SHIPLEY: The minutes are in the book page
23 66 to 80. Are there any edits for the minutes? We would
24 entertain a motion to accept them.

25 MR. HENSLEY: So moved, Hensley.

1 MR. JOHN: Second, John.

2 COMMANDER SHIPLEY: Motion by Ralph Hensley,
3 national Second District commander. Second by A.J. John, NEC,
4 Department of Florida. Any alibis on the minutes? Going
5 once, going twice?

6 (No response.)

7 COMMANDER SHIPLEY: All in favor of approving the
8 minutes, state aye.

9 (Chorus of "aye.")

10 COMMANDER SHIPLEY: Opposed, same sign.

11 (No response.)

12 COMMANDER SHIPLEY: Minutes are adopted. Now
13 district commanders, starting with National District I, please
14 come up. I guess I get to figure this one out for the fun.
15 So district commanders will come up here to lead. Let's state
16 the NECs will come from this side here and they will give
17 their statements from the microphone right there.

18 National District I Commander Les Baker.

19 ***NEC Reports***

20 ***National District I***

21 MR. BAKER: Good morning, Commander, executive
22 officers and all my fellow AMVETS. This is going to be a
23 short report. I looked for something for legislative because
24 when I did the report, I didn't really have anything. Our
25 legislative officer has been pretty sick since he got the

1 Silver Helmet, and I really couldn't get a hold of anybody to
2 get anything.

3 And I couldn't find anything to bring up today but
4 my NEC officer from New York has it in his report. So I am
5 not going to step on his toes. So my report is on page 5. I
6 am not going to read it all. You guys can read what is there.
7 So I would like to bring up my officers. Connecticut?

8 MS. DILLON: Good morning, everybody. My report is
9 on page 6. The only thing I would like to add to it: Our
10 state convention will be held on Sunday, June 28, at the DAV
11 Department of Connecticut, 80 Hall Street in Meriden,
12 Connecticut.

13 And Connecticut would also like to just give a
14 special thank you of recognition to Commander Shipley and his
15 family for all the time that he has spent away from his home
16 supporting and advocating for AMVETS, veterans and their
17 families.

18 We know every national commander does this, but this
19 year especially it seems like he has put in that extra oomph,
20 and we really, really appreciate it. Thank you, Commander.
21 That is my report. Oh, I am sorry. Dana Dillon, Connecticut,
22 NEC.

23 MR. BAKER: Mass?

24 MS. KENYON: Caroline Kenyon, NEC, Massachusetts.
25 My report is on page 7 but I have an update on the total that

1 we have for our Passion Plunge that I just checked today. It
2 is \$18,100. We didn't make our goal.

3 Our state convention is May 29th to the 31st at Post
4 79 in Natick. We have dates for the Commander's or the
5 Saturday night banquet. And ticket price is \$35. And I
6 believe after April 1st it goes to \$40.

7 We also have a joint testimonial that will be done
8 on May 3rd at the Elks in Randolph. And the estimated ticket
9 price right now \$35 but it may be more. And that is all I
10 have, Commander. Please accept it at the proper time.

11 MR. BAKER: Thank you. Joe Ashman, New York?

12 MR. ASHMAN: Good morning, everyone. My report is
13 on page 9 in the book. I would just like to touch on our
14 upcoming events.

15 Our spring SEC is in two weeks in Binghamton. And
16 then our convention is June 4th through the 6th in Binghamton
17 as well. And I would like to consider this an open invitation
18 for any national officers that would like to attend. Get in
19 touch with myself or our state commander John McCullough.
20 That is my report, and I move for its adoption at the
21 appropriate time.

22 MR. BAKER: Commander, that is the closing of all
23 reports for District I. I would like to move for its adoption
24 at this time.

25 COMMANDER SHIPLEY: All right. We have a motion.

1 Do we have a second for the national District I reports?

2 MS. DILLON: Second. Dana Dillon, Connecticut.

3 COMMANDER SHIPLEY: Second. Any questions on the
4 reports?

5 (No response.)

6 COMMANDER SHIPLEY: Hearing none, all in favor of
7 approving District I, state aye.

8 (Chorus of "aye.")

9 COMMANDER SHIPLEY: Opposed, same sign.

10 (No response.)

11 COMMANDER SHIPLEY: Thank you, sir.

12 MR. BAKER: Thank you.

13 COMMANDER SHIPLEY: District II Commander Ralph
14 Hensley.

15 ***District II***

16 MR. HENSLEY: All right, sisters and brothers for
17 District II. My report is in the book. I would just like to
18 amend one thing there. We have confirmed that we will be in
19 Falling Waters, West Virginia, April the 24th and 25th for our
20 NEC meeting.

21 With that, we will start the NEC reports with
22 Delaware, David Haines.

23 MR. HAINES: Good morning. Dave Haines, NEC for
24 Delaware. My report can be found on page 2 or 12, I am sorry.
25 Please accept it under proper under of business.

1 MR. HENSLEY: District of Columbia, Rigley Jackson.

2 MR. JACKSON: Rigley Jackson, primary for the
3 District of Columbia. Our report is on page 14. Our
4 convention is going to be on June the 20th. We hope that
5 everybody can attend. We will have a ball. And I move for
6 its adoption at the proper time.

7 MR. HENSLEY: The state of Maryland, Andy Martel.

8 MR. MARTEL: Good morning. Andy Martel from
9 Maryland. My report is on page 15. And I move for its
10 adoption when it is the right time.

11 Just a couple highlights. One is our convention
12 will be on June 6th in Thurmont, Maryland. That is sort of
13 new to us but it is a little change. And to highlight the PNC
14 A. Leo Anderson Award, Freestate Award of Excellence, will be
15 held on April 18th at Turf Valley Country Club, so that is a
16 great time. Come if you can. Thank you very much.

17 MR. HENSLEY: State of North Carolina, Mark Beaver.

18 MR. BEAVER: NEC Mark Beaver, Department of North
19 Carolina. My report can be found on page 16. I would just
20 like to reiterate our spring DEC will be April 17th through
21 the 19th in Kinston. Our state convention is June 6, 7 and 8
22 in Clemmons. Any national officers that would like to attend,
23 you are more than welcome to.

24 This is my report, Commander. I ask for its
25 adoption at its present time.

1 MR. HENSLEY: Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, PNC Rege
2 Riley.

3 PNC RILEY: Good morning, everybody.

4 (Chorus of "Good morning.")

5 PNC RILEY: Commander, due to my recent illness, I
6 was unable to get a report in but I have just a few things I
7 would like to say.

8 The Pennsylvania AMVETS is involved with a project
9 called Sharing and Caring. It is a boat ride for veterans,
10 three days on Labor Day weekend. And a representative from
11 Pennsylvania is also on the board for Sharing and Caring.

12 I would like to ask anybody, any post here, would
13 like to donate, the Website is up. You can donate through the
14 Website.

15 Our convention is going to be the last weekend in
16 June in Pittsburgh. That is my report, and I move for its
17 adoption.

18 MR. HENSLEY: Commonwealth of Virginia, John Cooper.

19 MR. COOPER: Our report is on page 18. Let me take
20 that back. Yes, I am sorry. Page 18. I have 2 additional
21 items. Update on some of our legislative issues.

22 One of them is our Suicide Awareness program. We
23 have got -- AMVETS submitted to the legislature two items.
24 One was the unscrupulous firms exploiting veterans on
25 submitting their claims. That got through our senate and

1 through the House of Delegates. I doubt it will be signed by
2 the governor.

3 The other issue is the Suicide Awareness program,
4 which we have asked the medical examiner to provide us data on
5 veterans' deaths in Virginia. And at this point, the
6 Department of Veterans Services is doing studies on that.

7 And our state convention, our DEC, will be held
8 April the 10th and 11th tentatively at Winchester, Virginia.
9 That concludes my report, and I ask for its adoption at the
10 appropriate time.

11 MR. HENSLEY: And from the Mountaineer state, West
12 Virginia, Pat Kishman.

13 MS. KISHMAN: I am Pat Kishman, NEC, West Virginia.
14 My report is on page 19. I request that you approve it.
15 Thank you.

16 MR. HENSLEY: With that, Commander, I move for the
17 adoption of District II reports.

18 COMMANDER SHIPLEY: I have a motion to approve the
19 District II reports. Do I have a second?

20 MR. MARTEL: Second. Martel, Maryland.

21 COMMANDER SHIPLEY: Second, Andy Martel, NEC,
22 Maryland. Any questions on District II reports or any of
23 their states?

24 (No response.)

25 COMMANDER SHIPLEY: Hearing none, all in favor,

1 state aye.

2 (Chorus of "aye.")

3 COMMANDER SHIPLEY: Opposed, same sign.

4 (No response.)

5 COMMANDER SHIPLEY: District II, yes, District II's
6 approved. Mark Frederick, National District III Commander.

7 ***District III***

8 MR. FREDERICK: My report is on page 21. I ask for
9 its adoption at the proper time. I will move on to the state
10 of Alabama. Ernestine Doubek.

11 MS. DOUBEK: Ernestine Doubek, the state of Alabama.
12 My report is on page 22. I ask for its adoption at the proper
13 time.

14 MR. FREDERICK: Thank you. Now move to Florida,
15 A.J. John.

16 MR. JOHN: Good morning, everyone. A.J. John, NEC,
17 Florida. My report is on page 23, and I move for its adoption
18 at the proper time.

19 MR. FREDERICK: Thank you, A.J. Now move to
20 Georgia. Brett Colbert.

21 MR. COLBERT: Good morning. Brett Colbert,
22 Department of Georgia. My report is on page 24, and I move
23 for its adoption at the appropriate time. Thank you.

24 MR. FREDERICK: Thank you. Louisiana, Laura
25 McFarlain.

1 MS. MCFARLAIN: Good morning. Laura McFarlain,
2 Department of Louisiana. I am the alternate NEC. Our NEC had
3 some travel issues yesterday and was unable to make it. I was
4 hoping to introduce him to you all today. He is Gary
5 Williamson from Post 66 in Monroe, Louisiana. He was just
6 appointed as our NEC about 4 weeks ago.

7 Membership: We currently have 939 members. For
8 programs, we have run into some issues with the program
9 reporting but we have just recently got that updated. So we
10 should be good to go there.

11 We have got the Louisiana Moonshine Festival coming
12 up on March 27th. Here shortly, March/April timeframe, we
13 have our ROTC award banquets coming up. We have got I believe
14 4 scheduled right now.

15 Commander, that is my report, and I ask for its
16 adoption at the proper time.

17 MR. FREDERICK: Thank you, Laura. South Carolina,
18 Janice Shelton.

19 MS. SHELTON: Good morning. Janice Shelton from the
20 Department of South Carolina. My report is on page 25 of the
21 book, and I ask for its adoption at the appropriate time.

22 MR. FREDERICK: Thank you. Tennessee, Lee Ann
23 Adams.

24 MS. ADAMS: Commander and members of the NEC, my
25 report can be found on page 26. As well as list of upcoming

1 events. I ask that it be adopted at the appropriate time.

2 MR. FREDERICK: Thank you, Lee Ann. Commander, that
3 concludes the District III reports. I move for their
4 adoption.

5 COMMANDER SHIPLEY: I have a motion to approve
6 District III. I have a second?

7 PNC BROWN: Second, Brown.

8 COMMANDER SHIPLEY: Second by PNC John P. Brown III
9 from the state of Ohio. All right. Any questions on the
10 reports from District III?

11 (No response.)

12 COMMANDER SHIPLEY: Hearing none, all in favor, say
13 aye.

14 (Chorus of "aye.")

15 COMMANDER SHIPLEY: Opposed, same sign.

16 (No response.)

17 COMMANDER SHIPLEY: Approved. Thank you, sir.
18 District IV Commander Sara Pierce.

19 ***District IV***

20 MS. PIERCE: Commanders, officers, AMVETS: My report
21 is on page 29, and I move for its adoption at the proper time.
22 If we could have Illinois.

23 MR. SHEA: Richard Shea, Illinois NEC. My report is
24 on page 30. I move for its adoption at the proper time.

25 MS. PIERCE: Thank you. Illinois? Oh, sorry.

1 Indiana?

2 MR. CALDWELL: Richard Caldwell, Indiana, NEC. My
3 report is on page 31. I move for its adoption at the proper
4 time. Thank you.

5 MS. PIERCE: Thank you, sir. Iowa, Mary Van Horn.

6 MS. VAN HORN: Mr. Commander, Mary Van Horn from
7 Department of Iowa. And I did not submit a report because I
8 just found this job three weeks ago. So I apologize for that.

9 A couple comments: I want to send regards from
10 Barry Remington. As many of you know, he is struggling with
11 advanced stage lung cancer. He is going to be undergoing
12 treatments for an extended period of time.

13 Our SEC will be April 18th and 19th. Our next
14 convention is going to be June 5th through 7th at Post 49,
15 Cedar Falls, Iowa. We did hold a Vest Day on the Hill in
16 January with over 400 veterans attending.

17 And two weeks ago we hosted a large Richard Star
18 PACT Act rally, held at our state capital. We had over 600
19 people attending that event. It was a way to show, rally
20 support for the upcoming March LAW Week by all of the
21 veterans' service organizations in Iowa. It was hosted by
22 AMVETS and the VFW in Iowa. And I would move for the adoption
23 of the report at the appropriate time. Thank you.

24 MS. PIERCE: Thank you. Kentucky, Dean.

25 MR. FRAZIER: Dean Frazier from the great state of

1 Kentucky. I just received this nomination to be NEC after the
2 death of Deanna Maynard on the way up here.

3 So we have a couple additions. Our report is on
4 page 32. Our membership currently stands at 2,303 members.
5 Correction on the date of our department convention. It is
6 actually the 11th through the 13th in Louisville.

7 Under the programs, we will be holding a White
8 Clover event at our convention. Under legislative, there is a
9 current bill on the Senate floor where it gives the right for
10 nonrestricted VA people to file claims for VA people, for
11 members, and we oppose that bill. And it looks like it is
12 going to fall on the floor.

13 And we now have two newly trained service officers
14 for the state of Kentucky. That is my report. Adoption at
15 the appropriate time.

16 MS. PIERCE: Thank you. Michigan. Mr. Jean Hall.

17 MR. HALL: My name is Jean Hall, NEC for Michigan.
18 Greetings Commander, members and guests. I didn't get a
19 report in, in time because it is hard to get information in
20 Michigan sometimes.

21 The department membership is consistent with little
22 movement. We had an AMVETS post that won top 3 business in
23 Big Rapids, Michigan. I just got done attending a SEC in
24 Michigan, Swartz Creek. Attended Fort District last week in
25 Kentucky. And AMVETS highlight is we are working on

1 renovations at Higgins Lake where our cabins and lodge are.

2 It is not complete but it is still open for business.

3 And AMVETS Department of Michigan convention is
4 stated for June 19th to the 21st at Mount Pleasant, Michigan,
5 at Courtyards at Marriott, 2400 East Campus Drive. Jean Hall,
6 NEC for Michigan. I would like to ask for its adoption at the
7 proper time.

8 MS. PIERCE: Thank you. I would like to say one
9 thing. Please keep your prayers for people in Michigan. They
10 had some tornadoes go through, and had some lives lost last
11 night. Please keep them in your prayers. Thank you.

12 Minnesota. Return of Mr. Mike Cook.

13 MR. COOK: Hi, My name is Mike Cook, the NEC from
14 Minnesota. My report is on page 33 of the book. I would like
15 to make one addition to it. Our department convention will be
16 on the 20th of June. Right now I would like my report to be
17 added at the appropriate time. And it is great to be back in
18 the AMVETS family. Thank you.

19 (Applause.)

20 MS. PIERCE: Thank you. Missouri, Doug Johnson.

21 MR. JOHNSON: Commander, Doug Johnson, NEC from
22 Missouri. My report is on page 34 to 36, and I move for its
23 adoption at the proper time.

24 MS. PIERCE: Thank you, sir. Ohio, Patrick Rowley.

25 MR. ROWLEY: Pat Rowley, Ohio. My report is on page

1 37 in the book. One thing to add is June 11th through the
2 14th is our state convention, and that is at 5607 Blazer
3 Parkway, Dublin, Ohio, at the Marriott. That is my report,
4 and I move for its adoption at the appropriate time.

5 MS. PIERCE: Thank you. And Wisconsin, Ralph Beck.

6 MR. AMBORN: I am Wayne Amborn, substitute NEC for
7 Wisconsin. Our report is on page 38, and I move for its
8 adoption. I have nothing to add.

9 MS. PIERCE: Thank you, sir. This concludes the
10 Fourth District reports. And I would like to move for their
11 adoption at the proper time.

12 PNC HEUN: Second, PNC Heun.

13 COMMANDER SHIPLEY: I have motion with a second from
14 PNC Greg Heun from the great commonwealth of Kentucky.
15 Cantucky. Any questions on District IV reports?

16 (No response.)

17 COMMANDER SHIPLEY: Hearing none, all in favor,
18 state aye.

19 (Chorus of "aye.")

20 COMMANDER SHIPLEY: Opposed, same sign.

21 (No response.)

22 COMMANDER SHIPLEY: Ayes have it. District V
23 Commander Brian Bartlett. This is what happens when you give
24 Kelly McFarlain and PNC Bill Kilgore your gavel. They just
25 break it for you by beating things with it.

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District V

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MR. BARTLETT: Good morning. District V commander report from Brian Bartlett, me, is on page 41. Move for its adoption at the proper time. Nebraska, Princess Zach.

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MS. ZACH: Hi, I am Princess Zach standing in for Carol Tcshampl-Diesing, Department of Nebraska. Her report is on page 42. I move for its adoption at the proper time. Thank you.

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MR. BARTLETT: Thank you. North Dakota, Murray Strom.

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MR. STROM: Hi, I am Murry Strom from North Dakota. My report is on page 43. I would like to move the adoption at the proper time. One item I would like to bring up under new business: It is, in North Dakota, we can donate to conferences but we can't donate to conventions. So we would like to change the wording in the bylaws to conference, convention, or just the word conference.

18

19

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21

The state legislature of North Dakota recognizes also because all the rest of the leagues and the VFWs, they are changing to conferences now just for that stupid word believe it or not.

22

23

COMMANDER SHIPLEY: Words have meaning, brother. Words have meaning.

24

25

MR. STROM: Yes, it does. In the legislature, we have got a legislature in our SEC meeting, and he brought that

1 up. He said the difference between a conference and a
2 convention: A conference, you learn; a convention, you drink.

3 COMMANDER SHIPLEY: So we are calling this the wrong
4 thing.

5 MR. STROM: No, this is an SEC right now, which is
6 fine. The other thing is North Dakota is trying to start a
7 medallion thing for our veterans that are not recognized on
8 their tombstones by putting a brass medallion on there.

9 If any other state has one of those, please let us
10 know. Otherwise we are getting that going right now so they
11 can get a medallion fixed right to their tombstone so that we
12 can recognize them in the future, especially on Memorial Day.
13 Thank you very much.

14 MR. BARTLETT: Thanks, Murray. Oklahoma doesn't
15 have a department but Gayla is forward thinking so she sent in
16 a report. And her report is on page 44, and move for its
17 adoption at the proper time. Texas, Curtis Thomas.

18 MR. THOMAS: Good morning. This is Curtis Thomas
19 from the Department of Texas. My report is on page 45, and I
20 move for its adoption at the proper time. Thank you.

21 MR. BARTLETT: Thanks, Curtis. That concludes
22 District V, and I move for its adoption at this time.

23 PNC HEUN: Second, PNC Heun.

24 COMMANDER SHIPLEY: All right. I have a motion and
25 a second from PNC Heun from Kentucky. Any questions on

1 District V reports?

2 MR. : ---.

3 COMMANDER SHIPLEY: You need to go to a microphone,
4 my friend. If all of you don't know, this is the post
5 commander from the post that meets here at the national
6 headquarters. So everybody give him a welcome here.

7 (Applause.)

8 MR. ANDERSON: My question is the medallions that
9 they are putting on, planning on putting on tombstones, how
10 does that impact the national cemeteries?

11 MR. STROM: Can I answer that?

12 COMMANDER SHIPLY: Kick it. The simple answer is it
13 doesn't, correct?

14 MR. STROM: The simple answer is no because the
15 tombstones provided by the government are very restrictive as
16 to what they put on. You would have to put that on a
17 privately owned tombstone.

18 MR. ANDERSON: Okay, understand. Thank you.

19 MS. : Can you state your name?

20 MR. ANDERSON: Dorland Anderson, the commander of
21 this post, 72347.

22 COMMANDER SHIPLEY: Any further questions?

23 (No response.)

24 COMMANDER SHIPLEY: Hearing none, all in favor of
25 accepting the District V reports, say aye.

1 (Chorus of "aye.")

2 COMMANDER SHIPLEY: Opposed, same sign.

3 (No response.)

4 COMMANDER SHIPLEY: All right. District VI
5 Commander Danielle Wyatt. Did I say that right?

6 MS. WYATT: Danelle.

7 ***District VI***

8 MS. WYATT: Hello, and welcome to a lovely District
9 VI. We almost are all here for once. It is with a heavy
10 heart that I have to announce that we lost Washington State's
11 commander Kelley Byers, and we are having his memorial on the
12 23rd of March at Post 1 in Tacoma, Washington.

13 I did submit a report on page 47. But you have
14 District V commander by my name, sir. So you need to change -
15 otherwise the only addition was to give the date. So I hope
16 you accept it at the appropriate time.

17 Moving forward, Alaska, could you please give your
18 report?

19 MS. GOOD: Terri Good from the great state of
20 Alaska. My report -- well, I have a couple of comments. We
21 are having our state convention June 5th and 6th. We are
22 looking forward to hosting Commander Shipley and the other
23 national officers in July. We will show you a really good
24 time.

25 The other thing is -- nothing. My report is on page

1 48, and I hope that it will be approved and adopted at the
2 appropriate time. Thank you.

3 MS. WYATT: Arizona is not here. His report is on
4 page 49, and I hope you approve it at the appropriate time.
5 Moving on to California, Derek.

6 MR. HENDERSHOT: Good morning, Derek Hendershot, NEC
7 for California. California's report is on page 50. But I
8 would like to mention our state convention will be June 11
9 through the 14th.

10 Programs, also, such as the department's suicide
11 awareness, AMVETS 1 bus tour, women's veterans, diversity and
12 Welcome Home continue to improve veterans' lives and increase
13 awareness on key issues.

14 ROTC and JROTC programs have helped AMVETS connect
15 with young leaders and promote community involvement. AMVETS
16 Legislation Day at California state capital was on April 29,
17 no we are not there yet. April 29, 2026. AMVET 1 Tour Across
18 America, raising awareness and highlighting local resources to
19 reduce stigma and prevent veteran suicide.

20 The stops will be, well, they are including May 13,
21 Colorado Springs, Colorado; May 14, Salina, Kansas; May 15,
22 O'Fallon, Missouri; May 16, Columbus, Ohio. May 17th,
23 Washington, PA, headquarters here, which will be a great
24 event.

25 May 18th, Charleston, West Virginia. Sorry, I

1 almost said North Carolina. And May 19, Kentucky Election
2 Day. And May 20th, Louisville, Kentucky.

3 If you need any more info about AMVET 1 and its
4 tour, and you would like to support it, please contact
5 AMVET1.com. And this is my report, and I move for its
6 adoption at its appropriate time.

7 MS. WYATT: Thank you. Hawaii is in the house.

8 MR. VINCENTI: Aloha. Department of Hawaii, Carl
9 Vincenti, District VI. State convention will be 26 June 2026
10 at department headquarters.

11 Our legislative chair asked that any legislative
12 matter passed or bills passed by anyone, if they could kindly
13 note us in Hawaii so we could take a look at it to see if we
14 can copy and paste to support.

15 Please note on page 52 to 54 our adaptive sports
16 program. The outline for that program is available for any
17 department. We would be glad to send it. My report is on
18 page 52 to 54. I ask that it be adopted at the appropriate
19 time, ma'am.

20 MS. WYATT: Thank you, sir.

21 MR. : Excuse me, sir. Could you have your
22 legislative officer get in contact with me? I have been
23 trying to reach him so that we can make sure that Hawaii --

24 MR. VINCENTI: Absolutely, sir.

25 MS. WYATT: And Washington state, Glenn Skinner.

1 MR. SKINNER: Good morning. My name is Glenn
2 Skinner. I am the NEC for the state of Washington. I would
3 like to add a few things to what Danelle Wyatt said about
4 Kelley Byers. His ceremony will be at the Tacoma National
5 Cemetery in Covington, Washington, at 11 a.m. Then after
6 that, his celebration of life will be at Post 1 in Tacoma,
7 Washington.

8 Our DEC for the state of Washington will be on March
9 the 21st at 10 a.m., and that is when we will finalize our
10 convention process. And I would like for my report on page 55
11 to be adopted at the appropriate time.

12 COMMANDER SHIPLEY: Want to make a motion to approve
13 your District VI reports?

14 MS. WYATT: I make a motion that we approve the
15 District VI reports at this time.

16 MS. DILLON: Second. Dana Dillon, Connecticut.

17 COMMANDER SHIPLEY: All right. We have motion and a
18 second by Dana Dillon, NEC Connecticut. Any questions on the
19 District VI reports?

20 (No response.)

21 COMMANDER SHIPLEY: Hearing none, all in favor,
22 state aye.

23 (Chorus of "aye.")

24 COMMANDER SHIPLEY: District VI reports approved.
25 Opposing, same sign?

1 (No response.)

2 COMMANDER SHIPLEY: All right, nobody. All right.
3 Committee reports. Grievance Committee, A.J. John.

4 ***Committee Reports***

5 ***Grievance Committee***

6 ***by Chair A.J. John***

7 MR. JOHN: Good morning, fellow NEC and members of
8 AMVETS. I am A.J. John. I am the national Grievance
9 Committee chairperson.

10 The national Grievance Committee met yesterday,
11 March 6, to hear the charges filed against AMVETS National
12 Saddest Kim Audrey. He pled guilty to the charges of conduct
13 unbecoming. The committee recommends the following punitive
14 and corrective actions:

15 That Mr. Audrey be suspended from AMVETS, from the
16 AMVETS family, for 120 days, with 30 days already served.

17 Mr. Audrey will also write a written apology letter
18 and read it on the national convention floors during the
19 business sessions of AMVETS, Ladies Auxiliary, Sons of AMVETS,
20 AMVETS Riders and the Sad Sacks.

21 Mr. Audrey will also read the AMVETS Family and
22 Traditions Protocol book. Commander, I move for the adoption
23 of this decision.

24 3RD VICE CMDR HARTSFIELD: Second. Sheldon
25 Hartsfield.

1 COMMANDER SHIPLEY: Okay. We have a motion by the
2 report to accept the Grievance Committee's report and a second
3 from National Third Vice Commander Sheldon Hartsfield. Any
4 questions on the report?

5	(No response.)
---	----------------

6 COMMANDER SHIPLEY: Hearing none, all in favor of
7 accepting the Grievance Committee report, state aye.

8 (Chorus of "aye.")

9 COMMANDER SHIPLEY: Opposed, same sign.

10	(No response.)
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11 COMMANDER SHIPLEY: Ayes have it. Thank you.

12 Finance report, Kelly McFarlain.

13 *Finance Report*

14 *by National Finance Officer Kelly McFarlain*

15 MR. MCFARLAIN: All right, so the Finance Committee
16 met on March 7. All Finance Committee members --

17 MR. : What date?

18 MR. MCFARLAIN: March 7, two days ago.

19 MR. : That is today.

20 MR. MCFARLAIN: Yes, I am sorry. The 6th. So the
21 approved financials that we discussed were provided. If you
22 didn't get a copy, they were on the desk in the lobby.

23 But some of the key highlights off the financials
24 was that -- so right now we are projected to have about
25 \$100,000 positive cash flow this year. The first time that I

1 have ever seen the financials in AMVETS that we have ever been
2 in a positive cash flow on the 8HQ side, and we are in that
3 direction.

4 So if you look at the financials, we did have to
5 pull a little bit of our unrealized gains to get us started
6 this year but we do not foresee us having to do that again for
7 the remainder of the year.

8 If you look at -- so another one of the highlighted
9 line items was the convention. We have \$20,000 in chargebacks
10 from last year. That is -- I am sorry. It was \$18,000.
11 Someone corrected me. I said it the other day. So it was
12 \$18,000 in chargebacks. That is real money that came back to
13 AMVETS. That is not like some discount or whatever. That was
14 cash that came back in.

15 Some of the things that we have been talking about
16 with the new convention process and things like that, so that
17 is real money. We are showing a significant change in a
18 positive direction.

19 We had the audit started back in November. Got the
20 audit findings on the 6th of March. Walden Graskin, his guys,
21 presented the findings to the Finance Committee.

22 We felt -- we had a very clean audit. It was a
23 couple documents missing signatures. And I kind of called him
24 out on it if you were there. Like, hey, I did this. We fixed
25 that problem. He was like, yes, but you didn't sign it. So

1 it was like stuff like that. Now we are at ankle biters, and
2 I can deal with ankle biters.

3 So that is the audit. We had a good, clean audit is
4 what we are calling it. And he agreed. It is just a little
5 bit more housekeeping, which is good. You should always be
6 improving your foxholes I always believe.

7 We also met with the Wreaths Across America and the
8 Gold Star Mothers. They both gave us their ideas and thoughts
9 and partnership with AMVETS. The national Finance Committee
10 does agree with the agreement and the partnership with both
11 the organizations.

12 To be open and honest, there is no fiduciary or
13 liability either way with Gold Star Mothers. I think, like
14 Commander and I and our committee had discussed, there are
15 possibilities down the road just being completely transparent
16 with you. So don't look at that one as a -- with any type of
17 physical liability or ties to Gold Star Mothers.

18 Now going into Wreaths Across America, there is.
19 But it outlines it pretty clear in the MOA with that. But
20 like I said, the national Finance Committee went through
21 everything, and we do agree with the partnerships if you do
22 elect to sign that MOA.

23 One final thing I want to talk about is the travel
24 vouchers. How about that, right? Everybody loves those
25 things. So look, go online, download the form before you

1 travel. Submit it to expense@AMVETS.com. Org. Not spence,
2 expense. E-x, expense@AMVETS.

3 Please announce: All NEC district commanders to
4 report to my office after the meeting for NEC checks. Cutoff
5 will be 1400. All right so.

6 MR. : Dot com?

7 MR. MCFARLAIN: Dot org. All district commanders,
8 he has the checks in his office. No later than 1400. If you
9 don't know where Spencer's office is. I know you all know
10 were Warren's office is. Just turn right there. Down on the
11 right. All the way down on the right.

12 But we would like to go away from paper checks. If
13 you go in and you get in contact, make contact with Spence and
14 those guys, we set you up on bills so it is automatic.

15 I know some of you already in here are, so when you
16 fill your voucher, they just go in and they pay you on
17 Bills.com. Money goes right into your account. It is really
18 simple.

19 So you are not waiting on checks. Submit your
20 voucher ahead of time. Submit all your documents, and it is
21 all done with. I hear stuff from two or three years ago. You
22 can't go back three years. So do your housekeeping. Take
23 care of your stuff ahead of time. Don't rely on someone else.
24 It is your travel, not mine. It is yours.

25 So that is -- I hate to keep beating that horse but

1 NEC travel, when I say NEC travel, I am talking to this room.
2 That is our biggest expense? Yes. Okay, so it is all of us.
3 That is NEC travel.

4 We are not talking about NECmen or NEC ladies. We
5 are NEC. All right, so that is -- so whenever we talked last
6 year about dues increase and things like that, you know what
7 that money goes into? NEC travel.

8 So when all of you voted that down, and all of you
9 supported not for the dues increase, what did that cut off?
10 NEC travel. Are you with me now?

11 So that is cash flows. So start thinking about like
12 we have to have some fiduciary liability. The national
13 Finance Committee has fiduciary liability over AMVETS funds.
14 Not one person. The national Finance Committee.

15 So when we start talking about, you know, where is
16 money going? Where is the hole? Where is the leaky boat? It
17 is going to be travel. So let's -- I am just putting that out
18 there. I am not trying to be that guy but I am. I mean, cash
19 is king.

20 I think we are doing a great job. Like I said, we
21 are into positive cash flow but that doesn't mean we are going
22 to stay there. We have to do things to maintain it.

23 I know we are not staying at the Marriott. I get
24 all that. Where we are now is why we are here now. You know,
25 so we are good.

1 Commander, that is my report. Move for its adoption
2 at the appropriate time.

3 MS. WYATT: Second, Dani Wyatt.

4 COMMANDER SHIPLEY: I have motion for the finance
5 report and a second from national District VI Commander Dani
6 Wyatt. Any questions on the financial report?

7 (No response.)

8 COMMANDER SHIPLEY: Wow, Kelly. Hearing none, all
9 in favor, state aye.

10 (Chorus of "aye.")

11 COMMANDER SHIPLEY: Opposed, same sign.

12 (No response.)

13 COMMANDER SHIPLEY: Finance Committee report is
14 approved. VAVS, PNC J.P. Brown III.

15 **VAVS Report**

16 **by PNC J.P. Brown III**

17 PNC BROWN: I would just like to say thank you first
18 of all to Ben. Where is Ben at? Ben, stand up.

19 Ben has taken the bull by the horns. He has a ring
20 in his nose right now, and Sandy Vorhies has been coming in
21 and helping him and guiding him with that ring.

22 I stopped by the office one day, and there is Sandy
23 and him. They are pounding away. When Ben was hired, there
24 was a lot of transitioning that needed to be done.

25 And he has been working very hard at that. The VAVS

1 is one of the most important things that we do. And Ben is
2 getting that straightened out.

3 A lot of the problems come from the Veterans
4 Administration itself. They have shut down, had shut down
5 most of the VAVS programs during COVID. And they are not
6 turning them back on quite as fast as we had hoped. But under
7 the leadership of the secretary of Veterans Affairs, these
8 things are starting to come around.

9 I think you have seen the secretary quite a few
10 times talking to the veterans groups. The last meeting we had
11 at the casino, he was live on a telecast with us and took
12 questions, road notes. And some of those things were taken
13 care of.

14 The other thing is, when you go back to your
15 departments, please remind your commanders that they need to
16 check the appointments. A through M is due now. Just because
17 Joe Jones was there for 20 years doesn't mean Joe Jones is
18 still there. We have found that a lot of them are dead. They
19 just keep repeating that this is the VAVS rep.

20 Please get -- make sure you got reliable people
21 there. That is all I really have unless there are any
22 questions. I want to again go back to your departments, thank
23 your commanders and your VAVS people. Make sure they are able
24 to get the funding they need. Make sure they are able to get
25 the support of other volunteers.

1 Your rep going into a hospital is there to recruit
2 other volunteers. So help them. Commander, this concludes my
3 report, and I move for its adoption.

4 MR. URATO: Second, Urato, Massachusetts.

5 COMMANDER SHIPLEY: I have a motion for the VAVS
6 report and a second from Urato from Massachusetts. Any
7 questions? Inetta Fish, I mean Inetta Bullock from Florida.

8 MS. BULLOCK: Good afternoon, PNC. Sorry,
9 correction. Good morning. I just wanted to make everyone
10 aware who falls under VAVS that the Golden Age Games for the
11 VA will be taking place during the month of June in Tampa,
12 Florida, at our convention center.

13 They are currently looking for sponsors. The
14 Department of Florida is already in as a sponsor because of
15 the hours that we put in through our VAVS. So we have an open
16 spot. But they are also looking for participants.
17 Participants are available from all across the United States.
18 And they are looking for we, the veterans, as participants.

19 I can e-mail you the information, PNC through PDC
20 John so that we all have it.

21 PNC BROWN: If we can make sure that gets into Ben's
22 reports and our set of people.

23 MS. BULLOCK: Yes, sir.

24 PNC BROWN: Putting a lot on you, Ben.

25 COMMANDER SHIPLEY: He is a ranger. He can handle

1 it.

2 PNC BROWN: Any other questions?

3 (No response.)

4 PNC BROWN: Thank you very much, Commander. And I
5 appreciate your support.

6 COMMANDER SHIPLEY: Hearing no further questions,
7 all in favor of accepting the VAVS report, state aye.

8 (Chorus of "aye.")

9 COMMANDER SHIPLEY: Opposed, same sign.

10 (No response.)

11 COMMANDER SHIPLEY: Ayes have it. VAVS accepted.
12 Staff reports. Executive Director Chenelly.

13 MS. DILLON: If I may?

14 COMMANDER SHIPLEY: You want to do the Fund-raising
15 Committee report?

16 MS. DILLON: And suicide prevention.

17 COMMANDER SHIPLEY: And suicide prevention
18 awareness. Sure, suicide prevention awareness. And then
19 staff, you all call get ready.

20 ***Suicide Prevention and Fund-Raising Committee Reports***

21 ***by Dana Dillon, Department of Connecticut***

22 MS. DILLON: Dana Dillon, NEC, Connecticut. The
23 suicide prevention reports that we are busy. New York has
24 helped us immensely. They have a program fund raising. A
25 portion of that money comes directly to our national suicide

1 prevention and awareness. We are always looking for new ways
2 to get the word out. One suicide is too many.

3 We will be at Rolling to Remember. Please, if you
4 guys need help with your state, your department, anything, let
5 us know. We can get you information, who to contact at your
6 VA for free stuff to hand out to people. We can make sure
7 that we get somebody in your district to come out and talk to
8 your department or your districts, your posts. We need to
9 make sure that there are no suicides.

10 That is my report for suicide awareness. And also
11 keep Kevin Madison in your prayers. He had a procedure done,
12 which is why he is not here today.

13 COMMANDER SHIPLEY: All right. I have motion. Do I
14 have a second for the Suicide Prevention and Awareness
15 Committee report?

16 PNC J. BROWN: Second.

17 COMMANDER SHIPLEY: I got second, JA Brown. Any
18 questions on the Suicide Prevention and Awareness report?

19 (No response.)

20 COMMANDER SHIPLEY: Hearing none, all in favor,
21 state aye.

22 (Chorus of "aye.")

23 COMMANDER SHIPLEY: Opposed, same sign.

24 (No response.)

25 COMMANDER SHIPLEY: Report is approved.

1 MS. DILLON: All right. Family Service Center Fund-
2 Raising Committee. Our committee met yesterday to discuss the
3 needs of the family service center and determine the direction
4 of our fund-raising efforts.

5 We will be contacting the Commander, the building
6 committee, J.P., Joe Chenelly and other relevant individuals
7 to gain a better understanding of the full scope of work and
8 financial needs associated with the project. This information
9 will help guide our fund-raising strategy and priorities.

10 The committee plans to meet regularly online to
11 collaborate, develop fund-raising ideas and coordinate
12 efforts. As we gather information and begin outlining plans,
13 we will continue to provide updates. We expect to have a more
14 detailed and updated report to present at the national
15 convention.

16 Any post, any person, department or district that
17 would like to donate money, we would gladly accept it. That
18 is my report, Commander, and I move for its adoption.

19 1ST VICE CMDR VORHIES: Second, Vorhies.

20 COMMANDER SHIPLEY: I have motion and a second,
21 Sandy Vorhies, for the AMVETS Charities Family Service Center
22 Fund-Raising Committee. We need to come up with a better name
23 for that one.

24 MS. DILLON: We do.

25 COMMANDER SHIPLEY: Mr. Vannetta, you got to work on

1 that. All right. Any questions on the report?

2 (No response.)

3 COMMANDER SHIPLEY: Hearing none, all in favor of
4 accepting the report, state aye.

5 (Chorus of "aye.")

6 COMMANDER SHIPLEY: Opposed, same sign.

7 (No response.)

8 COMMANDER SHIPLEY: It is approved. All right.

9 Mr. Executive Director Chenelly, your staff.

10 MR. CHENELLY: Thank you, Commander. Could our
11 national Membership Director Warren Cox, who has also been
12 directing our national programs department as well.

13 ***Staff Reports***

14 ***National Membership Director's Report***

15 ***by Warren Cox***

16 MR. COX: Good morning, AMVETS.

17 (Chorus of "Good morning.")

18 MR. COX: Sir, Joe, a lot of people have asked who
19 are my staff, so I would like them to step up.

20 MS. PIPER: Hi, I am Ashley Piper. National
21 Commander Shipley, National Executive Director Chenelly, NEC
22 members, and family.

23 MR. MOSER: Hello, my name is Ben Moser. You will
24 find our report on page 62 of the book.

25 MS. FORD: Hi, Katie Ford. We move for its adoption

1 at the proper time. Thank you.

2 MR. COX: And if I may, Joe, I would like everybody
3 to meet Shelly Hall. She is our newest employee. She starts
4 Monday. She came here to meet and greet everyone on today.

5 (Applause.)

6 MR. COX: And that is my report, sir.

7 MR. CHENELLY: Thank you, Warren. Welcome, Shelly.
8 Our National Service Director Dana Bolton.

9 ***National Service Director's Report***

10 ***by Dana Bolton***

11 MR. BOLTON: I am Dana Bolton, national service
12 director. My report is on page 65. I move for its adoption
13 at this time.

14 ***Executive Director's Report***

15 ***by Joe Chenelly***

16 MR. CHENELLY: Commander, my report is on page 61.
17 I move for the adoption at the proper time for each of our
18 reports.

19 3RD VICE CMDR HARTSFIELD: Second, Hartsfield.

20 COMMANDER SHIPLEY: I have motion and a second from
21 National Third Vice Commander Sheldon Hartsfield for the staff
22 reports. Any questions on the staff reports?

23 (No response.)

24 COMMANDER SHIPLEY: Going once, going twice, sold.
25 All in favor, state aye.

1 (Chorus of "aye.")

2 COMMANDER SHIPLEY: Opposed, same sign.

3 (No response.)

4 COMMANDER SHIPLEY: PNC Kilgore, National Service
5 Foundation report, please.

6 ***National Service Foundation Report***

7 ***by PNC William Kilgore***

8 PNC KILGORE: Good morning, everybody.

9 (Chorus of "Good morning.")

10 PNC KILGORE: We will -- Agha, when he gets here, I
11 will let him do the finances, but right now I will just go
12 through the other part. We had our meeting on March the 6th,
13 '26, here in the new headquarters at 8:30 a.m.

14 The first thing I want to let you know is the NSF
15 and Charities will have their budget meeting in July, on July
16 the 18th at Post 103 in Hopwood, Pennsylvania. That is where
17 the National Commander's testimony will be. I may be pre-
18 empting his announcement but that is where the foundation is
19 going to be so I wanted everybody to know that.

20 We had everyone at the meeting we had on the 6th
21 except Past National Commander Harold Chapman. He is still
22 having a few issues with health problems -- come on up, Agha.
23 And he didn't want to get involved in a crowd because he had
24 pneumonia a few weeks ago.

25 When I called him, he was in the hospital. So he is

1 still doing pretty good, but he didn't want to show up here
2 and be in a crowd. And I understand that.

3 At this time, I know the headquarters mentioned
4 something about having a positive cash flow. Well, the
5 foundation does too. We still got a plan that we got to go
6 forward but there is still -- we do have a positive cash flow
7 so things are getting better.

8 We also have some plans to start a thrift store
9 expansion program. We don't know where we are going yet but
10 we know we are going to do it. That is all I can say about it
11 at this time.

12 And of course the convention will be in Orlando and
13 we will be there, and I don't know what day the meeting will
14 be on a couple, three days before the convention.

15 With that, and Agha and Joe puts a little more
16 information into this, we will move for the adoption of the
17 report. Thank you.

18 MR. HUSSAIN: Thank you, Mr. President. Yes, this
19 year has been a challenging year for the National Service
20 Foundation. Last two years, as we all know, we came from a
21 serious cash flow issue that we faced during 22-23 fiscal
22 year.

23 We came out of it, right, when we were cash flow
24 positive for consecutive two years and we presented a surplus
25 budget for the consecutive three years. This year we are

1 facing some cash-flow problems again. And the overall
2 environment, as we all know, has an impact on us.

3 Our investments are performing very well. So it
4 will, you know, wherever we think we need some help, we can
5 use them but for now, like the president said, we have a plan
6 to add more to the -- basically to raise more funds for NSF.

7 And as we know, we are adding, we have a plan, it is
8 really in the preliminary stage, we are still working on it,
9 but the idea is to expand our store base.

10 With that, our audits are going on. They were --
11 all of our previous audits as well as this audit, which will
12 be presented during the budget meeting, auditors are satisfied
13 with our performance and considered us as a going concern.
14 Thank you very much.

15 PNC KILGORE: Thank you, Agha. With that, I will
16 move that the National Service Foundation report be accepted.

17 MR. JOHN: Second, A.J. John.

18 PNC KILGORE: And after we have got a motion and
19 second, I will ask was there any questions before we vote.

20 (No response.)

21 PNC KILGORE: Hearing none, it is yours, Commander.

22 COMMANDER SHIPLEY: All right. So I have a motion
23 by PNC Kilgore, president of the National Service Foundation.
24 Second by NEC A.J. John from Florida. Any questions on the
25 National Service Foundation report for the president or the

1 financial director?

2 MR. MARTEL: Can you explain one more time why there
3 is a deficit this year versus the last couple years?

4 MR. HUSSAIN: Yes. The reason is our stores'
5 performance for this fiscal year was impacted by, heavily by
6 our payroll costs, which includes our health benefits, which
7 shot up, as we all know. We also had problems with our
8 merchant services fee that we were paying. It shot up three
9 times.

10 So what we have done that we have actually acted
11 upon two major cost rationalization measures. We have
12 renegotiated our health benefit. Benefit plan saved us 60
13 percent of what we were doing last year. And we have
14 consolidated all of our account within Bank of America now.
15 And we have negotiated a merchant service rate of around 2
16 percent, which went up to 6 percent.

17 That is one thing. And then last year we had a good
18 collection for under the ---- and state donations that we got
19 in cash and in-kind both. Which is as of now I have not seen
20 that.

21 And then if you see the HVRP project, the Department
22 of Labor funded-project, that is our first project. And that
23 project need initial, initial investment because it is a cost-
24 reimbursable contract. So first we need to spend, and then
25 the government will pay us.

1 We have some of our cash flows tied there. And then
2 we also have opened up a brand new store in New Castle. It
3 also -- there was an up-front investment of \$300,000 on that
4 store also. And so I think all these things that I have just
5 mentioned put our cash flows under pressure. And we are
6 really looking forward for our next seven months how things
7 go. And as you know, this is the first time to basically
8 expect a positive cash flow coming this month and onwards.

9 Of course things will move up, and when we get to
10 the board meeting, the July budget meeting, we will have, you
11 know, something else to share with you. Thank you.

12 PNC HEUN: PNC Heun, the great bourbon state of
13 Kentucky. I would just like to explain the reason we come to
14 this mic is so that our notes are accurate. Screaming across
15 the forum is not good. Please get to the mic so all of our
16 notes are accurate.

17 PNC KILGORE: Thank you. Any other questions.
18 Thank you.

19 COMMANDER SHIPLEY: Hearing no further questions,
20 all in favor of approving the service foundation report, state
21 aye.

22 (Chorus of "aye.")

23 COMMANDER SHIPLEY: Opposed, same sign.

24 (No response.)

25 COMMANDER SHIPLEY: It is approved. Thank you. All

1 right. Mr. Chaplain, do you have anything that you would like
2 to report?

3 CHAPLAIN BOTKIN: I would like to say something.

4 COMMANDER SHIPLEY: No, we are not at benediction
5 yet.

6 *National Officers' Reports*

7 *National Chaplain's Report*

8 *by Jeremiah Botkin*

9 CHAPLAIN BOTKIN: Do not get excited every time I
10 get to the mic. I do want to say it is just an honor to be
11 here, to be your chaplain. And thank you, Commander Shipley,
12 for trusting me with the position.

13 That being said, we are going to be starting a
14 chaplain's call, a Zoom meeting -- monthly/bimonthly,
15 something -- but we need the information about your department
16 chaplains. So if you have your department chaplain's e-mail,
17 phone number, whatever, please see me and give it to me before
18 we leave today, okay? Thank you.

19 COMMANDER SHIPLEY: I will make the motion to
20 approve the chaplain's report even though I am the chairman.

21 MR. HENSLEY: Second, Hensley.

22 COMMANDER SHIPLEY: All in favor of the chaplain's
23 report?

24 (Chorus of "aye.")

25 COMMANDER SHIPLEY: Opposed?

1 (No response.)

2 COMMANDER SHIPLEY: It is not really necessary but I
3 like to do it anyway. All right. JA, do you have a report?

4 ***National Judge Advocate's Report***
5 ***by PNC Jan Brown***

6 PNC J. BROWN: Good morning. I sent my report in
7 late and then I was going to read it this morning, and as I
8 pulled it up on my sent things, my thumb slipped and I deleted
9 it. And I can't get it back.

10 What I would like to say is that we have had a lot
11 of issues across the country, and one of my goals for the rest
12 of the year is to do a simplified SOP, standard operating
13 procedure. You know, we are all military people. As to how
14 to do -- how to do a disciplinary action.

15 If it is at a post level, don't call me. You don't
16 want to call me because I can't do anything about it. I will
17 try to listen and guide you but I am hoping that with a -- I
18 am going to work with a couple of other JAs across the
19 country. Florida has a good program. But just really break
20 it down as to how those procedures work so it doesn't become a
21 grievance at the national level.

22 This is a military organization, quasi. I mean, we
23 are all military. We work from -- it is chain of command. We
24 start at the bottom before we go to the general. Trust me, I
25 am not a general. I am not a judge. If you look at the

1 definition of what the JA does, it is to interpret the
2 constitution and bylaws, not to be judge and jury.

3 And if I was and you called me, I am a last hope.
4 And if I say no, you know, you may not be getting what you
5 want.

6 Let us try to handle our differences at the very,
7 very lowest level, which means in the canteen with the
8 trustees, you know, the post commander and the JA and then on
9 up to the department.

10 Very little things should end up here in grievances
11 unless it is just very egregious. So anyway, Commander, that
12 is my report, I move for its adoption.

13 PNC BROWN: Second, Brown, the young one.

14 COMMANDER SHIPLEY: Wow. I have motion from PNC
15 Brown, part II, and a second from PNC Brown, part I.
16 Questions on JA report?

17 (No response.)

18 COMMANDER SHIPLEY: Hearing none, all in favor of
19 accepting the --

20 MS. DILLON: Question, more of a comment. Well, no,
21 it is a question. So we say chain of command. We start at
22 the post level if it is a post issue. Dana Dillon, NEC,
23 Connecticut, by the way.

24 We start at the post level. If we don't get our
25 answer, then we go on to the department. We have -- no, we go

1 to the department. Right now, according to our CBLs and
2 bylaws -- okay, I am sorry. If you have district. When you
3 said district, I thought district district. Which is another
4 confusion and pet peeve I have.

5 Anyway, we go to our posts, then we go to districts
6 if we have them or areas, and then we go to our departments.
7 But then we skip our districts. We have district commanders.
8 We have district meetings. I am curious why is it that we do
9 not allow our district if at the department level things can't
10 be resolved, why can't we go to our district and have our
11 district do anything disciplinary-wise or anything else?

12 1ST VICE CMDR VORHIES: You are meaning the
13 national --

14 MS. DILLON: National district, because that is the
15 only district I know. I am sorry. Again it is confusing
16 having district use in --

17 COMMANDER SHIPLEY: The districts do have a JA but I
18 would say it is a bit of a capacity issue and inconsistent
19 across the board because each national district operates
20 slightly differently. So what may be able to be enacted in a
21 national District IV may not be able to be enacted in a
22 national District VI.

23 MS. DILLON: So that is why I am asking, and maybe
24 that is something we can bring forth to this NEC, that we have
25 a standard just like our third vice. It is kind of whatever

1 that third vice position is at your post, before we had our
2 legislative.

3 Now some still have it as a legislative; others
4 don't. So maybe that is something we can look at going
5 forward, so that we do have that additional level to get taken
6 care of before it comes to a national Grievance Committee.

7 COMMANDER SHIPLEY: All right. Any further
8 questions on the JA's report?

9 (No response.)

10 COMMANDER SHIPLEY: Hearing none, all in favor of
11 accepting the JA's report, state aye.

12 (Chorus of "aye.")

13 COMMANDER SHIPLEY: Opposed, same sign.

14 (No response.)

15 COMMANDER SHIPLEY: All right. So that brings me to
16 National Third Vice Commander Sheldon Hartsfield.

17 ***National Third Vice Commander's Report***

18 ***by Sheldon Hartsfield***

19 3RD VICE CMDR HARTSFIELD: Good morning, AMVETS.

20 (Chorus of "Good morning.")

21 3RD VICE CMDR HARTSFIELD: This is what I look like
22 when I am not a deputy provost marshal. Some people wanted to
23 know. First of all, I wanted to offer my personal condolences
24 to the Department of Kentucky on the loss of Deanna Maynard.
25 You guys know that she was a personal friend. And I share in

1 your loss.

2 My report didn't make it into the book because I was
3 busy getting you guys ready for LAW Week when it was due.

4 Coming in new as the third vice commander, you got to learn
5 how to operate up here with all these guys who have been here
6 a little while. But your main concentration is preparing for
7 LAW Week.

8 Whether you realize it or not, I am obligated every
9 Tuesday morning between 10 a.m. and noon to get out the weekly
10 newsletter that goes out to the leadership and various parts
11 of the state. That is a mandatory part of time that we have
12 to do. I have to review it at 10:00. I have to okay it at
13 11:00 and it has to be distributed at noon. That is every
14 Tuesday.

15 We did have a problem shortly after the Christmas
16 holidays with our lobbyists so we missed a few weeks within
17 there. But we were able to resolve those issues that caused
18 that, and we got back on track.

19 The main focus was getting ready for LAW Week, which
20 we had earlier this week. It takes a lot of work and a lot of
21 cohesion between groups and people. Doug was here earlier and
22 spoke to that.

23 We had an excellent turnout at the beginning of the
24 week. The communications went out well. We saw a lot of
25 people. We did good.

1 We are looking to continue that on and make sure it
2 works. It was exciting because our Commander led a charge and
3 we stormed a senator's office. And that was cool. We went
4 into combat with the Commander. That was a cool thing.

5 But LAW Week was very effective. I want to thank
6 all of the folks who came out. I know a lot of the people who
7 came out were just here for LAW Week and they went home. But
8 we had an excellent, excellent turnout. So I appreciate
9 everybody's assistance and help in this project, and I move
10 for the adoption of my report at the proper time.

11 COMMANDER SHIPLEY: All right. As many of you know,
12 National Second Vice Commander Chris Studebaker is excused
13 this weekend. He has asked that National First Vice Commander
14 Vorhies to read a statement for him, but his report is on page
15 60 in the book.

16 1ST VICE CMDR VORHIES: Thank you, Commander. Can
17 you hear me? Okay. So per Second Vice National Chris
18 Studebaker, he says: Greetings, fellow AMVETS. I wish I could
19 be there in person. But I am going through some medical
20 conditions with my back and cannot travel at this time.

21 The programs department had been very busy since the
22 last meeting. Every department should have access to the air
23 tables now. Only the department leadership has access to it.

24 We still have some posts sending reports to
25 national, and we have been sending them back to them. We will

1 not accept paper reports at all. This will be done by posts
2 online.

3 ROTC/JROTC season has started. We have been getting
4 numerous requests for medals and have been sending those to
5 the departments to facilitate the medals and the certificates
6 for the units. We have medals and certificates in stock for
7 purchase. Just e-mail the programs department with your
8 department needs. This is a great way to get your post
9 involved with these units and spread the AMVETS message.

10 This year's scholarship applications are open and
11 available online. They opened in January and the cutoff date
12 is April 30th. We have many scholarships available for
13 students and veterans. It is under the programs tab and
14 scholarships.

15 The Americanism program has also started. This is a
16 program where we have the flag-coloring contest/poster and
17 essay contest. The deadline to get the winners to the
18 programs department is July 1.

19 This is the program where we get our students for
20 the Spirit of America Program at Founding Forward.

21 Every department gets to send one child, all
22 expenses paid, to this program in November. The departments
23 are the ones judging the essays and then sending the results
24 to the programs department. We would like all the essays
25 because if we have extra spots, we will fill them in with

1 these children.

2 We would like for the winners to be 9th graders but
3 we will take 10th and 11th. Your department or post can also
4 sponsor a child to send to this program. Just let the
5 programs department know the information so we can send them
6 the paperwork. The contest packet is on the Website under the
7 programs tab, and the Americanism tab. Feel free to put that
8 link on your Websites also.

9 We encourage everyone to take it to your high
10 schools, JROTC units, boy scouts, girl scouts.

11 The programs department has White Clovers in stock.
12 We ordered 15,000 clovers for purchase. We are selling them
13 in the quantities of 1,000. The price for 1,000 is \$100. We
14 are charging a flat fee of \$20 for shipping regardless of how
15 many clovers you purchase.

16 We would like the departments to ask their posts for
17 quantities and then put in one master order to help us out.
18 Once these clovers are sold out, we will put in another order.

19 If anyone has any questions about any of these
20 programs that we offer, please reach out to the programs
21 department and we will help you. Yours in service, Chris
22 Studebaker, AMVETS National Second Vice Commander.

23 And he says he would like this adopted at the proper
24 time, Commander.

25 3RD VICE CMDR HARTSFIELD: Second, Sheldon

1 Hartsfield.

2 MR. MCFARLAIN: I have something on behalf of Chris
3 too. So to add to that, since he sent that report, Chris and
4 I have been talking, working with Warren and his staff, and
5 Joe and everybody.

6 So what we are going to eventually do, probably
7 effective September is the goal, right? Everybody familiar
8 with the membership portal where you log into AMVETS? As a
9 member you go there. You can order like the gold cards.
10 Everybody know where I am at?

11 MR. : Yes.

12 MR. MCFARLAIN: All right, so good. So that is
13 where we are going to have the ROTC medals and the White
14 Clover so you can go in, because I know there are some credit
15 card things and all that.

16 So instead of us going and creating a whole new
17 system, the members will be able to go in and order them
18 directly from that same process you order the gold card. You
19 will go and cash out your shopping cart right there. Do it
20 that way, make it a lot easier on everyone.

21 So Chris was cool with it. Warren and his guy was
22 cool with it. So it is just going to take us a little time to
23 get it added to that part of the Website. Thank you.

24 COMMANDER SHIPLEY: All right. So I have a motion
25 and a second from National Third Vice Commander Sheldon

1 Hartsfield. That just tells you how hard Chris is working
2 that it takes like three people to give his report.

3 All right, any questions on the second vice
4 commander's report?

5 (No response.)

6 COMMANDER SHIPLEY: Hearing none, all in favor,
7 state aye.

8 (Chorus of "aye.")

9 COMMANDER SHIPLEY: Opposed, same sign.

10 (No response.)

11 COMMANDER SHIPLEY: Oh, I should have just waited
12 until I was done with Sandy's too. Sorry about that. Sandy,
13 your report.

14 ***National First Vice Commander's Report***

15 ***by Sandy Vorhies***

16 1ST VICE CMDR VORHIES: So my report is on page 59.
17 But I want to just make a couple notes.

18 I do read the NEC book, as you probably know after
19 all the steps I have taken to get here. So I have been
20 reading that there is -- and there is one that kind of
21 bothered me. That -- it kind of really upsets me. They make
22 a good point, and I am not going to say who it is, that some
23 members may not redo, due to financial issues, living
24 locations, health issues. Also shared that some members don't
25 want to renew because they don't feel welcomed or involved.

1 And I know everyone sitting here understands that we
2 have to make each one of our members part of our post AMVET
3 family and on up. And I would hope that when you make your
4 calls for your renewals, and you find out someone is in a
5 health crisis, or maybe financial crisis, that perhaps maybe
6 your post could support that membership for one year to help
7 them over that hurdle, to keep them involved with AMVETS. And
8 then get someone to go and visit them to bring them back.

9 And not welcoming a new member is just not, it just
10 can't happen. And I hope that each one of us lets our fellow
11 AMVET members in our departments know that when we accept
12 someone into our family, we need to treat them like family and
13 not disrespect them.

14 So I know I am preaching to the choir, but I just
15 kind of want to bring that up front because some people are
16 having trouble with renewals, and this could be part of the
17 problem.

18 But with that, I ask for my report to be adopted at
19 the proper time. Thank you.

20 MS. PIERCE: Second. Pierce, Ohio.

21 COMMANDER SHIPLEY: Think of that, Ohio backing up
22 Ohio, wow. All right. I have motion and a second by National
23 Fourth District Commander Sara Pierce. Any questions on the
24 first vice report?

25 (No response.)

1 COMMANDER SHIPLEY: Hearing none, all in favor,
2 state aye.

3 (Chorus of "aye.")

4 COMMANDER SHIPLEY: All opposed, same sign.
5 (No response.)

6 COMMANDER SHIPLEY: Report is accepted.

7 ***National Commander's Report***

8 ***by Paul Shipley***

9 COMMANDER SHIPLEY: All right. They handed out a
10 copy of my report to everybody in here. Hopefully if you
11 haven't got one, just beat up somebody else and take theirs.

12 A few highlights that I would like to say: So far,
13 since September 1 when I took over as national commander, I
14 have flown just over 31,000 miles, including a trip to
15 California, a trip to Florida, a trip to Georgia, a trip to
16 Taiwan. A trip to Korea.

17 I have been to Hawaii. I have been -- I have driven
18 through and stopped in 18 states, for a total of 22,000 miles
19 driven. So I am really doing my best to beat Greg Heun for
20 miles driven in a year. I am really trying to get to as many
21 departments as possible.

22 I have also testified in front of Congress twice. I
23 have met with the VA secretary on three separate occasions.
24 Two have been breakfasts for briefings that we have had, and
25 on Veterans Day this year we were the host organization for

1 the Veterans Day memorial service where I had the honor of
2 meeting the president of the United States and speaking with
3 him on stage at the Bolling Arlington.

4 I feel that it is my duty as the national commander
5 to represent each and every one of you. And that means each
6 and every one of you because as an organization, we are not
7 individuals. We are AMVETS.

8 And I also feel it is the duty of the national
9 commander to represent the entire AMVETS family because they
10 are members of this family. And one thing that I want to make
11 a statement on, as you heard in the grievance report. There
12 was an incident by a member of the AMVETS family that caused a
13 bit of embarrassment for the organization.

14 I do not attribute that fault entirely to that
15 individual. We are veterans. We understand our customs and
16 our traditions better than anybody else in the world.
17 Nonveterans do not necessarily understand those things
18 intuitively like we do.

19 We have shared experiences. Everybody in this room
20 that is a veteran has gone through some type of a basic
21 training. Many of us in this room have been to combat. Some
22 of us in this room have gone through pure hell and back.

23 But we all have these shared experiences and we
24 understand that. When we talk about sacred spaces in the
25 United States, there are a few that we truly, truly uphold.

1 But the ones that we do, we all understand those things.

2 So we need to take the mission of educating those
3 that are not veterans, those who have not served.

4 We need to mentor them so they understand why these
5 things are so important to us, and why certain actions can be
6 so offensive to veterans.

7 So I challenge each and every one of you to talk to
8 an auxiliary member, talk to a Son. Especially talk to the
9 juniors. Let them know why we have these honors and
10 traditions. And I strongly encourage you to then think about
11 the organization. Read the family traditions and customs book
12 that we have. It is online.

13 It goes into detail some of the things that we do.
14 Understand what all organizations that we have. I can't tell
15 you how often that I have had a conversation and somebody may
16 not understand what a Sad Sack is. Or may not understand what
17 a Sons squadron is. Very few understand what Riders' purposes
18 are. So take the time to read through there.

19 Take the time to go to their Websites and educate
20 yourself because the AMVETS family is that, a family. And we
21 need to stand beside each other and we need to educate each
22 other so that we are able to be a stronger, better and
23 hopefully in the future continue to grow to be a bigger
24 organization so that we can serve veterans across the United
25 States.

1 With that being said, First Vice Vorhies, that is my
2 report, and I move for its adoption.

3 MS. DILLON: Second. Dana Dillon, Connecticut.

4 1ST VICE CMDR VORHIES: I have a motion, a second by
5 Dana Dillon from Connecticut. Are there any discussions?

6 (No response.)

7 1ST VICE CMDR VORHIES: If not, all in favor?

8 (Chorus of "aye.")

9 1ST VICE CMDR VORHIES: Opposed?

10 (No response.)

11 1ST VICE CMDR VORHIES: Carries.

12 COMMANDER SHIPLEY: All right. Now that we got all
13 that fun stuff out of the way, new business. Mr. Executive
14 Director, do we have any new business on the slate?

15 MR. CHENELLY: No.

16 COMMANDER SHIPLEY: Any new business from the floor?

17 (No response.)

18 COMMANDER SHIPLEY: Any new business from the floor?
19 New business from the floor. Hearing none, old business.
20 Just go ahead and line up, you all.

21 ***Old Business***

22 COMMANDER SHIPLEY: PNC J.P. Brown III?

23 PNC BROWN: PNC J.P. Brown III from the great state
24 of Ohio. Yesterday during the meetings of the charities, I
25 talked about the family service center, which is in need of

1 dollars to continue to get it renovated and open for veterans
2 and their families to use.

3 There were about 15 people in the room. When I was
4 there, I had people come in, and we raised \$5,000 right there
5 with 15 people.

6 (Applause.)

7 PNC BROWN: I see about 30, 35 people here today. I
8 don't expect \$15,000. Maybe 20, I don't know. But when you
9 get back to your departments, on a serious note, please
10 emphasize the fact that we need dollars to finish this, which
11 is going to help our young people and our older veterans.

12 I believe the Ladies Auxiliary talked about Wounded
13 Warriors. Good program. Family service center, AMVETS.
14 Excellent program. If you can go back to your department and
15 get funding through fund raisers for the family service
16 center, we could have this open. And once we do get it open,
17 we will be able to apply for grant money from the government
18 to help keep it open.

19 So please, go back to your departments, pump it up.
20 Get the money sent in. When you send the check, earmark it
21 for the family service center. I and the veterans of our
22 great nation would appreciate it. I am sitting in the back,
23 straight back. As you gentlemen and ladies leave, please come
24 out through the center aisle, hand me your money, and we will
25 get it turned in.

1 COMMANDER SHIPLEY: I am not handing you my money
2 J.P., but here is \$100. And if anybody wants to match this, I
3 will either give you one of my coins, or if you already have
4 one of my coins, I will give you another memento. But here is
5 \$100.

6 PNC BROWN: Here is \$100. Can I get \$200? Can I
7 get 3?

8 MS. DILLON: No, you get \$1,000 from the Department
9 of Connecticut.

10 PNC BROWN: \$1,000 from the Department of
11 Connecticut. Do I hear any more?

12 MR. : \$100 back here.

13 COMMANDER SHIPLEY: I got \$100 back there from Rick
14 Caldwell too.

15 PNC BROWN: Anybody else?

16 MR. : I got \$100 here.

17 PNC BROWN: I got \$100 here from our NEC from Ohio.
18 \$100 from the NEC from the free state of Tennessee. \$100
19 right here. Come on back. I will collect it right here.

20 COMMANDER SHIPLEY: Sara Pierce, National Fourth
21 District Commander.

22 MS. PIERCE: If you remember at the last NEC Zoom
23 call meeting, I brought up for language of endorsement for the
24 Department of Michigan Commander for PuroClean PuroVet.

25 The actual what would be approved if approved to all

1 AMVETS leaders and members across the nation: As commander of
2 AMVETS Department of Michigan, I am proud to express my strong
3 support for the PuroClean PuroVet program.

4 A veteran-focused initiative spearheaded by Frank
5 Tori, vice chairman of PuroClean, that empowers service
6 members through franchise ownership.

7 For generations, AMVETS has fought to ensure that
8 those who served our country receive the recognition, respect
9 and opportunities they deserve. PuroVet is exactly the kind
10 of program that carries for this mission by opening doors for
11 veterans to become small business owners in the thriving \$210
12 billion disaster restoration industry.

13 PuroVet creates lasting pathways to financial
14 stability, independence and community leadership.

15 We are just seeking for approval from national for
16 this endorsement to go through.

17 COMMANDER SHIPLEY: All right. So we can accept
18 that read letter as a motion to allow the endorsement of
19 PuroClean PuroVet. Do we have a second?

20 PNC BROWN: Second.

21 COMMANDER SHIPLEY: Second, J.P. Brown III from
22 Ohio. Discussion?

23 (No response.)

24 COMMANDER SHIPLEY: Any questions on this?

25 (No response.)

1 COMMANDER SHIPLEY: Hearing none, will the NEC move
2 to allow the Department of Michigan to endorse PuroClean,
3 PuroVet? All in favor, state aye.

4 (Chorus of "aye.")

5 COMMANDER SHIPLEY: Opposed, same sign.

6 (No response.)

7 MS. PIERCE: Thank you, sir.

8 COMMANDER SHIPLEY: Thank you. Bobby Lumpkin from
9 the big old state of Texas.

10 MR. LUMPKIN: I am the executive director. And I am
11 also trustee for Minnesota. And I am giving the report for
12 Minnesota.

13 We had to send Rich up to Minnesota to make sure -

14 COMMANDER SHIPLEY: Have a chat.

15 MR. LUMPKIN: Had a chat with one of the posts. And
16 it took him three hours but he lived through it. And we have
17 really worked hard. We even got and on ---- come back to us.

18 COMMANDER SHIPLEY: You mean that one right there?

19 MR. LUMPKINS: Yes.

20 COMMANDER SHIPLEY: So I do have to say, I have been
21 coming around national for a little over a decade. In that
22 decade, never seen two people from Minnesota in the room at
23 one time. So this is a great step forward.

24 (Applause.)

25 MR. LUMPKINS: And that is what we have been working

1 on. And we actually got another post being worked on too.

2 And they are all Vietnamese that worked with the Army.

3 COMMANDER SHIPLEY: Oh, the Laotian.

4 MR. LUMPKINS: Yes, the Laotian.

5 COMMANDER SHIPLEY: When I did visit Minnesota last
6 year, they welcomed us in, invited us to the 75th, 50th. But
7 it was fantastic, and they were wonderful people. And that
8 post will be an excellent addition to your department.

9 MR. LUMPKIN: And we recommend to finish it out this
10 year and probably have it all settled out.

11 COMMANDER SHIPLEY: Nothing better than for us to
12 get a department out of trusteeship. So thank you, Mike, for
13 stepping up. For any of you that don't know, you have
14 Trinidad Uribe. If I am mispronouncing -- this is the
15 department commander of Minnesota. Welcome him, talk to him,
16 mentor him. Help him get along.

17 (Applause.)

18 MR. LUMPKIN: And that is the report.

19 COMMANDER SHIPLEY: You moving for its adoption?

20 1ST VICE CMDR VORHIES: You guys have done a good
21 job.

22 MR. LUMPKIN: Well, we try.

23 COMMANDER SHIPLEY: I have a motion. Do I have a
24 second for that report?

25 MR. THOMAS: Second, Thomas.

1 COMMANDER SHIPLEY: Who is it? Second, Thomas from
2 Texas? All right. Any questions on the Minnesota trustee
3 report?

4 (No response.)

5 COMMANDER SHIPLEY: Hearing none, all in favor,
6 state aye.

7 (Chorus of "aye.")

8 COMMANDER SHIPLEY: Opposed, same sign.

9 (No response.)

10 COMMANDER SHIPLEY: Trustee report accepted. Thank
11 you, Bobby. All right, is there any further old business?

12 (No response.)

13 COMMANDER SHIPLEY: Any further old business? No
14 further old business. Okay, I want to have discussion and
15 vote on the memorandum of understanding before the NEC that we
16 have spoken about ad nauseam and you have had presentations
17 from both organizations.

18 ***American Gold Star Mothers Memorandum of Understanding***

19 COMMANDER SHIPLEY: We will start with the Gold Star
20 Mothers of America.

21 3RD VICE CMDR HARTSFIELD: Motion to accept, Sheldon
22 Hartsfield.

23 PNC HEUN: Second, PNC Heun.

24 COMMANDER SHIPLEY: All right. We have a motion by
25 National Third Vice Commander Sheldon Hartsfield. Second by

1 PNC Greg Heun to accept the memorandum of understanding
2 between AMVETS and the Gold Star Mothers of America. Any
3 questions on the -- any questions?

4 (No response.)

5 COMMANDER SHIPLEY: Hearing none, all in favor of
6 accepting the memorandum of understanding, state aye.

7 (Chorus of "aye.")

8 COMMANDER SHIPLEY: Opposed, same sign.

9 (No response.)

10 COMMANDER SHIPLEY: There will be a signing for that
11 one following the ribbon-cutting ceremony in the Commander's
12 office. Wreaths Across America.

13 ***Wreaths Across America Memorandum of Understanding***

14 PNC KILGORE: Bill Kilgore, move to adopt the MOU.

15 MR. MCFARLAIN: Second, McFarlain.

16 COMMANDER SHIPLEY: Motion from PNC Bill Kilgore,
17 second from Finance Officer Kelly McFarlain. Questions on the
18 memorandum of understanding with Wreaths Across America and
19 AMVETS?

20 (No response.)

21 COMMANDER SHIPLEY: Questions, questions? Hearing
22 none, all in favor, state aye.

23 (Chorus of "aye.")

24 COMMANDER SHIPLEY: Opposed, same sign.

25 (No response.)

1 no longer in their buildings. They are in the process of
2 selling them. They are meeting at other locations and so far
3 doing well. So I am hoping that maybe the post can come out
4 of suspension. And we can look toward getting their
5 department back again. That is it.

6 COMMANDER SHIPLEY: Thank you. Rich Shea?

7 MR. SHEA: Commander: Rich Shea, Illinois, NEC. I
8 rise to announce that Bobby Lumpkin, Army veteran, AMVETS
9 member since 1998 in Texas, is a candidate for AMVETS national
10 second vice commander.

11 Bobby has been a very active life member. He has
12 held every position at the post, department and national Fifth
13 District level. He is currently the ED for the Department of
14 Texas and one of the trustees for the Department of Minnesota.

15 At every level, Bobby puts in the work that is
16 required to help our veterans. Bobby is on several national
17 committees and is very knowledgeable in all AMVETS positions
18 and offices. It is my honor to announce my friend, Bobby
19 Lumpkin, as a candidate for AMVETS national second vice
20 commander.

21 He is very well-versed in the programs department
22 and the air table program. He will do the work for our
23 veterans that is needed, and I look for your support.

24 That is one. I have a second one.

25 COMMANDER SHIPLEY: Part two?

1 MR. SHEA: Part two. Again, Illinois NEC Rich Shea.
2 I rise to announce that Chris Studebaker, Navy veteran, AMVETS
3 Post 115 out of Pontiac, Illinois, is a candidate for AMVETS
4 national first vice commander.

5 Chris has been in AMVETS for over 30 years. And in
6 that short time, he has held positions at every level: post,
7 department and fourth national. He has also been third vice
8 national commander.

9 He is currently our national second vice commander.
10 I have had the pleasure of following Chris through the
11 department at fourth national. He has been a great leader and
12 mentor, and I have the honor of announcing my friend, Chris
13 Studebaker, as a candidate for AMVETS national first vice
14 commander.

15 He will continue doing the work he is elected to do.
16 And I look forward to your support. Thank you, Commander.

17 COMMANDER SHIPLEY: I am just really shocked that
18 Rich Shea has two friends.

19 MR. SHEA: They pay well.

20 MR. FRAZIER: NEC Dean Frazier from Kentucky. This
21 is for information only. PNC Greg Heun will be a candidate
22 for a three-year B seat on the Service Foundation. Thank you.
23 This concludes the information in the report. Thank you.

24 COMMANDER SHIPLEY: Very formal. Joe Ashman.

25 MR. ASHMAN: Joe Ashman, NEC, New York. I too have

1 been asked to announce that J.P. Brown III will be a candidate
2 for the National Service Foundation.

3 Secondly I want to give it up again for that young
4 man that came forward about the shoes, the AMVETS shoes and
5 socks. Incredible. Incredible that the youth of America
6 would stand beside us and support us the way that young man
7 does for us. So thank you.

8 (Applause.)

9 3RD VICE CMDR HARTSFIELD: Sheldon Hartsfield,
10 national third vice commander. He just mentioned socks. I
11 have a couple bags of socks at the meeting. I will bring them
12 to the back. Please, everybody, just take one pair so we can
13 make sure everybody gets them.

14 Since everybody is announcing what their intentions
15 are, my intention is to run for national second vice
16 commander.

17 I have been in this organization over 30 years and
18 have worked my way up one step at a time. So as third vice I
19 am ready to move to the second vice, and that is what my
20 intentions are.

21 But the reason, the actual reason why I am up here
22 now, is because when we got this building, on the wall, well,
23 right now you see these 12 plaques up on the wall. There were
24 black spaces up in there. And having a conversation with the
25 national executive director while I was the national Fourth

1 District commander, there was a desire to put these signs up
2 but the cost was a little prohibitive. He quoted me something
3 close to \$10,000.

4 So I went back to the national Fourth District, and
5 we raised the money. But I wanted to give specifically
6 special thanks to the Department of Kentucky because within
7 those donations, the Department of Kentucky donated 50 percent
8 of the cost of those signs. And the rest, the other \$5,000
9 came from within the national Fourth District.

10 So I just want to thank the Department of Kentucky
11 and the rest of the members of the national Fourth District
12 for their help in getting this project done. Thank you, sir.

13 COMMANDER SHIPLEY: PNC Bill Kilgore.

14 PNC KILGORE: Thank you, Commander. I would like to
15 announce that I will be a candidate for the National Service
16 Foundation, seat A, in Orlando, Florida. I would ask for your
17 vote and support.

18 I have been a few years on the service foundation.
19 We have got some plans working to improve our thrift stores
20 and get our cash flow back up. And I would like to stay on
21 there to lead the thing because I am heavily involved in it,
22 and I ask for your support and vote. Thank you.

23 COMMANDER SHIPLEY: Thank you, sir. Laura
24 McFarlain.

25 MS. MCFARLAIN: Laura McFarlain, Louisiana. I am

1 also -- I would like to announce that I am also a candidate
2 for the National Service Foundation as a trustee, one-year
3 slot. I am currently serving as a charities finance officer.
4 And we did raise \$1,200 this morning for the National
5 Charities' Family Service building, so thank you so much for
6 your donations.

7 COMMANDER SHIPLEY: If you put money in, see me. I
8 have got a coin for you or a shot of whiskey. Eddie Bullock.

9 MR. BULLOCK: Eddie Bullock, NEC for the Department
10 of Florida. It is a pleasure and honor for me to introduce
11 this individual as a candidate for national third vice.

12 He has been my mentor ever since we came into the
13 organization, keeping me straight: what I need to wear, what I
14 need to do, what training I need to go to. And trust me, he
15 was like my mother. My father --

16 COMMANDER SHIPLEY: Your mom has a beard?

17 MR. BULLOCK: No. Let me articulate that. See, you
18 never cross the father, because he only hit me once and I
19 forgot the fundamentals of breathing. Knocked the wind out of
20 me. But my mother was the disciplinary person. This
21 individual was a disciplinary person.

22 And as you heard today, he gave the Grievance
23 Committee, what happened on there. He is doing it for the
24 Department of Florida.

25 He has been on every level, every department, every

1 seat that is imaginable. He has been a mentor not only to the
2 Department of Florida but across the AMVETS as a whole.

3 So it is my honor to introduce A.J. John for a
4 candidate of national third vice commander.

5 (Applause.)

6 COMMANDER SHIPLEY: Mark Frederick.

7 MR. FREDERICK: Mark Frederick, District III
8 commander. It is my pleasure to announce that the Department
9 of Georgia, Fred Bates, will be running for national judge
10 advocate this year.

11 He has been judge advocate for the Department of
12 Georgia from -- several times, from 215 to 218, and from
13 '24/'25. He has served practically every position in the
14 Department of Georgia.

15 He is District III commander, past District III
16 commander. He was elected as national judge advocate in 2024,
17 and I would like to see him return to that position.

18 COMMANDER SHIPLEY: Derek Hendershot.

19 MR. HENDERSHOT: Derek Hendershot, NEC, California.
20 I just wanted to make an update on my event. We have a San
21 Diego North County Stand Down. The date has changed. They
22 are April 16th to the 19th, 2026, at Green Oak Ranch.

23 And also I would like to announce that commander,
24 our state commander, Jo Keller, will be running for third
25 vice, and I would like to ask for your support and help.

1 She works hard for our department, and she wants to
2 work hard for our national organization as third vice. Thank
3 you.

4 COMMANDER SHIPLEY: Finance officer McFarlain?

5 MR. MCFARLAIN: Commander and national Finance
6 Committee: I am announcing that I will be running for finance
7 officer again, one more year. No, I am not going to say one
8 more year. If you know me, I have always said I am not trying
9 to run chairs. I like being the guy behind the curtain, so I
10 am going to continue doing the job as long as you allow me to
11 do the job.

12 I think I am a good steward. I try to be as
13 transparent, open and honest with everyone. But yes, I am
14 running for finance officer again. Thank you.

15 PNC J. BROWN: PNC and current JA, I would like to
16 announce that I am running again for JA. This is -- first
17 year was kind of a slam dunk or baptism by fire, but I am
18 learning a lot, and I would like to continue with the JA
19 program and make it a little easier to understand for the
20 body. So I am a candidate for JA again. Thank you.

21 COMMANDER SHIPLEY: Hey, you. You doing it again?

22 MR. MAJORS: One more year. I am going to do it
23 again. Art Majors, national provost marshal. I am going to
24 run for another year. Thank you.

25 COMMANDER SHIPLEY: PNC Heun?

1 PNC HEUN: PNC Heun, the great state of Kentucky,
2 where thoroughbreds and whiskey runs wild. It is with great
3 honor the candidacy that I am about to make. It is a long
4 friend of my AMVETS family. I have known her since 2008. I
5 have watched her go through chairs, all of them from post,
6 department, national district, and now currently seated.

7 She has an impeccable personality. And her standing
8 to the bylaws, our constitution and bylaws, is impeccable. I
9 have never seen her get a cross word with anybody. But I have
10 seen her get people in line when it is needed.

11 With great honor, I would like to announce the
12 candidacy for commander, Sandy Vorhies, a close and personal
13 friend to every one of us.

14 (Applause.)

15 COMMANDER SHIPLEY: Last but not least, I will be
16 announcing that with a pair of those wonderful AMVETS shoes, I
17 will be running for the door. All right, any further good and
18 welfare for this organization?

19 (No response.)

20 COMMANDER SHIPLEY: Any further good and welfare for
21 this organization? I would entertain an order to go into
22 executive session.

23 MR. SHEA: So moved.

24 COMMANDER SHIPLEY: Executive session by Rich Shea.
25 I need a second. Second, NEC from Virginia John Cooper. All

1 right, at this time if you are not a seated NEC or alternate
2 NEC or PNC or elected officer from the front, you must vacate
3 the room.

4 (Whereupon, at 11:17 a.m., the meeting went into
5 executive session until 11:36 a.m.)

6 COMMANDER SHIPLEY: All right, we now reopen the
7 open session of the NEC committee. This day, PNC Piening, you
8 are recognized.

9 PNC PIENING: Thank you, Commander. After all the
10 discussion in this room, I move that we approve the
11 recommendation of the Investigating Committee.

12 MS. WYATT: Second, Dani Wyatt, District VI.

13 COMMANDER SHIPLEY: For the record, this is
14 understanding that the recommendation of the IG and report and
15 then the motion from the gentleman from Florida, is this would
16 place the Department of Virginia into trusteeship.

17 PNC PIENING: Under discussion?

18 COMMANDER SHIPLEY: I have a motion and a second,
19 Dani Wyatt, national District VI commander, and discussion.

20 PNC PIENING: How long are we giving them to be
21 under trusteeship?

22 COMMANDER SHIPLEY: So currently an initial
23 trusteeship may last up to two years. It is tough to give it
24 a finite determination but it cannot last longer than two
25 years until reaffirmed by the NEC body.

1 PNC PIENING: Thank you, Commander.

2 COMMANDER SHIPLEY: Discussion on the matter of
3 placing the Department of Virginia into trusteeship?

4 (No response.)

5 COMMANDER SHIPLEY: Any discussion on the matter?

6 MR. : Call for the question.

7 COMMANDER SHIPLEY: All in favor of the motion,
8 state aye.

9 (Chorus of "aye.")

10 COMMANDER SHIPLEY: Opposed, same sign.

11 (No response.)

12 COMMANDER SHIPLEY: Motion passed to place the
13 Department of Virginia into trusteeship. At this time, I will
14 appoint PNC Greg Heun as the lead trustee. I will appoint NEC
15 Andy Martel as trustee. I will appoint Department Commander
16 Dale Clark as trustee. Can I please have a motion to reaffirm
17 my appointments?

18 PNC MCLEAN: So moved, McLean.

19 PNC BROWN: Brown, Ohio.

20 COMMANDER SHIPLEY: Motion by McLean, second by
21 Brown III of Ohio. Any questions on that?

22 (No response.)

23 COMMANDER SHIPLEY: Hearing none, all in favor,
24 state aye.

25 (Chorus of "aye.")

1 COMMANDER SHIPLEY: Opposed, same sign.

2 (No response.)

3 COMMANDER SHIPLEY: Thank you.

4 MS. DILLON: Motion to adjourn.

5 COMMANDER SHIPLEY: Motion to adjourn.

6 (Chorus of "second.")

7 COMMANDER SHIPLEY: Second, third, fourth, fifth,
8 sixth. All right. Mr. Chaplain? Please rise for prayer.

9 ***Benediction***

10 ***by National Chaplain Jeremiah Botkin***

11 CHAPLAIN BOTKIN: Uncover. Now you can get excited
12 to see me up here. Let's pray.

13 (Prayer.)

14 COMMANDER SHIPLEY: Provost Marshal.

15 ***Honors to the Colors***

16 ***by Provost Marshal Art Majors***

17 MR. MAJORS: Coming. Attention, hand salute.

18 (Whereupon, the meeting adjourned at 11:46 a.m.)

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