



2026 MOPHA National Convention Minutes
New Bern, North Carolina
July 13-July 16, 2027

MOPHA 93rd National Annual Convention
July 13-16, 2026
Riverfront Convention Center
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MINUTES OF:
PRE-CONVENTION FINANCE COMMITTEE
July 13, 2026

1 **Terri Shattuck:** Good morning, ladies. Okay. I'd like to call this meeting to started. Can
2 everyone stand please?

3
4 **Collective Committee:** I pledge allegiance to the flag of the United States of America
5 and to the republic for which it stands one nation under God indivisible for liberty and
6 justice for all. Hello.

7
8 **Terri Shattuck:** Kay Jo, can you give us an opening prayer?

9
10 **Judy Fiddler:** She's still down in registration. It will have to be Gwen.

11
12 **Terri Shattuck:** Gwen? Are you here? Gwen? Okay, Gloria, you're on. Somebody.

13
14 **Patricia Andrews:** I can do it. I have something here.

15
16 **Terri Shattuck:** Okay. Good. That will work.

17
18 **Patricia Andrews:** O God, we call upon Thee for guidance and help. May we feel Thy
19 nearness in the business of today as Thou art an unseen but welcome member. May all
20 we say and do be in accordance with Thy will. Deliver us from all bitterness or
21 resentment which may mar the peace and harmony of our meeting. Teach us to listen to
22 Thy voice that we may be helped to make the right decision for the future of our
23 organization. Guide us and help us to serve Thy people and inspire them to greater and
24 better service. Amen.

25
26 **Collective Committee:** Amen.

27
28 **Terri Shattuck:** I now call this meeting to order again. Tracy, you're up.

29
30 **Judy Fiddler:** No, Roll call.

31
32 **Terri Shattuck:** Oh, I'm sorry, roll call.

33
34 **Judy Fiddler:** Everybody can hear me? You can hear me? Okay. Oh here we go:
35 One-Year finance Gloria Sanchez? **(Present)**.
36 Two-Year Kay Jo Baucom? **(No Answer –SIDE NOTE: arrives a few minutes later**
37 **due to her duties at the registration table)**.
38 Three-Year Nancy Lee Birchbach? **(Present)**.
39 Four-Year Terri Shattuck? **(Present)**.
40 President Fran Holtgreven? **(Present)**.
41 Senior Vice Judy Fiddler **(I'm Present)**.
42 Junior Vice Linda Bellis? **(Here)**.

1 **Treasurer Tracy Derr?** Tracy? **(I'm here. Present).**

2 **Secretary Judy Fidler. (I'm here).** And Secretary Judy Fiddler, I am here, present. So,
3 Madam Chair, there is your roll call.

4
5 **Terri Shattuck:** Okay, I'm going to turn this right over to Tracy.

6
7 **Tracy Derr:** Good Morning, everyone.

8
9 **Terri Shattuck:** She's got the figures.

10
11 **Tracy Derr:** We've got the figures, we've got the numbers, we've got the stuff. We got
12 the, well, I don't know where you want to start, so we'll start with the last year's budget.
13 How's that?

14
15 **Terri Shattuck:** Okay.

16
17 **Tracy Derr:** Last year's budget was \$72,300 for the 25-26 budget, and we came under
18 that, leaving \$17,000, \$17,275.69. So we will only use \$55,000 of that \$72,000, which is
19 always kind of our plan, but we kind of always give ourselves a push in, and then we've
20 been coming in under that recent past years, which is good for us. Last year, we spent
21 \$26,068 of our \$40,000 budget for prevention, which was great. I've got the new budget,
22 too. Sorry, I don't have that. I don't think I gave it to Judy, either. I'll email that. Well, this
23 was approved, and discussed at length with the Service Foundation, but at any rate, this
24 budget was for the new year was approved. This budget for last year, everything looks
25 pretty good on this. There's always something that creeps up to our budget line, which
26 is that subscriptions and internet and all of our, it seems like everything we do,
27 especially since National, is so far apart, is going to be internet-based, and there's going
28 to be a subscription fee for it. So, it's at \$3,500. We used 3,4043 and some change, so
29 we're probably going to have to up that again. The only thing that I have over was
30 President's travel, which did travel quite a bit. We did use up Senior Vice this year,
31 almost, but overall, our travel budget is larger, so that's okay that the President had to
32 go over because the other ladies did not travel, and so that total, would eat that overage
33 up. We had a pretty good rebate last year with the \$83,574, and of that left over, we had
34 four checks that did not, um. Actually, I have three computers, two mics, and a
35 microphone. Bear with me. We have \$1,022.68 that did not get cashed in and went to
36 the general fund. \$1,022.68. Other than that, outstanding checks that we have would be
37 very recent, so I don't want to force the June 30th deadline on them, because those
38 were HOV checks, and there's three of them, Unit 200, Unit 1836, and Unit 268. Those
39 just went out at the end of May or June, so it could take a minute, so I'm not going to
40 press that issue. I will let that ride and won't press them on that for a while and then
41 we'll reach out to them. Other than that, notable things on the last year's budget would

1 be our income for registration, which we know that helps offset what we pay for
2 conventions. This year will be different. Last year, \$10,494. This year, we won't have
3 that except for our Zoom registration, because the monies went directly to, I believe,
4 North Carolina or headquarters, and then they paid our portion, so that helps. And then
5 anything that came out of pocket for 2026 will be taken care of by grant, and then our
6 budget line is for the year. HOV, we spent \$3,650 on. CDCE, which is fantastic, we
7 spent \$23,654.55. However, we still have \$6,900 to use of that, because we fulfilled our
8 grant, and we got all three distributions from them, and we are just waiting to use that
9 money, which we need to do. Probably Linda Varejcka already has those warrants, and
10 will do very quickly because I know she was waiting. Then we can request our new
11 budget amount, or our new year's distribution, which is the same amount, the \$30,564.
12 They did pay for our year-before audit payment. You see that we received it. So that
13 was taken care of. I did request this past year's audit request, and we're waiting on that
14 \$2,800. They paid for the audit because they require us to have it. And \$2,350 for new
15 membership. That will go into the membership E-Trade account. Our principal balance
16 will then rise by that much. Our new principal would be \$378,675.

17
18 **Terri Shattuck:** Who's ringing? Hold on just a second, Tracy. Somebody owes me \$5,
19 and I will collect.

20
21 **Tracy Derr:** Oh, my Gosh. You talked about this four minutes ago..

22
23 **Terri Shattuck:** She knows she owes me 5 bucks.

24
25 **Tracy Derr:** Well, you think you got it off, and it doesn't sometimes go off. She's very,
26 very serious about this. Okay. So, that was the new amount for 26, actually. And then
27 year-end for E-Trade was \$475,262.58, making our rebate for 2026 \$98,937.58. This is
28 fantastic.

29
30 **Nancy Lee Birchbach:** That's wrong. Tracy, that's wrong.

31
32 **Tracy Derr:** Okay, tell me why.

33
34 **Nancy Lee Birchbach:** Well, if you subtract your end-of-the-year total in E-Trade and
35 you subtract the rebate that you have on there, it comes up to the beginning balance.
36 You need to have the new principal as far as the balance. So, the rebate should be
37 \$96,580.

38
39 **Terri Shattuck:** You've got to add the membership.

40
41 **Tracy Derr:** No

1 **Nancy Lee Birchbach:** That's what I'm talking about. If you take the end-of-the-year
2 report and your total for rebate, you come up with the beginning balance.

3
4 **Tracy Derr:** So, the end-of-the-year is the June 30, which is the \$475,262.58 and the
5 principal that we have at the end of last year, after the rebate was issued, was
6 \$376,325.

7
8 **Nancy Lee Birchbach:** But you have all this membership in there, \$2,350. You have to
9 have that in there.

10
11 **Tracy Derr:** That's not in there yet. It has to be transferred by June 30th, but, yes, that's
12 last year's. So, then I added it to the 376.

13
14 **Nancy Lee Birchbach:** But that's what it comes out to, the beginning balance.

15
16 **Tracy Derr:** No.

17
18 **Nancy Lee Birchbach:** It does.

19
20 **Tracy Derr:** No. The beginning balance is here, \$376,000.

21
22 **Terri Shattuck:** This is the balance that you've got to work off of because it's last year's
23 balance.

24
25 **Nancy Lee Birchbach:** But this is what the money came in this year.

26
27 **Terri Shattuck:** But you don't add that in until after the rebate comes out, and that will
28 give you your new balance.

29
30 **Tracy Derr:** Let me explain. Nancy Lee, the beginning principal is subtracted out. The
31 beginning principal is the beginning of the year, but before the end of last year is the
32 starting principal balance, right?

33
34 **Nancy Lee Birchbach:** Right.

35
36 **Tracy Derr:** \$376,325. If you add the new additions to that, \$2,350, you get \$378,675,
37 and that's at the bottom.

38
39 **Nancy Lee Birchbach:** But, okay, so you take the \$475,000, subtract the \$378,600.

40
41 **Tracy Derr:** Oh, Okay. So you subtract it with the new balance in?
42

1 **Nancy Lee Birchbach:** Yes, yes.

2
3 **Tracy Derr:** That's how we've done that, though.

4
5 **Nancy Lee Birchbach:** But then you're using the same beginning balance each year.

6
7 **Terri Shattuck:** No. You add this balance to that balance, and that's what our balance
8 will be this year.

9
10 **Tracy Derr:** No. So last year, our principal balance would be \$378,000.

11
12 **Nancy Lee Birchbach:** It should be the balance, but if you take out the \$98,000, your
13 balance is going to be \$376,000.

14
15 **Terri Shattuck:** But she's not added that in yet.

16
17 **Tracy Derr:** No, no, no, no. \$376,000 is where we started from last year.

18
19 **Nancy Lee Birchbach:** I know. But that's what the total will be if you take out the
20 \$98,000.

21
22 **Tracy Derr:** You want me to add in the \$376,325, and then add in the \$2,350 equal that,
23 and then you want me to subtract the \$475,262.58 from the new, this year, \$3,675 so
24 that you want it to be \$96,587.58.

25
26 **Nancy Lee Birchbach:** Correct.

27
28 **Tracy Derr:** Okay, but so we've always, in the past year, because I've used the same
29 exact spreadsheet, done it the other way.

30
31 **Nancy Lee Birchbach:** Well, I wasn't on last year because of my husband's serious
32 illness, so I probably would have corrected you last year.

33
34 **Terri Shattuck:** Nancy Lee, why would you add the new membership into last year's
35 figures?

36
37 **Nancy Lee Birchbach:** Because it's this year's total.

38
39 **Terri Shattuck:** You have to start with last year's... I don't know, never mind. Do
40 whatever you want with it.

1 **Nancy Lee Birchbach:** Because it is money brought in, though. It was money brought
2 in, the 47 new members.

3
4 **Terri Shattuck:** You don't add it in until the new year begins. You take the rebate out,
5 then you add it in.

6
7 **Nancy Lee Birchbach:** Cheryl, have you held on to that \$2,350 the whole year, or
8 haven't you?

9
10 **Tracy Derr:** Yeah, yeah, since it's in the bank. It's not in the e-drain. It's not deposited
11 until after the year is done. It goes in, and it still sits there until I get a warrant to transfer
12 it. You've got to wait until after the year's over because I've got to get final numbers. And
13 then she still deposits all the way up to the end of June.

14
15 **Nancy Lee Birchbach:** So you're putting that money into the checking account, and
16 then you wait until the end?

17
18 **Tracy Derr:** Yes, we have a membership checking. It goes in throughout the whole year,
19 and then it'll get transferred after the convention.

20
21 **Nancy Lee Birchbach:** Okay, okay.

22
23 **Tracy Derr:** So that might be the key part of that, right?

24
25 **Nancy Lee Birchbach:** Yeah. When I get things from the Dropbox, all I get is the
26 spreadsheet. I do not see the bank statements.

27
28 **Tracy Derr:** They're in there every month.

29
30 **Gloria Sanchez:** Yes. They are there.

31
32 **Nancy Lee Birchbach:** Yeah, I have to pay \$9.96 each month.

33
34 **Tracy Derr:** You shouldn't. No one else has to pay for it.

35
36 **Gloria Sanchez:** Why?

37
38 **Nancy Lee Birchbach:** Well, why? I don't know. For some reason, my computer isn't
39 accepting the Dropbox other than the spreadsheet. I haven't, you know. I questioned
40 you about that.

1 **Tracy Derr:** Yeah, and I looked it up, and you're on there as a viewer just like everybody
2 else is on there as a viewer.

3
4 **Nancy Lee Birchbach:** Yep. When I click on it, it's gibberish. So I don't know.
5 And then it says, oh, you can pay \$9.96 each month, you know, so it's like, okay.

6
7 **Tracy Derr:** You shouldn't have to do that.

8
9 **Nancy Lee Birchbach:** Okay, if I didn't realize that you had a special account, that you
10 were holding this money the whole year. Okay.

11
12 **Tracy Derr:** Yeah, we've always had that. We've always been doing that.

13
14 **Nancy Lee Birchbach:** Okay, okay. Thank you.

15
16 **Tracy Derr:** Even before that, even Tammy got a membership. Okay. Because those
17 are extremely restricted funds.

18
19 **Nancy Lee Birchbach:** Okay. Okay, thank you.

20
21 **Tracy Derr:** All right. No problem. Glad to keep talking to you. Okay. So that is about
22 the rebate. The rebate amount will be \$98,937.58. Okay. The BFF fundraiser made
23 \$330. Ornaments is \$77.44. Last year's Ways & Means of means, which would have
24 been last convention, \$2,329.80. And then we talked about the CDCE, we talked about
25 those checks, and we talked about rebate. I think that's it. During the convention, during
26 my report, I'll talk about all the things that we've used that CDCE grant for, which is
27 amazing. I'm really pleased that we were able to get it all this past year. It means so
28 much to the people who receive it. So I can, you know, give you guys a few.

29
30 **Terri Shattuck:** Tracy, you said that we do qualify for our service foundation grant of
31 \$30,723 or whatever it is. We get that in three installments, correct?

32
33 **Tracy Derr:** Yes, it has to be in three distributions to us because we have to prove that
34 we show our work. We're going to do a spreadsheet for the foundation. And I have to
35 give in great detail what we use each grant for and show the total because they don't
36 want us keeping anything for ourselves. This year, speaking of the foundation, called
37 me, questioned things, and also questioned why we had so much money in our bank
38 account and said that on paper we look like a healthy organization. And I said, well, you
39 made that sound like a bad thing, but I'm pretty happy that we are because two or three
40 years ago, we didn't know if we'd last another year. We had, like, after a convention, we
41 would have, like, 60 grand.

1 So we really tried and worked it out. We're getting grants for our convention, and we
2 forgo things that we can't afford. And our interests have been wonderful in the last few
3 years, thanks to Patriot Wallot. And so you may say we look healthy. I say that we're
4 honestly sound for two to three years if we have big convention.

5
6 **Linda Bellis:** Tracy, Linda Bellis Senior Vice. So, yeah. Tracy, on the BFF, you said how
7 much? \$330?

8
9 **Tracy Derr:** That's what I have at the end of June.

10
11 **Linda Bellis:** Okay. And I just mailed a check in to you from Minnesota.

12
13 **Tracy Derr:** And Nancy Lee sent in a check for \$250 which was the biggest from the
14 Department or Unit.

15
16 **Nancy Lee Birchbach:** No, Unit. Our Unit.

17
18 **Tracy Derr:** Thank you. It was a unit. Thank you, Nancy Lee.

19
20 **Linda Bellis:** And HOV from 268 in Minnesota has been cashed. You just haven't
21 gotten notice yet.

22
23 **Tracy Derr:** Oh good. I will mark that off. Thank you. Yeah, I mean, it's a long process
24 getting checks. So, 268 has been cashed. Unfortunately, that's just how it goes. It's got
25 to go from them to Linda Varejcka, to Judy the secretary. All warrants have to be
26 through the secretary. Then the secretary has to get the President and the Treasurer to
27 sign. Then I need to do the check and send it to the President. The President then has
28 to sign and send it to the person. So, you're looking at two months or more. And then we
29 have to trust the United States Post Office, and then I'll make it. Yeah. so, it's been a
30 journey.

31
32 **Terri Shattuck:** Tracy, this is Terri Shattuck. On the audit, I see that the audit has gone
33 up \$90.

34
35 **Tracy Derr:** Yeah, but that's nothing compared to what we used to have today, like
36 \$11,000 to \$12,000. That's the first time he went up on us. So our budget line is \$2,800.
37 So, it did go up \$90, but that's not 10%. Is that 10%? Yeah, I guess it is a little over, so
38 we put that there. But it may go up more. So, I'm going to get with it beforehand. It's
39 random. \$90 is nothing, and it's random, but I wish you would have told me ahead of
40 time. But, you know, it's months after our year-end.

41
42 **Terri Shattuck:** And that's fine. I just wanted clarification on it.

1
2 **Tracy Derr:** Yeah. And, again, we sent that receipt to the Service Foundation, and they
3 paid it. They will pay it at all.

4
5 **Terri Shattuck:** So they will pay it at all?
6

7 Tracy Derr: Yeah. They paid the \$2,800 last year, and this year it's \$2,900. They do pay
8 that. As long as I have proper receipts, they'll take care of it. And I do, obviously, receive
9 it. We get our audit, and we get the transcript. Are there any questions on anything else
10 on the budget? That's all I have and nothing new to talk about. I think that for this
11 budget committee to talk about this convention and reimbursements, I know that we had
12 a large push to put together a bunch of spreadsheets for the Foundation or for the
13 headquarters to get our grant for convention this year because they had to pay it in their
14 fiscal year, which apparently is different than ours. We end June 30. They end June 30.
15 But they wanted to pay it in that actual fiscal year, whereas we are in a different fiscal
16 year for convention. So it was kind of confusing. But whatever. We're not going to turn
17 away free money. So Fran and everyone worked really hard to get those receipts in or
18 warrants in and all receipts we had for it so that we could get every dollar of it. And we
19 did get that \$15,000 for this convention. So that's fantastic because our budget line
20 was... So since they are paying for everything because they took our registration. That
21 offset whatever. It offsets reimbursements. It offsets printing. It offsets the binders. I
22 mean, it pays for so much that we don't have to take it out of our pocket. So I'm very,
23 very happy that we did that, got the \$15,000. Even though it stressed Fran the heck out.
24 Give me a second to pull the budget out. Do you have any other questions relative to
25 this budget?
26

27 **Nancy Lee Birchbach:** Are we going to do it again to start the rebate?
28

29 **Tracy Derr:** What's that?
30

31 **Nancy Lee Birchbach:** Nancy Lee Birchbach. I was wondering are we going to do as
32 far as the rebate again? That National keeps 75% of the rebate money and 25% goes to
33 Department and Units?
34

35 **Tracy Derr:** I think that's voted on every year. So I think that'll end up being a topic of
36 conversation and a vote probably.
37

38 **Nancy Lee Birchbach:** Well, I move that our committee approves the 75% stays in
39 National and 25 goes to Units and Departments.
40

41 **Tracy Derr:** Is everyone in agreement on that?
42

1 **Several Voices:** No.

2
3 **Gloria Sanchez:** I second.

4
5 **Terri Shattuck:** Discussion? We have to have a discussion?

6
7 **Linda Bellis:** I just had a question. Is all of our HOV monies and those letters, those
8 letters that you can get up to \$2,000 grants, is that being used total? Are we spending
9 that whole amount?

10
11 **Tracy Derr:** Yep.

12
13 **Linda Bellis:** So we went through all \$30,000 of that?

14
15 **Tracy Derr:** I'm sure Linda Varejcka has the warrants for me, but yeah.

16
17 **Linda Varejcka:** I would say maybe there's \$500 left.

18
19 **Tracy Derr:** I have a \$6,900 balance because we just received our last one. But I'm
20 sure Linda has warrants, yes?

21
22 **Linda Varejcka:** Because we had to wait. We had to wait until the foundation just sent
23 us a payment. So we had to wait for that to come in because Tracy was going on a
24 negative balance for us for I think Pennsylvania's was, you got yours, but we paid
25 negative balance. And I know that there are three more ready to go. So we're going to
26 be close to have used the whole amount from last year. HOV has always been kind of a
27 running thing because it's what we pick up, that type of thing. So the HOV is a running
28 total, and that varies every year depending on how much money comes in.

29
30 **Tracy Derr:** We usually put our Ways & Means to the HOV. Yes. And so, you know, we
31 went over a little bit there, too. It was \$2,329. So we have \$3,650, but we probably have
32 money left from the year before. So we can probably zero that out. I can research that
33 and send an email out. We had carried... one year, a few years back. We had not
34 appointed our Ways & Means money. We had, like, Diane's and Cheryl's and Terri's.
35 There was a large amount, and then we just add our Ways & Means to that every year.
36 But, yeah, I think we're pretty close to being completed with the CDCE, and then I could
37 request the next distribution, which is another \$10,000, and hopefully we can use all 30
38 of it next year. So we, if your question is, "were we able to get all of our CDCE money
39 this year and use it", the answer is yes.

40
41 **Linda Bellis:** Okay, because I was just wondering how many – okay, I guess I'm a
42 numbers person. How many Units or Departments actually go out and do Viola Drives

1 to help themselves earn. So that, well, the Viola Drives, that money is earmarked for
2 the veterans. It has to be used for the veterans.

3
4 **Tracy Derr:** But it has nothing to do with CDCE.

5
6 **Linda Bellis:** Right, but I'm stating for the rebates.

7
8 **Tracy Derr:** They don't necessarily do it nationally.

9
10 **Linda Bellis:** But for the rebates, if we're not really that stable, should we be doing
11 rebates back to the Units? Should we be saving that money?

12
13 **Tracy Derr:** That's why we have an open conversation every year, and it goes to a vote
14 to the body because some of us believe it should go to National. Some of us believe
15 that some of those Units wouldn't survive without that money. So, it's an open
16 conversation, and we do a new vote for a new number every year. But in the past it's
17 been 75/25.

18
19 **Linda Bellis:** Okay, okay. Thank you, thank you.

20
21 **Terri Shattuck:** Okay, is there any more discussion? All in favor?

22
23 **Gloria Sanchez, Nancy Lee Birchbach, Kay Jo Baucom:** Aye.

24
25 **Terri Shattuck:** Opposed?

26
27 **Terri Shattuck, Fran Holtgreven:** Nay

28
29 **Terri Shattuck:** Motion carries. Okay, Tracy.

30
31 **Tracy Derr:** I mean, we could look at a couple things. What I was thinking, too, about
32 that is we could add that 25% into the CDCE or into the HOV and make sure that it does
33 get used. But it's all up to you guys. There's so many ways we could look at it. But the
34 fact that we're getting 75% has really helped us. If maybe there comes a year where
35 things are just ridiculously terrible, then we'd have to look at that. Okay, do you have a
36 new budget? And I'll send that to you, Colleen, so that you can or who shall I send it to
37 be included in the report? I know everything's printed out and I apologize. I don't know
38 how that slipped. Probably because of my crazy life right now. Colleen, here it comes,
39 I'm going to forward it to you right now. I'm sending it to Nancy Lee, and Gloria, and
40 Linda Bellis, and everyone. We all approve this budget, so we should all have it anyway.
41 However, because I didn't even look at it.

1 **Terri Shattuck:** I'm looking in the binder.

2
3 **Tracy Derr:** It's not in the binder, because I didn't send it to you. That's what my point
4 is. Okay. The proposed budget. Oh Oh, Judy! This budget, the 26-27 budget, correct?
5 This is our new budget, approved in the binder! Okay. If you look in your binder, go to
6 the resolutions and the page before the resolution.

7
8 **Judy Fiddler:** You're welcome. I love you.

9
10 **Tracy Derr:** I know. I love you, too. I wish I could be there.

11
12 **Terri Shattuck:** You won't get here until Thursday. Everybody else has been delayed.
13 Everybody else has been delayed. Your flight would get canceled. Or delayed.
14 And you wouldn't get here until Friday.

15
16 **Tracy Derr:** If I could find someone to bring Dennis to his 14 hundred VA appointments
17 then I would come. But Dennis wouldn't get his cardiac medicine for his new-found
18 disease. And he still uses the CPAP machine. And he still needs his kidneys' scanned.
19 And I know, it's crazy.

20
21 **Terri Shattuck:** Go to the resolutions page. And that's right there. You've got it right
22 there on the left. If you need help finding the new budget then raise your hand. Kay Jo is
23 on a mission.

24
25 **Terri Shattuck:** Is everybody on their budget page? Okay, Kay Jo? Does everybody
26 have their table on their budget page? All right. Go ahead, Tracy.

27
28 **Tracy Derr:** The new budget has been changed. One of the first things is that \$3,000
29 for the audit because he up'ed it 90 bucks. The overall budget for the year is \$83,000,
30 which is more than almost \$10,000 more than last year, but - we're receiving grant
31 money towards prevention, so that's nice. The audit is still at \$40,000, though. However,
32 we received \$15,000 and they paid because our registration went there. So I don't see
33 this number really going over \$15,000. Well, I guess it will because of the other
34 reimbursements. We can only take it out, but it won't go anywhere near the \$40,000,
35 especially since last year we were under \$15,000. The stipends went up because that
36 went back to \$400. Now that we're healthier, it was about to move that back up.
37 Postage, all that kind of looks the same. Oh, no, we reduced it because we don't use it
38 much. SO, bank fees, I don't know why that would have gone down because it's higher,
39 so we may want to look at that, but that should be \$100 there, right? Either way. Let me
40 make a note. Because we run that, since we get wires, it's \$15 a wire, so we get three,
41 four of them from right there just from being paid from the Foundation, so it definitely
42 should be higher than 50 bucks. That's an error on my end. We did do a fundraising line

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1 expense again. We raised 100 bucks. That is strictly for general-fund fundraising.
2 Subscriptions, we went up a little bit, I think, on that. Let me see. Yes, we went up to 38.
3 New QuickBooks, that's a new line I know because we have had this computer, this
4 laptop that I do the QuickBooks on since 2014, and it was Tammy's. So that being said,
5 I've used a standalone QuickBooks that we don't have to do anything for for that long,
6 and we are going to transfer everything to a new laptop and new QuickBooks, so that is
7 why that line was there for that. Funds to transfer secretary items, that was because we
8 no longer will be having, hopefully, Judy as the secretary or whatever we need to do
9 those. The 501c3 is still in this budget, meaning that there still may be conversation
10 about it, but we did decide as a group to use the MOPH fund for grants if we need to do
11 that, but I did hear conversation that there was trouble and that whomever was doing
12 that got yelled at by their CPA not to do that. It's circumventing money, and they don't
13 like it. What it does is it causes an alarm because it's not standard practice. But I would
14 ask you, and I'm asking you to ask yourself if anybody used the MOPH fund anyway, so
15 we'll see how much that did or didn't hurt us. New computer transfer of secretary,
16 \$1,400. Judy's already got hers, which is seven. Ways & Means Expenditures, this
17 means that you as a Junior Vice doing Ways & Means will receive up to \$600 back for
18 your efforts with receipts on things you purchased to raise money for Ways & Means.
19 Travel, pretty self-explanatory. The Martha Washington and Memorials are the same,
20 and then everything at the bottom is all the same. And that's what I got for the new
21 budget. Any questions on that? I mean, I know we already voted on all of them.

22
23 **Terri Shattuck:** I see no hands, so no questions.

24
25 **Tracy Derr:** Okay so that would be all I have for this committee. Colleen, can you email
26 me a schedule for the agenda? Is it possible?

27
28 **Colleen Orfanello as Webmaster:** Yes I can.

29
30 **Tracy Derr:** Thank you so much.

31
32 **Terri Shattuck:** You don't like my text?

33
34 **Tracy Derr:** I'm blind as a bat. I'd like to have something I can print out.

35
36 **Judy Fiddler:** Tracy I sent you the agenda last night, and you responded with a
37 thumbs-up, I believe.

38
39 **Tracy Derr:** Let me tell you about me at night.

40
41 **Judy Fiddler:** I don't want to know about you at night.

1 **Tracy Derr:** Ha Ha. We signed on a condo and I was moving. I was exhausted last
2 night. I got pain meds and was so tired. I will print that out right now. You sent it to me,
3 Judy. I know you did.

4
5 **Terri Shattuck:** Okay, is there anything else that needs to come before this? Yes.
6 Judy?

7
8 **Judy Fiddler:** As secretary, I'm supposed to give you a report for the finance
9 committee. Online sales supplies were 11 sales, totaling \$571. Mail order sales and
10 supplies were three sales, totaling \$194 the two came together at \$765. We have a
11 small amount of the Purple Heart family pins. They're only sold here at convention.
12 Once sold out, this item will have to go into the 2028 budget to be replenished. Another
13 pin, the number 102 life member pin, we only have 18 left here. Somehow, I missed
14 getting that total for when I was preparing the budget for this year. This will have to be
15 replenished as well. So that will go into next year's budget when we start working on it in
16 February. Postage is a major problem. A few years ago, we approved of having postage
17 added to the cost of our online orders or any order. Apparently, it wasn't taken to the
18 NEC or the convention body for approval, so it never got posted on the website. At this
19 time, the charge is going to be an extra \$5. Now, just to send a package, the cost at the
20 post office is \$8.05 for sending one pin. Because it's considered a package, it has to go
21 as that package price. It can go up depending on the weight of the item in the envelope.
22 I'd like to see that we begin to charge an additional \$10 for the postage and handling,
23 and that would cover the cost of the postage as well as envelopes needed to ship the
24 item. I can't really make a motion, but I would like to see one.

25
26 **Gloria Sanchez:** You have it, Judy. I make a motion that we approve the increase of
27 \$10 for postage. Most of you should know, the postage went up as of yesterday.

28
29 **Nancy Lee Birchbach:** Nancy Lee Birchbach: I second that motion.

30
31 **Terri Shattuck:** Is there any discussion? All those in favor? Aye.

32
33 **Gloria Sanchez, Kay Jo Baucom, Nancy Lee Birchbach, Fran Holtgreven, Terri**
34 **Shattuck:** Aye

35
36 **Terri Shattuck:** Unanimous so no opposed. Five to zero, motion carried. Thank you.
37 That's all I have. Okay, is there anything else the ladies want to talk about? Okay. Do we
38 need a closing prayer?

39
40 **Linda Bellis:** Kay Jo is right here.

41
42 **Terri Shattuck:** Kay Jo, can you give us a closing prayer, please?

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1 **Kay Jo Baucom:** I can. Bow with me. Heavenly Father, we are thankful for the
2 business that has been conducted this morning. We're thankful for the individual
3 preferences and the way that we're able to work together to accomplish the business at
4 hand for this organization. Continue to guide us through this day. May everything we
5 say and do be pleasing in Your sight, and may the decisions that we make be made for
6 the benefit of all, not just some, not just a select few, but for everyone. These things we
7 ask in your name, and for Your sake, Amen.

8
9 **Collective Committee:** Amen

10
11 **Terri Shattuck:** Meeting is closed. Thank you. We're done with finance.



MINUTES OF:
PRE-CONVENTION NATIONAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE
July 13, 2026

Submitted by: Colleen Orfanello, PNP

Fran Holtgreven: Please be seated. We're getting ready to start, ladies, gentlemen.

Linda Varejcka: With the colors of our country in place, hand salute. Toot.

Kay Jo Baucom: Would you bow with me, please? Lord, when we raised ourselves up out of bed this morning, You gave us a purpose. We're here together in this place under Your guidance with the purpose of conducting business as You would have us do so. Each one of us has unique gifts. Help us to use those gifts to glorify Your name, but also to further our organization. May we support one another, be respectful of one another, and may we take care of each other in whatever way is needed. You love us, Lord, and we love each other. We glorify Your name and ask your guidance in everything we say and do today. Amen.

Collective Group: Amen.

Linda Varejcka and Group: We pledge allegiance to the flag of the United States of America and to the republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

Linda Varejcka: Toot. Be seated.

Fran Holtgreven: I now declare this meeting open for the transaction of such business as may properly brought before it. May I have roll call, please?

Judy Fiddler: President Fran Holtgreven? **(Present)**. Senior Vice President Judy Fidler, (I'm Present). Junior Vice President Linda Bellis? **(Present)**. Chaplains Gwen Gilliard? **(Present)**. Kay Jo Baucom? **(Present)**. Secretary Judy Fiddler, **(Present)**. Treasurer Tracy Derr? **(Present)**. Membership Officer Cheryl Perez? **(Present)**. Parliamentarian Jan Knapp? **(Present)**. Region 2 President Angie Foster? **(Present)**. Region 4 President Kay Jo Baucom? **(Present)**. Region 5 President Doris Williams? **(Present)**. Sergeant at Arms Linda Varejcka? **(Present)**.

Department Presidents:

Pennsylvania Department President Sandy Verbos? **(Present)**. Michigan Department President Sharon Lewinsky? **(Delegate Debra Allen Present)**. Minnesota Department President Sheryl Osburn **(Present)**. Nebraska President Joshua Peterson. Ohio Department President Casandra Kristner. Wisconsin Department President Nancy Lee Birschbach? **(Present)**. Department of Georgia Maryann Barclay? **(Present)**. Mississippi Department President Vanessa Duet? Colorado Department President Patricia Andrews? **(Present)**. Texas Department President Herlinda Sifuentes? **(Present)**.

Past National Presidents:

Patricia Sharp? Joan Walsh? Carol Lance? Judith Spalding? Nancy Lee Birchbach? **(Present)**. Gwendolyn Gilliard? **(Present)**. Karen Haltiner. **(Present)**. Barb Cherone? Barbara Canode? Jan Knapp? **(Here)**. Terri Shattuck? **(Present)**. Gloria Sanchez? **(Present)**. Diane Petrini? Cheryl Perez? **(Present)**. Amanda Flener? Colleen Orfanello? **(Present)**. Kay Jo Baucom? **(Present)**. Barbara Hale Ray? Madam President, there's your roll call.

1 **Fran Holtgreven:** Thank you. At this time, I'm going to make some pro-temp
2 appointments. I would like to have Mike Fiddler be the Marshal for the convention.
3 Credentials will be Tara Waughh, Angie Foster, and Nancy Lee Birschbach. The
4 tellers will be Kristy Gray, Patty Andrews, and the judge will be Nancy Lee
5 Birschbach. The recorder is Colleen Orfanello and Serenity Shattuck. Can we have
6 the reading of the post-convention NEC meeting?

7
8 **Terri Shattuck:** Fran, the Bible.

9
10 **Fran Holtgreven:** Oh, I'm sorry. Will someone open the Bible, please? Thank you.
11 The reading of the post-convention NEC meeting minutes. Do I have a motion to
12 dispense with the reading of the minutes because they were published? Terri?

13
14 **Terri Shattuck:** I'll make that motion. Terri Shattuck, TNP.

15
16 **Fran Holtgreven:** Do I have a second?

17
18 **Gloria Sanchez:** Gloria Sanchez. PNP. I second the motion.

19
20 **Fran Holtgreven:** A motion has been made to dispense of the reading of the minutes
21 and approve them as published. Is that acceptable? May I have a vote, please?
22 Aye?

23
24 **Several Voices:** Aye

25
26 **Fran Holtgreven:** Anyone does not want that done? Okay. Approved. The minutes
27 will be approved as stated in the convention book. Okay, I have some instructions
28 from our recorder. Please use the microphones. Say your name and Unit or
29 Department. Talk loud into the mic and hold the mic, close. Please, when you are
30 asking a question or answering a question, please follow those rules. Are there any
31 announcements?

32
33 **Judy Fiddler:** No.

34
35 **Fran Holtgreven:** Is there any unfinished business that needs to come up at this
36 meeting? Please state your name. Raise your hand.

37
38 **Judy Fiddler:** If anybody has noticed this lady sitting next to me, she is in training
39 because she is going to be our next secretary. So please bear with her as she is
40 learning, and bear with me because I am training. Thank you.

41
42 **Terri Shattuck:** Introduce her.

43
44 **Judy Fiddler:** I am sorry, Maryann Barclay and she is from Georgia.

45
46 **Maryann Barclay:** Thank you.

47
48 **Nancy Lee Birschbach:** Nancy Lee Birchbach, Past National President. One thing
49 that was not brought up when we had our finance meeting, it was voted on that

1 instead of being reimbursed \$600, National Officers and that, we were talked about
2 raising it to \$1,000. So I think that needs to be brought up so people know that is part
3 of the budget. That is what we voted on at the March executive meeting within the
4 minutes. So I just wanted to bring that attention to the body.

5
6 **Fran Holtgreven:** Okay. Are there any? I am very, very nervous for some reason.
7 Okay, so as you know. Okay, as you know... Gloria?

8
9 **Gloria Sanchez:** Gloria Sanchez, PNP. I did send Tracy a note about it and she said
10 it is in the budget, she just did not mention it.

11
12 **Fran Holtgreven:** Okay, thank you. So did everyone hear that? There was a note
13 sent to Tracy and she said it is in the budget, it just was not talked about at the
14 finance. But yes, everyone who is entitled will receive \$1,000. As long as, Madam
15 Secretary, do you want to tell them when you want the receipts here?

16
17 **Judy Fiddler:** The NEC members received the reimbursement form in your packet
18 when you checked in. Please fill it out if possible. I would like them tomorrow before
19 noon so I can go over them with Maryann and we can get everything totaled. Since
20 Tracy is not here, I am sorry to say you will not get your check at the end of
21 convention. We have to, I will send her a list and she can start doing the check. And
22 Terri Shattuck has to drive past Tracy's home and she will drop off all the paperwork
23 and your check will be mailed to you. So unfortunately, because Tracy could not be
24 here, this is the only procedure we could come up with at the time. So you will get a
25 check, but it is going to be mailed.

26
27 **Terri Shattuck:** Unless you have Zelle.

28
29 **Judy Fiddler:** Yes. Unless you have Zelle and you are signed up with Zelle and
30 Tracy. Pretty much, if you checked in at the hotel on Sunday and you are leaving
31 Friday morning, attach a copy of your bill because that is more than the \$1,000 and
32 that is what we all need. If you are sharing a room with someone and you are
33 including that cost, include your mileage or your airfare. If your airfare is more than
34 the \$1,000, that is fine. You can just use that. Anything that totals up to the \$1,000,
35 attach it to that form. And here is the section where you are the requester of the
36 reimbursement. Print your address clearly so that when Tracy writes the check to
37 send them out, the address can be on the envelope. It will be your handwriting that
38 you will see come in the mail. So, we hope to have them done by the end of July.

39
40 **Fran Holtgreven:** Are there any questions about this procedure that we are doing
41 this year? I see none. Okay. I would like everyone to look in their folder that they
42 received. All of the information you need to know, the agenda, everything, is included
43 in your book. Do I have any unfinished business to bring up? Does anyone have
44 anything? Let me ask if anyone is aware of that. Okay. Can you hear me?

45
46 **Jan Knapp:** You know, we had a motion during a meeting to suspend our bylaws.
47 I'm sorry, I sound really groggy, don't I? I need more coffee. To suspend our bylaws
48 to allow Linda Bellis to remain as a Junior Vice. That is different from what our

1 bylaws say. The motion was made, it was seconded, it was supported, and it
2 passed. Madam President, we need to just ratify that motion to this group.

3
4 **Fran Holtgreven:** Okay. So I need a motion. May I have a motion to ratify?

5
6 **Terri Shattuck:** Terri Shattuck, PNP. I'll make that motion to ratify the bylaw. Do I
7 need the bylaw number? Do we have the bylaw that we set aside to allow Linda
8 Bellis to remain the Junior Vice for One or two years?

9
10 **Fran Holtgreven:** One year? One year. Do I have a second?

11
12 **Kay Jo Baucom:** Kay Jo Baucom, PNP. Second.

13
14 **Fran Holtgreven:** Do I have any discussion over this? Okay, no discussion. So now
15 I need a resolution to... I mean a motion, a motion to put this resolution, discontinue
16 it, and go to the original resolution after the convention is over. Do I have a motion?
17 Do I have a motion?

18
19 **Colleen Orfanello:** Colleen Orfanello, PNP. I make the motion to suspend the
20 bylaws to allow Linda to continue to be Junior Vice and reinstate the bylaws
21 immediately at the end of convention.

22
23 **Fran Holtgreven:** Do I have a second?

24
25 **Kay Jo Baucom:** Kay Jo Baucom, Co Chaplain and PNP. I second that.

26
27 **Fran Holtgreven:** Is there any discussion? If there's no discussion, may I have a
28 vote, please? All those in favor?

29
30 **Collective Group:** Aye

31
32 **Fran Holtgreven:** Opposed? None? Okay, motion carried. Is there any other
33 unfinished business to come in front of this NEC meeting? Linda?

34
35 **Linda Varejcka:** Okay, so. There was some rebuttal that I was hearing in the crowd
36 that they weren't quite understanding what this, what this meant. Okay? Because
37 they didn't understand if, anyway, there was just some rebuttal that they wanted an
38 explanation. They just, they're not, they're not really understanding. They understand
39 that you are doing a, to change the bylaws and ratification, but they don't quite know
40 why? They don't know why.

41
42 **Jan Knapp:** Okay. If, if the President, now this is pretty much at any level, the
43 President terms out, the next one, the Junior Vice would move to Senior, Senior Vice
44 would move to President. There's no alternative option. It says exactly that. So in
45 order for her to remain in her position as Junior, what she wanted to do, we have to
46 suspend that rule. I thought we reinstated it at the NEC meeting, but I don't see it
47 here. So, we needed to reinstate our bylaws. If there's any questions.

1 **Angie Foster:** Angie Foster, Region 2 President. I have a question. So is this her
2 remaining for the upcoming year as Junior Vice for 26/27?

3
4 **Jan Knapp:** No. This year we suddenly had no Senior. She should have moved to
5 Senior, but she didn't want to. So we could smack her and say, you have to do what
6 we tell you. Ha Ha, or we can work around it. So we worked around it.

7
8 **Linda Varejcka:** Madam President and Jan, thank you for explaining that.

9
10 **Fran Holtgreven:** Are there any other questions about this? Okay. So there, is there
11 any new business to come to the NEC?

12
13 **Maryann Barclay:** Maryann Barclay, Department of Georgia President. Madam
14 President, I would like to make a suggestion for a new resolution for the upcoming
15 year change to the CBL. On page 13. Can I explain it?

16
17 **Fran Holtgreven:** Yes.

18
19 **Maryann Barclay:** On page 13 of our current CBL, under agenda for
20 National/Department Post Convention Executive Committee Meetings. And then we
21 have a Section Six and a Section Seven. Section Seven's heading is
22 Convention/Department and National. But Section Six for registration just says
23 Convention Registration. So, I would like to suggest a resolution for Section Six to
24 correct that heading to say Convention Department and National Convention
25 Registration. And under that, Section Six, there is a sentence that says the host Unit
26 and Chapter staff a convention registration desk where you must pay registration
27 and may pay banquet fees if attending the convention banquet. I would like to
28 suggest an amendment to that sentence that says where you must pay registration
29 fees to be admitted to the convention. And then continue may pay banquet fees if
30 attending the convention. So I had two resolutions, two sentences to change.

31
32 **Fran Holtgreven:** Okay, I'm going to I believe I'm going to turn this over to our
33 Parliamentarian again, because I believe that this should come into next year's
34 resolutions. So, this is just what I'm thinking that you will take that to make a
35 resolution and turn into the bylaws committee. Am I correct, Jan?

36
37 **Jan Knapp:** I just would say if something is of urgent importance, we can do it on
38 the floor as a motion. But if it's a resolution that needs to be written in May and it's
39 best that we do it in writing. But, you know, that is your option. You're the one making
40 the suggestion.

41
42 **Maryann Barclay:** I'm not exactly familiar with the procedure. So if you want it to be
43 in effect for the convention, which would be the 2027 convention in April and May,
44 what would be the best procedure to have it effective for them?

45
46 **Jan Knapp:** If you're just doing it for your own personal convention, make the motion
47 there and have it voted on at that convention.

48
49 **Maryann Barclay:** Well, we would want it in effect for the 2027 convention in April.

1
2 **Jan Knapp:** So do you have a Department Executive Committee.

3
4 **Maryann Barclay:** Pre-convention DEC?

5
6 **Jan Knapp:** Make that motion then.

7
8 **Maryann Barclay:** Well, everybody's already at the convention at that time.

9
10 **Jan Knapp:** You don't have a mid-year DEC?

11
12 **Maryann Barclay:** Yes, we do. We have quarterly DEC meetings.

13
14 **Jan Knapp:** Okay. That's great.

15
16 **Maryann Barclay:** So I can make it. We can make a motion that a quarterly DEC
17 meeting, if it's approved at a quarterly DEC meeting, but that doesn't go into this
18 CBL, would it?

19
20 **Jan Knapp:** That's national, so no.

21
22 **Maryann Barclay:** So how would – so I can do that for our DEC, for our Department.
23 How would we best modify this?

24
25 **Jan Knapp:** If you want to modify National Bylaws, it comes through National. If
26 you're doing it through your Department, do it as a Standing Rule. It depends on
27 what you're actually asking for. If you're saying all members attending Department
28 Conventions must pay the required registration amount to attend, that's a Standing
29 Rule.

30
31 **Maryann Barclay:** But our standing rules can't be modified and approved until the
32 convention. That has to be approved by a two-thirds vote at Convention.

33
34 **Jan Knapp:** It can be approved by the DEC and ratified at your convention. But if it's
35 in place, it's in place. Okay.

36
37 **Maryann Barclay:** Okay. I don't know if I need to go online. I would like it to be in the
38 CBL. I'm looking at CBL 2 on page 13.

39
40 **Gloria Sanchez:** Madam President, Gloria Sanchez, PNP, through you to Maryann.
41 Maryann, I will get with you and talk about that if you don't mind. We can talk about it
42 here. It's a Department issue, and I will get with you.

43
44 **Maryann Barclay:** Thank you, Gloria. In my opinion, I think it isn't really just a
45 Department issue. I think it does need to be changed and put in this CBL. So I don't
46 know what I should be saying now if I need to write that up for the Resolution
47 Committee to consider it for this coming year. So I don't need to make a motion
48 now? I just need to write that up as an individual and give it to the Committee?
49

1 **Jan Knapp:** Yes.

2
3 **Maryann Barclay:** Okay. Thank you.

4
5 **Fran Holtgreven:** Colleen, did you have someone asking for something?

6
7 **Colleen Orfanello as Webmaster:** No ma'am.

8
9 **Fran Holtgreven:** Okay. Okay. Is there any other new business that needs to come?
10 Oh, yes.

11
12 **Doris Williams:** I'm a little confused. Did we finish the motion from the last time
13 about the Junior?

14
15 **Fran Holtgreven:** Yes, we did. Yes, we approved.

16
17 **Doris Williams:** Did we vote on that?

18
19 **Fran Holtgreven:** Yes, we did.

20
21 **Doris Williams:** We just took a little snooze.

22
23 **Fran Holtgreven:** That's okay. No problem. Okay. Terri Shattuck, the Finance
24 Committee made a motion that they want to raise the postage to \$10. Is that correct?

25
26 **Terri Shattuck:** Yes.

27
28 **Fran Holtgreven:** Do you want to make a motion so that we can have the NEC vote
29 on that?

30
31 **Terri Shattuck:** Terri Shattuck, PNP. I would like to make a motion to raise the
32 postage to \$10. Postage keeps going up.

33
34 **Fran Holtgreven:** Do I have a second?

35
36 **Kay Jo Baucom:** Kay Jo Baucom, Co-Chaplain, I second that motion.

37
38 **Fran Holtgreven:** Okay. Is there any discussion on this motion? No discussion? All
39 those say aye.

40
41 **Several Voices:** Aye.

42
43 **Fran Holtgreven:** Disapprove. Nay? The motion is carried to add a \$10 fee to the
44 postage for delivery of, for supply orders. Also, in new business, this year we have
45 been working on a new Procedures Manual. I would like Tara Waugh to come up
46 here and explain this to the NEC so that we can have, pass out the booklets and
47 have everyone look at them and then possibly have a motion to bring them to the
48 body. This here is Tara Waugh, and we had a Procedures Manual update this year,
49 and she was the chair of the committee, so I'm going to have her let you know what

1 was taking place, and there are papers being sent to you here, and I would like you
2 to look through it and see what they have been working on. So, Tara, the floor is
3 yours.

4
5 **Tara Waugh:** Thank you, Madam President. Louder? I need to be louder?
6 I'll be really loud in a second. So, what you have in front of you... And thank you,
7 Madam President, for allowing me to be a part of this wonderful team. Diane Grant
8 Jenkins, Jan Knapp, and I have worked over the last couple months on this project,
9 and it's been quite fun, albeit a bit short. What we'd like you to do is look at this
10 document with fresh eyes. We were tasked with a new document, whether it is
11 named a Procedures Manual, a guide, a how-to, this is a fresh, new document.
12 Please look at it not in comparison to the current Procedures Manual, but as a new
13 document that can start us fresh in a new way to simplify and give how-tos and
14 procedures that are very clear and easy to understand and quick to refer-to for those
15 questions that come up commonly. What we had found is that over the years, for
16 different reasons, of course, a Procedures Manual will have something added to it.
17 New things were added, explanations were given, and what we saw was, along with
18 time, duplications were made from bylaws or rituals, additional paragraphs that
19 referred to things that were no longer in existence happened, grants or programs
20 that were no longer in existence happened.

21
22 **Colleen Orfanello as Webmaster:** Is this document able to be mailed to the Zoom
23 Attendees so that they can read it and offer opinions since they have a voice and
24 vote on business matters?

25
26 **Tara Waugh:** Oh. Yes I can. Momentarily, okay. So, what we found, let me shorten
27 this, what we found along the way was there were a lot of duplicates, there were
28 references to what might have been older items in our bylaws that had changed over
29 the years, and we really just wanted to, we were tasked with, Madam President
30 wanted to task us with this, to simplify it. Again, make it easier to use, quick
31 reference, and it can be built upon. So please, again, look at this with fresh eyes.
32 Know that every year, obviously, this document can change. It can change, it can be
33 added to, if there is a procedure that people are, the members are wanting to
34 reference and it's not there, it can be added, it can be discussed.
35 So, again, fresh eyes, everyone, please look at this with fresh eyes. And let us know,
36 obviously, if there are portions that you regularly would refer to in the original or
37 current Procedures Manual that can be discussed. I'm sure that you'll bring them up.
38 So, thank you.

39
40 **Fran Holtgreven:** Thank you, Tara. I would, I am wondering if anybody would like to
41 make a motion that this new booklet be put forward to the body of the convention.
42 Okay?

43
44 **Terri Shattuck:** Okay, so I think we need to wait until the Zoom people get the
45 booklet.

46
47 **Fran Holtgreven:** Okay. Okay. Kay Jo, do you have a question?
48

Kay Jo Baucom: In my cheerleader voice, I really don't need this microphone. Kay Jo Baucom, Co Chaplain. I personally would like to thank Madam President and Tara and Diane and Jan for doing this because if you have at any time experienced trying to go through the old documents, you have a genuine appreciation now for a concise, simplified, streamlined, whatever descriptive word you would like to use. I am personally indebted because I can read this. I know what it means. I appreciate the time and the effort that was put into this, and I commend that committee and you, Madam President, for having put that in motion. Thank you, thank you, thank you.

Fran Holtgreven: Thank you. We had a great group who helped with this. They put a lot of time in it, and I was very proud of what they produced.

Linda Bellis: Linda Bellis, Junior Vice. Once this is approved, will it be on the website so people who are not here can download it?

Colleen Orfanello as Webmaster: Yes, it will.

Fran Holtgreven: Thank you. Okay, is there any other new business that needs to come before this committee? Okay. If not, can we have the closing prayer, please?

Kay Jo Baucom: I am going to do the closing prayer, but before we do that, I would like to start kind of a new tradition. It's been done in the past, kind of sporadically. But what I would like to do is each time we come together is have some kind of inspirational moment. Maybe it's a phrase that we want to share with you to help your day. Maybe it is a poem or perhaps it's a scripture reading, but whatever we want, some way to keep us connected, to keep us focused, and to also let each one of you know how important you are to the rest of us. None of this happens by one person. It involves all working together. So here's what I want to share with you today. "You don't have to be strong in your weakness. God's strength shows through, and His strength surpasses anything that you could produce, even on your best day. It's the same strength that spoke the heavens and the earth into existence. The same strength that parted the Red Sea, and it's the same strength that made the journey to the cross. So how do you tap into that strength? Really, there's only one way. Come into His presence. Spend some quiet time with Him. Allow His strong arms to encourage you. God is really all you need." Now, if you'll bow with me. May I have everyone stand, please, if you are available to stand, or able to stand, not available, able to stand. Will you bow? "Our gracious Heavenly Father, we come to you with hearts full of hope. Hope for our organization. Hope for our families, our country. Hope for those who are serving, that You will protect them and guide them on their way. We are thankful for each one who is here. We thank you for the ability to come together as a group. We thank You that we all have hearts of service. We serve You first, and then those who have served us. We thank You for this time together, and we look forward to a productive, wonderfully fun convention. God bless those who are here. God, may You bless our troops who are serving. And God bless the USA. Amen.

Several Voices: Amen

Fran Holtgreven: The meeting is adjourned. Meeting is adjourned, and we will start our first business session in 15 minutes. So please come back to the room.



MINUTES OF:
MOPHA NATIONAL CONVENTION BUSINESS SESSION 1
July 13, 2026

1 **Fran Holtgreven:** Auxiliary members, please take your seats.

2
3 **Linda Varejcka:** Rise and hand salute

4
5 **Kay Jo Baucom:** Please bow with me. Heavenly Father, we join you in celebration of
6 our wonderful servicemen and women. We thank them for their service. We thank you
7 for the opportunity to come together as a family of the Military Order of the Purple Heart,
8 in support of those who have served before and are still serving. May our meeting here
9 today glorify your name and honor and remember the services and sacrifices given.
10 Thank you. Amen.

11
12 **Several Voices:** Amen

13
14 **Linda Varejcka:** Please notice a POW/MIA empty chair is placed in our meeting so that
15 we, a symbol of the thousands of American POW/MIAs, are accounted for from all wars
16 and conflicts involving the United States. It is a reminder for all of us to spare no effort to
17 secure the release of any American prisoners from captivity. Through patriotism of the
18 remains of those who died and who stand for our liberty, and in full accounting of those
19 missing, let us dedicate ourselves to this vital endeavor.
20 Marshal Mike, will you please put the MIA POW chair cover on the empty chair?
21 Auxiliary members, please salute. Now, please join me in reciting with joy in your heart
22 the pledge to our American flag.

23
24 **Collective Group:** I pledge allegiance to the flag of the United States of America, and
25 to the republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and
26 justice for all.

27
28 **Linda Varejcka:** Will you please join me in singing our national anthem.

29
30 **Collective Group:** Oh, say can you see by the dawn's early light. What so proudly we
31 hailed at the twilight's last gleaming? Whose broad stripes and bright stars through the
32 perilous fight O'er the ramparts we watched were so gallantly streaming? And the
33 rocket's red glare, the bombs bursting in air, gave proof through the night that our flag
34 was still there. Oh, say does that star-spangled banner yet wave O'er the land of the
35 free and the home of the brave.

36
37 **Fran Holtgreven:** Okay, I now declare this convention, the 93rd annual Military Order of
38 the Purple Heart Auxiliary Convention, open for the transaction of such business as may
39 properly be brought before it. Welcome, everyone. I'm so glad to see you all here. And
40 let us remember that we have business to take care of, but we have to have some fun

1 too. So we'll put a smile on our faces no matter what happens. If the microphone goes
2 off, plug your ears, we should have put some plugs in these little things, you know, but
3 no, we're going to make the best of it. We're going to have a good time and we're going
4 to enjoy each other and just relax. Not easy for me. Okay. First of all, I would like the roll
5 call. Judy?

6
7 **Judy Fiddler:** President Fran Holtgreven? **(Here)**. Senior Vice President Judy Fiddler
8 **(I'm here)**. Junior Vice President Linda Bellis? **(Here)**. Chaplains Gwendolyn Gilliard?
9 **(Present)**. Kay Jo Baucom? **(Here)**. Treasurer Tracy Derr? **(Here)**. Secretary Judy
10 Fiddler? **(I'm still here)**. Parliamentarian Jan Knapp? **(Here)**. Region 2 President Angie
11 Foster? **(Here)**. Region 4 President, Kay Jo Baucom? **(Here)**. Region 5 President Doris
12 Williams? **(Here)**. Sgt at Arms Linda Varejcka? **(Here)**.

13 **Presidents:**

14 Department of Pennsylvania Sandy Verbos? **(Here)**. Department of Michigan Sr Vice
15 Debra Allen? **(Here)**. Department of Minnesota President Sheryl Osburn? **(Here)**.
16 Nebraska Department President Joshua Peterson? Department of Ohio Department Sr
17 Vice President Darlene Hanneman? **(Here)**. Wisconsin Department President Nancy
18 Lee Birschbach? **(Present)**. Department of Georgia President Maryann Barclay?
19 **(Present)**. Department of Mississippi President Vanesa Duet? Colorado Department
20 President Patrician Andrews? **(Present)**. Texas Department President Herlinda
21 Sifuentes? **(Present)**.

22 **Past National Presidents:**

23 Patricia Sharpe? Joan Walsh? Carol Lance? Judy Spaulding? Nancy Lee Birchbach?
24 **(Present)**. Gwendolyn Gilliard? **(Present)**. Karen Haltiner **(Present)**. Barb Cherone?
25 Barbara Canode? Jan Knapp? **(Present)**. Terri Shattuck? **(Present)**. Gloria Sanchez?
26 **(Present)**. Diane Petrini? Cheryl Perez? **(Here)**. Amanda Flener? Colleen Orfanello?
27 **(Here)**, Kay Jo Baucom? **(Here)**. Barbara Hale Ray?

28 **Roll call for the Units:** If anyone can respond to the Unit number, like if you are the
29 President, Senior, or Junior, please shout that out so that we can take note of the
30 leadership representation.

31 **Region 1:** New York 3? Pennsylvania 11? **(11 Here)**. Pennsylvania 190?

32 **Region 2:** Iowa 777. Michigan 91? Michigan 110? Michigan127? Michigan 459? **(Here)**
33 Michigan 1985? **(Here)**. Minnesota 5? Minnesota 8? Minnesota 268? **(Here)**.
34 Nebraska 200? **(Here)**. Nebraska 260? Nebraska 632? Ohio 31? Ohio 743 **(Mike**
35 **Fiddler Secretary)** Ohio 1974 **(Darlene Hanneman President)** Wisconsin162? **(Here)**
36 Wisconsin 164? Wisconsin 228? 550?

37 **Region 3:**

38 Oregon 72? **(Karen Haltiner Here)** 33?

Region 4: Alabama 2202? Florida 535? (**Present, Christine Day**). Thank you. Georgia 426? Georgia 465? (**Present, Kay Jo Baucom**). Georgia 492? (**Present, Maryann Barclay**). Mississippi 680? Mississippi 690? Mississippi 803?

Region 5: Colorado 375? (**Jan Huffman President 375**). Colorado 423? Louisiana 177? (**Colleen Orfanello acting President**). Louisiana 504? Louisiana 1955? (**Here, Sidnii Gilliard**). Texas 1836? (**Present Anita Hunt Trevino Present via Zoom**). Texas 1876? (**Doris Williams**). Texas 1919?

Region 6: California 49? (**Cheryl Perez Unit 49 via Zoom**). California 385?
Madam President, there's your roll call.

Terri Shattuck: Judy? Judy? Unit 127 is here and also Unit 190. 127 from Michigan and 190 from Pennsylvania.

Judy Fiddler: Thank you.

Jennyne Bilsky: and Unit 1919 from Austin.

Judy Fiddler: Thank you. Thank you, Jennyne.

Dixie Pickart: Unit 777, Iowa. Dixie Pickert.

Fran Holtgreven: Madam Parliamentarian, can you read our Preamble?

Jan Knapp: We, the parents, grandparents, spouses, widows, widowers, siblings, children, and grandchildren of combat veterans of wars of the United States, who for their valiant service have been awarded the Purple Heart, founded by General George Washington in 1782, in order to perpetuate principles of national patriotism and justice, do here ordain and establish the Military Order of the Purple Heart Auxiliary of the United States of America incorporated. We pledge ourselves to sponsor those principles of liberty, justice and general welfare that have made the United States the great nation that it is today. We further pledge ourselves to assist the Military Order of the Purple Heart in carrying out its patriotic, fraternal, educational, and historical programs. Okay. That's all.

Fran Holtgreven: Thank you. Kay Jo? Would you like read about hallowed ground?

Kay Jo Baucom: Yes I would. I'd like to direct your attention to this triangular area, let me start again, I'd like to direct your attention to a triangular area, it is the face where our leadership is seated, it is from this flag to a point in front of our Bible and charter, to the opposite flag, our United States flag, it is called hallowed ground, and this is why we

1 don't walk on hallowed ground, between these flags that proudly fly, let no man dare to
2 stand, for here our fallen patriots be, a symbol, yes, but mark it well, here let us ever
3 humbly pause in memory of the lads who fell in fighting for our sacred cause, on land
4 and sea these buddies fell, some lie beneath a foreign sod, caressed by winds and tide,
5 in spots unknown to all, but God, and so this place is hallowed ground and it shall be
6 forever blessed, as though it were a grassy mound beneath which gallant heroes rest,
7 be ever watchful ladies of those two flags which signify that we should guard this spot
8 with care, where our departed patriots lie, and if a man should dare to tread the spot
9 where lie, our gallant brave, he desecrates those noble data as though he walked upon
10 their grave.

11
12 **Fran Holtgreven:** Thank you, Kay Jo. At this time, I know I announced them at the
13 NEC, the pro-temp people who will be taking over places where people are not
14 available to come today, but I know there's some people here who were not here so I'm
15 going to announce them again. Pro-temp for Marshal is Mike Fiddler, credentials are
16 Tara Waugh, Angie Foster, and Nancy Lee Birchbach. Tellers are Kristy Gray and Patty
17 Andrews. The judge will be Nancy Lee Birchbach. The recorders are Serenity Shattuck
18 and ugh I'm going to call you Tracy. I mean Colleen Orfanello. So, these are the pro
19 temps that will take care of business that we have. Judy, would you please give the
20 Rules for the convention?

21
22 **Judy Fiddler:** Rules of the National Convention, unless otherwise voted by the
23 Convention assembled, shall be as follows: The Constitution and Bylaws of the Military
24 Order of the Purple Heart Auxiliary and Robert's Rules of Order, Newly Revised.
25 Convention Sessions will be recorded for transcribing. A record will be available to all
26 members in accordance with the requirement of our Parent Organization. Only duly
27 accredited and registered members of the National Convention that belong to an active
28 Unit shall participate directly, or indirectly, in discussions or voice vote. Hand or standing
29 vote may be permitted on any subject before the Convention. The Chair may grant the
30 floor to any visitor with the consent of a majority of the Convention and this privilege
31 shall not be extended for business or point of order. A member desiring to make a
32 motion or address the Convention will rise, be recognized before addressing the
33 Presiding Officer as "Madam/Mr. President," state their name, Unit number, and office
34 clearly into the microphone before proceeding. At the discretion of the Presiding Officer,
35 discussions shall be limited to three minutes for each speaker. A member may be
36 permitted to speak only once on any subject, except by the consent of two thirds vote of
37 the votes cast by the Convention's Delegates. Committee Chairs may speak as
38 frequently as may be necessary about the report of their Committee. Voting shall be by
39 voice for business matters, by ballot for Election of Officers unless there is only one
40 candidate, by roll call for decision of question. Units shall not be entitled to any Delegate

1 votes that have fewer than the minimum requirement of ten senior members and not
2 submitted an Installation Report. Departments that have not submitted Installation
3 Reports by May 31st shall not be entitled to any votes. Voting by ballot will be as
4 follows: Each Unit or Department is entitled to cast one Charter Vote providing the
5 President thereof, or one of the Vice Presidents, is voting in the capacity of President.
6 Each elective National Officer, National Secretary, National Membership Officer, VAVS
7 National Representative is entitled to cast one vote. Delegates elected by Units will vote
8 their Unit strength as reported by the Credentials Committee appointed by the National
9 President. Recommendations for consideration and action of the Convention shall be in
10 the form of Resolutions as advanced by Units, Departments, or official committees. 1.
11 All Resolutions offered on the floor of the Convention, or otherwise after reading by the
12 Secretary, shall be referred by the Chair to the proper Committee for consideration and
13 report, with or without recommendation. The Resolutions must be signed and dated.
14 The Resolutions must be received by the National Secretary at least thirty calendar
15 days prior to the Convention. Nomination for National Officers shall be from the floor:
16 Nominating speeches are limited to one for each candidate, not to exceed three
17 minutes. After allowing ample time for additional nominations, if there is but one
18 candidate for office, the Chair may declare the nominations closed, or if after all offices
19 have been covered, entertain a motion that nominations be closed. The latter is
20 preferred motion for following Parliamentary rules. If there is no election on the first
21 vote, the name of the person receiving the lowest number of votes may be dropped, and
22 so on in successive votes, until an election is made. Voting by proxy shall not be
23 permitted. Every Officer, Delegate and Alternate should feel obligated to attend all
24 business sessions of the Convention so they may give a complete report to their Unit.
25 All members should willingly accept any assignment given them by the President.
26 Loyalty should be shown to all Officers and courtesy should be shown to all members.
27 The discussion of personal grievances, local conditions, or circumstances pertaining to
28 one individual only, with respect to any personal interest, shall not be in order before the
29 Convention but may be discussed before the Grievance Committee of the Convention
30 Article XV, Section 10.

31
32 **Fran Holtgreven:** Thank you, Judy. I am going to give the virtual attendance for the
33 National Convention rules. Virtual attendance for the National Convention in Newburgh,
34 North Carolina is available to Auxiliary members who have paid the zoom registration
35 fee. Please read the following to ensure successful participation. Virtual attendees may
36 speak and vote as outlines below. Virtual attendees are responsible for a good internet
37 and zoom connection with audio and video working. MOPHA cannot provide tech
38 support or troubleshooting for you during the convention. Virtual attendees' participation
39 will be through the convention monitor and zoom chat box. The monitor will coordinate
40 with the National President and relay questions for voting. Auxiliary members who have

1 correctly filled out the registration form, paid in full, and sent registration to the National
2 Secretary during the time frame specified will have a vote, voice, and vote for
3 convention business. Auxiliary members will not have voice and vote in elections as
4 Zoom attendees. When voting, you must be visible on screen and raise your hand for
5 the zoom monitor to see your vote.

6 Commenting: The monitor will notify the national president of questions or comments at
7 the appropriate time. Zoom attendees will have up to one minute to speak. Please
8 prepare your comments in advance to stay within the allotted time. Comments should
9 be original in thought and not to simply agree, disagree, or repeat previously stated
10 points. Asking some questions. Type your question in the zoom chat box to be
11 answered at the appropriate time. If your question has already been asked and
12 answered, it will not be repeated. Please note, if any zoom attendee abuses these rules
13 during the first business session of the convention, the National President will not allow
14 zoom attendees to have a voice or vote for the rest of the 93rd MOPHA National
15 convention. We are committed to ensuring zoom attendees can participate in the
16 convention. It will be at the discretion of the National President to update these sidelines
17 at any time during the convention, including limiting or not allowing comments and or
18 questions. Technical difficulties may occur at the convention site that are beyond our
19 control or ability to fix. Your patience and understanding are appreciated. The National
20 Treasurer and National Membership officers will be attending the convention via zoom.
21 The national president may call on them to answer questions or for information and will
22 be allowed to speak as necessary.

23 This morning, I would like to have our resolutions read for the first time. So, I'm going to
24 attend or give the national zoom device to the chair of the bylaws committee speak at
25 this time.

26
27 **Linda Bellis:** Good morning, everybody. First of all, I would like to thank the ad hoc
28 committee. They did an amazing job going through the bylaws to make it more
29 understandable. "Hey, I don't understand this. Can you clarify this?" They did an
30 amazing job. I'd like to thank Cheryl Perez, Jan Knapp, Judy Fiddler, and Nancy Lee
31 Birchbach. Thank you for all your help. The resolutions are in your binder. We are just
32 reading them. There will be no discussion at this time.

33 **Resolution number 1.** Digital to electronic: -Ladies and gentlemen, I have a speech
34 impediment. So, bear with me if I don't say something correctly. Whereas the term
35 digital is not commonly used in bylaws and documents. It may be interpreted as
36 excluding certain types of remote participation, including telephone and video platforms
37 such as Zoom. And whereas the term "electronic" is more commonly used in bylaws and
38 documents, including telephone, video platforms, is consistent with terminology and
39 Robert's Rules of Order Newly revised. Encompasses the technology of the Auxiliary
40 uses to conduct business Remotely. Therefore, be it resolved that all articles with digital

meanings, digital voting, published digitally, digital vote, digital signature, digital payments, and digital communications, delete the word digital - and replace it with the word electronic.

Resolution number 2. This is in regards to the duties of the national officers. Whereas, Article 11. No, 9. 11? And I work at a high school. Section 12, National Sergeant at Arms 1 states: the National Sergeant at Arms shall, number one, be in charge of National Auxiliary property. 2: See the meeting room is in order before the meeting opens. 3: Welcome members, assist late comers in finding seats and announce visitors. 4: See that the Flag and banner are returned to the parent organization at conclusion of the meeting. 5: Perform such other duties significant to the office and as the ritual and National President may require. And whereas, the National Auxiliary property is a broad term and can represent multiple items and multiple offices. And whereas, the National Sergeant at Arms is not in charge of National Auxiliary Property. Therefore, be it resolved that article 11, section 12, National Sergeant at Arms A1, be removed and changed to read A: the National Sergeant at Arms shall, 1: See the meeting rooms in order before the meeting opens. 2: Welcome members, assist late comers in finding seats and announce visitors. 3: See that the Flag and banner are returned to the parent organization at conclusion of the meeting. 4: Perform such other duties significant to the office and as the ritual of the National President may require.

Resolution number 3: This is in regards to the duties of the National Officers. Whereas, article 11, section 12, Sergeant at Arms A3 states: A) the National Sergeant at Arms shall: 3) See that the Flag and Banner are returned to the parent organization at the conclusion of the meetings. And whereas, the parent, oh sorry, that the parent organization shall not be responsible for the Auxiliary property. And whereas, the Military Order of the Purple Heart Auxiliary should be in possession of an Auxiliary Member. Therefore be it resolved, Article 11, section 12, the National Sergeant at Arms A3: be changed to read A: the National Sergeant at Arms shall. 3: See that the Flag and banner are prepared for travel and delivered to the individual designated by the National President for safe keeping.

Resolution number 4: In regards to politics. Whereas, that article 15, to preserve the integrity of the Auxiliary, section 5C, states: C) No nominations, no recommendations, or endorsements for political office shall be made by a member as a representative of the Auxiliary. No lobbying, as a representative of the Auxiliary shall be done before the U.S. Congress without the approval or recommendation of the National President after consultation and written approval of the National Commander. And whereas, the Auxiliary does not lobby before the U.S. Congress. And whereas, would provide clear guidance on political endorsements. Therefore, be it resolved, that article 15, section

5C, be changed to read: C) No nominations, recommendations, or endorsements for political office should be made by a member as a representative of the Auxiliary.

Resolution number 5: Regarding National Organization. Whereas, Article 1 Section 1, Regions B: B) Each Region President shall hold a regional conference during their term, if notified by the Regional Commander and at a time in place selected by the Regional Commander. Each Unit and Department in the region and all National Officers shall be given official notice of the conference at the earliest possible date. The region conference is to be a school of instruction. And whereas, that while our bylaws provide the requirements to form a Unit or Department, it does not stipulate what is required to elect a Regional President. Therefore, be it resolved that article 1 section 1B and C to be changed to read: Each Region President shall hold a regional conference during their term, if notified by the Regional Commander and at a time in place selected by the Regional Commander. Each Unit and Department in the region and all national officers shall be given official notice of the conference at the earliest possible date. The region conference is to be a school of instruction. C) A Region President may be elected if the region contains at least two Departments and a minimum total membership of 120 members in any state, territory or foreign country. If no regional, if no Region President is elected, then the National President may appoint a Liaison to assist the members of the Region. The Liaison is not required to participate in the regional conference unless specifically requested by the National President.

Resolution 6: Membership dues. Whereas, Article 13, Section 1, National Dues, D states: D) Withdrawal from the life membership fund principle is prohibited. And whereas, that this sentence alone is in conflict with the resolution adopted at our 2024 National Convention, which provides for emergency funds needed to maintain administrative staff. And whereas, that the process for withdrawal of the life membership fund is provided in Article 2, Section 4E - 2, and Article 11, section 6E -4, therefore, be it resolved, Article 13, Section 1 National Dues D, be changed to read: D) Withdrawal from the membership fund principle is prohibited except as defined in Article 2, Section 4E -2, and Article 11, Section 6E-4.

Resolution7: Whereas, Article 10, National Officers Voting, Section 6I – 1 states: I) voting strength of the convention is the number of votes tabulated after the rules have been called. 1) One half of that number plus one constitutes a majority. And whereas, Articles 10, Section 6I1 is the only place in the bylaws where the phrase one half plus one is used as a voting requirement, while the term majority is used throughout the remainder of the bylaws. And whereas, the phrase one half plus one is not the customary parliamentary terminology used in the bylaws and may create confusion in calculating the number of votes required. And whereas, the term majority is a standard parliamentary term recognized in Robert's Rules of Order Revised to mean more than half of the votes passed. Therefore be it resolved, that article 10, National Officers, section 6I be amended to read: I) The voting strength of the convention shall be the

1 number of votes tabulated after rules have been called. 1) The majority shall consist of
2 more than one half of the votes passed.

3 **Resolution 8:** One Member, One Vote National Convention. Whereas, the supreme
4 authority of the Auxiliary is vested in the National Convention. And whereas, the
5 Auxiliary has long relied on the National Convention delegate voting system to decide
6 business matters and elect national officers. And whereas, the system was established
7 during a time when the Auxiliary was a growing organization with annual dues that
8 made it easy to define and confirm active status. And whereas, with the delegate voting
9 system, each unit in good standing is entitled to 1 delegate vote for every 10 active
10 members on its roster. Whereas, a fair and effective delegate voting system depends on
11 membership rosters that are current, accurate, verifiable for member status prior to the
12 credentialing delegates elected by Unit members to represent their votes. And whereas,
13 the annual life membership verification form is intended to confirm member status.
14 However, the direct member contact necessary to determine current status is
15 inconsistent in practice. And whereas, active status is not defined in our bylaws, it is
16 frequently inaccurate, resulting in deceased, unverified, or uncontract (NOTE: Meant to
17 say uncontactable) members being counted as active and representative with voice and
18 vote at the National Convention through delegates. And whereas, Units that try to
19 maintain accurate rosters are effectively penalized with reduced delegate votes, while
20 Units that don't actively verify are rewarded with inflated counts. And whereas, the
21 National Convention delegate voting system is not followed in accordance with our
22 bylaws for credentialing and voting. And whereas, with the decline of Units, Regular
23 Members at Large succeed the number of members in Units, for the good of Auxiliary,
24 should be recognized to participate when attending the National Convention. And
25 whereas, a one-member, one-vote system with provisions for secure electronic
26 participation promotes fairness, practicality, efficiency, and increased member
27 awareness, and participation in National Convention with each member in attendance
28 entitled to one vote. Therefore, be it resolved that Article IX, National Convention, be
29 struck in its entirety and replaced with the Article IX, National Convention. And further
30 resolved that upon adoption of one-member, one-vote system to be implemented
31 beginning with the 2029 National Convention, the Bylaws Committee is directed to
32 make conforming amendments to Articles listed on the attached document and any
33 additional revisions necessary to ensure consistency with the new article. So, Article IX,
34 National Convention, Section 1 Supreme Auxiliary Body. A) The supreme power of the
35 Military Order of the Purple Heart Auxiliary shall be vested in an annual National
36 Convention. Section 2. Composition of a National Convention: A) The National
37 Convention shall consist of all registered and duly accredited regular members of the
38 Auxiliary. B) All such members shall have a right to attend, make motions, debate, and
39 vote on matters brought before the convention. Number 1. At Large Regular Members
40 who are registered and duly accredited shall have the same rights. C) Non-members

1 and invited guests may be granted the privilege of the floor by the National President
2 but shall not have the right to vote. Section C: Convention Quorum. A) The quorum of a
3 National Convention shall be a majority of Regular Members registered, duly accredited,
4 and present at the convention, whether in person or by approved electronic means.
5 Number 1) The presence shall be determined by the most recent report updated at
6 intervals established by the rules of the convention. Section 4. Meetings. A) The
7 National Convention of the Auxiliary may be held annually at the time and place of a
8 National Convention of a Military Order of the Purple Heart. B) If the National Finance
9 Committee, in conjunction with the National Leadership team, determines that an in-
10 person convention is impractical for financial or other reasons. Number 1: The National
11 President may call for a meeting of the National Executive Committee. 2) The National
12 Executive Committee, by the majority vote, shall determine if the Auxiliary's National
13 Convention shall be held virtually to conduct business and elect officers. 3) The date of
14 the virtual convention will be set by the National Executive Committee and the National
15 President. No National Convention shall be canceled without the consent of the National
16 Executive Committee. C) In the event a national convention is not held either in person
17 or virtually. Number 1) The National Secretary shall notify the membership and allow a
18 30-day calendar period for candidates to submit a candidate statement. 2. Candidate
19 statement shall be published at least 14 days prior to electronic vote.
20 3) A secure electronic ballot for the election of national officers shall be held no later
21 than September 1st. D) A professional parliamentarian may be used at National
22 Convention if deemed necessary by the National President and written reason and
23 approved by the National Finance Committee. Section 5: Order of Business. A) The
24 Order of Business shall include opening of Auxiliary Convention, Call to Order,
25 Credential Report and Establishment of Rules, Adoption of Rules of the Convention,
26 Approval of Previous Convention Minutes, Officer Reports, Committee Reports,
27 Unfinished Business, New Business, Nominations, Final Credential Reports for
28 Elections, Elections, Installation of Officers, Adjournment. E) The National President and
29 Convention Planning Committee meeting shall be finalized. The agenda is to include
30 Additional Business and Ceremonies within the rules of the National Convention. The
31 Order of Business may be amended by the majority vote of the convention body.
32 Section 6) Rules of the National Convention. A) The National Convention shall adopt
33 rules of procedures at the beginning of each convention by majority vote. Rules shall be
34 consistent with these bylaws and Robert's Rules of Order Newly Revised. Rules of the
35 convention may be amended during the convention of the body with a majority vote. C)
36 The National Convention's Rules of Order shall include but not limited to Order of
37 Business, Registration and Credential Procedures, Voting Methods, Electronic
38 Participation and Voting Procedures, Recognition and Debate Procedures, Limits on
39 Debates, Nominations and Election Procedures, any additional matters necessary to
40 conduct a business. End of article for that one. Yeah, we got one more.

Resolution 9. The last one. Article 5: Meeting of Units Section 1B. Whereas that article 5 meetings of Units Section 1B states: E) Electronic meetings are allowed except during meetings for elections. And whereas that members attending by electronic means are considered present. And whereas if the meeting is held electronically voting for elections should be allowed. Therefore be it resolved, that Article 5 Section 1B be changed to read: Electronic meetings are allowed.

Ladies and gentlemen, that ends the reading of the resolutions. We will also have another reading tomorrow and discussions at that time. So, thank you. Sorry for the blotched words. Thank you for helping me.

Fran Holtgreven: Okay, thank you, Linda. At this time we're going to um adjourn. I got the note that the lunch has been delivered and the Patriots have already broken to eat. So um we will have a recess until 3:30 this afternoon. The Memorial Opening Ceremony and the Memorial Service will be started, unless it has changed, at 1:30 and that will be done in the Patriots' meeting room. So we are dismissed. Please rise.

Linda Varejcka: If you're able to stand, please stand and hand salute.

- Break for Lunch, Joint Opening, and Memorial Service -

Linda Varejcka: Stand and hand salute our Flag. Toot.

Kay Jo Baucom: Listen closely. Listening is a learned art, too often forgotten in the business of a day. The alarm clock buzzes, and we hit the floor running. We talk out of prayer, maybe sing a song of praise, grab our keys, and we're out the door. If only we would slow down and let the heavenly Father's words sink into our spirits. What a difference we might see in our prayer life. Today, stop, listen, and see what God has in store for you. You'll bow for prayer. Lord, I want you to listen. I want to be your servant, and I know that you are with me always. Help each one of us to feel your presence. May our words and actions reflect our faith, and may the business we conduct here be pleasing in your sight. Amen.

Collective Voices: Amen

Fran Holtgreven: Okay. Welcome back. At this time, I want to know, Judy, are there any communications? You think?

Judy Fiddler: I have two messages here from two different PNPs.

1 Judy Spaulding and Joan Walsh. Both by telephone. They are wishing everyone a
2 successful convention and wishes they could be here. I'm going to add a little. Judy is in
3 the hospital. A week earlier today, she was admitted. I don't know how many knew she
4 did have colon cancer at one time and had to use an ostomy bag. Last Monday, they
5 moved her from a hospital from Frankfort to Lexington, Kentucky. She has developed an
6 infection underneath her ostomy bag. They did an MRI Thursday. I talked to her again
7 Saturday. The infection is in the bone. She's been on a course of antibiotics for the past
8 week. But they want her to have a hip replacement once the infection starts to clear up.
9 And she does not want to have it, she does not want to have a hip replacement. It's less
10 than three weeks the doctors told me she will survive. So, we need to be in prayer for
11 her. But she's in Kentucky and I'm in Ohio. So, we've been close for the last 20 years.
12 But those are the two messages. One from her and one from Joan. And Joan happens
13 to be my mother. And she really wanted to be here this year. My mother's been
14 diagnosed with Parkinsons and it makes it very difficult for her to travel. So, those are
15 the two messages.

16
17 **Darlene Hanneman:** We have Get Well cards. Should I start here?

18
19 **Fran Holtgreven:** Yes. Start over there. Yes. There. Okay, thank you, Judy. At this time,
20 I would like to honor our Past National Presidents that are here. Would you all come up
21 and stand up here, please?

22
23 **Linda Varejcka:** Close the Bible.

24
25 **Kay Jo Baucom:** Yes Ma'am. Yes!

26
27 **Judy Fiddler:** Nancy Lee Birchbach, Jan Knapp, Kay Jo Baucom, Gwendolyn Gilliard,
28 Karen Haltiner, Terri Shattuck, Gloria Sanchez, Colleen Orfanello.

29
30 **Fran Holtgreven:** Thank you so much. Hi, Cheryl. This here is for you. Cheryl Perez is
31 on Zoom. Can't you see it?

32
33 **Cheryl Perez:** I'm muted here. Thank you. That's beautiful.

34
35 **Fran Holtgreven:** Okay, so I will send it to you. Okay. Thank you for attending.

36
37 **Linda Varejcka:** Let's give them a big "O". So once you have served as one term as a
38 President, and you go into the second term, you are still known as a Past National
39 President. So our honored friend is also already in the ranks of Past National
40 Presidents. Okay, thank you for everything you've done.

1
2 **Fran Holtgreven:** Okay, Thank you, PNPs. You have been good mentors to me. Thank
3 you all. Okay. Yesterday Judy and I were working around here and Carder Ferguson got
4 a hold of us and said they had something, he had something for us, that he found on
5 eBay and he thought that Judy and I should present it to the body here. Well, actually
6 I'm going to hold it up and Judy's going to tell you about it because he recognized some
7 of the members from years ago. Some people see the name she remembers - before
8 my time.

9
10 **Judy Fiddler:** Carder found this on eBay and bought it and brought it back to the
11 authority. So he asked us or he asked us to come meet him yesterday and he presented
12 that back to Fran and I. The signature at the bottom, the National President was
13 selecting with Buck. On this charter, the National President is Buck. 1940, September
14 1940, when that Charter was issued, the National Secretary at the time was Gladys
15 Happage and Gladys is the one that bought the president's pen that each president has
16 worn since and it's passed down to each president of the selected. Gladys Hapsch is a
17 big name when it comes to a President's Pin.

18
19 That's the original and it's in excellent condition. It was on eBay. People find interesting
20 clues. It might have been in somebody's closet. It could have been stolen at one time. It
21 could have been in a hall, an American Legion Hall or someplace like that and somehow
22 somebody found it and put it on eBay for a price. He didn't tell us how much it went, that
23 he paid for it, but he recalls it's the most early history of it. It's a Unit 98 in Atlanta,
24 Georgia before that Charter was issued.

25
26 **Unknown Speaker:** How much did he pay for it?

27
28 **Judy Fiddler:** He didn't tell us. I don't know how many return charters that we have that
29 have Gladys Hapsch's on them. I do have a box at home that has gone to Maryland that
30 has and I think the earliest charter in that box might be 1939. There's one or two that
31 are in the 30s and 40s. I'm leaving it in the frame to protect it. Some of the Charters
32 that's been returned have been glued on cardboard or plastic. Some came back...
33 Here's an interesting fact. Some came back in your picture frame. So, I took it out of the
34 picture frame and this picture frame here has our National Charter in it. So, I re-recycled
35 and re-filled it. I did it so it's framed, but when we created this old charter, I used that
36 frame to put it in. So, that's not bad. If you didn't know who Carder was, I believe he was
37 the 2022 National Commander. He was the National Commander in Louisiana. That's
38 because Chris quit a few days before. So, it was 2024. 2023-2024.

1 **Jan Knapp:** (inaudible) but anyway, I'm going to do it now. In Arlington, I spoke to
2 (inaudible) and she spoke to her manager who said "absolutely". And she took the
3 remainder of therm. I apologize. I didn't know I would be talking about this now but ,
4 because there are a lot of Purple Heart families, but somebody can or is going to make
5 a motion to purchase Purple Heart Family Pins and distribute them at Arlington for
6 Purple Heart Families for them to use.

7
8 **Judy Fiddler:** I am going to, I'm going to put it in the next budget by the end, okay? Uh,
9 please also help donate some. If we could get like 250 at a discounted price, we could
10 donate some to Arlington.

11
12 **Jan Knapp:** Yes, we just have to get a price (inaudible). We would need a resolution.
13 It's a good recruitment tool at Arlington.

14
15 **Judy Fiddler:** I think the next President will need the motion and vote. I agree.

16
17 **Jan Knapp:** Okay.

18
19 **Linda Varejcka:** We need to get serious now. We've had a period of fun. We need to
20 get serious.

21
22 **Fran Holtgreven:** Okay, I'm sorry. Right now, I would, the minutes of the 92nd
23 convention must be approved. They are in your books. You should have already seen it.
24 Could I have a motion to do this? Oh, okay. You can tell I haven't read my book yet.
25 Okay. So, I would like to have a motion to dispense of the reading of the minutes
26 because they have been published.

27
28 **Terri Shattuck:** Terri Shattuck, PNP. I will make a motion to dispense of the reading of
29 the minutes because they were published in our emails.

30
31 **Fran Holtgreven:** Do I have a second?

32
33 **Jan Huffmann:** Jan Huffmann 325 Department of Colorado, I second that Motion.

34
35 **Fran Holtgreven:** Okay, it has been seconded. If no one minds, I will start them as
36 approved as published. All those in favor, say aye.

37
38 **Collective Voices:** Aye.

1 **Fran Holtgreven:** Opposed? Motion carries. That the 92nd convention is published.
2 The secretary may forward those. Did somebody have a question? Okay, I'm sorry. I
3 thought I heard something. Okay, now I do know the Officers and Chairman reports are
4 in the convention book. You may read those and is there, I'm going to go through, and
5 see if anyone, if they did not send in or they had something to include, I'll call your
6 position and you can say that you don't really have anything more to add. Okay, Senior
7 Vice President.

8
9 **Judy Fiddler:** I have nothing to add.

10
11 **Fran Holtgreven:** Senior Vice president, do you have anything to add?

12
13 **Linda Bellis:** Junior. I have nothing to add. I have nothing to add.

14
15 **Fran Holtgreven:** Chaplains, do you have anything to add?

16
17 **Kay Jo Baucom:** I do not.

18
19 **Fran Holtgreven:** Chaplain, do you have anything to add?

20
21 **Gwendolyn Gilliard:** Okay. Yes. Madam president, I believe I submitted the report
22 that's attached to Kay Jo's. Okay. However, I didn't see it in the booklet.

23
24 **Judy Fiddler:** I'll double check that because I believe it wasn't attached. I apologize.

25
26 **Gwendolyn Gilliard:** I'm confused because I attached it.

27
28 **Fran Holtgreven:** We will check and report. Do you have anything to add?

29
30 **Gwendolyn Gilliard:** It was in the report. Thank you, Madam President.

31
32 **Fran Holtgreven:** Region 2 President, Angie Foster, do you have anything to add or
33 correct?

34
35 **Angie Foster:** Angie Foster, Region 2 President. No, I have nothing to add. My report is
36 in there.

37
38 **Fran Holtgreven:** Thank you. Region 4 President, Kay Jo, PNP?

39
40 **Kay Jo Baucom:** I have nothing to add.

1
2 **Fran Holtgreven:** Yes, ma'am, thank you. Region 5 President, Doris Williams?

3
4 **Dorris Williams:** My report is published, Madam President.

5
6 **Fran Holtgreven:** Thank you, Dorris. Okay, Region Liaison, Terri Shattuck, PNP.

7
8 **Terri Shattuck:** My report is published. public.

9
10 **Fran Holtgreven:** Okay, Colorado Department President, Patty Andrews?

11
12 **Patricia Andrews:** Our report is published.

13
14 **Fran Holtgreven:** Georgia Department President, Maryann Barclay?

15
16 **Maryann Barclay:** I have nothing to add. Thank you.

17
18 **Fran Holtgreven:** Michigan Department President, Sharon Lewinsky?

19
20 **Sharon Lewinsky (Zoom):** I believe I sent it in, so I have nothing more to add.

21
22 **Fran Holtgreven:** Thank you. Minnesota Department President, Sheryl Osburn.
23 Pennsylvania Department of President, Sandy Verbos? Texas Department President.
24 Herlinda Sifuentes?

25
26 **Herlinda Sifuentes:** I have nothing to add.

27
28 **Fran Holtgreven:** Thank you. Wisconsin Department President, Nancy Lee Birchbach,
29 PNP.

30
31 **Nancy Lee Birchbach:** I have nothing more to add.

32
33 **Fran Holtgreven:** Thank you. Community Service, Gloria Sanchez, PNP? Historian,
34 Rosa Rodriguez? Do you have anything to add? Inspector Judy Fiddler.

35
36 **Judy Fiddler:** I have probably nothing to add.

37
38 **Fran Holtgreven:** Membership Officer, Cheryl Perez, PNP?

1 **Cheryl Perez:** I do have something to add. On the report, because the fiscal year ends
2 on June 30th, I don't get my report to the secretary until after the 30th, because I'm still
3 working on information coming in. On the report, this year, with the convention being
4 early, I really had a lot I was trying to get done. Where it says on your report, active
5 count includes Regular, Associate, Junior, and bad addresses, I don't know what was
6 going on in my head. I just wrote it wrong. It should be Regular Member count includes
7 Active Regular, Active Associate, Active Junior, and bad addresses. I did put a
8 recommendation on there that we think about changing bad addresses to be
9 reclassified as an inactive regular, because just by virtue of the fact that their address is
10 bad and we can't contact them, they're not really active, until we can verify their contact
11 information and it can be brought back up to active status. The rosters were sent out on
12 July 3rd. Presidents and Secretaries received them in the Units and the Departments. If
13 there was an email on the roster, if there wasn't, I don't have anybody to email it to. I
14 had a couple bounce back, so if you did not receive it and you have an email on file,
15 please contact me so I can see where I went wrong and didn't get it. The Department
16 Presidents, if I had an email, were also copied on those, as well as the Senior Vice, so
17 that the coming in as the next National President, they have a roster of it. I will mail out
18 email to Regional Presidents after we have elected the new ones, if they want them. I've
19 noticed that, you know, I've never had a request for those, so, you know, maybe they
20 don't want it. You can just, if you need them, just email me and I'll get them to you. I
21 think you all kind of noticed, if you received that roster, that I'm asking everybody to
22 review their rosters this year, contact your members, and report any changes. And that's
23 it for me. Thank you.

24
25 **Fran Holtgreven:** Thank you, Cheryl. Okay. Parliamentarian, Jan Knapp?

26
27 **Jan Knapp:** Published.

28
29 **Fran Holtgreven:** Publicity, Colleen Orfanello?

30
31 **Colleen Orfanello:** Colleen Orfanello, PNP. My report is listed, however, I have a
32 caveat in there. If you read it, I gave everyone a challenge. What can you do to increase
33 publicity with \$10? So, on Wednesday afternoon, I'm going to ask you again, write it
34 down, tell me I'm going to make that list and put it on our website. \$10 can go a long
35 way. So, that's my challenge to you. If you don't know what I'm talking about, read my
36 report. Thank you.

37
38 **Fran Holtgreven:** Thank you. Community Service and Sgt at Arms VAVS CDCE?

39
40 **Linda Varejcka:** Nothing to add at this point.

1 **Fran Holtgreven:** Okay. Our webmaster has just had a baby. It's four weeks. Four
2 weeks ago. So, she is unable to attend with us because she's quite busy. So, Colleen
3 Orfanello, PNP, has taken over this to help her. So, Colleen, do you have anything to
4 report to webmasters?

5
6 **Colleen Orfanello:** We do not, except that the website needs to work for you guys.
7 We're going to revamp it, but if you see something you want differently, you have to let
8 us know, because we work for you, and that's all Barbara and I wanted to let you know.

9
10 **Fran Holtgreven:** Okay. Thank you. Excuse me. Unit 1985, Michigan, Terri Shattuck,
11 PNP. Do you have anything to add to the report?

12
13 **Terri Shattuck:** No. My report got pretty lengthy.

14
15 **Fran Holtgreven:** It's fine. Unit 162, Wisconsin, Darlene Rogers? She's not here. Do
16 you have anything that you would add, Nancy Lee?

17
18 **Nancy Lee Birchbach:** She does a good job.

19
20 **Fran Holtgreven:** Unit 492, Georgia, Joann Croney. She's not here either. Anybody
21 from Georgia that unit would like to say something?

22
23 **Maryann Barclay:** That's my unit as well. We don't have anything to add.

24
25 **Fran Holtgreven:** Thank you. Unit 1876, Doris Williams. Do you have anything to add
26 to your Unit report?

27
28 **Doris Williams:** No

29
30 **Fran Holtgreven:** Unit 385, California. Vicki Manjarrez? Cheryl, do you have anything
31 that you want to add to that Unit?

32
33 **Cheryl Perez:** No. Okay.

34
35 **Fran Holtgreven:** So, that's all that we have. So, thank you, everybody.

36
37 **Kay Jo Baucom:** Madam President, on the Chaplain's report, I'm not sure exactly how
38 it all came down, but there is part of what Gwen contributed. So, I would like to have her
39 name, if each one of you would just write in, submitted by, where it says submitted by
40 Kay Jo Baucom, please add Gwen to be part of what she said is included, but not the

1 totality. But I would like for you all to know Gwen does a fabulous job and certainly did
2 send in her resort.

3
4 **Fran Holtgreven:** Thank you. Okay. Now, we're going to go with introduction of our
5 guests and first attendees. We'll be the guests first. So, anyone in here is the, are you
6 the first attendant, a first attendee, that is if you are, if this is your first attending
7 convention. Could you please stand up, please? Okay. So, what I'd like you to do is
8 Jan's going to come out and give you a pin and Linda will have the microphone there
9 and just tell us a little bit about yourself.

10
11 **Kay Jo Baucom:** And recite the preamble. Ha. Just joking.

12
13 **Linda Varejcka:** Go ahead and give us your name and tell us a little bit about you.

14
15 **Beth Cloninger:** I am Beth Cloninger. My husband, Robert, is a Purple Heart Veteran,
16 wounded in Vietnam. He's still a Marine. I live here in North Carolina. So, it's only
17 common sense that we come to the National Convention, right? It was nice to be able to
18 drive two and a half hours and not have to pack for a plane ride or anything. So, back in
19 April, Robert was, I had nominated him for a Purple Heart Mission Flight and he was
20 selected to represent North Carolina. So, yeah, I'm very proud of him and we actually
21 got to go to the National Purple Heart Museum in Newburgh, New York and if you
22 haven't been, it's a beautiful museum. So, that's me in a nutshell.
23 I'm happy to be here.

24
25 **Fran Holtgreven:** Welcome. We hope to see you at the next convention. Wherever it is.

26
27 **Beth Cloninger:** I have to get my husband a little more mobile.

28
29 **Hunter Flipppo:** Hello, my name is Hunter Flipppo: I'm an associate because of my father
30 who has served for years. Before becoming an associate, I was a lifetime member of
31 the VFW Auxiliary and I've been with them for years and I have recently became the
32 chairman of the Americanism. And with that in mind, in my hometown, not hometown,
33 but where he came from, right here in South Dakota, Brookings, and almost all of the
34 schools, except the high school, we have gotten Veterans in to talk about their stories
35 and kind of share a little bit about themselves and whatnot. But I am the reason we
36 were able to get into the high school this year. So, that was fun because I had veterans
37 come in on Veterans Day, my dad being one of them. So, it was fun. It turned out well
38 and hopefully I can continue doing it.

1 **Barbie Meyer:** My name is Barbie Meyer. We have a lot of Barbs in the organization,
2 we have four Barbs and I have answered for everyone. So, I changed my name to
3 Barbie. I have been a member of the MOPHA and the Purple Heart is through my
4 husband, who is a Vietnam veteran. He spent the last two years of his service in a VA
5 hospital, mostly in a burn ward. And then we found each other and we got married. And
6 I already have a daughter and he adopted her and she's sitting right here. So, that's
7 how I got me in the Purple Heart. I definitely know what it's like to have a Purple Heart
8 husband. I have had a mentor for many years. She was Bonnie Dumler. She was so
9 caring about everything and she always lets us know that I was the first one (inaudible).
10 She would always tell you that you have to know Bonnie to love Bonnie and she could
11 tell you how to do it once, all the time. There's some other members that are in the Unit,
12 which I just, I don't want to be an Officer. I don't want to be a... Oh yes, you can do it.
13 Anyhow, they like to vibe a little bit before we meet each other and when you get a
14 couple of about 80-year-old ladies that like to out do each other, it was a challenge. I
15 haven't made it to these national meetings. I have, or you know, I am a Past Department
16 President and a lot of travel. I'll belong to anything that helps the Veteran, always will.
17 And Johnny is a veteran and he served in Korea. So, we are all in this together because
18 we have many generations, many generations to go. So, I want to thank you all for
19 being so friendly to me and Linda. We started back in the day together. So, we, yeah,
20 and she would love to be a national something. President, and if this woman isn't
21 working, I don't know what she's doing. I love you, you know. I just want to thank you.

22
23 **Linda Varejcka:** There are a few generations at this point that are members of our
24 organization. Not just members, they're active members.

25
26 **Darlene Hanneman:** Good afternoon, one and all. My name is Darlene Hahnemann.
27 I'm from the Department of Ohio. My husband, Danny Hahnemann, was back here this
28 morning helping Mike out. I don't know how much help he was, but he definitely is also a
29 member. We're from Finley, Ohio area, and we've been very active for the Finley Unit
30 and Chapter, and then also my husband was also Past Commander for the Department
31 of Ohio.

32
33 **Fran Holtgreven:** Thank you, Darlene. Gwen?

34
35 **Gwendolyn Gilliard:** Thank you very much for the opportunity to reintroduce those
36 generations of our grandchildren who started when they were knee high to a
37 grasshopper. I just wanted to bring attention to them. I just want to reintroduce them.

1 **Sidnii Gilliard:** I'm Sidnii. I'm Gwendolyn's Grandaughter and Teviah's daughter and I
2 have been coming here since I was like seven years old. Or eight. And I'm here for my
3 grandfather. This is Hannah. My cousin.

4
5 **Hannah Coston:** My name is Hannah. Hi. Last time everyone saw me I was this small.
6 A long time ago but I am happy to be here with everybody and here again with my
7 Grandma and everybody. Its good to be here older and more mature so I can
8 understand more. And that's it. Thank you.

9
10 **Fran Holtgreven:** Gwen, have they received the pins?

11
12 **Gwen Gilliard:** They have the pins.

13
14 **Fran Holtgreven:** Okay. We wanted to make sure.

15
16 **Linda Varejcka:** I can remember them sitting in the back with their crayons and stickers
17 with their little games, and you have never seen anyone more respectful. They were
18 quiet, they were respectful, and it's so good to see you back again with smiling faces,
19 and I don't see the coloring books this time. They have their college books now.

20
21 **Fran Holtgreven:** Okay, okay. Top Membership Pin. I'm going to turn this over to Judy
22 now.

23
24 **Judy Fiddler:** Okay, we've had 4 ladies this year, all brought in four brand new
25 numbers. Okay, four of them are away from us, but I believe Sharon Lewinsky is on
26 Zoom. Sharon Lewinsky is on Zoom. She is one of our four. So, we will be mailing her
27 her pin. Darlene Rodgers from Wisconsin, she will get her pin mailed, and the two ladies
28 that are here, Nancy Lee Birchbach and and Darlene Hanneman. So, if you're ready to
29 come up and get your pins, please. We have another person who brought in three
30 members. She's not here, but we will mail her a pin as a recruiter. And that's, uh, forgive
31 me, I believe she's from Michigan, maybe.

32
33 We have several that were honorable mentors.

34
35 Celia Albrecht had two. Dorris Williams had two. Fran Holtgreven had two.
36 Karen Haltman had two. Cheryl Perez had one. Deborah Boken had one.
37 Joan Sylvester had one. Joshua Peterson had one. Karen Blashka had one.
38 Karen Grange had one. Lorraine Anderson had one. Maryann Barclay had one.
39 Rebecca Amaya had one. And Sandy Verbos had one. We also had four members that
40 joined, but there was no sponsor written on their application.

1 So, for the total for the year, we had 47 new members. Also, there's, in a little bit, I'll go
2 back and get it. On the credential table, there's a baggie with blue ballots.
3 I'm going to put some out there by the supply table. And we have an award that we give
4 somebody who has come and mentored somebody here at the convention. It could be,
5 hey, Jennifer, her funny ooh, ooh, oohs. It could be somebody who helps you, you know,
6 answer questions. Or the Mentorship Award is in honor of Sharon Carlton. She was a
7 mentor to the National Secretary for many years. And we thought, with Gloria Sanchez's
8 help, that we would come up with some ideas to name the award after Sharon. So, it's
9 the Sharon Carlton Mentor Award. And anybody can vote for anybody in the room that
10 you feel has led you where you should be. Please don't vote for me, because I've
11 already received it once. I don't want it again. Thank you. There are a few people that
12 do have it as well. Please look around. Talk to people. Find out. And maybe they have
13 the best idea first to do a fundraising for your Unit. But anything like that, you know, that
14 they're mentoring you, that they're teaching, following their footsteps, will drop in, or
15 we'll count the ballots on Wednesday afternoon and announce to you who the
16 Mentorship Award will go to you.

17
18 **Linda Varejcka:** Do you know who the recipients were?

19
20 **Judy Fiddler:** Colleen, myself, Barbara Counihan.

21
22 **Fran Holtgreven:** Okay, at the NEC meeting today, I had Tara Waugh come up here as
23 the information was given to each person. Are there any people here who did not
24 receive the Procedure Manual that was being looked at? Raise your hand if you have a
25 copy of the Procedure this morning and I'll pull it up.

26
27 **Linda Varejcka:** Raise your hand and I will pass it out.

28
29 **Fran Holtgreven:** Anybody else that wasn't here this morning didn't receive one of
30 these Procedure Manuals? Okay, I have a question about these Procedure Manuals,
31 books, whatever. I would like everyone to think of, do you want to keep them as the
32 Procedure Manual or a handbook? Or something like that. What would you all like to
33 call it? Okay, Chris?

34
35 **Christine Day:** I like Madam President, Madam President, I like the word procedures
36 because then it helps us identify clearly that's where we need to look. Okay.

37
38 **Fran Holtgreven:** Any other discussion about, or do you want to just throw it away? But
39 I think it needs it up there a bit.

1 **Terri Shattuck:** Why do we always have to change? Why can't it still be Procedure
2 Manual?

3
4 **Fran Holtgreven:** Yeah, we're just discussing what you all would like to call it. So stand
5 up and, you know, give them your report. Okay. Karen?

6
7 **Karen Haltiner:** I like procedure, but I've got one little suggestion. Did you put the
8 preamble in it? I didn't see the Preamble. Is it? No, I could not find the preamble at all.

9
10 **Linda Bellis:** It's not in the procedures.

11
12 **Karen Haltiner:** Anyway, that's my suggestion.

13
14 **Fran Holtgreven:** Okay. Well, yeah, this is things we want to know. Can you tell me why
15 you would like to have the Preamble in it?

16
17 **Karen Haltiner:** I don't know about other people, but I kind of forget sometimes what it
18 is. And I have to go back and read it, and then re-read it, and then I can read it again.
19 It's just a refresher. Okay. And I think it's good to know that the number one thing is in
20 there.

21
22 **Fran Holtgreven:** Okay. Terri, you had something?

23
24 **Terri Shattuck:** I did. I don't think we need to make changes every time we open up a
25 subject. Let's keep it procedures. Wait a minute. Terri Shattuck, PNP. I just don't like
26 making changes every time we open up a subject. Let's keep it Procedures Manual.

27
28 **Fran Holtgreven:** Okay. This is the information we want to know. To see how you all
29 feel. So, by the way. Angie, what else do you have?

30
31 **Angie Foster:** Angie Foster, Region 2 President. I was wondering if we could split the
32 difference and call it the Procedure Handbook. It's because the manual is a little
33 intimidating. I don't know. If you ever get like the car manual, you could fix it so that it
34 doesn't even look like the car manual. It doesn't even look like the car manual.

35
36 **Fran Holtgreven:** Okay, we have four. If there's no other discussion about this, I have
37 four different names. Number 1) Procedure Handbook. Number 2) How to Guide.
38 Number 3) Procedures Manual. Number 4) Auxiliary Handbook.

1 Auxiliary Handbook. Okay, anybody have any questions about the four that I just said?
2 Okay, here we go. All those in favor and the Zoom people are allowed to vote also. Well,
3 just a minute. Number one, you will raise your hand so we can count it. I can't be
4 laughing at you. Okay, number one, raise your hand if you would like to see this named
5 "Procedure Handbook". Hold them up. We're going to count. Okay, wait a minute. Who's
6 still? Linda Varejcka, were you counting? Okay, you keep on counting and then Colleen
7 will let me know what the Zoom people vote. Okay, hands up. One, two, three, four, five,
8 six, seven, eight. Nine, ten, eleven, twelve, thirteen, fourteen, fifteen, sixteen. On the
9 floor. On Zoom? Two? How many there for "How to guide"? Hands up, please.
10 Anyone on Zoom?

11
12 **Colleen Orfanello as Zoom Moderator:** No, ma'am. Zero.

13
14 **Fran Holtgreven:** Number 3) "Procedures Manual". Two, three, put your hand down,
15 four, now you got me messed up, one, two, wait a minute. Colleen, is that One Zoom for
16 me?

17
18 **Colleen Orfanello as Zoom Moderator:** That's 2 for Zoom.

19
20 **Fran Holtgreven:** One, two, three, four, five, six, seven, eight, nine, ten, eleven. Who's
21 on Zoom? Three? Two? "Auxiliary Handbook". Raise your hand. Thank you, ladies.

22
23 **Colleen Orfanello as Zoom Moderator:** Two on Zoom.

24
25 **Fran Holtgreven:** Three, four, five, six, seven, eight, nine. Is that correct? Did you all
26 get that? Okay. Well, it didn't vote. It's a remedy. No, it's not going to count. Okay, 18 for
27 "Procedure Handbook" win. Zero for "How to Guide". 12 for "Procedures Manual", 9 for
28 "Auxiliary Handbook". I'm going to call it "Procedures Manual".
29 Okay, that was terrible. Okay, but it's going to be this other thing and you just wrap it up,
30 you know.

31
32 **(Unidentified member without Microphone):** One more time. Can you say it one
33 more time? The winning title?

34
35 **Fran Holtgreven:** The winning title with 18 was "Procedure Handbook".
36 So now we vote on the top two. Oh, let's vote again. Okay, we're going to eliminate the
37 bottom two. Vote again.

38
39 **Linda Varejcka:** Question. And maybe let's find this. I don't know. Why exactly was this
40 committee formed?

1
2 **Fran Holtgreven:** This committee was formed because I looked at the Procedures
3 Manual. It was dated 2017 or 2019. And so there's a lot of things that the Martha
4 Washington award isn't in it. The Past National Presidents aren't in it. I just felt that this
5 needed to be done. And I formed a committee to look on to this, look into this. And I like
6 the work they did. And that's why I wanted to present it to y'all.

7
8 **Linda Varejcka:** And it's my understanding that you can take these copies home.
9 I don't know if you're going to do a deadline. And read them, look at them. If they make
10 you have a question, somebody else can have that question. And it can be presented to
11 if there's a new committee appointment or something.

12
13 **Fran Holtgreven:** No, I want it. I want it done in my presidency. Okay, so you can look
14 at it tonight. You can come in tomorrow. We can discuss this. Wait a minute.

15
16 **Colleen Orfanello as Zoom Moderator:** I have PNP Perez with a question.

17
18 **Fran Holtgreven:** Okay, Cheryl Perez on Zoom.

19
20 **Cheryl Perez:** I'm sorry. I'll take my hand off. I left it up.

21
22 **Fran Holtgreven:** I just, this was my thought to do something as a Past National
23 President, because I the National President, they got me confused here. And I wanted
24 to see something that I did that could help this organization. And I felt it was time to take
25 and do something. So that is why I wanted to. And I also was kind of forced into it at
26 first. No, I'm kidding. I'm kidding. So, no, I want to see some new ideas and just update
27 this. So that's why I did that.

28
29 **Maryann Barclay:** Maryann Barclay, President of the Department of Georgia. So are
30 we going to vote on this tomorrow? Will it be easy to be passed by a two-thirds vote of
31 the National Convention?

32
33 **Fran Holtgreven:** I feel, I asked the Parliamentarian that this had to be done. But this
34 was something that I think a National President should keep up. Our reports, our
35 bylaws, and this Procedures Manual to help you.

36
37 **Terri Shattuck:** See? Procedure's Manual.

38
39 **Fran Holtgreven:** We have to vote again, Jan told me. So you may get it. I don't know.

1 I would like you to come back. I would like you all to read it tonight. If you don't, that's
2 fine. But I would like this. I would like to have this done at this convention. Because this
3 committee put a lot of work into this to update words, to update ideas. Just take a look
4 at it. If you don't like it and we vote, vote no.

5
6 **Terri Shattuck:** I'll bring a marker.

7
8 **Fran Holtgreven:** Go right ahead and make sure it's black so you can't read it. But
9 that's the reason. I mean, we need to update our things. We aren't back in the 40s, 50s,
10 or 60s. Tara?

11
12 **Tara Waugh:** Thank you, Madam President. I just, for anyone that was not here earlier,
13 can you hear me? My name is Tara Waugh. I wanted to just kind of add a couple notes,
14 if I may. For anyone that might not have heard it or been here, that this is a fresh-eyed
15 document. This is a new document. It's not meant to be compared to chapter by chapter
16 for the old Procedures Manual from what we were tasked with. And it can evolve every
17 year. So just keep that in mind when you look through this, it's been simplified due to a
18 lot of just extra wording that, for whatever reason, was put in there over the years.
19 And probably for good reason at the time. But there was a lot that isn't how-to. It's not
20 how to do anything. So we looked at it, looked at it as an how-to. So when you're
21 reading through this new document, whatever it may be called, ask yourself, is this
22 answering your question on how to do something? And if it's not, make a note.
23 If you want to add something or you feel it needed something, is that something that
24 really is asking or answering the question how to? And that's what we did as a
25 committee. That's what we did when we went through here. Is this up to date?
26 Is this in effect, this program, this grant, this form? And I just want to make a quick note
27 too, you'll see a lot of appendices One of the suggestions the committee gave was to
28 move things like that to the website. So those forms have not gone away necessarily. I
29 just wanted to make that note because somebody might notice that a lot of the
30 appendices are gone. It's because we wanted it to be a working manual rather than
31 having a bunch of reference documents that can't be used in that print. So they'll be
32 usable on the website, available on the website, fillable on the website. So they'll be
33 referenced from the document to the website. So anyway, just wanted to make those
34 little notes because I know it can be a little scary to see a new document maybe too.
35 And you feel like a lot of it's gone, but it's not. It really is not. We wanted to keep this up.
36 So just wanted to add that.

37
38 **Fran Holtgreven:** Another reason that this was taken on was the new Unit president
39 came in. And they have no idea what to do. So they can open this up and they can see

1 exactly how do I start a bank account? Even if, you know, because some, for example,
2 in Texas, we lost our Department President. Everything was thrown away.
3 We couldn't find the checkbook. We didn't know anything. And there was only one
4 person's name on it. And yet that was lost. We had to start all over and get everything
5 new. If there was something like this, that new Department or Unit President could just
6 look here and say, okay, this is what I have to do. I have to go to the bank and I need to
7 ask this question, this question, this question. And instead of everybody going, oh, what
8 are you going to do? What are you going to do? So that's one of the reasons too. Texas
9 lost everything. Question?

10
11 **Sandy Verbos:** I just want to say, Sandy Verbos from Pennsylvania, President. We had
12 to reestablish Pennsylvania. And I'll tell you when I opened up after the night we
13 decided to do this, we were so confused as to what we were doing. I've looked over this
14 a few minutes today. And I will read it tonight, go through it. There's a couple of things
15 we've already said. But this would make our life so much easier. I mean, even when we
16 have meetings, we're still questioning. Well, I get the book out and try to follow the book.
17 And then I get the, oh, no, we don't have gallery yet. You have to do this. And I mean,
18 we are still learning. But this would have been a blessing. So thank you for all the time
19 people put into it. It's amazing.

20
21 **Terri Shattuck:** It's an amazing Procedures manual. Just saying.

22
23 **Fran Holtgreven:** So what I would like you all to do, if there's no other questions, look
24 through this. If you have some ideas, bring, you know, we discussed it. And Jan?

25
26 **Jan Huffman:** Jan Huffman, Colorado 375. Will the the procedures, or whatever, or
27 whatever you want to call it will have to be updated yearly depending on how we vote or
28 all the resolutions that we did by changing the bylaws?

29
30 **Fran Holtgreven:** Yes. And to tell you the truth, every procedure book or whatever you
31 want to call it should be updated every year because there's always new resolutions,
32 thoughts, ideas. So, yes. We need to keep up with it. And I've been last. I'll say that
33 about adding what has happened last year. So this needs to be done.

34
35 **Linda Bellis:** Madam President Linda Bellis, Junior Vice. Ladies and gentlemen. Things
36 are changing, just like with our bylaws. And with this new document that's been put
37 together, things keep changing. Let's say an example, Jan's Unit or Department has
38 been doing this. I'm a new person that steps in and go, "What the heck are you guys
39 been doing"? Okay. And it's, there's so many different conflicts that are going on. A great
40 one, like she said, Texas, one person, one signature. How do you keep people

1 accountable? This person could have been stealing from the books. And, you know, so
2 it's keep things up to date. Keep all the Units and all of the Departments on the same
3 page. So that when we come to National, we're one unified group. And it's not like, well,
4 we do this and we do that. So by updating this all the time, and yes, we always send
5 out, we get a new bylaws that we accepted. It's put out onto the web that you can
6 download it, print it, slip it into your bylaws book. But, you know, it is changing.
7 And how do we protect ourselves from the computer, from the banking? And now you
8 got AI coming in. So if you read this, follow it. It's the best guidebook that can keep you
9 all together. So thank you.

10
11 **Fran Holtgreven:** I see Terri's raising her hand.

12
13 **Terri Shattuck:** Yeah, I would like to make a statement real quick. Make sure your
14 phones are off or it costs you \$5 if they buzz. Well, just to remind you, just to remind
15 you, this is Terri Shattuck, PNP phone supervisor. If your phone rings or dings during
16 your meeting, you pay \$5. Turn your phones off. Inflate it. I'm gonna inflate it. No, she's
17 gonna inflate it for them.

18
19 **Fran Holtgreven:** Okay, so what I would like you to do is look through this tonight, if you
20 have time. Come back tomorrow, we will discuss it. And we have to take another vote.
21 We have down to two. We will take another vote. Okay, we will vote on the two.

22
23 **Terri Shattuck:** I'm gonna campaign tonight.

24
25 **Fran Holtgreven:** If you see Terri coming towards you, run the opposite way, okay? I
26 don't want vote on it. I don't want vote on anything now because I want you to look at
27 this or this, this whatever manual document. Judy?

28
29 **Judy Fiddler:** So, the NFCC. The NFC voted to do so. Now we need to have the
30 convention body to ratify the decision of the NFP.

31
32 **Terri Shattuck:** Terri Shattuck, PNP. I would like to make a motion that we raise our
33 postage to \$10 a package due to the cost of postage due to the cost increase.

34
35 **Fran Holtgreven:** Do I have a second?

36
37 **Herlinda Sifuentes:** I second.

38
39 **Fran Holtgreven:** Herlinda Sifuentes gave a second. Terri raised the motion to raise the
40 shipping to \$10 and a motion has been made. All those in favor, say aye. Zoom

1 members, you can vote if you'd like. Oh, I forgot the discussion. Excuse me. Any
2 discussion? Okay, good. All those in favor, say aye.

3
4 **Several Voices:** Aye.

5
6 **Fran Holtgreven:** Those against? Nay? Motion approved that we raise up the shipping
7 to \$10. Thank you. Okay, so I'm going to have.

8
9 **Terri Shattuck:** Did you shake him up good?

10
11 **Linda Varejcka:** We have a little grab bag here and pulling a name.

12
13 **Fran Holtgreven:** Not Terri Shattuck. Not Terri Shattuck: Barbie Meyer! Okay, so let's
14 close this meeting for today. I'll see you tomorrow morning at 830. The hospitality room
15 is at the Double Tree and it's, oh, but I don't know the room.

16
17 **Terri Shattuck:** Is everybody invited?

18
19 **Fran Holtgreven:** All except the Terri Shattuck family.

20
21 **Colleen Orfanello as Zoom Moderator:** What time will we begin tomorrow morning?

22
23 **Fran Holtgreven:** 8:30 Eastern.

24
25 **Linda Varejcka:** Auxiliary members, I have been told that I have to clean up this room
26 before I leave. And I would like very much if all of you to be my helpers. If you've got
27 cups, there's a bin back at the door. If you got cup paper, whatever. I understand they
28 can't their books here tonight. You can leave your books and your information here for
29 the night because it will safe and locked up.

30
31 **Fran Holtgreven:** No you can't. You must take this. Whatever you're calling the
32 document. And read it tonight.

33
34 **Linda Varejcka:** And please push your chair underneath. So when the staff does come
35 in to check up on me, they don't put me away. Well, I guess they can send me home.
36 Oh, sorry. So, if you could please. Oh, just a second.

37
38 **Fran Holtgreven:** So the hospitality is at the DoubleTree from 6-8PM in the (inaudible)
39 room. She knows where it's at.

1 **Linda Varejcka:** Madam President. We have Credentials

2
3 **Tara Waugh:** Tara Waugh for Credentials. We've got 26 registered and one Member at
4 Large as well. National Officers 4, PNPs 5, Department Presidents 6, Unit Presidents 3,
5 62 Delegate votes, For a total of 80. If you haven't already come back to the Credentials
6 Table, please do so tomorrow.

7
8 **Colleen Orfanello as Zoom Moderator:** How do you want the Zoom attendees to vote
9 on business matters?

10
11 **Fran Holtgreven:** I want them to raise their hand. Okay, we're not going to be voting in
12 elections. We'd only be voting in business. And we don't. We haven't been following
13 delegate votes for business.

14
15 **Linda Varejcka:** Auxiliary members. Hand Salute, Toot



MINUTES OF:
MOPHA NATIONAL CONVENTION BUSINESS SESSION 2
July 14, 2026

1 **Fran Holtgreven:** Hello and good morning. Linda?

2
3 **Linda Varejcka:** Auxiliary members, please rise. With the flag in place, please join me. I
4 feel like starting off with a pledge today also. So please join me in saying the pledge to
5 our flag.

6
7 **Collective Voices:** I pledge allegiance to the flag of the United States of America and
8 to the republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and
9 justice for all. Toot.

10
11 **Gwendolyn Gilliard:** Good morning. Let us just take a moment to inhale three times.
12 Inhale. Exhale. Inhale. Exhale. Inhale and slowly exhale. Let us pray. Father God, our
13 sovereign God, creator, thank You for those last breaths that we've been able to take.
14 We are so humbly thankful as we come before You, Lord, of grace and mercy. We
15 thank You, Lord God, that we're able to come and fellowship before we came to this
16 meeting, and as we go through this meeting, Lord God, we just ask that Your presence
17 remain with us because You're always not just a visitor, but Your presence is always
18 welcome. We ask, Father God, that You be with our Patriots, our families, and those
19 who are not able to be here today, Lord God. We ask blessings upon them as well. And
20 as we go through this meeting, Lord God, let the fruit of the spirit, be kind, as we're kind
21 and respectful to each other, and we're just looking forward to doing this with joy in our
22 hearts, and hearts of gratefulness. Anything that is not of You, Lord, that is not of Your
23 will for us, we know that You will be with us through this. So we're just so thankful, Lord,
24 as you bless our leadership, not just for the Auxiliary, but also for the Patriot side of the
25 house and of the United States of America. As we celebrate and give You this
26 opportunity to do so. 250 years, we have been a nation, one God, one nation, with
27 liberty and justice for all. In Your holy name we pray, amen.

28
29 **Collective Voices:** Amen.

30
31 **Judy McLaughlin:** Good morning, everyone. Good morning. I know that we all make
32 lists. We make lists to go shopping. We do our grocery list. Make a list of things to do
33 today. You've probably been doing that all the time. But there's only one list that we
34 really need to have, and that is a hoping list. They are scriptures to turn to whenever we
35 feel that we're losing hope or our hope is waning. So turn to scriptures. Thank you.

36
37 **Fran Holtgreven:** Thank you. Please be seated. Good morning, everybody. I hope
38 everyone had a good night's rest and came in fresh and ready to take care of some of
39 our business. So I see some people saying, oh, wow, wow. Other people are just, hmm.
40 Okay. First of all, I would like to have Linda Bellis. We're going to give a little, we're
41 going to give a little...

42
43 **Linda Bellis:** A little shake-shake.

1
2 **Fran Holtgreven:** Yeah, this morning, first thing. Start the day out right. Should I start
3 again? It's Linda Varejcka!

4
5 **Linda Varejcka:** No, its definitely a V.

6
7 **Linda Bellis:** Are you sure because us Lindas have to stick together.

8
9 **Linda Varejcka:** We do, we do.

10
11 **Kay Jo Baucom:** That is a beautiful purple bag, Linda.

12
13 **Fran Holtgreven:** Oh, I hear a phone ringing!

14
15 **Colleen Orfanello as Zoom Moderator:** That's not my phone, that's Zoom. Okay.

16
17 **Fran Holtgreven:** And before we start, have you all noticed all these beautiful flowers
18 around here? Doesn't that make a difference to this room? Does anybody know who did
19 this? Was it a little gnome or bird?

20
21 **Kay Jo Baucom:** I know. I know. The birdie told me. They are gorgeous. Gorgeous.

22
23 **Fran Holtgreven:** The birdie was right. Chris Day, will you please... Will you please
24 stand up and...

25
26 **Christine Day:** I really want to thank my husband for not complaining a lot about our
27 entire way back in the car being totally filled with flowers. And I do have to tell you, they
28 came from our state convention. I had them done for our state convention, and then I
29 talked to Kay Jo, and he said, oh, bring them to National. So they are just so beautiful.
30 And I had somebody help me bring do them. So thank you, thank you.

31
32 **Fran Holtgerven:** Thank you.

33
34 **Linda Bellis:** Hey, Chris. Just over here. This is Lynn Bellis. I do this at the Department.
35 and in Minnesota. Michael's. End of the season. Clearance. I have totes of fake flowers.
36 Money-saving tip. Okay, all of you, all of you, you all, you all, down south can have your
37 flowers out year-round. In Minnesota, we only get a couple of months. So all my big
38 urns are all fake. The neighbors think I have the greenest thumb. You spray them with
39 polyurethane spray and your flowers will last three, four years. They won't fade.
40 And think of all the money you save. But Michael's and Joanne Fabric's, but they're no
41 longer.

42
43 **Christine Day:** Yeah, Joanne Fabric's petered out.

1 **Linda Bellis:** Yeah, yeah. So go and save money. Thank you for doing this.

2
3 **Fran Holtgreven:** I I lost my thought of what I'm going to do. I'm going to turn this over
4 to Judy. Judy, can we have roll call, please?

5
6 **Judy Fiddler:** Is there anyone in the room right now that did not answer roll call
7 yesterday?

8
9 **Marcie Mallinowski:** I wasn't in here yesterday.

10
11 **Judy Fiddler:** Anyone else? Marcella Mallinowski, what unit are you from?

12
13 **Marcie Mallinowski:** With 577 in Towson, Maryland.

14
15 **Judy Fiddler:** Okay. So you're a National Member at Large.

16
17 **Marcie Mallinowski:** Yes.

18
19 **Kay Jo Baucom:** We are so glad. I kept seeing your name tag. Because I'd help do
20 registration. It's a beautiful name. I'm so glad you're here.

21
22 **Judy Fiddler:** Madam President, that's the only difference in the roll call.
23 Thank you.

24
25 **Linda Varejcka:** Madam President, We have a guest on the floor. Madam President
26 and Auxiliary members. This is Elizabeth Beatty. She is a Program Director at the
27 University of North Carolina, Charlotte. She is with the Military and Veterans Service
28 Department. She would like to tell us things that Universities in their areas can do. I
29 know my daughter, who works at the University of Nebraska, has this. So I'm sure
30 universities around your area have this. It's one of those ongoing... Elizabeth, this is our
31 national president, Fran.

32
33 **Elizabeth Beatty:** Good morning, everybody. My name is Elizabeth Beatty. And while I
34 work for UNC Charlotte, I'm here on behalf of the UNC system. So first, we'd like to
35 welcome you to North Carolina. Our great state with our public school system has 17
36 universities. We range all the way from two of our colleges that are based in the
37 mountains and two are down here on the coast. Specifically, my university is based out
38 of the city of Charlotte. We do a lot with our community partners and corporate
39 organizations. Most of our colleges you've probably heard of are in NC State, UNC
40 Chapel Hill. But in North Carolina, what makes us a bit special is our commitment to
41 serving our service members and their families. So specifically, if you were interested in
42 going back to school, we waive the application fee for all service members. We also
43 have placed a heavy emphasis on military credit coming in with CLEP and your JSTs or
44 CCF credits by doing evaluations before admissions. Sometimes we do this in a private

1 model, but we're really proud that we were able to bring this to the public school system
2 as well. Specifically, we just passed Senate Bill 118, which is in-state tuition for any
3 Purple Heart recipient. As well as any service member. We're super excited to
4 implement that. Also, anyone who is stationed here in North Carolina for at least 90
5 days as your permanent duty station will also receive in-state tuition. So you can be in
6 California, if you want to go to school online, we can make it happen for that in-state
7 rate, which is also \$20,000 a year, so a pretty significant bill that we passed here. If you
8 have any questions about our benefits, I am downstairs at the vendor table. Like I said, I
9 work closely with all the different offices here in our state, so I always like to say there's
10 something for everybody. At UNC Charlotte, we specifically do a lot with DOD research
11 opportunities and engagement, as well as UNC Greensboro has a new program
12 working with Fort Bragg out of Fayetteville. We just want to let you guys know about the
13 new Senate Bill, since that's probably our biggest update that we have going on right
14 now. As well as we have, if you have dependent children, they're still eligible, we have a
15 specific North Carolina state benefit that basically gives them free tuition on top of
16 Chapter 35 benefits that we're using. So there is more criteria for that. It does require a
17 VA disability rating, but I have the criteria downstairs if you have more questions.
18 Thank you so much.

19
20 **Fran Holtgreven:** Are there any questions?

21
22 **Linda Varejcka:** We have one over here, Doris Williams?

23
24 **Doris Williams:** You just stated a Purple Heart recipient gets in-state tuition. Does that
25 apply to a Purple Heart recipient family member or just a Purple Heart recipient?

26
27 **Elizabeth Beatty:** Just the recipient themselves right now, but since this bill was just
28 passed a year ago, I'm sure they're working to expand it to family members as well.

29
30 **Doris Williams:** Alright, thank you. You said this is a North Carolina bill?

31
32 **Elizabeth Beatty:** Yes. It's not a federal government bill, it's a North Carolina bill. Okay.

33
34 **Patricia Andrews:** Do you have a information downstairs?

35
36 **Elizabeth Beatty:** Yes, ma'am.

37
38 **Fran Holtgreven:** Okay, thank you. Any other questions? Any other questions? Thank
39 you so much for coming up and giving us the information. Thank you. Okay, at this time,
40 can we have the credential information, please? Tara Waugh?

41
42 **Tara Waugh:** Thank you, Madam President. Tara Waugh. This is what we have for
43 credentials this morning. We have 7 national officers, 6 Department Presidents, 5
44 PNPs. My apologies, I was shuffled. 4 Unit Presidents and 62 delegate votes.

1 The total at this moment. And we also have 2 associates and guests signed in. 2
2 Members at Large and 1 Associate or guest signed in. A total of 82 votes at this
3 moment. 85. 85 votes at this moment.
4

5 **Fran Holtgreven:** Thank you. 85 total votes. Thank you. Thank you, Tara. Okay, do we
6 have some information from the supply desk?
7

8 **Mike Fiddler:** Yes, ma'am. The supply table made \$136 yesterday.
9

10 **Fran Holtgreven:** Thank you. Do we have any report on the Ways & Means over here?
11

12 **Doris Williams:** We made \$64 yesterday.
13

14 **Linda Bellis:** Okay, so that was for jewelry? For yesterday?
15

16 **Doris Williams:** Yes. For the jewelry. Yeah, we made \$64. This is Doris Williams,
17 Region 5 President. I collected \$64.
18

19 **Mike Fiddler:** I gave you the numbers yesterday.
20

21 **Linda Bellis:** I know, it's a lot to me. You made \$295 yesterday. Back from you.
22 Yes. Because I'm running totals from downstairs too. So, thank you, Mike. Thank you,
23 Doris. The Purple Heart Ornament is selling really good. Just remember, here is \$15. If
24 you have to order it off the website, it's \$25 because they're heavy to ship. We are
25 selling quite a few to the Patriots. They're buying them for their children and
26 grandchildren. So, think of cute little Christmas gifts. Linda Varejcka put her husband's
27 name on the back and rank also, right?
28

29 **Linda Varejcka:** Sort of. You can't engrave on the back of those because I imagine
30 these are textured like the other ones were. So I went to an engraving place and they
31 made little placards, just little ones. And it said, I don't remember if I put Grandpa
32 Varejcka or if I put James Varejcka or what, but I said Vietnam and Desert Storm and
33 the years that he was in. And gave it to each one of the grandkids for Christmas so that
34 they could always remember Grandpa. And the kids were excited.
35

36 **Linda Bellis:** And also, please contact your Department members, your Unit members.
37 If you have room in your suitcases or in your car, you're going to save them money.
38 Instead of, well, it's going to be another \$10 on the website. So, I'm all about saving
39 money. And then you can turn and, you know, okay, Susie didn't come and she ordered
40 four and just collect the money after. And I did that with some people too. And so, so far
41 with the magnets, the magnets will not fit in a regular envelope. So, we have to get a
42 larger envelope.
43

1 And depending on how many people order, they'll be shipping on that also. So, plan
2 ahead to help your Unit members out, your Department members out. Sell them to the
3 Patriots at the meetings. You know, it's just like the best way forward. You got to talk to
4 them too to get things going. And this money, the Purple Heart ornaments goes to the
5 general fund. And the magnets goes to HOV. And the mailbox is also going to the HOV.
6 So, that was donated by the Department of Minnesota. So, they're donating all that
7 money to the Auxiliary. And the seashells, I have them here. And they will be back at
8 break time. Those are just \$5. So, cute little thing to bring home to children and for
9 yourself. Thank you.

10
11 **Fran Holtgreven:** Thank you, Linda. Colleen, could you tell us who is on Zoom this
12 morning so we can say hello to them?

13
14 **Colleen Orfanello as Zoom Moderator:** Yes, ma'am. We have Jennynne Bilsky, Bonnie
15 Weil Brown, Jane Daly, Dixie Pickard, Sharon Lewinsky, Cheryl Perez PNP, Tracy Derr.
16 And Miss Maxine Tisdale.

17
18 **Fran Holtgreven:** Good morning. We are sorry that you are not here. But we are happy
19 to see you on Zoom. So, welcome. And I hope you are having a good day because we
20 started out great. So, hi, everybody. Thank you for joining.

21
22 **Terri Shattuck:** Y'all.

23
24 **Fran Holtgreven:** Y'all. We say that in Texas.

25
26 **Linda Varejcka:** Reminder. The mentoring program. Reminder. Nobody's done it yet.
27 No one has written a ballot.

28
29 **Judy Fiddler:** The ballots for the Sharon Carlton mentor is in the back on the supply
30 table. So, please sign the little blue tag for who you would like to be receiving it.

31
32 **Terri Shattuck:** Where do we put them when we vote?

33
34 **Judy Fiddler:** Give it to Mike.

35
36 **Fran Holtgreven:** Give it to Mike. Okay. So, we're going to get down to business. We're
37 going to go over those fantastic resolutions again. Now, our bylaw says that we need to
38 read them two times before we have our discussion and everything. I'm hoping that we
39 will not read them today since they were in your packet. They were sent by constant
40 contact. Y'all should have had time to read them. So, do I have a motion to not read
41 them? Angie, you had your hand up first. She beat you, Terri. Well, I was looking
42 around. Angie first.

1 **Angie Foster:** Angie Foster, Region 2 President. I move that we waive the second
2 reading of the resolutions as they were put in our packet.

3
4 **Karen Haltiner:** Do I have a second? Karen Haltiner, PNP. I second that motion.

5
6 **Fran Holtgreven:** Okay. Any discussion?

7
8 **Colleen Orfanello:** Madam President, this is Colleen Orfanello. Because it's in our
9 bylaws, we're going to have to waive those bylaws, I believe.
10 Correct? To not allow the second reading that's in the rules of the convention. I don't
11 think we can. We'll have to ask Madam Parliamentarian, but I think we'll have to halt the
12 bylaws and then reinstate them instantly afterwards, if it passes.

13
14 **Fran Holtgreven:** Thank you.

15
16 **Jan Knapp:** Nothing prevents us from making a change. A motion. As long as it's
17 unanimous. I believe we're fine. I personally don't want to hear them again. But I think
18 that nothing prevents us.

19
20 **Colleen Orfanello, PNP:** I don't want to hear them again either.

21
22 **Fran Holtgreven:** Okay. Any other discussion before we take a vote? I see no other
23 discussion. Okay. I would like to have you raise your hand if you agree that we will
24 forego the second reading. Zoom members, that's you too. If you'd like to forego the
25 second reading, raise your hand. If it is not unanimous, we have to read them. Well, I'm
26 waiting for them to raise their hand. Members on Zoom, if you're not in favor, please
27 raise your hand. Oh, okay. Okay, so if you are not wanting to forego, please raise your
28 hand. So not foregoing, raise your hand. No one?

29
30 **Colleen Orfanello as Zoom Moderator:** No one.

31
32 **Fran Holtgreven:** I don't see any here. Yippee! Thank you, ladies, Thank you,
33 everyone. Motion has carried that we do not read the second by-law resolutions. Thank
34 you. Okay, so now we will go and turn it over to the by-law chair, Linda Bellis.

35
36 **Linda Bellis:** Are you guys okay if I sit? We're working on you. Okay, can everybody
37 turn to the resolutions in the binder, please?

38 We will start with **resolution #1** in regards to digital to electronic. The committee
39 recommends that this resolution be adopted. If you are against this, raise your hand. If
40 you are against this resolution, please raise your hand. Oh, discussion. Does anybody
41 have any questions in regards to changing the verbiage from digital to electronic? Is
42 there any questions? I need a motion to accept this resolution.

1 **Terri Shattuck, PNP:** I will make a motion that we accept resolution one, digital to
2 electronic.

3
4 **Gloria Sanchez:** Gloria Sanchez, PNP. I second the motion.
5

6 **Colleen Orfanello as Zoom Moderator:** Jennynne Bilsky had discussion. She can't hear
7 what's being said. She chatted that she is in favor for resolution one.
8

9 **Fran Holtgreven:** So all those in favor to accept this resolution number one, please
10 raise your hand. Okay. Those who say no, nay, raise your hand, please.

11 **Motion carries.** Thanks. Okay.
12

13 **Linda Bellis:** Okay, we're looking at Resolution #2 in regards to the duties of the
14 national officers, and this pertains to the Sergeant of Arms. Do I have a motion to
15 accept this?
16

17 **Kay Jo Baucom:** Kay Jo Baucom, National Co Chaplain, and PNP. I make the motion
18 that we accept as recommended by the resolutions committee, By-laws committee, the
19 resolution number two as presented.
20

21 **Linda Bellis:** Do I have a second?
22

23 **Kristy Graves:** Kristy Graves, Unit 1836 from Texas. I second.
24

25 **Linda Bellis:** Do we have any discussion? Any discussion on Zoom? I see no
26 discussion. We've had a motion, and it's been seconded, and this has been
27 recommended to be adopted by the By-laws committee. Okay, we'll take a vote on
28 resolution two. All those in favor, raise your hand, please. All those in favor of resolution
29 two. All those who disapprove? Motion carried to accept resolution two.
30 Resolution #3, again, duties of the national officers, again, in regards to Sergeant of
31 Arms. Do I have a motion? Excuse me, this has been recommended to be adopted by
32 the By-laws committee. Do I have a motion?
33

34 **Gloria Sanchez:** Gloria Sanchez, PNP. I make a motion that we accept resolution three
35 in regards to the duties of the National Sergeant of Arms.
36

37 **Terri Shattuck, PNP:** I second it.
38

39 **Linda Bellis:** Do we have a discussion? No discussion on Zoom? Do I have a
40 discussion? We have no discussion. A motion has been first and seconded. All those in
41 favor to accept resolution three, please raise your hand. All those against, please raise
42 your hand. Motion carried to accept resolution three. Resolution #4. The by-laws
43 committee recommends that this be adopted.
44

1 This is in regards to politics and to preserve the integrity of the auxiliary. Do I have a
2 motion? Do I have a motion?

3
4 **Gwendolyn Gilliard:** Gwendolyn Gilliard, PNP and co-chaplain. I make a motion to
5 accept resolution number four concerning the integrity of the auxiliary.

6
7 **Linda Bellis:** Do I have a second? Do we have a discussion?

8
9 **Maryann Barclay:** Maryann Barclay, Department of Georgia President. Am I reading
10 this correctly? We are omitting the sentence. No lobbying as a representative of the
11 Auxiliary will be done before the U.S. Congress without the approval or
12 recommendation of the National President and after consultation and written approval of
13 the National Commander. We are omitting that sentence? So this resolution is thereby
14 allowing lobbying?

15
16 **Linda Bellis and Jan Knapp:** No.

17
18 **Maryann Barclay:** It says no recommendation or endorsements for political office.
19 It doesn't mention lobbying. So is lobbying allowed?

20
21 **Kay Jo Baucom:** The next sentence does.

22
23 **Maryann Barclay:** It currently says no lobbying and we've taken that sentence out.

24
25 **Kay Jo Baucom:** Whereas.

26
27 **Maryann Barclay:** Whereas the auxiliary does not lobby before the U.S. Congress. But
28 that's not in the resolution.

29
30 **Kay Jo Baucom:** We are only changing "C".

31
32 **Maryann Barclay:** It just says the Auxiliary does not lobby. So is lobbying allowed is my
33 question.

34
35 **Several Voices:** No.

36
37 **Jan Knapp:** No. This area has been in the bylaws for years. And to my knowledge I've
38 never known of anyone to go to Congress and lobby from the Auxiliary without the
39 Commander. We discussed this and it was kind of Cheryl's baby. Wasn't it Cheryl?
40 Because as an Auxiliary member, you may want to join your Chapter to go somewhere.
41 Not to support a political office but to be recognized as an organization. Okay. We can't
42 do things like that. Cheryl can you speak on this?

1 **Cheryl Perez:** Yeah. I'll bring this one forward. I think this might have come from the
2 Ad-Hoc. But we discussed in Committee that the Auxiliary just does not go in front of
3 Congress per se. But we can locally. I mean the way it reads now. The way what we
4 talked about was... The situation is... But it leaves though that locally I can go to my city
5 council and speak to have a proclamation for Purple Heart Day. If we said that it was
6 going to be changed that was my concern. I want to be able to go and talk to my local
7 government about, for us locally like Purple Heart Day, raising the Purple Heart flag,
8 proclamations. But we don't go in front of Congress. So that's why we just took that out.
9 We can't endorse any candidates or anything politically. But it still gives us the
10 opportunity to be able to lobby political and government for locally. For our own benefit.
11 For the benefit of promoting Purple Heart in our Chapters and Units. I don't know if that
12 answered it. Otherwise I need to hear the question again more clearly.

13
14 **Maryann Barclay:** I understand what you're saying about the local consultation and
15 speaking locally. But in my opinion where it currently says no lobbying will be done
16 before the U.S. Congress. And we're taking that sentence out. Then there's nothing to
17 prevent us from lobbying before the U.S. Congress. I agree. I don't think we should
18 unless we have this written permission. But it clearly says no lobbying before the U.S.
19 Congress. We're taking that phrase out. And so that opens the door and allows us to
20 lobby before the U.S. Congress. And you know it's up to us, if we want to allow that. But
21 I'm getting the impression that we don't want to allow that. But whereas that's not in the
22 bylaw. The Auxiliary does not lobby before the U.S. Congress. That's not written in the
23 bylaw. That's just saying because it says no lobbying. So that's why it says whereas the
24 Auxiliary does not lobby. But those words that we "do not lobby" is in C. And we're
25 taking that out of C. And so that opens us up to lobbying. So whereas is not written in
26 the CBL. C is written in the CBL. And so if we take no lobbying out, that's allowing
27 lobbying.

28
29 **Cheryl Perez:** Okay. I think when we were discussing it in the Bylaw Committee, no
30 one knows anyone who's ever gone to Congress to lobby without going with the Order.
31 So, I mean, I can't even think of a reason why someone would fly to Washington to
32 lobby or go. I guess you could do it locally, go lobby your local one. But what would you
33 be lobbying except for something that's beneficial to the Purple Heart? I guess that
34 sentence did not make sense to me being in there. And I think most of the committee,
35 that's why we took it out. But, by our bylaws from last year, we can always amend a
36 resolution from the floor. It just needs to be readied further at another business session
37 and voted on. So, I mean, it can be added back in if that's what the Auxiliary wants, if
38 the body wants. The ultimate supreme power is in all of the people sitting there on the
39 floor.

40
41 **Linda Bellis:** We're still in this discussion mode.

42
43 **Kay Jo Baucom:** Kay Jo Baucom, National Chaplain and PNP. My interpretation is
44 because we are under the umbrella of the Order, the Order lobbies. We can lobby only

1 if the Order allows us to do that. So, taking that word out really is not changing the fact
2 that if we're given permission, we still have to go through the Order regardless because
3 the Order is the one who would go and lobby. So, if we wanted to speak, we could as
4 long as our National President is in approval, or the Order agrees that we may speak in
5 front of Congress.

6
7 **Kristy Gray:** Kristy Gray, Unit 1836 from Texas. I was on the ad hoc committee. This
8 was my recommendation just to make it more clear. It's very wordy. I understand the
9 lobbying issue, but I travel with my husband to D.C. I don't say anything about the
10 Auxiliary unless I have permission to. It was just trying to make it clearer and for
11 everybody to understand that someone new, you know the bylaws can be very wordy
12 and older sentences. It was only to make it clearer. Clean.

13
14 **Linda Bellis:** Colleen, do you have a discussion there?

15
16 **Colleen Orfanello as Zoom Moderator:** Yes. Jennynne, we're on discussion mode.
17 You're up. Jennynne Bilsky?

18
19 **Jennynne Bilsky:** I'm concerned if we want to do something on a local level, this
20 resolution or any time, are we supposed to go through National? I need to... I'm not
21 clear about this resolution and the rules about working for Purple Heart at a local level.

22
23 **Linda Bellis:** Cheryl Perez, I see you shaking your head. Can you comment, please?

24
25 **Cheryl Perez:** Yes. No, this preserves our ability to be able to go locally. You can still
26 go to your local city council, your local government for things that benefit Purple Heart
27 proclamations, you know, flag raising, whatever like that. It's just you can't... The new
28 one, all you cannot do is you cannot endorse political offices. We can't get involved in
29 the political side of campaigns or offices. So, if you have a local governor who's running,
30 you can't go wear your Purple Heart shirt and get in a picture with them during a
31 campaign stop or something like that. But you can go and lobby to your local
32 government for things that benefit your Chapter and Units.

33
34 **Linda Bellis:** Cheryl, would you like to amend the resolve by stating: "(C), No
35 nominations, recommendations, or endorsements for political office shall be made by a
36 member as a representative of the Auxiliary. No lobbying as a representative of the
37 Auxiliary will be done before the U.S. Congress. Can we add that to amend this
38 resolution?

39
40 **Cheryl Perez:** Yes, resolutions can be amended from the floor. We did pass a way to
41 do that the last election. But I refer to the Parliamentarian. I don't think that comes from
42 the By-law Committee. I think that would have to come from somebody on the floor.

1 **Linda Bellis:** The Parliamentarian suggested that. I'm asking, would that clear up this
2 question? And if it did, would you be agreeable to that?

3
4 **Colleen Orfanello as Zoom Moderator:** Cheryl, Jan wants to know, would you be
5 agreeable to amending your resolution?

6
7 **Cheryl Perez:** Did I write that resolution? I mean, it doesn't matter. It's the By-law
8 Committee's words. If there's a vote from the floor that somebody wants to amend it and
9 the body agrees to amend it, then our by-laws would say, it says these by-laws may be
10 amended by unanimous vote of the convention body, providing blah, blah, blah. And
11 then part two, published resolutions that were amended by the convention body shall be
12 rewritten as amended and voted on in a subsequent business session of the
13 convention. So that's what we could do. The committee passed these by-laws as written
14 and we forwarded them, so now they're published, so it would be the convention body.
15 They belong to the convention body, so they can amend and do what they want with
16 them, pass them, fail them, whatever they want. But I don't think it would be me that
17 would change it.

18
19 **Gwendolyn Gilliard:** Gwendolyn Gilliard, PNP, National Co-Chaplain, I concur that this
20 time. I move that we amend the resolve to include the no-lobbying as a representative
21 of Auxiliary as it is written in this resolution, to be added to the resolve.

22
23 **Terri Shattuck:** I'll second that motion. Terri Shattuck, PNP.

24
25 **Linda Bellis:** We have a motion, and it's been seconded, to amend Resolution 4 to
26 state, "Resolve, no nominations, recommendations, or endorsements for political office
27 shall be made by a member as a representative of the Auxiliary. No lobbying as a
28 representative of the Auxiliary will be done before the U.S. Congress.

29
30 **Linda Varejcka:** Madam Chairman, you already have a motion on the floor. We were in
31 discussion. That first amendment needs to be... What's the word I want?

32
33 **Terri Shattuck:** I would like to amend the motion.

34
35 **Linda Varejcka:** Okay. You go ahead and state it.

36
37 **Terri Shattuck:** The first motion needs to be amended. The first motion. Yeah, we had
38 a discussion. We didn't take any action on the first vote and second. We didn't take any
39 action. I think that's what you're saying.

40
41 **Fran Holtgreven:** So, we can just reject this resolution as it is written, also, and then go
42 forward later.

43
44 **Colleen Orfanello:** Call for the vote so we can reject it.

1
2 **Linda Bellis:** I am calling for a vote.

3
4 **Terri Shattuck:** Oh, wait. Are we rejecting it?

5
6 **Fran Holtgreven:** Oh, I'm sorry. There's a hand up here.

7
8 **Barb Meyer:** I'm Barb Meyer. I'm the President of Unit 631. Right now in the world out
9 there, nonprofits have to watch what they do. They do not act as lobbyists.
10 Once they do that, you go talk to a senator, as a representative of any nonprofit, you
11 both face a liability, and that is what they've been talking about. I've been approached
12 by Fox News to discuss another nonprofit. I was not allowed if I stepped in the room and
13 took up all that. I couldn't talk to them. But that's as a citizen. We're not removing any of
14 their freedoms by not being able to lobby. Just don't do it as a rep of a nonprofit. This is
15 where the legality is going. If we say we don't want to lobby, make sure that you can
16 lobby all you want as a private citizen, but the nonprofit takes a liability, and so does the
17 person that you are representative of.

18
19 **Fran Holtgreven:** Is there any other discussion on this? Okay, I would like to have a
20 motion to reject this resolution, and possibly work on this later. Okay, we're just voting
21 now to reject.

22
23 **Darlene Hanneman:** Madam President, Darlene Hanneman, Senior Vice from the
24 Department of Ohio, this is what you should do. You should table this motion and send
25 it back to committee. So, I move that you table this motion, number four, and send it
26 back to committee.

27
28 **Fran Holtgreven:** No. At this time, we need to have a vote to reject, so then that can
29 happen. We just need to have a vote.

30
31 **Darleen Hanneman:** You don't need to vote. You just need to table it.

32
33 **Fran Holtgreven:** No, we have to have... our organization has to have a vote to reject.

34
35 **Jan Knapp:** A vote to accept or reject.

36
37 **Fran Holtgreven:** Okay, so I am asking for a vote to accept this resolution. All those in
38 favor, yes? Raise your hand. No hands? Any hands on Zoom?

39
40 **Colleen Orfanello as Zoom Moderator:** No Ma'am.

41
42 **Fran Holtgreven:** Okay, now I would like a vote to reject this resolution and look into it
43 at another time. Please raise your hand. Okay, we will reject this and look into it at
44 another time.

1
2 **Colleen Orfanello:** I'm going to make the motion that we use the, propose the
3 amended version that Gwen had proposed. Someone second it, and then if it's 100%,
4 it'll go through.

5
6 **Linda Bellis:** Wait a minute, wait a minute, wait a minute. We just rejected it.

7
8 **Colleen Orfanello:** You rejected the original. Now we have to bring up the amendment
9 So I'm making the motion that we, we've got to go ahead with discussion. So I'm just
10 going to make the motion, someone do the second motion, we'll do discussion, and then
11 y'all can vote on whatever you want. But we just got to roll with, you know, this could
12 take forever.

13
14 **Cheryl Perez:** No. No, we just rejected it. So this motion is gone, this amendment, this
15 resolution is gone. If you want to do another one, then you have to rewrite a new one,
16 present it as it is in our bylaws, be read one day, do another, and then vote on it.
17 Well, actually it would be good.

18
19 **Colleen Orfanello:** I thought Gwen had brought up an amended version. I'm working
20 on two hours of sleep so don't worry about it.

21
22 **Cheryl Perez:** We can't, it's a new resolution that would need to be presented.

23
24 **Fran Holtgreven:** Okay, so this is what happened. It has been rejected. This resolution
25 is gone for this year or until someone else has, changes it to what you want. So this
26 resolution is gone. It's been rejected for this year. Okay.

27
28 **Linda Bellis:** Resolution #5 in regards to National Organization. The bylaws
29 committee recommends that we adopt this resolution. Do I have a motion?

30
31 **Terri Shattuck:** Do you want to just give me a mic up here and I'll let you know? Terri
32 Shattuck, PNP. I make the motion that we accept. I just get the motion. I make the
33 motion that we accept the resolution number five.

34
35 **Gloria Sanchez:** Gloria Sanchez, PNP. I second the motion to accept resolution
36 number five.

37
38 **Linda Bellis:** Thank you. We have a motion and a second. Do we have a discussion?

39
40 **Kay Jo Baucom:** Yes, we do. Kay Jo Baucom, PNP and co-Chaplain. I just want
41 clarification. This says that if I'm the Region President, I'm holding a region conference
42 only if the Region Commander tells me I'm having one. So, therefore, I'm required to
43 have one. Correct? I just want to make sure that I'm clarifying that.

1 **Jan Knapp:** It doesn't say only if. It says you'll hold one during your term if notified by
2 the Region Commander, but it doesn't say you can't. I mean, it's a time and place.
3 It's a time and place selected by the Region Commander generally because they have
4 more money than we do. Right?

5
6 **Kay Jo Baucom:** It just says if he notifies me that as the Region President, if the
7 Region Commander notifies me, then I will be having one. Now, I just want to clarify that
8 I'm understanding that correctly. So, if he doesn't notify me, then there is not one. And I
9 know that's nitpicking, but I want to have a clear understanding of what this says.

10
11 **Jan Knapp:** It's best to stay connected to that partner in the MOPH and get on the
12 same page so that you know what you're doing. Right? But it doesn't mean we're going
13 to walk backwards.

14
15 **Linda Bellis:** Thank you. Any more discussion? Hearing none. Ah and seeing none on
16 Zoom, Madam President, we're done with discussion.

17
18 **Fran Holtgreven:** A motion has been made to accept number five. All those in favor,
19 raise your hand. All those opposed, raise your hand. Motion carried. Resolution five
20 is approved.

21
22 **Linda Bellis:** Thank you, Madam President. Moving on to Resolution #6 in regards to
23 membership dues. Do I have a motion? Sorry. Bylaws Committee recommends that this
24 resolution be adopted. Do I have a motion?

25
26 **Terri Shattuck:** Terry Shattuck, PNP. I make that motion to accept resolution number
27 six.

28
29 **Linda Bellis:** Do I have a second? Yeah. Kay Jo.

30
31 **Kay Jo Baucom:** National Co-Chaplain, PNP. I second the motion. .

32
33 **Linda Bellis:** Do we have a discussion, please?

34
35 **Jan Knapp:** I just want to say one thing. It's not really a discussion, but we have been
36 asked by someone, could they run for Region President? And how do you tell them "No"
37 when you don't have a specified requirement? So that's just what this covers.

38
39 **Linda Bellis:** Thank you. Madam President, with no discussion, we're ready for a vote.

40
41 **Fran Holtgreven:** All those in favor of accepting number six resolution, please raise
42 your hand. Okay. All those opposed to this resolution, raise your hand. Okay. **Motion**
43 **carries. Resolution six has been approved.**

1 **Kay Jo Baucom:** I think we need to call for a water break.

2
3 **Linda Bellis:** Moving on. Resolution #7. This is in regards to majority vote.
4 Do I have a nomination? Oh, the Bylaws Committee recommends this resolution to be
5 adopted.

6
7 **Nancy Lee Birchbach:** Nancy Lee Birchbach, Past National President, Department
8 President of Wisconsin. I move that we accept the resolution about majority vote.

9
10 **Terri Shattuck:** Terri Shattuck, PNP. I second that motion.

11
12 **Linda Bellis:** We have a motion that has been seconded. Do we have any discussion?
13 Hearing none and I see none on Zoom. Hearing none, Madam President, we're ready
14 for a vote.

15
16 **Fran Holtgreven:** All those in favor of accepting seven, please raise your hand.
17 All those say nay, raise your hand. Motion is carried for Resolution 7.

18
19 **Linda Bellis:** Resolution #8. The bylaws committee approves, recommends the
20 adoption of this resolution. Resolution for one member, one vote national convention.
21 Do I have a nomination?

22
23 **Terri Shattuck, PNP:** I make that motion. Motion.

24
25 **Linda Bellis:** Oh, I'm sorry. What did I say?

26
27 **Terri Shattuck:** Nomination.

28
29 **Linda Bellis:** I didn't say it. Ha ha. Nomination, Motion...anything.

30
31 **Terri Shattuck:** I make that motion that we accept resolution number eight.

32
33 **Jan Huffman:** Jan Huffman, Colorado, 375. I second that motion.

34
35 **Linda Bellis:** Do we have any discussion? I see no discussion. Madam President, we're
36 ready for a vote.

37
38 **Fran Holtgreven:** Okay, we're ready to vote for resolution number eight. All those who
39 approve, raise your hand. Okay, put your hands down. All those who disapprove, raise
40 your hand. We have one person. It would be you, Jan. Okay. A vote has been taken.
41 Everyone but one person has voted for it. So Resolution #8 has been approved.

42
43 **Linda Bellis:** Ladies and gentlemen, I do apologize. I am tired. My speech impediment
44 gets worse. And then I start to stutter. So let's hope that doesn't happen. Last one.

1 **Resolution #9.** This is in regards to Article five Meetings of Units, the Bylaws
2 committee recommends that this resolution be adopted. I need a motion, please.

3
4 **Gloria Sanchez:** Gloria Sanchez, PNP. I make a motion that we accept resolution nine
5 in regards to Meetings of Units.

6
7 **Linda Bellis:** Do I have a second?

8
9 **Jan Huffman:** Jan Huffman, Colorado 375. I second that motion.

10
11 **Linda Bellis:** We have a nomination and we have a second. Do we have a discussion,
12 please? No? Seeing no discussion, Madam President, we're waiting for a vote.

13
14 **Fran Holtgreven:** I'm taking a vote for resolution number nine. All those that approve,
15 raise their hand. Okay. All those that disapprove, raise your hand. Motion carried.
16 Resolution #9 has been accepted.

17
18 **Linda Bellis:** Ladies and gentlemen, thank you so much. That finishes our resolution.

19
20 **Jan Knapp:** Okay. Based on resolution number three, we felt a standing order, and that
21 is to make sure that whatever property we do have is accounted for. Our
22 recommendation, which you have in front of you, is that number three indicate the
23 responsibility of the incoming President to designate where property, including the flag
24 and banner, will be kept between conventions and coordinate with the National
25 Secretary to create a list. Copies will be kept by the National President, Secretary, and
26 Treasurer. The list must include a secondary name and phone number in the event the
27 designee is incapacitated or cannot be contacted. The purpose of this, we didn't have a
28 Charter for years because one of our Past National Secretaries years back had passed.
29 Her family could not be contacted. We don't know where any of that property went. So
30 this gives us a way to keep track. That's all it is. So we would need a motion to accept
31 this.

32
33 **Fran Holtgreven:** Do I have a motion to approve this?

34
35 **Nancy Lee Birchbach:** Nancy Lee Birchbach, Past National President and Department
36 President of Wisconsin. I so move.

37
38 **Fran Holtgreven:** Do I have a second?

39
40 **Terri Shattuck:** Terri Shattuck, PNP. I second that motion.

41
42 **Fran Holtgreven:** Discussion? Is there any discussion from the room? As there is no
43 discussion, we will have a vote. All those in favor, raise your hand. All those opposed,
44 raise your hand. Hand down, Gloria. I will repeat that again. All those opposed, please

1 raise your hand. **Motion carried on property whereabouts.** Okay. Has anyone not
2 covered, not covered? Registered? Anyone who has not signed up at the Credential
3 table, please do it now. At this time, I'm going to call for a break, 20 minutes.

4
5 **Kay Jo Baucom:** Do we vote on clerical corrections, Madam President? These are the
6 clerical corrections.

7
8 **Fran Holtgreven:** Do we vote on those? Just a minute. Do we vote on those clerical?

9
10 **Kay Jo Baucom:** It's at the very back of the resolution. I'm just asking because it says
11 accept, reject. I'm just asking. There's two pages. This is clerical corrections or
12 amended words. I didn't know if we had to vote. I'm just asking for clarification.

13
14 **Jan Knapp:** The resolution, that's what this is.

15
16 **Kay Jo Baucom:** No, it's not.

17
18 **Jan Knapp:** I'm sorry. I'm sorry. That just needs a (inaudible).

19
20 **Linda Bellis:** Okay, ladies and gentlemen, in back of your resolutions, second, third,
21 the first is, there's three last pages. So it'd be the first of two of the last three pages, if
22 you could turn to that, please. **Housekeeping documents.** Clerical correction or
23 amended words that have no effect on the meeting. So look at the last three pages of
24 the resolution section. Jan just read the last page, but the first two pages before that.

25
26 **Jan Knapp:** I think I left this part. Region six is missing on article one, section nine. All
27 we need is the number six. We just need approval to do that. On the second one, what
28 is the second one? Oh, my gosh, three regions. Okay, Article 11. It's talking about
29 meeting members. We didn't like that. The ad hoc committee didn't like that. We would
30 like it to be members of the meeting. So it's just a switch of words, okay? The other one,
31 Article Six, Section Three, there's a mistake. In the absence of the Department
32 President, we're talking about Units here. So the Department President, in this section,
33 the Department President doesn't apply. It would be the Unit President.
34 So we just want to make that change, okay? So that's all it is, but easy clerical fixes.
35 Okay, starting with Article 1, in regards to the regions, we are adding article Region 6,
36 okay? So it's just an addition to that. Is there any questions on this? Okay.
37 Please raise your hand to approve this change. I don't need a motion, do I? Because it's
38 just words. It's just a line change. Oh, we need a motion to accept it.

39
40 **Terri Shattuck:** I make that motion. To add region six to our list.

41
42 **Kristi Gray:** Kristy Gray, Unit 1836, Texas. I second the motion.

43
44 **Linda Bellis:** Do we have a discussion? No discussion?

1
2 **Fran Holtgreven:** Okay, we're going to take a vote on this. All those who approve this,
3 raise your hand. Okay, all those who disagree with this, raise your hand. Motion
4 carried and approved to add Region 6. Approved.

5
6 **Linda Bellis:** Article 14, Section 6, Violas. We're changing it from needy members to
7 members in need. Violas, yes. We're changing it from needy members to members in
8 need. Do I have a motion to approve?

9
10 **Sandy Verbos:** Okay. Sandy Verbos, President of Pennsylvania. I vote to change it.
11 I make a motion to change it from needy members to members in need.

12
13 **Linda Bellis:** Do I have a second?

14
15 **Gloria Sanchez:** Gloria Sanchez, PNP. I Second. I second the motion.

16
17 **Linda Bellis:** Thank you. Do we have a discussion? I see no discussion. All those in
18 favor to accept it, raise your right hand. Okay, this has **carried**. Thank you. The next
19 and last article. Department Section 3. The verbiage, the words "Department President"
20 was stated when we were talking about Units. So in the absence of the Unit President,
21 the Senior Vice President or Junior Vice President may represent the Unit. Do I have a
22 Motion?

23
24 **Kristy Gray:** Kristy Gray, Unit 1836. I make a motion to approve.

25
26 **Terri Shattuck:** I second that motion.

27
28 **Linda Bellis:** Do I have any discussion? I see no discussion, we will have a vote.

29
30 **Fran Holtgreven:** All those in favor, raise their left hand. Left hand only. That's what it's
31 all about. Okay, all those who don't want to vote for it, raise their left foot. Raise your
32 right hand. **Motion carried about Section 3 and Department President.**

33
34 **Linda Bellis:** Thank you, now we are done with the Resolutions.

35
36 **Tara Waugh:** Madam President, thank you. Tara Waugh. I wonder if we could step out
37 and break real quick.

38
39 **Fran Holtgreven:** Okay, remember, if you don't have your credentials, you have that
40 little table back there, go back and see it. So, we'll take a 20 minute break. Let's see
41 what time it is. Okay, be back at 10:25. Thank you.

42
43 **Linda Varejcka:** While you're on break, you may also vote for your mentor.

1 **Judy Fiddler:** Ladies, also remember for the President's luncheon today, you need that
2 little white ticket that's given in your package so that you can get in.

3
4 **--BREAK--**

5
6 **Sheryl Osburn:** I'm Sheryl Osburn from Minnesota and I have the privilege of reading
7 this blog, whatever it is. This inspirational moment. We are rejoicing with friends. Think
8 about all the reasons we have to celebrate. Are you in good health? Have you
9 overcome a tough obstacle? Are you handling your finances without much grief? Do you
10 (inaudible) your job? Not bonding with friends or family? If so, then throw yourself a
11 party and invite a friend. Better yet, call your friends and neighbors together as scripture
12 indicates. Share your praises with people who will truly appreciate all the Lord is doing
13 in your life. Let the party begin!

14
15 **Fran Holtgreven:** Welcome back everybody. Thank you, Sheryl. At this time, I would
16 like to proceed to unfinished business. I have some unfinished... Yeah, unfinished
17 business. Last year, we talked about working on a 501c3. The finance committee went
18 through it, finding out what it would take, how much it would be, everything like that.
19 Terri, would you like to talk about that?

20
21 **Terri Shattuck:** I didn't bring any of my notes.

22
23 **Fran Holtgreven:** Okay. I have...

24
25 **Judy Fiddler:** Tracy's on.

26
27 **Fran Holtgreven:** Oh, Tracy, are you on? Okay. I know this is kind of a surprise, but I
28 had my voting things here that we did. Would you like to talk about that 501c3 and what
29 we decided on it? Or would you like me to do it?

30
31 **Tracy Derr:** I don't mind. Hold on one second. I lost the screen. Hold on. Hold on.
32 Well, you know, I just had a pop-up for an update come across my laptop. Well, I can't
33 see anybody, but if you can hear me, I can talk about it.

34
35 **Fran Holtgreven:** Okay. Yeah, just a minute. In your book, under actions of the
36 National NEC Committee Wednesday, March 25th, 2026, you can follow that along
37 also, but I'd like the National Treasurer, if she would, please let the body know what we
38 decided.

39
40 **Tracy Derr:** Okay. I don't have those notes either, but I'll go off the top of my brain, and
41 just generalize what you want. We had a former committee at the last convention to do
42 research on what it would take to create our own 501c3. Kay Jo helped in that
43 committee. Fran, Judy, myself, the finance committee was involved. There were others
44 involved. And we did gather quite a bit of information. We would have to work with an

1 attorney, and we would have to work with a ... It resulted in the CPA that we have for
2 our audit and our... It's an 990 for the Auxiliary for the National. And for me, that's really
3 something that I couldn't get involved in because it's finally a conflict. For me to be in
4 charge of two types of accounts, two monies, it's essentially a second company
5 because you have two bank accounts, two missions, two sets of board members, two
6 sets of bylaws. It was quite an undertaking. There's so much to it without my notes in
7 front of me. So that was my research result, and I brought it to our meeting. And at that
8 time, we all shared our results on what we thought we could do, and we decided to
9 forgo it, leave the dollar amount in the budget, forgo the pursuing of it officially, and then
10 we would use, because we were welcome to use the MOPH fund as a grant, go through
11 it. We decided that it may be better at that time because we weren't even fully using the
12 grants provided to us by the foundation. We were coming up short by not using over
13 \$10,000, so we thought, and there was a lot of discussion about why are we doing a
14 501c3, creating a whole new board of people, whole new employees or volunteers, to
15 do even more work that we're not already doing. So it was a task to concentrate on
16 using all of the grant money that we already received, applying special for grants to go
17 through the MOPH fund, and we would discuss that annually if we feel that our cohort of
18 groups requires us to do such a great task as to create such a thing that we already
19 tried to volunteer our way through the national, let alone another set of things. So we did
20 succeed in fulfilling our service grants from the service foundation. We received all
21 three, so that was amazing. That means that all of that money that we had available to
22 us, we were able to use in the fiscal year, and we're going to do it again next year.
23 That's a lot of grants, and it means a lot to everybody. Could we do more? Sure, I mean,
24 we still had to use the last 10 within this last month, which I think we're down to \$500,
25 and we'll request a new one, but do I see that there's a line of people waiting and we
26 need to do an MOPHA fund and then do another \$50,000? I haven't seen any
27 paperwork or grants that show we need to do that, but I'm always open for more
28 discussion. I mean, I'm not the boss of it. We are all a group here, and we all choose to
29 do what we can do. So that's where I think it's at. It's tabled with the possibility of going
30 through the MOPH fund and getting a grant there, using their 501c3, essentially, to
31 circumvent, which probably isn't great to do, because we still have to... If we, say, did a
32 grant through the MOPH fund and we wanted it for \$5,000, well, we would have to have
33 a project prepared, present that to the person we're receiving the grant from, and give
34 them the MOPH fund, but that money then goes in their account, and then they have to
35 be accountable for what we're doing. So in an accounting world, it's kind of a nightmare,
36 and I think it's frowned upon, and I think that the MOPH did find out that that may be
37 frowned upon. I've heard. I don't have facts, but I've heard that. But I still don't see any
38 grants that people have been wanting right outside of what we already have. Also, I've
39 discovered this year, if, say, there's something outside of what we're receiving from the
40 foundation, the foundation has a grant button on their website, and we can apply for
41 that, for them, from them, for whatever project that we want, say, if we use up all of our
42 money. So that right there, we already have a relationship with them, so that could be a
43 thing as well. So right now, as it sits, there's a \$3,000 budget line on the budget for 26-
44 27, and if, I think we'll probably either keep the same committee or keep a committee to

1 always keep the conversation open, and if something presents itself, then we'd be
2 willing to talk about it. Otherwise, we're fulfilling the \$30,000 we get, plus we have an
3 option to go onto the Service Foundation's website and request for other projects. And
4 in addition to that, we have our HOV grant, and I personally thought, you know, we're
5 always talking about the budget, that maybe if it does ever go 100% towards National,
6 we could use, you know, set aside unrestricted, or restricted funds of maybe 25% of it
7 for grant fulfillment, if we get to that point. But there's a lot of options before we have to
8 worry about getting a 501c3. In my opinion, it may not be in everyone's opinion, but
9 that's my opinion. That's all I have to say about that, Fran.

10
11 **Fran Holtgreven:** Thank you so much. Thank you so much. Okay. Is there any
12 discussion on this?

13
14 **Linda Bellis:** I have one here. Linda Bellis Junior Vice. Tracy, so if we do a 501 with the
15 MOPH, they're not really keen on this? Is that's correct. What I heard was pure
16 speculation and rumor that the CPA was angry about things, maybe angry is a strong
17 word, didn't agree in how some things were being handled in that aspect. And so it's
18 sort of, and my CPA said this too, and it's hard to explain or understand, but it's
19 circumventing the system. And in accounting, you want a direct system, right? You want
20 a dollar for an answer. Like, we spent, we know what we have, we did it, it's our
21 receipts. And my screen just did that thing again. Sorry. But also my CPA said, yeah,
22 you can go through the statement and so that has a 501c3, right? You can apply to
23 Walmart for that and then they can give that to the National Auxiliary as a donation. But
24 if the National Auxiliary can't apply and has to, you have to apply for us, that's not the
25 purpose. The purpose isn't to fund our general fund with money. The purpose of a grant
26 is to fulfill the needs of our target and our target is Veterans. So using the 501c3 for
27 anything other than specifically helping a Veteran would be wrong. So we can't expect
28 to do a 501c3 grant and keep part of it. That's not the goal. The goal is to go directly to
29 who we can get money through without there being an accounting or IRS issue and also
30 we're not you know, if we do it through the service foundation we know we're getting the
31 money we explain to them our grant and they trust us and they give us the money. If we
32 do it through another third party and our money gets sent there, that's three parties.
33 That's one, they could keep our money and say, we're going to charge you for doing this
34 because we have to pay tax on it or whatever the case may be. They have to explain it
35 to their accountant. There's layers that shouldn't be there. It needs to be more direct
36 and I can understand why their accountant would be annoyed with that. The comment I
37 heard was something to be along the lines of "Why would you do that? You just got out
38 of the hot seat". You can't do stuff like that. That's the comment I heard. I don't want the
39 Auxiliary to be any part of comments like that or conversations like that because we are
40 very above board and we want to do the things that will get us more grants, not in
41 trouble or be a part of trouble. Not that they're in trouble. That's the comment I heard.
42 There are comments, things that get said, you know, how rumors are and I'm not trying
43 to perpetuate a rumor. I'm just trying to keep it safe. You can always keep it safe.

1 **Linda Bellis:** So Tracy and to our members, I deal, I'm from Minnesota, I deal with our
2 501C3 a lot. I apply for grants. I have to lay out A, B, C, D where this money is going to.
3 I submit it in hopes of getting it. Once I get it, I have to show that I'm not all the receipts
4 where it went to the location, all the signatures that it was delivered, received, and bring
5 it, mail it back to that corporation. It is a lot of legwork and if you don't do it, they don't
6 have the other write-off that shows, yeah, this is where the money is. So I could see, I
7 agree with you, Tracy, that it is an accounting nightmare that you have to keep separate
8 books and you have to follow the rules or you get nailed. I have one group that I can call
9 and say, yeah, I need 10,000. Okay, what do you need it for? Okay. They'll send me a
10 check. I send them everything and they're like, Lynn, you really don't have to do that. I'm
11 like, oh no, oh no, because I may need you again. So, you have to have all your ducks
12 in a row to make sure that this goes through. And everybody who's looking for money, if
13 you put your program together, get it all ready. You need to deliver it to your chamber,
14 to that organization, to that car dealership. You need to get it in their hands in
15 November. January is when they make their decisions. If you get it in February, you got
16 to wait a year. Oh, sorry, we don't have any more money. Okay. So, that's all I have to
17 say.

18
19 **Terri Shattuck:** I do remember when we were discussing the 501c3 on the committee,
20 we would have to set up a whole separate board, we would have to set up a whole set
21 of books, but we don't have enough volunteers. And we would have to have another
22 Treasurer to control them books, because Tracy wouldn't be able to do them. So it's
23 really like setting up another whole section of the committee to the Auxiliary.

24
25
26 **Tracy Derr:** Is there any other discussion? You just missed me talking? Did you need
27 anything else from me, Fran? I'm sorry.

28
29 **Fran Holtgreven:** No, Tracy. Anyway, no, that's fine. We are going to take, oh, we have
30 another discussion. If you want to go ahead ask your question, Angie.

31
32 **Angie Foster:** Angie Foster, Region 2 President. I have dealt with 501c3s and I know
33 you would need to set up a separate Board but the NECs can do double and separate
34 duties on that. So you can do double duty at the NEC meetings. Just they will be "I've
35 close this meeting and we open the next one". Also another thing, I know we don't want
36 it for General Fund and stuff but maybe a sound system. I have used this example all
37 the time, if we had a audio you know, a company could say "Hey, I will donate a sound
38 system that you can use for every National Convention or something like that". But
39 they'll do it if they can write it off, let's be honest. And we wouldn't have to go through
40 MOPH and everything because we would need those funds right away. So, just my two
41 cents.

42
43 **Tracy Derr:** Thank you. That's a great idea, Angie. We can work on that.

1 We need big companies for equipment and I love it.

2
3 **Fran Holtgreven:** Okay, if there's no other discussion, I will need to take a vote here,
4 on what the entity needs to ratify it. Okay, all those, help me with this one. Do I need a
5 motion to have this ratified?

6
7 **Terri Shattuck:** Yes.

8
9 **Fran Holtgreven:** Okay, can I have a motion to have this ratified?

10
11 **Kristy Gray:** Kristy Gray, 1836 from Texas. I make that motion.

12
13 **Fran Holtgreven:** Do I have a second to ratify the actions of the NEC?

14
15 **Terri Shattuck:** I second that motion. Terri Shattuck, PNP.

16
17 **Fran Holtgreven:** Any discussion?

18
19 **Linda Varejcka:** Madam President, would you just let the members know exactly what
20 they are voting on? Are you ratifying the vote of the NEC? And what was the final vote
21 of the NEC? I know it's in the minutes, but not everybody's finding that. I'm sorry.

22
23 **Fran Holtgreven:** Vote #1, to use the Patriot's fund to see how that would work for us.
24 Five votes received. Vote #2, get our own 501c3. Four votes received. Vote #3, do not
25 obtain a 501c3. Nine votes received. So this is what we're ratifying. Is there any other
26 discussion? Okay, so please raise your hand to approve this motion.

27
28 **(Unidentified Member):** Which hand?

29
30 **Collective Group:** Laughter

31
32 **Fran Holtgreven:** Freestyle. Any hand. Okay, we're voting on the ratification, we're
33 ratifying what the NEC has said about the 501c3, so yes, raise your hand.

34
35 **Terri Shattuck:** To agree with the NEC. Yes, to agree with the NEC.

36
37 **Kay Jo Baucom:** Yes. We're agreeing, their recommendation is that we do not get a
38 501c3 so that's what we're ratifying, that decision.

39
40 **Fran Holtgreven:** Okay, all those opposed? Okay, motion carried. We have ratified
41 what the NEC says about the 501c3. Thank you. Excuse me, I'm sorry, it's lagging.
42 Colleen?

43
44 **Colleen Orfanello as Zoom Moderator:** Yes, ma'am?

1 **Fran Holtgreven:** Can you ask Tracy if she has anything?

2
3 **Colleen Orfanello as Zoom Moderator:** She heard you. She says and typing
4 something.

5
6 **Tracy Derr:** I had typed that prior to her speaking, so we're just ratifying what we had
7 already decided at the NEC meeting and voted on, but it just needs to be settled here,
8 right?

9
10 **Fran Holtgreven:** Yes. Okay. Okay, on July 2nd, I received an email from the National
11 Advocate, Adjutant, Keith Gray, I'm going to read it to you, I did not have it printed, but I
12 do have a copy where I printed it at home, and you can look at it anytime. Um, "MOPH
13 leaders, re the reinstatement of the Military Order of the Purple Heart Federal tax
14 exempt status, National Headquarters immediately began the next phase of the IRS
15 process by verifying every active Chapter and Department that would be included under
16 the National Organization's Group Tax Exempt umbrella. As previously communicated
17 during national meetings and through multiple email updates, this verification process
18 began on April 10th, 2026, with the National EIN and Point of Contact audit.
19 Through the cooperation of our region's Department and Chapter leadership, that
20 verification process was completed. And on June 10th, 2026, National Headquarters
21 submitted the first verified list of subordinates, Chapters, and Departments to the IRS.
22 That submission is currently being processed. Throughout this process, we advise the
23 membership that as the IRS works through our files, Chapters, and Departments, would
24 likely receive another round of IRS correspondence. If you receive a letter similar to the
25 example shown below, it is an effective part of the IRS processing feature and does not
26 indicate that the National Organization's Tax Exempt status has been affected. Rather,
27 it is an indication that the IRS is actively processing the subordinate entity portion of our
28 group exemption, an example of the IRS correspondence Chapters and Departments
29 may receive during the processing of the National Organization's Group Exemption
30 update. Receiving this letter does not mean your Chapter or Department has lost its
31 relationship with the National Organization, nor does it require any additional action on
32 your part. At this time, Chapters and Departments should simply continue filing their
33 required IRS Form 990 series returns as normal, maintain their current organizational
34 records, and retain any IRS correspondence for the file. The June 10th submission
35 included all chapters and departments whose information has been verified at the time
36 of submission. Any EIN or point of contact verification received after June 10th will be
37 included in a subsequent submission once the IRS has completed processing the initial
38 group update. As we have communicated throughout this process, additional IRS
39 correspondence was anticipated as a normal part of restoring and updating our
40 subordinate organization records. National Headquarters will continue to monitor the
41 process closely and will provide updates as significant milestones are reached. Finally, I
42 would like to thank everyone who participated in this EIN verification audit. Your timely
43 responses and attention to detail allowed us to complete this important stage of the
44 process and move the National Organization one step closer to fully restoring all active

1 Chapters and Departments under the Military Order of the Purple Heart's group task
2 exempt umbrella. Thank you for your continued patience, professionalism, and support.
3 Yours in Patriotism, Keith Gray, National Adjutant". He sent this to me and the Chapters
4 because I have heard within the last 3 months, some of our Units have received a letter
5 stating that the donation is not, what's the word I want to say? So, so we know that
6 some of you have received a second letter and this letter was to let us know that the
7 Order is actively working with the IRS and that we are considered tax exempt. (inaudible
8 – microphone went out).

9
10 **Colleen Orfanello as Zoom Moderator:** I have batteries.

11
12 **Fran Holtgreven:** Okay, so I have the letter up front if anyone wants to take a look at it.
13 Any questions? Okay, if there are no questions... Okay, here we go. I think that I have
14 about unfinished business. Does anybody, does anybody else have anything they would
15 like to submit to me for unfinished business? Or I didn't get to?

16
17 **Tara Waugh:** Tara Waugh. Madam President, I move that since we had more time, the
18 body had more time, to review the proposed documents, AKA Procedures Manual, we
19 revote on a name.

20
21 **Fran Holtgreven:** Ok. Would you like to take the floor and ask them any questions they
22 have?

23
24 **Tara Waugh:** Whatever you wish.

25
26 **Fran Holtgreven:** Is there a way for you to train my husband that? Whatever you wish,
27 honey."

28
29 **Tara Waugh:** Can't promise that. Okay. Thank you. Yesterday just to reiterate, uh,
30 repeat the discussion, it was Procedure Handbook 18 votes, How-To Guide,
31 Procedures Manual, and Auxiliary Handbook. Those were the names proposed. Does
32 anyone have any questions on the naming of this document or comments on the name
33 being proposed.

34
35 **Char Flipppo:** Char Flipppo, Member at Large, the Dakotas. A Handbook is something
36 that encompasses everything. Why can't it be the Auxiliary Handbook and like a subtitle
37 like Procedures Manual to guide and govern Auxiliaries. Something to that effect.

38
39 **Fran Holtgreven:** Ok. Could you repeat that? Exactly what would you like it to say?

40
41 **Char Flipppo:** Auxiliary Handbook – A Guide. A Procedures Guide to Auxiliaries. Then a
42 subtitle under it that would specify that it is a procedures guide. I know it's a lot of
43 words. But I like Auxiliary Handbook because it would cover everything.

1 **Tara Waugh:** Is that something different than you were projecting or the same in just
2 different words?

3
4 **Char Flippo:** Yea. Well, Auxiliary Handbook states everything you have to do. But if
5 someone needed further information then that's where the subtitle would come in.

6
7 **Fran Hontgreven:** Colleen?

8
9 **Colleen Orfanello as Zoom Moderator:** Cheryl Perez, PNP would like to talk.

10
11 **Fran Holtgreven:** Cheryl?

12
13 **Cheryl Perez:** Yes. I would just like clarity because it gets a little hard to hear at times.
14 So Tara made a motion to rename the document? I'm just unclear as to what the motion
15 is. We didn't pick a winner yesterday and now we need to pick the winner?

16
17 **Fran Holtgreven:** We had, I guess I had, decided yesterday that we would knock it
18 down since we had 4 yesterday, and we would knock it down considering 2 of the
19 others as possible... Yesterday, we had set it down to two names. The highest two out
20 of the four. And now during discussion, someone has submitted another name they
21 would like to have voted on.

22
23 **Cheryl Perez:** So we are going to be voting on multiple different names that can be
24 chosen.

25
26 **Fran Holtgreven:** Yes. Tara...

27
28 **Cheryl Perez:** May I make a suggestion that before we do the vote that we get what a
29 vote means clear? So we don't get confusion on what is being voted on. Either a
30 Plurality vote where the highest percentage wins or we do it where the lowest one will
31 get knocked out so we narrow it to two. So I would like the Parliamentarian to explain
32 what our votes mean before we vote. Or revote. Did that make sense.

33
34 **Fran Holtgreven:** Yes.

35
36 **Jan Knapp:** Tara's motion was not complete and she needs to restate it.

37
38 **Tara Waugh:** My motion was to reconsider the votes from yesterday to rename the
39 document.

40
41 **Cheryl Perez:** I second it.

42
43 **Fran Holtgreven:** But now during discussion, we had someone that wanted to pitch in
44 another name. So, now we have an extra one. So we are going to take the top two from

1 yesterday and now we have another one to vote on. So what we will do is, we will vote
2 on all three and the last one of the three, the third one will go away and we won't vote
3 on it, just the top two. To figure out what the document will be named. Does that make
4 sense. Okay so. Wait. Is there still discussion back there?

5
6 **Several Voices:** No.

7
8 **Fran Holtgreven:** Okay. The first one... Maybe you want to write it down. The first one
9 is Auxiliary Handbook – How to Guide. The second one is going to be Procedure
10 Handbook. The third one is...

11
12 **Judy Fiddler:** With an S or without a S?

13
14 **Fran Holtgreven:** No S. Procedure Handbook. No S. The third one we need to vote on
15 is Procedures manual. That has the S. Okay I am going to repeat them again. Auxiliary
16 Handbook – How to Guide. Number 2 is Procedure Handbook, and then the third one is
17 Procedures Manual. Ok. Here we go.

18
19 **Beth Cloniniger:** Why is it Procedure and not Procedures? There are two of them?

20
21 **Fran Holtgreven:** Which one? The second one?

22
23 **Colleen Orfanello as Zoom Moderator:** What is your name please?

24
25 **Beth Cloniniger:** I'm sorry. It's Beth. Beth Cloniniger. Yesterday, the discussion was
26 Procedures handbook.

27
28 **Fran Holtgreven:** Because that's what somebody wanted. Procedure handbook.
29 Okay. And I want to add an S. You put an S on it. These are the three that we're going
30 to vote on.

31
32 **Linda Varejcka:** Madam President, we have a question.

33
34 **Lettie Cannon:** My question is, you have all these different titles. You have all these
35 different titles here, but you don't have anywhere listed Purple Heart. Why can't you just
36 go with Military Order of the Purple Heart Auxiliary Handbook?

37
38 **Fran Holtgreven:** Because we only have three to choose on, and these are the three
39 that I am. This is part of our bylaws. We don't need Military Order of the Purple Heart,
40 Auxiliary. And so, if we keep asking why can't it exist as this, we'll never get a name.
41 Actually, this is my project. This is going to sound awful to me, okay? Or to you, coming
42 from me. This is my little baby that I wanted done this year. I want one of these three
43 names done, because if we keep going through this, we're never going to get it done.
44 So, I would like to see Auxiliary Handbook-How to Guide, Procedure Handbook, or

1 Procedures Manual. This is what I would like. So, I'm very sorry. Okay, here, I'm going
2 to take a vote if there's no other questions.

3
4 **Kay Jo Baucom:** Just for a point of clarification, this is inside the document that says
5 Military Order of the Purple Heart Auxiliary. Because I understand, oh, sorry. I'm just
6 asking for a point of clarification. If you are not familiar with our Constitution and Bylaws,
7 on the manual itself, it says on the outside, Military Order of the Purple Heart Auxiliary.
8 This is a section within that book. So, we are definitely not overlooking the Military Order
9 of the Purple Heart Auxiliary. That is prominent on the cover of the whole document.
10 Just what I just wanted to clarify.

11
12 **Linda Bellis:** I have it right here.

13
14 **Kay Jo Baucom:** Okay. I just wanted everybody to understand, we are not forgetting
15 the significance of Military Order of the Purple Heart, Auxiliary. That is our existence,
16 and that is a very proud name that we carry. That will be, in this document we're talking
17 about, will be inside our binder or our copy of the Constitution and Bylaws.

18
19 **Linda Varejcka:** Madam President, Linda Varejcka Sergeant of Arms. Call for the
20 question, please.

21
22 **Fran Holtgreven:** Okay, I'm calling for the vote. The first one. Please raise your hand
23 for whichever one you want. Auxiliary Handbook - How to Guide.

24
25 **Terri Shattuck:** Madam President, at this time I need to interrupt you. Members at
26 Large have no vote.

27
28 **Fran Holtgreven:** Okay. Okay, we're going to start the vote again. Thank you for...
29 Members at Large have no vote. Okay. Okay. Hands up again for Auxiliary Handbook -
30 How to Guide. Please raise your hands high so I can see them. I have 13. Did
31 somebody else count them for me, too? Okay. The next one. Procedures - Excuse me -
32 Procedure Handbook. Please raise your hands. Raise your hands higher for some of
33 them. Stand up, stand up. That is a good idea. Because I can't see because...

34
35 **Linda Bellis:** If you're voting, please stand. Stand up. The President asked to have
36 people stand.

37
38 **Fran Holtgreven:** All those who want this, please stand. That's how you're voting.
39 Okay. Okay, the third... You may sit down. Okay, the final one is... Please stand.
40 Procedures Manual. Okay. Wait a minutes. Number three. It's Procedures Manual.

41
42 **Jan Knapp:** Okay. The resolution that Cheryl put hours into... And was adopted at this
43 convention will go into effect next year. That will allow Members at Large who are
44 registered in attendance to vote. So we are, we're wanting you to know that.

1 **Fran Holtgreven:** Now wasn't everyone supposed to read last night? What did I say?
2 Oh, well, ha ha, I didn't vote, so... I know. So, okay. So, has anybody have a discussion
3 of what they see that maybe they would like added? But I'm going to say something. Go
4 ahead, Nancy Lee.

5
6 **Nancy Lee Birchbach:** Nancy Lee Birchbach, can you hear me? Nancy Lee Birchbach,
7 Department of Wisconsin. I would like to see added to it where the percentage of
8 members at large is 58% and actual members in units only 41%. I would like to have
9 some kind of instructions of how to transfer to contact these people At Large. If they
10 need to go to Cheryl and say, can I have some of the members with this zip code, this
11 state, you know, to go into an active Unit, where do you find the transfer form? You
12 know, we need these ladies that are here, that are Members at Large, to have a chance
13 to vote. And so, where we have so many At Large, I think there's a lot of Units that don't
14 know. Like, we're in Wisconsin. Illinois. There's nothing in Illinois. So, we'll be reaching
15 out. At least those that are in the northern part of Illinois, they want to come to
16 Wisconsin. So, reach out to these ladies. You know, they maybe can't, they probably
17 can't come to your Unit, but email, Zoom, whatever. You know, we need to welcome
18 these ladies. They paid the \$50 to be a member, and we should think about them.

19
20 **Fran Holtgreven:** Okay, I'm going to answer that question. Okay, I was going to answer
21 her question. As National President, I moved one into my Unit that I found was at El
22 Paso, Texas, and that Unit dissolved. So, I just sent the information. She was a Member
23 at Large. I just sent, I believe she was a Member at Large. I can send it to Cheryl. I
24 mean, it's just, yeah, a transfer paper. So, I believe that, you know, if you want to do it,
25 your National Department, you should be able to do it, and send it into membership, if
26 that's just my thought. Jan, do you have?

27
28 **Jan Knapp:** Excuse me, just that, okay, let's say I'm in a region. We have one Unit, but
29 there's a lot of people. Let's use Region 1, for example. There are a lot of members in
30 Region 1. Okay, someone could actually, that wants to start a Department, for example,
31 reach out to the National President, ask if they could get a hold of any members in that
32 region, get their addresses, write to them, try to get them to transfer to a Unit, start a
33 new Unit. That could be done. You just go through the National President. She gives
34 you permission to go to the National Membership Officer, and now you have the
35 contacts. It might cost a couple hundred dollars to send letters out, but it can get you a
36 bunch of new members.

37
38 **Nancy Lee Birchbach:** Nancy Lee Birchbach, Department of Wisconsin President.
39 They need to get this rebate money from National. That's what you need to use this
40 money for, to reach out to other members. You know, we need to help one another.

41
42 So that's one way of using that money, in a good way.
43

1 **Colleen Orfanello as Webmaster:** I would like to say something, but also Cheryl Perez
2 would like to say something, too. I would actually like to see our Unit and Department
3 contact information on our website. If someone doesn't know about our organization, but
4 they're scrolling and saying, you know what, I live in New Orleans. I don't know anything
5 about the Auxiliary. Let me see if there's something there. They can pull up the website
6 and the information and give Gwen a call. The gentlemen have it for their Region
7 Commanders, because if they don't know us, we're not going to know them. The
8 internet is so popular. Our website could be popular if you're typing in Purple Heart
9 Organizations or Combat Wounded Caregivers or whatever. I would really like that. I
10 know it's personal information, not phone numbers, but I would like to see that on the
11 website. I think that's a way of getting new members and welcoming people into our
12 organization. And the transfer member, the transfer form, is so easy. It's on the website.
13 We've talked about this at length on our Zoom calls. So our leadership, it's your
14 responsibility to reach out to the members, and if they're not there anymore, to transfer
15 them. It's free. It's PDF. You can even do it on the computer and send it directly to
16 Cheryl. It takes, what, a few minutes, Cheryl? It's very quick. So that's my suggestion.
17 And PNP Perez would like to say some words.

18
19 **Cheryl Perez:** Yeah. I think this is a very important discussion to have, and Nancy Lee,
20 I would like if you would make that motion after we take care of this motion that we're
21 actually working on to have a discussion on At-Large Members. I do have my own
22 thoughts on that, and I can give some insight on what feedback I've gotten and all that.
23 So if we could have a discussion on At-Large specifically on its own and get back to the
24 procedural manual one, I'd love that. Thank you.

25
26 **Judy Fiddler:** In the Procedures Manual that's in front of us, on page 15, I would like to
27 see under rebate is the confirmation of 990 and filing. I would like to see the word
28 accepted included in that line because when you send in your 990 accepted form and
29 your finance report by October 1st, we have been stressing the point of using the word
30 "accepted". You might get the confirmation from the IRS you got it, but on the first file, if
31 you get the accepted form in order to get your rebate. So I'd like to see that word
32 accepted put in there. That's on page 15 down under rebate. And also on page 17, at
33 the very bottom, it says who cannot vote. The second line says Units and Departments
34 who have not submitted a current election report. I don't want the word "election" in
35 there. I would rather see "installation report" because that's what the report is titled.
36 Those are things I've read about. Thank you.

37
38 **Beth Cloninger:** Beth Cloninger: I just want to bring up one point. I didn't know that I
39 was At Large until I got here.

40
41 **Fran Holtgreven:** Oh, okay.
42

1 **Beth Cloninger:** So if there's a way that you could let people know, because I, you
2 know, if it weren't for Kay Jo, I probably wouldn't know what I need to do. So that's
3 important when I got here and I found out At Large does not have a vote.

4
5 **Fran Holtgreven:** Are you from North Carolina?

6
7 **Beth Cloninger:** Yes.

8
9 **Kay Jo Baucom:** That would be a point that I would make. North Carolina, because
10 they did not turn in any reporting, the different Units in North Carolina did not turn any
11 kind of documentation in for a number of years. Beth is in one of the groups, and we
12 had a rather large membership. They probably have no clue that they are no longer
13 considered an active Unit. They're thinking, okay, we're life members. We're going to
14 stay in 634 for the rest of our lives because that's what we joined. I'm not sure how we
15 need to go about that. I know the Charter is supposed to be returned if your Unit closes
16 or whatever. I don't know who has the Charter, so I don't know how that can happen
17 either because, yes, I'm from North Carolina, but I transferred my membership because
18 I wanted to be and needed to be in an active Unit. Poor Beth wants to be active and had
19 no clue that she wasn't in a group. She knew they weren't meeting, but she did not
20 know her status immediately goes. So the charter wasn't sent out to anyone in your Unit
21 to either tell that you were closing, why you were closing, and giving you an idea of how
22 you could attend?

23
24 **Fran Holtgreven:** There was supposed to be letters. No letters that you were closing?

25
26 **Beth Cloninger:** No, nothing. There was nothing.

27
28 **Sandy Verbos:** Sandy Verbos, Pennsylvania President. I just wanted to say that we
29 shut down Pennsylvania, unfortunately I did, and then we haven't started. When we shut
30 down, I sent out a letter to all the members that I had as active members, and I said, do
31 you want to continue this? That was one question. The other question, are you going to
32 be active? One thing to say you want to be, yes, you want to continue. Another thing, if
33 you don't have any officers, you can't continue. So when I got all the responses back, I
34 tallied it up, sent everybody out, and said, this is the end. You have to send letters out.
35 You're right. You have to let these people know. They can go to another state.
36 Pennsylvania is looking to take anybody from where you came from. We don't care who
37 you are. We'd be glad. We'd love to have a lot of people at the convention. We do nice
38 things. But you do. You have to let these people know. I agree. But that's the way we've
39 handled it. I have decided I'm just going to send a letter out and ask them what they
40 want.

41
42 **Fran Holtgreven:** Yes. That is what you're supposed to do. That is up to the officer of
43 each Unit. That is why we are trying to get our roster. And when the Life Membership
44 form comes out, the officer who signs it just signs it. It never goes through. And we've

1 been preaching for years. Go through your roster. See who is where they're at. Their
2 address is different. That is something that is in the bylaws, I think, isn't it? I don't know.
3 This is what has been preached for years.

4
5 **Colleen Orfanello as Zoom Moderator:** Cheryl Perez, PNP.

6
7 **Cheryl Perez:** Madam President, we are wandering off of the motion. Can I go back to
8 the motion and take this up as a separate discussion and motion? Thank you. I don't
9 want to forget what we are voting on.

10
11 **Fran Holtgreven:** Well, I forgot what we voted on.

12
13 **Doris Williams:** I have discussion about the manual. I have information that I would like
14 to see added. On page 12, where it says Chaplain, the first one says, "should inform the
15 President when the Charter should be draped". I would like to have some type of picture
16 showing exactly how the charter should be draped. A lot of people do not know how to
17 actually drape the charter, so I would like to see that you have that one in there about a
18 hologram, and you add a picture in showing how the Charter should be draped.

19
20 **Kay Jo Baucom:** Okay, thank you. That is included in the Constitution under special
21 ceremonies. It tells you in special ceremonies.

22
23 **Patricia Andrews:** This is Patricia Andrews, Department of Colorado, where we have
24 instructions on how to use Checkbook. It is on page 2. I feel like we need to have
25 something in there about debit card use, because some banks will offer our Auxiliary
26 Units a debit card with their checking account, and if we don't at this time have an idea
27 of how to write or use a debit card for a Unit, or online ordering of supplies, or other
28 things that are more convenient to the unit, then we need to maybe just say that debit
29 cards are prohibited until such a procedure could be established.

30
31 **Fran Holtgreven:** Okay, not all Units have the debit card. No, but those who do.

32
33 **Patricia Andrews:** Right, those who do, they should.

34
35 **Fran Holtgreven:** I feel, should be able to take care of that themselves and have, do
36 what their bank says, follow that procedure.

37
38 **Patricia Andrews:** Okay, so can we have something added so that it's there? That way
39 there's still a way to have Unit members be accountable to a procedure, whether they
40 establish it themselves in writing as a part of their own unit, additional bylaws, or...

41
42 **Fran Holtgreven:** This should be taken, done by the unit itself how they want to do it.

43
44 **Patricia Andrews:** Can we add that in words to this procedure manual then?

1 **Fran Holtgreven:** Okay, my Parliamentarian is telling me that we cannot dictate how
2 you use your debit card or whose names are on it or anything. That is entirely up to the
3 Unit itself.

4
5 **Patricia Andrews:** How is that different than having a procedure for check writing?
6

7 **Fran Holtgreven:** Good question.
8

9 **Patricia Andrews:** Thank you. All right, something to think about then. And then also
10 for President installation, we have, you know, a procedure for election, but then when it
11 comes to installation, a President can install her officers, but she needs somebody to
12 install her.
13

14 **Fran Holtgreven:** Correct. So, can we add something after election? On the last page,
15 another little section that says President must, you know, president of Unit, Department,
16 whatever, any President must have their Chapter Commander, Department
17 Commander, National Commander, or previous President install them, so that way
18 they're not signing their installation report with their name on it.
19

20 **Fran Holtgreven:** Okay, so what this little document is supposed to be is something
21 that if you come into and you find a thought, this is a quick one. If you want to go further
22 to get more information, it's in our Bylaws.
23

24 **Linda Bellis:** It's in the bylaws.
25

26 **Patricia Andrews:** Can you point out to me where exactly it is?
27

28 **Linda Bellis:** It's under Rituals. It's under Rituals and Special Ceremonies.
29 How to drape the Charter is also in there. So, it states right in the Special Rituals how
30 you do everything.
31

32 **Patricia Andrews:** I just want to let you know, we did have a President sign her own
33 installation report, and we noticed that and we were like, oh, we need to install you.
34 And we were looking for a way to reconfigure it all. I even went through this search
35 feature on the document on the computer, and it was like really hard to find.
36

37 **Fran Holtgreven:** Well, that's why we wanted this book, this document, to come out
38 here, just to get the easy things, quick things, because there are all these bylaws.
39

40 You can get those bylaws online and like that. So if we started to put everything in this
41 little document, we may as well forget this, in my opinion.
42

43 **Patricia Andrews:** No, I'm suggesting literally those two sentences about debit cards
44 were allowed or debit cards were not.

1 **Fran Holtgreven:** Again, that, in my opinion, is up to the Unit how they want to handle
2 their banking. If a bank gives you that debit card, that should be your way to how you
3 want to handle it. This here is just for quick little things that, you know, since everything
4 is in the bylaw, this is just a quick little document like a handbook, a quick handbook.
5 It doesn't have all the bylaws in here. It's just something that we thought, the committee
6 thought, that the most questions that are usually asked are in here. The easy ones.

7
8 **Linda Varejcka:** Madam President, we have a guest who's on a time constraint. May he
9 enter.

10
11 **Fran Holtgreven:** Yes. Well, we will go out through this afterwards because I think just
12 taking too much time on this. And I just wanted to make this little, whatever we call this,
13 procedures manual. Just something easy to look at that. If you have a quick question, if
14 you can have a detailed question, look at the bylaw. It's what I was trying to do.

15
16 **Cheryl Perez:** Are you there?

17
18 **Colleen Orfanello as Zoom Moderator:** Yes, we're here. We have a guest on the floor,
19 though. Are we going to hold discussion?

20
21 **Fran Holtgreven:** We're going to hold this discussion.

22
23 **Cheryl Perez:** Okay.

24
25 **Carder Ferguson, PNC:** Boy, I tell you what, I've never seen more smiling faces. I tell
26 you what, downstairs, ooh. It's not all that bad. No, we're doing okay. So, one of the
27 things is I got tasked just a couple days ago, was time and place committee. I need to
28 bring this up here to y'all really quick so y'all can talk about it and how things are moving
29 forward. The Auxiliary is a part of the Order. Sometimes people forget that. When we
30 make a decision, guess what? Sometimes it affects y'all, right? You're awesome. So, I
31 had several members down there say, you better get upstairs and tell the Auxiliary
32 what's going on so we don't get in trouble. Can everybody hear me or do I need to get
33 the mic? Okay, sorry. Oh, y'all are good. So, I am PNC Ferguson, and a lot of other
34 things that I'll say that's on that. So, what has happened was we went through our Time
35 and Place Committee. So, here's what I'm going to give you. For the matter of time, we
36 already know the past conventions. I brought those up and how everything went well
37 and back and forth. Future conventions. Right now, 2027 is open until after I get finished
38 with this proposal, which I'll tell you what happened. 2028, we do not have the date.
39 Nobody has stepped up yet. 2029, D.C. and Maryland in that area. 2030, South
40 Carolina. So, going back for 2027, here's what the options were. We still have one other
41 option that a person could be brought up. It was going to be at St. Louis. Do not know if
42 that would ever happen. So, the other thing is I proposed a cruise for 2027. Patriots just
43 voted on a 5 day cruise. It's going to be from the 9th of July through 14th of July. Royal
44 Caribbean. Adventures of the Sea. I will give you all this information. So, I know you're

1 like, hurry up, quick. July 9th through the 14th. Eastern Caribbean cruise, Adventures of
2 the Sea, five days. Has a capacity of 3,800. Cruise about 1,185. 14 decks. Right now,
3 what we asked for was based on 100 attendees. That is, when they do the rooms, that's
4 double occupancy. So, right now, this is the price. I've never been on a cruise. How
5 many here have been on a cruise? So, y'all have more experience than I. So, I guess
6 there's an upper level. And then when you get closer to the motor, it's cheaper. Okay,
7 that's the way I look at it. So, \$3,543.04 for two in a room. \$3,543. That is the high level.
8 So, there's lower levels, different prices.

9
10 **(Undisclosed Speaker):** And that's for two?

11
12 **Carder Ferguson, PNC:** That is for two.

13
14 **Kay Jo Baucom:** Is that with the balcony?

15
16 **Carder Ferguson, PNC:** Oh, you're asking a lot of questions. I didn't get that far.
17 That's fine. But it is, they call it the stateroom.

18
19 **Gloria Sanchez:** What about the single?

20
21 **Carder Ferguson, PNC:** I haven't got anything on the single. So, this was just an idea,
22 a proposal. So, I'm not really putting the horse in front of the cart yet. So, I'm making
23 sure I get all of it. I want to get approval before I go further. So, obviously more pricing
24 obviously is going to be lower. We have to make a deposit at the board of \$5,000 to
25 secure these by next month. So, we're going to work on getting that. Here's the key
26 thing we're talking about. How I came up with the idea was the VFW has had cruises,
27 and they've had meetings that's on it. NoMo has this. So, when we get the rooms,
28 they're going to give us a banquet room for the Patriots and the Auxiliary. I'll make sure
29 that's in there. So, we have a meeting space. My intention was, just as I did, we do the
30 pre-convention before we go to the cruise. Have that all knocked out. So, when we get
31 on the cruise, then we do the joint opening. Joint opening comes in. Run right into
32 business session. So, we're out to sea. We do our business. When we get to port, go
33 have fun. Go do the things you need to do back and forth. So, obviously, I'm glad that
34 they did pick the five days. If it was the four days, we would not probably have enough
35 time to be pushing that. So, you know, like I said, individuals who want to do make-up
36 deposits, we're going to do this all through one group. \$250 would start the deposits of
37 the rooms. So, that's probably what we would require for everybody to start doing that.
38 That would be paid to the travel agency. And all rooms have got to be paid by 10 April
39 2027. Obviously, scooter rental, handicaps, and all that's going to be available. We had
40 a disabled, obviously a veteran, downstairs. Talked about all of his injuries. He just got
41 off the cruise. He said that cruise line took care of everything. So, that was a huge
42 concern. Advantages, obviously, there's food there, room and board. So, everything's
43 going to be there. Everybody talked about inclusive. I will ask them about that. We just
44 need to figure that out. Now, remember, it's not traveling and airfare for two persons.

1 So, those things are going to need to be there. So, that's kind of one of the things. But
2 once I find out that we're all interested, you know, I'm sure this is something you all got
3 to talk about.

4
5 **(Undisclosed Speaker):** Where is it sailing from?

6
7 **Carder Ferguson, PNC:** Right now, what I know is Tampa. That's what I got so far. So,
8 the other one question, obviously, is passports. I'm not familiar with it. I was told that we
9 didn't need it, and somebody else says we did. So, where is it? I'm just saying that's
10 what I thought. So, let me find this information out.

11
12 **Kay Jo Baucom:** Did you say where we'd be going? Where?

13
14 **Gloria Sanchez:** What is the itinerary? Is it Eastern Caribbean or where?

15
16 **Carder Ferguson, PNC:** It's Eastern Caribbean, but I did not write down the exact
17 ports. The other one, I do know, was in the northwest.

18
19 **Colleen Orfanello:** Commander Ferguson, I know you're in a time-crunch. I can call the
20 travel agent, get the information, and I can report on it, okay?

21
22 **Carder Ferguson, PNC:** Yes please. So, in other words, the key thing, I just want to get
23 this information out to you all as quickly as possible. It was voted on, and they wanted to
24 do it for you, and I wanted to give you the dates of it.

25
26 **Fran Holtgreven:** Thank you. Where's the "O"?

27
28 **Kay Jo Baucom:** Yeah, that's a standing "O". And I just want to tell you, Carder, Royal
29 Caribbean is fabulous. They had a special ceremony when my husband and I, for the
30 whole ship, recognized him as a Purple Heart veteran, had a breakfast area every
31 morning specifically for the veterans aboard the ship. That was amazing, amazing.

32
33 **Carder Fergusuon, PNC:** I'm glad to hear that. So, let me tell you, too, I will tell you,
34 this is how the veterans closed, so you all know. Fifty-six was for, sixteen said no, and
35 fourteen abstained. So, that's a majority.

36
37 **Colleen Oltmann as Zoom Moderator:** Can you repeat that again?

38
39 **Carder Ferguson, PNC:** So, for the veterans above, it was fifty-six for it, sixteen said
40 no, and fourteen abstained. Don't ask me what the total number is. I can't tell you that.

41
42 **Linda Varejcka:** Auxiliary members, PNC Ferguson doesn't have all the plans, so he
43 can't answer all your questions. Knowing him, he will have the actual things in the

1 magazine, emails, to our new incoming president. So, he can't answer all of your
2 questions today, because things aren't finalized. He's just giving you a heads-up.

3
4 **Carder Ferguson, PNC:** You ladies are a lot more organized than me so if we could
5 have just a small preliminary count of who is interested, we could use those numbers.

6
7 **Fran Holtgreven:** Ladies and gentlemen, this is the gentleman that found this old
8 charter on eBay. That is what I was going to say. So, we really need to thank him, and
9 we thank you so much. He's right down there right now, but we told everybody who it
10 was from, how you found it, and everybody took a look at it. Thank you.

11
12 **Carder Ferguson, PNC:** Thank you.

13
14 **Kay Jo Baucom:** Very appreciative.

15
16 **Carder Ferguson, PNC:** It's part of y'all's history. I do not like to see history just gone
17 away. We need to bring it back here, where it needs to come home. I know you are truly
18 honored with all the names on it. Thank you all very much.

19
20 **Fran Holtgreven:** Okay, we're going to go back to discussion when we get back from
21 lunch, but I just, we will discuss more as time goes on.

22
23 **Linda Varejcka:** So, do you want me to give you the instructions for the luncheon, or do
24 you want to?

25
26 **Judy Fiddler:** Because the caterer would not bring our box lunch, when you leave the
27 room, please go down and get your lunch, your box lunch, and your bottle of water, and
28 come back up here, have your ticket ready to be able to enter the President's luncheon.
29 It's noon now. We were going to start over here at 12:15, so that gives you 15 minutes
30 to go downstairs, get your box of water, and come back on up.

31
32 **Colleen Orfanello as Zoom Moderator:** What time are we reconvening?

33
34 **Fran Holtgreven:** Okay. Okay, before we go, I've got a quick thing. Let's change this
35 motion.

36
37 **Colleen Orfanello as Zoom Moderator:** Cheryl Perez had a discussion. We still have
38 a discussion. Cheryl Perez was waiting for Carder Ferguson.

39
40 **Cheryl Perez:** My question was, "Is there a motion on the floor"? Can we restate the
41 motion, please?

42
43 **Fran Holtgreven:** Yes. The motion is that we accept the name. I would like to have a
44 motion that we accept the handbook as written.

1 **Cheryl Perez:** Madam President, I'll make a motion. Okay.

2
3 **(Undisclosed Speaker off mic):** Point of Order: Are we going to accept it as it is
4 because there's a lot of grammar errors.

5
6 **Cheryl Perez:** No. No.

7
8 **(Same as Above Undisclosed Speaker off mic):** There's lots of punctuation errors,
9 and incomplete sentences, and you see a lot.

10
11 **Linda Varejcka:** They are just voting on the name.

12
13 **Fran Holtreven:** No, no, no. We need to vote on the name and I would like to vote on
14 accepting the Handbook. No, we're going to, we are voting.

15
16 **Cheryl Perez:** Madam President, I'd like to make a motion.

17
18 **Fran Holtgreven:** Yes.

19
20 **Cheryl Perez:** Me?

21
22 **Fran Holtgreven:** Yes.

23
24 **Cheryl Perez:** I move that we accept the draft motion as a work in process with the
25 name "Procedures Manual" and that the incoming President form an ad-hoc group to
26 continue with the updates and we do some workshops so all of these conversations can
27 be had and it can really become a meaningful documentation for our Units and
28 Departments.

29
30 **Judy McLaughlin:** Madam, Madam President, Judy McLaughlin from 375 Colorado. I
31 second that motion.

32
33 **Fran Holtgreven:** Okay, the motion has been heard. All those in favor, say "Aye".

34
35 **Several Voices:** Aye.

36
37 **Fran Holtgreven:** Opposed, "Nay"? Okay. Thank you very much. Okay, we're going to
38 recess at until about 1.30.

39
40 **-RECESS for PRESIDENT'S LUNCH-**

41
42 **Linda Varejcka:** Madam President, we have a guest. Please rise please. To the right
43 Patriot.

1 **Patriot Chip Chagnon:** Oh, there it is, right there. Well, good afternoon and thank you
2 very much. I appreciate the warm welcome. I see a lot of friendly faces. The last time I
3 saw several of you was at the airport in Chip's shuttle, coming back and forth.
4 So, I'm glad that you got here and I hope you're having a great time here in New Bern.
5 It's a lovely little town. What I want to address you with today is that Thursday, I want to
6 tell you about an opportunity that we're going to have on Thursday. At 1:30, we're going
7 to have, not very far from here, about maybe 350 to 400 yards, we're going to have a
8 Purple Heart Remembrance Ceremony right out of the ritual book, if you will. Now, this
9 was in 2012, we dedicated a monument from the Purple Heart. So we're going to
10 rededicate that. We thought this would be a wonderful time to come and visit that
11 monument and give it some due respect. So, what we're going to do is we're going to
12 have a full ceremony right out front of the monument. I have the programs here. I'm
13 going to hand them out to all you ladies to see if you'd like to do this. You know, the
14 MOPH side is going to be convening, adjourning around 12-ish. I don't know exactly
15 when you're going to adjourn, but I imagine probably thereabouts. And then what we're
16 going to do is at 1:45, I mean 1:30, we're going to start this thing. At 12, 12:45, we're
17 going to have buses available right outside here. You don't have to go very far. The
18 buses, each bus has a handicap feature. We can have six wheelchairs on the bus.
19 They're air-conditioned. Yeah! And they will bring you to the site, and you'll have tables,
20 I don't know, chairs set up for you. There'll be overhead cover, and there'll be cold water
21 there. And what we're going to do is we're going to have sprays. It's going to look kind of
22 like the Tomb of the Unknown, when the President puts the wreath on, if you've ever
23 seen that. We're going to do the same format, and the gentleman that started our
24 conference, Mr. Bucher, who's the chairman of the Board of Commissioners, he's going
25 to present a wreath from 1776 to the present time for all of the wounded, combat
26 wounded that Craven County has contributed to this country, and we've had them all the
27 way from the Revolutionary War to as recent as four weeks ago with a Marine getting
28 wounded. So, then we're going to have the families of several of our members. We're
29 going to honor them. They're in the program book, which you probably, I don't know if
30 you've got a copy of that, but inside the magazine, the program, there's pictures of
31 them. And it turned out when I first started this, and I'll go on just really quick for a
32 couple quick seconds here to tell you that it turned out to be a fundraiser. I didn't want to
33 necessarily be that, but I didn't want to cost my chapter a whole bunch of money, so I
34 had these four families who had dads who were Purple Heart guys offer to pick up the
35 tab. And they thought this was such a great idea, I ended up with four families that
36 donated \$6,000. So, not only are we going to be able to pay for this event, and beautiful
37 looking sprays, magazine, giving them, they'll be here at our gala, but after all that, I had
38 \$1,000 from each one of them to give to a scholarship to junior ROTC people. In their
39 name. So, and they thought that was a wonderful idea. So, those of you who might have
40 that kind of opportunity, take this program home and say, hey look, this guy didn't start it
41 all trying to make money, but he made \$1,000 for each person. So, and I might add that
42 I had 12 people apply. I couldn't take 12 people, I didn't want to make it look like a
43 production line, so I just, four and the other eight made me promise that we would do

1 this around Veterans Day. So, it's amazing. So, ladies, thank you very much for the
2 time.

3
4 **Fran Holtgreven:** Okay, at this time, I would like to have Chris Day come up here.
5 She's going to give us a little presentation. She has the colored little, yeah. You're okay,
6 right? Okay. Chris?

7
8 **Christine Day:** Thank you, Madam President. Thank you. This is really wonderful. And
9 you have Fran to thank for this. Several months ago, in her newsletter, she wrote about
10 a book called Spark the Heart. Now, notice this has a purple cover of all things. And it's
11 a book about empathy. So she asked me if I'd just give a quick little speech. And this is
12 just going to be a quick little speech. Everybody should have a handout. And it doesn't,
13 yeah, here it is. Yeah. It doesn't matter. Some of them are pink, some of them are blue,
14 some of them are green. Yeah, there you go. Thank you. So the first thing that I'm going
15 to ask you to say is, how many of you joined Purple Heart because you thought it was a
16 social club? No, I'm seeing that. Not at all. How many thought it was a service
17 organization? Yes? So I'm going to get you to say, I am an empath. It's from the word
18 empathy. I am an empath. Oh, let's hear it really loud. I am an empath!

19
20 **Several Voices:** I am an empath.

21
22 **Christine Day:** It's likely because we knew this was a service organization that we're
23 very tending toward being empathetic. And that's important.
24 So, empaths love to help people. And it makes them happy to help other people. I'm
25 going to hit some highlights on the sheet. I'm not necessarily going to hit every point, but
26 you can read them later. People who are empathetic have the ability to understand and
27 share feelings with another person. We know it's draining. But the important thing about
28 empathy is that you do it in a particular way. I worked at a job in a manufacturing facility,
29 and a girl was at her first staff meeting after the death of her six-month-old child. Our
30 boss said to her, "I know exactly how you feel. I lost my pet last week". Exactly. Oh, my
31 God. Wrong thing to say. It was just the wrong... and we all sat there in dead silence
32 after we gasped. He couldn't figure out what he said wrong. I was relating to her feelings
33 of loss. Well, no, it didn't quite make it with empathy. Empathy is shared feelings with
34 others, and the empath typically tends to share those feelings with that person. So, I
35 thought maybe I could help you with a little bit of vocabulary. How many of you called on
36 the spouse of a veteran who just passed away? That is so hard. What do you say?
37 Some of you might know that I just published an article about Ukraine refugees.

38
39 Now, it was a nonpolitical article. It just talked about refugees and their trials. One of the
40 things I had to work with, I had an American teacher who was teaching instructional
41 methodologies to Ukrainian teachers once a week. Now, these teachers showed up
42 every week in spite of the fact that they had spent the night before sleepless in a bomb
43 shelter listening to the schhhhhh (sp?) of the bombs dropping. She had a trauma care
44 center help her with her vocabulary. What she learned to say was, "How are you doing

1 this morning"? No. She learned to say, "How are you coping?" And I will tell you, the last
2 couple of times that I have called on a veteran spouse, I have said to her, "How are you
3 coping?" And what she did both times is they looked right in my eye and said, "I'm going
4 to be okay". He taught me how to survive. I'm going to be okay. As opposed to, how are
5 you doing? Well, how do you think I'm doing? I just lost the love of my life. So you don't
6 want to say, how are you doing? The term that the American teacher asked the
7 Ukrainians was, "How are you coping"? And just that little twist of word helped get the
8 empathy started. So, the important thing about empathy is to listen. And the whole idea
9 is to listen with curiosity. That's point six, if you want to take a look there. Empathy is not
10 sympathy. How many of you just absolutely shudder when you hear the phrase, "I'm so
11 sorry for your loss"? It's been said so many times that it's lost the genuineness of it.
12 So, you want to have a personal connection with that person. Number seven talks about
13 the whole idea of the empath, the person trying to share the empathy, having limiting
14 beliefs. Now, you and I can translate that to, I'm making judgments about that person.
15 You see what I'm saying? You have to listen with genuine curiosity. What are they
16 talking about? What are they feeling? "Well, I just don't know what I'm going to do.
17 I don't know how I'm going to get groceries next week". So, that person's telling you how
18 to be empathetic, how you can help them. Now, there's a word, and I know it doesn't
19 apply to anybody in this room. But sometimes when you see other people trying to be
20 empathetic, you're going to remember this word. It's called the stingy-empathizer. I've
21 seen people's heads nodding, "Yes". Their judgment kicks in, and you think, well, your
22 kid wouldn't be dying of an overdose if you were a better parent. No, that's not what
23 we're talking about here. So, the word is stingy-empathizer. So, if you look at point
24 number nine, there's three ways to, some examples of where to apply empathy.
25 Supporting a friend. Maybe your friend is upset. It could be here in the Purple Heart
26 family. Help somebody who feels left out. Sometimes when you're picking up your
27 lunchbox, you see somebody sitting alone at a table. Go have a conversation with them.
28 They will share with you amazing stories about their Purple Heart journey. And being
29 patient with others. This is probably the hardest, because we have a lot of pressure on
30 us, and we have a lot of projects going, and we want to just pass things out or whatever.
31 And it's really important to be patient. And that number ten talks about five important
32 skills. The first one, and it's really important, active-listening. And I know it's a cliché, but
33 God gave us two ears, one mouth. So, that whole idea is can you listen to what the
34 other people are saying? Can you encourage them to keep talking so that you can keep
35 listening? A lot of times, and this is what my boss did, you try to tell a better story. Yeah,
36 I know, you know, a couple weeks ago, blah, blah, blah. Okay, so that whole idea of
37 active listening becomes very, very important. And the other thing that's really important
38 is, and I kind of translate it to walk-a-mile-in-their-shoes. What is that person going
39 through? You might not have an idea of what that person's going through. But if you
40 could kind of just look around, listen to what they're talking about, think about what
41 they're saying, and check out their point of view. Another idea, empathy does not have
42 an "I" in it. You know how we have the joke about "team does not have an I in the word
43 team"? Empathy does not have "I". And you really want to try and connect by telling
44 them your story. Well, they need to tell their story because they're the one in deep pain.

1 So just remember, there's no I in empathy. And the big thing about empathy is
2 compassion, genuine care. It's really important because if you're phony, they know it.
3 If you're too busy really to talk to them or listen to them, they know it. So, try and be
4 genuine in your care and respond respectfully. Sometimes when I'm going to call on a
5 new widow, as I'm driving there or walking up the steps of their home, I try to think
6 things that I can talk about. Did I have a personal connection to their husband? Do I
7 remember a lovely story about that person? How he helped someone else? Can I tell
8 her those things and let her relate to that and remember what a treasure her husband
9 was? So, I would encourage you to take a look at this book. I have five more empathy
10 books over there. And I want you to watch the publishing market because I'm trying to
11 write a children's story about empathy. People talk about what are the values that are
12 missing in our kids. And one of the research projects showed empathy. So, thanks to
13 Fran, who got me started on this, I'm going to work on that. What I'm going to ask you to
14 do right now, and it will only take four minutes, two minutes each, turn to a person sitting
15 next to you and tell them your best empathy story. Here's a time in my life when I felt
16 someone was really empathetic with me. Or tell them your worst story. Because those
17 worst stories, how many of you are going to remember that pet story a month from
18 now? You're going to remember that my boss said, "oh, my pet died last week". So
19 maybe share your worst story but share an empathy story. I'm going to give each
20 person two minutes and kind of see what you can do in terms of extending empathy.
21 Don't interrupt them while they're trying to tell their story. And we'll see what we can
22 learn about empathy. So I'm going to have you pair up right now, and I'm going to clock
23 two minutes for each of you. And be sure you kind of watch the time, two minutes, so
24 that you'll know when to talk back and forth. You can just pass them out if you want.
25 You can just pass them out.

26 -About one minute left for the first person.

27 -You should be switching to the second person now.

28 -You should be one minute into the second person.

29 -So finish up with maybe one more sentence. Does anybody have a story that they want
30 to share that's their own story? Anybody? Just one person. Can we share one story?
31 One person? Come on. Be brave.

32
33 **Sheila Swift:** Thank you. Hi, everybody. I'm Sheila Swift. I'm a lifetime Member at
34 Large. I do not belong to a Unit. I'm from North Carolina, a very small town. And I'm
35 proud to be here, representing my husband, my family, myself, and everybody else. As
36 the chaplain of an American Legion Auxiliary Unit, I'm constantly finding devotion and
37 prayers in little booklets and those little daily word magazines that you pick up. Other
38 than prayer, I always take notice of nature. I was just telling the gentleman I was sitting
39 with, he shared a little sentiment back here regarding the emphasis that you put on your
40 speech. And I always take notice of something else other than something that has
41 passed away or died. I was telling him that as I walk up your front porch, I might notice
42 the geraniums that you planted last week. And I'm going to mention that on the way in to
43 lead the conversation in another direction, so that you're thinking about something fresh
44 and beautiful. Or maybe have you noticed the clouds today, how beautiful they are, how

1 much Carolina blue there is in the sky? Have you noticed the trees fluttering? Look at
2 the squirrels running around in the yard. I love squirrels. Some people don't like
3 squirrels, but I love squirrels. They're just so bouncy and fluffy. And, you know, I would
4 lead the conversation away from maybe what they're thinking, and then lead into the
5 empathy part. I've been thinking about you. I know you love brownies. I just baked these
6 this morning. Bring something that you know that person would like, such as some
7 purple flowers, if they like flowers, or something. Even just an American flag that they
8 can stick in a potted plant. The other thing is, when someone has passed away that's
9 close, such as my father passed away in 2006, and I was just telling him that Mama sat
10 down on a bench in the kitchen, and she said, "Girls", all three of us were home, and
11 brother. And she said, "Girls, what are we going to do now"? I said, "Mama, we're going
12 to live. We're going to take you places. We're going to eat out. We're going to take you
13 shopping. We're going to go play bingo at the club", because Daddy loved to play bingo,
14 and "we've got to play in his honor and memory". So those are the types of things I
15 would use for an emphasis on empathy.

16
17 **Christine Day:** Thank you so much. Thank you, and I hope that you've learned just a
18 little bit more about empathy, and that it will encourage you to dive deeper in the
19 subject. I have four or five books over here. If during break or something you want to
20 take a picture of them with your cell phone camera, you can get them on Amazon, and I
21 got this book on Amazon too, so you can take a look and see if they might be something
22 you'd be interested in.

23
24 **Fran Holtgreven:** Thank you so much, Chris. Okay, next, I would like Gwen and Kay Jo
25 to come up here. As you know, we had two PNPs pass away within a month, six weeks,
26 something like that. So anyway, I would like them, they're going to stand up here, and
27 they're going to, we're going to hold a little ceremony for these two PNPs. And also, as
28 we do this, there's many other people that you know or who have been in the
29 organization who have also passed away this year. So let's remember them, too.

30
31 **Gwendolyn Gilliard:** At the memorial service yesterday, I believe most of you were
32 present. So I read the poem that is in our Rituals section of our CBL, because it's so
33 fitting for paying tribute to our family members. It could be used to pay tribute to anyone
34 that we love, but because of who we are and what we do, it's just whoever chose us is
35 just perfect. But I would like to tell you a little bit about our past National Presidents,
36 although we're also honoring all of our up-and-coming members who have passed, not
37 only this year, but those that we've grown to love throughout the years and that their
38 presence is still missed visibly. To honor the memory of Bonnie Dumler, Bonnie was
39 about yeah-high, but she was dynamite. She served as National Parliamentarian at one
40 time as well as Past National President. At one time. We were together in Washington,
41 it was for the Past National Presidents, and I found out where I was sitting up on that
42 the floor and I was having a discussion in awe and she was like, like, ah, whatever.

1 And I always said back to her, "Whatever is true, whatever is noble, whatever is right,
2 whatever is true, whatever is lovely, whatever is wonderful, if anything is not worthy,
3 think about those things". Bonnie served from 2002 to 2003 as National President.
4 A very delightful personality, particularly a real character, very knowledgeable, and was
5 willing to help anyone at any time with anything. Now about our past National President,
6 Eileen Oltmann, who is the mother to our Past National President, Colleen. I do find this
7 a little bit more to share because of the emotional attachment with Louisiana, and we
8 share a lot of things. Now this delightful, lovely lady, we refer to her as the Tea Sippin'
9 Lady, because she loves her tea. Anything that she could think of, a southern lady or a
10 southern girl, that was her, and she was also funny. Especially with her husband Patriot
11 Eddie. You just kind of forget whatever you're feeling that is negative. It's like a
12 refreshment to your heart and soul to be in her presence, to be in her company. So, and
13 to all the other members, we remember them in our own special way. Some you may
14 have known, and a lot you may have not, because when Cheryl does the National
15 Membership roster, it's mainly for those who have gone on, and sometimes you don't
16 even know until she does her research and do that. But, you know, they are family
17 members, and people that love them, and then upon extension of that, really, as Sisters
18 and Brothers I'll say in Christ, or in love, we share that. They're gone, but not forgotten.
19 But let us not forget the tie that binds. The roots of this being the tie that binds. And that
20 tie is love. Love from our Creator, our Father in Heaven, our Lord and Savior, from each
21 other. And for each other. So, at this time, I will ask Christ to bless us again, and have
22 Past National President and Co-Chaplain Kay Jo Baucom to place the flowers near
23 Bonnie and Eileen. So, if you will, in honor of this, if you please stand, and I am going to
24 read the prayer, and pray it, read and pray the prayer at the same time. This is a good
25 thing that we do, to take the time out in our own studies. You know, we did it yesterday,
26 along with the Patriots. It's a good thing that we do it here, because of the bond that we
27 share. So, let's bow our heads. Infinite, eternal, ever-present God, we assemble today
28 to honor the memories of those who were once a part of this organization, and serve
29 You through the faithful performance of all duties and obligations. It is well, please be
30 privileged, that we pause occasionally to reflect upon these loved ones, and pay
31 reverence to them, and during that, we pay reverence to You. We pay reverence to
32 them for their memories that we made by the shimmering examples they left us. We
33 thank you, we thank you, Father, for all the beautiful memories You've changed, and
34 ask you to continue that protection and care, over us, and over those families from
35 which they were taken, their biological families, and their extended family members, as
36 they're a part of this organization too, and our families together. We ask that we may
37 daily feel a strength, an understanding, a love for one another, a strength that may slip
38 outward as well through our Patriots, our children, other families, other families, and
39 wherever we are, wherever we may be, that we can acknowledge someone else, and
40 let them know how important we are to us. Whether we know them personally, or
41 they've seen them in passing, we ask that you hold them in your heart. Amen.

42
43 **Several Voices: Amen.**
44

1 **Fran Holtgreven:** You may be seated. Thank you so much, Kay Jo, Uh, PNP Kay Jo
2 and PNP Gwen Gilliard. Okay, so, should I draw another name?

3
4 **Jan Knapp: Not Terri!**

5
6 **Fran Holtgreven:** Oh, darn. Linda Bellis.

7
8 **Linda Bellis:** Try again. I do travel light.

9
10 **Fran Holtgreven:** I'll even let you pick your own.

11
12 **Linda Bellis:** Charge card?

13
14 **Fran Holtgreven:** don't get your hand stuck!

15
16 **Linda Bellis:** It's a big plus to match the jewelry I wear. You can see I wear a lot of
17 Jewelry!

18
19 **Fran Holtgreven:** Okay, so... This afternoon is going to be pretty easy. I feel we've
20 done a lot of... What did you say, Terri?

21
22 **Terri Shattuck:** I said we have done our diligence.

23
24 **Fran Holtgreven:** I thought you said we had done dumb things. So... At this time... I'm
25 going to ask... If there is any unfinished business... Before we... What's the word I want
26 to say? Before we close this meeting for the afternoon.

27
28 **Colleen Orfanello:** The only unfinished business I have is that we have never, ever
29 won. Tonight is our chance to win the games. The Patriot Games.

30
31 **Judy Fiddler:** Yeah, because we have Hunter back there. Hunter's going to win the
32 Patriot Games?

33
34 **(Undisclosed Member off-mic):** what type of game?

35
36 **Colleen Orfanello:** Family Feud or Patriot Feud. Hunter, you better get your answers
37 ready!

38
39 **Fran Holtgreven:** Okay, we got some other little thing. I know this afternoon is just kind
40 of laid back. But we've been going through everything pretty good, I think. And
41 sometimes I feel... Instead of sitting in these chairs and just looking at each other and
42 thinking "When can I go to the bathroom or when can I do this"? So, Judy... Excuse me.
43 Judy has something that we were going to play tonight that... Let's see what time it is.
44

1 **Linda Bellis:** It's 2:30.

2
3 **Fran Holtgreven:** 2.30? So, I would like to be out of here at 3 o'clock today. So, she's
4 going to explain this little game that we're going to do this evening. And like everybody,
5 Colleen said, remember the Patriot Games are tonight. So, several of us have been
6 working together and trying to get this going. And hopefully we can win tonight. But just
7 go and join with the Patriots. Hopefully, they'll not have meetings like they did last year
8 and not attend. So... So, yeah, they locked this place at 5. So, you know, we should be
9 good. But it will be at 6 o'clock over at Doubletree. And you will go to the Bradham
10 Room. Right across from where it was supposed to be last night. But we had nothing to
11 do with that. We have our eggs... How's that say again? Eggs in the basket. We know
12 as an auxiliary what to do. So, we're looking forward to having a good time tonight. The
13 doors will open only at 6pm. So, you're going to have to stand out there and wait to get
14 in. Okay, I'm going to turn... So, after I give the microphone to her, I'm going to turn it
15 over to Judy. And she's going to show us how to play a new game that Mike made a
16 little thing for her.

17
18 **Mike Fiddler:** It's a coin.

19
20 **Fran Holtgreven:** Oh, I'm sorry. He made a coin for us. So, they're both going to show
21 us how we're going to do it tonight. So, but first, I'll let Linda Bellis talk.

22
23 **Terri Shattuck:** So are we going to practice so that we know what to do.

24
25 **Judy Fiddler:** We are going to practice tonight.

26
27 **Linda Bellis:** So, ladies and gentlemen, those of you who have brought stuff for the
28 auction, if you could deliver them to the Doubletree... How do you say that room's
29 name? Brad Ham?

30
31 **Several Members:** Bradham.

32
33 **Linda Bellis:** Brad Cam? Ham. Brad Ham. Will there be a little pig outside to notice the
34 ham?

35
36 **Judy Fiddler:** No, there's bears all over town.

37
38 **Linda Bellis:** Oh, bears. Okay. So, if you could bring over by 5 o'clock, I'll be over
39 there. And you're just going to drop it off, and then we'll open the doors at 6. So, since I
40 can only carry a few things, those who have brought stuff here, if you could take them
41 and deliver them over at that room at 5 o'clock, I would really appreciate it. Thank you.

42
43 **Judy Fiddler:** Oh, sorry, yes. And tomorrow morning, we start at 8.30. Okay? First of
44 all, NEC members, I need your forms. If you do not have a receipt, get your receipt, but

1 email it to Tracy. This way, we don't have to stop and hold up any paperwork. She'll
2 have the receipt before she gets the reimbursement form. Okay. Mike and I had the
3 opportunity to go to a dinner one evening. There was a large group, and we were trying
4 to figure out a game to play for a large group. Well, their father was a metal worker who
5 created a huge coin about this size, and that's what they used to flip, and it's called
6 heads and tails. We have George as our head, and we have the convention logo this
7 year as the tail. What you do is, if you can stand, please stand, and I want you to put
8 your hands either on your head or your tail. And then we're going to flip the coin, and
9 anybody who has their hands on their head stays in the game. If your hands are on your
10 tail, you sit back down. And we even have a little gift. And we'll have a little gift, yes.
11 So... So we're competing against the Patriots with it. This way everybody knows how to
12 play the game, and we can finally get that trophy.

13
14 **Linda Bellis:** Okay. Either put your hand on your head or your hand on your tail. Hand
15 on your head or hand on your tail. We need to win.

16
17 **Fran Holtgreven:** Okay. Let's adjourn our meeting for today. And remember, let's go
18 have some more fun this evening.

19
20 **Linda Varejcka:** Recess.

21
22 **Fran Holtgreven:** So we're going to go into recess, not adjourn. Oh, we're recessing.
23 Recessing. 8:30 tomorrow morning. And tomorrow morning we will or tomorrow I am
24 hoping to have elections. Nominations and elections. We'll take care of new business.
25 New business first. And anything else we think about. Ladies and gentlemen,
26 remember to pick up your stuff over there for the auction and deliver it, please, at 5
27 o'clock to the Red Ham, oh my, Bradham Room. Yeah, that's good. Or bring it now. So
28 we're going to have the closing prayer as we're waiting for it. Do we need a closing
29 prayer. Do you want them to stand? Gwen, do you want them to stand? We always,
30 don't we have a prayer at the end? Yeah, let's have a, we can. We are.

31
32 **(Undisclosed Member):** Someone said pray for a win tonight!

33
34 **Gwendolyn Gilliard:** I did. Let us bow our heads in prayer. Father, I know that You
35 have a sense of humor. But we thank You and Kay Jo for keeping us entertained.
36 Father God, we come before you in serenity and with the most grateful heart for where
37 You brought us from, for where we are now. And as we continue to move forward within
38 our organization, you've given us many times to have goodness, to have joy and
39 laughter, to recognize and realize all of us for the roles and, You know, given to us and
40 the purpose that we fulfill for the plans of our organization to move forward. And as we
41 depart this evening, Lord God, we just ask that everyone go with a joyful heart, that You
42 would wrap your arms of protection and safety around them, and bring them back, Lord,
43 tomorrow morning, refreshed and ready to take on the duties and challenges that is

1 coming forth in our new season. We thank You. In your most holy and gracious name,
2 we pray. Amen.

3
4 **Several Members:** Amen.

5
6 **Kay Jo Baucom:** I want to leave you with one thing before you leave. I want you to
7 think about the word “Joy”. You can find joy in others, y'all.

8
9 **Linda Varejcka:** Auxiliary Members, with respect for our Flag, hand salute. Toot.



MINUTES OF:
MOPHA NATIONAL CONVENTION BUSINESS SESSION 3
July 15, 2026

Submitted by: Colleen Orfanello, PNP

1 **Linda Varejcka:** Will everyone please stand and join me in the pledge.

2
3 **Linda Varejcka and Collective Voices:** I pledge allegiance to the flag of the United
4 States of America and to the republic for which it stands, one nation under God,
5 indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.
6

7 **Kay Jo Baucom:** Will you bow with me? Heavenly Father, we come to You today
8 with hearts so full of grace because You've given that to us. We come with hearts full
9 of praise because we want to thank You for all the goodness that You have
10 bestowed upon us even if we don't feel like we deserve it. Lord, we come to You
11 asking for your guidance, asking for Your healing touch for those who are having
12 challenges today in whatever way, You know what we need and You know when we
13 need it. Guide us today, Lord, that we may do your will, that we may find the joy that
14 You have put in everyone's heart. Sometimes we have to look a little deeper, but that
15 joy is within us and we want to share it with You. God, in everything we say and do,
16 may it be pleasing in Your sight. Amen.
17

18 **Collective Voices:** Amen
19 Amen.
20

21 **Linda Varejcka:** And please, once again, with reverence to our POW/MIAs, the
22 chair that has been placed in our, right in front of our room. And for the wonderful
23 that the people that are working to bring all of them home? Thank you.
24

25 **Fran Holtgreven:** Good morning. Good morning. Good morning, everybody.
26 (microphone screech). Maybe it's just me. I've got too much electricity in here.
27 Maybe you are. Okay. I hope everyone had a good evening. Thank you for attending
28 our hospitality room that we, the authority, the authority, Kay Jo, Linda Varejcka,
29 myself, and Kay Jo's son donated money so that we could host a hospitality room.
30 So, we hope you all enjoyed it. I know we would say, nope, you can't all, you can
31 only have one sandwich. But we wanted to make sure that everyone in there at least
32 had a bite to eat. So, thank you for attending and thank you for, to our Ways &
33 Means, to you guys for the donors, for having a great auction. And at this time, I'd
34 like for you to talk a little bit about... What? I'm sorry. I forgot roll call. Let's do roll
35 call.
36

37 **Judy Fiddler:** Is there anyone in the room today that did not answer roll call
38 yesterday or Monday?
39

40 **Bailey Paugh:** Bailey Paugh from Nebraska Unit 632.
41

42 **Judy Fiddler:** Thank you.
43

44 **Fran Holtgreven:** So, before we really start the business, I'm just going to, well, this
45 is business, but I'm going to turn the microphone over to the Ways & Means Junior
46 Prize Linda Bellis and give a little report about last night and what's going on with
47 Ways & Means.

1 **Linda Bellis:** Thank you, Madam President. Thank you, thank you, thank you to all
2 of you who donated items to the auction last night. It was fun. It was fun. And some
3 of the stuff was like, \$100 for that? This is sweet. So, it was really, really nice. The
4 total last night for the auction was \$1,231. So, it was good. It was good.
5 But hopefully next year we get more items and I was told by Ed and Lenny that the
6 silent auction is open downstairs for those big quilts. So, just on that. The jewelry, we
7 will cut it off after lunch. Okay? So, during lunch time, put your final bids in and then
8 we'll be done with the jewelry. The ornaments have been going really good. I have
9 three days of keeping totals. My husband left the slips here last night. So, I can't give
10 you a definite, but we're selling a bunch of them and the magnets, too. And the
11 tickets for the mailbox, that will be drawn tonight at the hospitality room and those
12 tickets will be, sales will be stopped right after lunch also on that. And then I will have
13 the grand totals of everything because Mike is selling stuff here in the room. The
14 seashells by the seashore, we still have some, ladies. So, make sure you stop and
15 pick those up. It was hard for me to glue everything together. No. But they did, they
16 did come purple. So, one lady asked, well, what kind of shells are they? I have no
17 idea.

18
19 **Terri Shattuck:** She sells sheshells.

20
21 **Linda Bellis:** Yes, she sells sheshells. Yeah, they're seashells. They just rubbed
22 against the purple water, you know, maybe some chemical plant, but it was best for
23 them. So, that's what we have going. And again, thank you, thank you, thank you.
24 Make sure you finish up your bids. And if Serenity was in the room, I would tell her,
25 "No, I will not be bidding against her; I got in a bidding war last year". Anything else,
26 Madam President?

27
28 **Fran Holtgreven:** I don't know what else you have to say. We have, yes, Mike?

29
30 **Mike Fiddler:** The supply table yesterday made \$193. I want to do the same thing,
31 but lunch, after lunch today, it will be over, so have lunch, and then I'm going to close
32 up shop.

33
34 **Fran Holtgreven:** Okay. Everybody heard that. So, get your supplies now. Ah,
35 credentials table. Do you have a count, please?

36
37 **Tara Waugh:** Madam President, just one moment, if I may. We're just doing a...

38
39 **Fran Holtgreven:** Okay, that's fine. I'll get back to you, and I have some
40 announcements to make here. Go right ahead. Okay, um, the shirts that you
41 purchased, if you have the incorrect, you have having an Orders shirt instead of the
42 Associate or the Auxiliary one, please, at lunchtime, go down to the registration desk
43 where you registered at, and they will exchange them for you. So, but you'll only be
44 able to do this at lunchtime at, for half an hour, at the registration table. Do you have
45 something to add?

1 **Kristy Gray:** Yes. Kristy Gray here. My husband, Keith Gray, the man with the long
2 beard, my bearded half, he will be the one at the registration table if you have issues
3 with your shirt. He'll only be there for the first half, so you better find him fast. He
4 disappears quickly. He does.

5
6 **Fran Holtgreven:** Okay. Thank you. All right.

7
8 **Tara Waugh:** Madam President, Tara Waugh. For credentials this morning, we
9 have... Sorry. From the top. National Officers, 7. Department Presidents, 7. PNPs, 6.
10 Unit Presidents, 4. We have... We have 11 Delegates signed up for 61 votes.
11 We also have associates or guests at 2, and 4 Members-at-Large. For each region,
12 we have 7 votes for Region 1, 31 for Region 2, 1 for Region 3, 12 for Region 4, and
13 34 for Region 5. These are a total of 85 votes.

14
15 **Terri Shattuck:** Guests and associates don't have voting rights.

16
17 **Terri Shattuck:** Region 6?

18
19 **Tara Waugh:** none for Region 6.
20 Non-religion tips.

21
22 **Jan Knapp:** The last delegate count was 62?

23
24 **Tara Waugh:** Yes, we dropped one. It dropped one to 61. Yes. It is 61. You verified
25 that. That doesn't include guests and associates.

26
27 **Fran Holtgreven:** Thank you. Also... Also, remember to go back there, sign a name
28 to the Sharon Carlton Award, please.

29
30 **Terri Shattuck:** When is the cut off?

31
32 **Fran Holtgreven:** The cutoff is at noon. The cutoff is at noon today. So... Haha,
33 Terri, is that funny? She's ignoring me this morning. Okay. Okay, so are there any
34 questions about the Sharon Carlton Award? Just remember to go back and vote for
35 someone. So, again, turn your phones off or put them on silent or something. And
36 when you are talking, please talk into the microphone, say your name, Unit,
37 Department, talk loud into the mic, and hold the mic close. Okay, so this morning we
38 were asked to come down and with the presentation. It was very interesting, I
39 thought, and so I hope you all enjoyed it. So, we're going to start off with... I'd like to
40 ask if there is any unfinished business that anyone feels that we did not take care of
41 yesterday so we can move on to our new business. Gwen?

42
43 **Gwendolyn Gilliard:** Gwen Gilliard, National Co-Chaplain, PNP Unit 1955,
44 Louisiana. This is not necessarily unfinished business, but I wanted to give credit to
45 myself and maybe others have it as well. I went on the website to download the CBL
46 and it has the date of August 2017. At another time I had gotten a download and it

1 has August 2020. Which one should we be, should be on there that's correct? I Just
2 put it out there. The one I printed out last week had 2017.

3
4 **Colleen Orfanello as pro-temps Webmaster:** On the website?

5
6 **Gwendolyn Gilliard:** I went on the website and downloaded the CDL. Thank you.

7
8 **Fran Holtgreven:** I want to ask you a question. Did you say it was for the CBL only?
9 I want to hear what she was saying, please.

10
11 **Gwendolyn Gilliard:** Okay, this happened about a week ago that I downloaded this
12 particular CBL. I have one in my notebook that has 2020. The one that I downloaded
13 said 2017. So you're asking me if I went directly to where the forms and other
14 information is kept? I don't recall if it was the CBL that I went to get it on.

15
16 **Fran Holtgreven:** Colleen, can you bring it up, please?

17
18 **Colleen Orfanello as pro-temps Webmaster:** I can. It's August 2025 when I just
19 pulled it up. So I think what's happening is that you're not completing typing
20 purpleheartauxiliary.org. It probably repopulates something for you from many, many
21 years ago. If you just press enter when it repopulates, it's more than likely bringing
22 up a website that you probably picked up from cookies. So you're going to have to
23 clear your entire cache in your computer. Right now it's August 2025, but it's
24 probably picking up something from many years ago that you visited. Did it
25 repopulate when? And then you just pressed enter?

26
27 **Gwendolyn Gilliard:** I do not recall.

28
29 **Colleen Orfanello as pro-temps Webmaster:** Many people have had that,
30 especially with forms. I've been getting forms, that from years ago.

31
32 **Angie Foster:** I'm just saying if you don't clear out your cache or your cookies, it's
33 going to bring up a form from years ago that's not valid anymore. So make sure you
34 have the most current and make sure you type in the most current part of the
35 website.

36
37 **Gwendolyn Gilliard:** In addressing that, I did go to the current website. Maybe
38 you're correct. And I'll recheck it. I appreciate the information.

39
40 **Angie Foster:** Angie Foster, Region 2 President. Just to piggyback on that, if you go
41 in and clear your browsing data, because I just went on this week and it brought up,
42 like, Reno Convention and everything too on that. But you put in the correct website
43 address, but it has the old information so you need to clear the browsing or clear
44 history. And then just click the three little dots on the right side.

45
46 **Fran Holtgreven:** All right. School of Instruction on that.

1 **Terri Shattuck:** I see this pamphlet. Terri Shattuck: PNP. I see this pamphlet about
2 this book on my table. Is this book here, or do we have to order it?

3
4 **Judy Fiddler:** I only have one. You need to order it.

5
6 **Terri Shattuck:** Okay. I just wanted to say I'm interested in these kind of books
7 because someday I too am going to write a book. I have some stories. I hear so
8 many of them.

9
10 **Fran Holtgreven:** Are there any other questions that need to be answered at this
11 time? Pennsylvania, do you have something you want to talk about? Okay. Okay.
12 Okay, if there's no other new business, old business, we will go to new business. So
13 does anyone have anything to bring to the body about new business?

14
15 **Colleen Orfanello:** The only new business that I have is that our vendors kind of
16 support our convention. So I would like to ask everyone to go visit the vendors
17 downstairs because hopefully they'll come again next year so we'll have less of a bill
18 when it comes to convention. So we have some wonderful vendors downstairs
19 where the breakfast is. They're selling all kinds of great things. But please visit them
20 so hopefully they can come again next year to reduce our convention bill. And that's
21 it.

22
23 **Terri Shattuck:** Are they going to come on the boat?

24
25 **Colleen Orfanello:** No. No, not on the boat. But visit the vendors.

26
27 **Fran Holtgreven:** Nancy Lee. Do you have something?

28
29 **Nancy Lee Birchbach:** Yes.

30
31 **Fran Holtgreven:** Wait a minute. Excuse me. Before that, can I ask who's on Zoom
32 this morning?

33
34 **Colleen Orfanello as Zoom Moderator:** Yes, I can. Bonnie Weil Brown from Ohio,
35 Jennyne Bilsky from Texas, Sharon Lewinsky from Michigan, Dixie Pickard from
36 Iowa, and Cheryl Perez, PNP, from California.

37
38 **Fran Holtgreven:** Okay, welcome. I didn't forget about you. It went over my head.

39
40 **Colleen Orfanello as Zoom Moderator:** Oh, Tracy, I'm sorry. Tracy's here.

41
42 **Tracy Derr:** Tracy Derr, National Treasurer from Michigan. Whoo Hoo.

43
44 **Fran Holtgreven:** Okay, Nancy Lee.

45
46 **Nancy Lee Birchbach:** This is Nancy Lee Birchbach, Past National President, in
47 reference to our budget, our proposed budget.

1
2 **Fran Holtgreven:** Oh, yes, we're going to go to that. We had to wait to see when
3 Tracy came on. Okay.

4
5 **Nancy Lee Birchbach:** So, yes. We need to amend it.

6
7 **Fran Holtgreven:** Right, right.

8
9 **Nancy Lee Birchbach:** That's what we're going to bring up.

10
11 **Fran Holtgreven:** Okay, yeah. We were going to do that after. Anyone else? Right.
12 New business. Okay. No other new business to be decided, or to be talked about, so
13 I will go into our budget. If you would, please look for the new budget. It's in the front
14 cover. If it's too small to read, it's in the actions of the NEC. Has everybody found it?
15 Okay, Tracy, I'm going to turn the floor over to you, our National Treasurer.

16
17 **Linda Bellis:** Ladies, in the front cover, this looks like this. And you have a budget
18 here, and you should have a colored one in your front envelope. That's where they
19 are.

20
21 **Tracy Derr:** Okay, you're very muffled, and I am a little confused. Are we doing
22 reports right now, or am I just going over the budget? Usually, we go over it during
23 my report, so it sounded like Nancy Lee has an issue with something on there. Is
24 there a specific reason, or am I doing my whole report?

25
26 **Fran Holtgreven:** I don't know. It's just for new business, so that the body can
27 approve the next year.

28
29 **Tracy Derr:** I cannot hear her. Colleen, if you could just tell me what she said. Am I
30 just doing the budget? Fran sounds like (Charlie Brown teacher voice).

31
32 **Fran Holtgreven:** Good morning, Tracy. It's Fran.

33
34 **Tracy Derr:** There you are!

35
36 **Fran Holtgreven:** So what I would like you to do, is do the budget so that we can
37 have an approved body. So if you would go through again.

38
39 **Tracy Derr:** So, we're just ratifying the budget from the NEC?

40
41 **Fran Holtgreven:** Yes. Okay, so I'm sorry if you can't hear me. I don't know what it
42 was.

43
44 **Tracy Derr:** I can hear you now. Okay, so finance committee approved and...

45
46 **Kay Jo Baucom:** We got to make sure. We need to clarify. What you were given
47 originally is not the budget we're talking about. Now she has... Well, for the body

1 here, I'm just clarifying. This, the one that they're holding up now, you are looking at
2 the budget that says 26-27, because the other information was this year's budget,
3 not the coming year. You need a new budget. Proposed budget 26-27. And it was
4 under the actions of the NEC. And it is in color for you to be able to read. Just to
5 clarify.

6
7 **Tracy Derr:** So the new budget, is it what was put in the binder, Kay Jo?

8
9 **Kay Jo Baucom:** It is under the NEC, yes. And it says proposed budget 26-2027.
10 And it's in beautiful color.

11
12 **Tracy Derr:** Thank you, Kay Jo. Fran, are we ready? Or are we still working on
13 that? Just let me know.

14
15 **Fran Holtgreven:** Okay, does everybody have it? If you do not have it, raise your
16 hand and we'll show you where it's at.

17
18 **Tracy Derr:** I just love everybody's hats today. Oh my goodness. That must be
19 Colorado.

20
21 **Fran Holtgreven:** Okay, everyone have it? Okay. If you can't hear me, Tracy, go
22 right ahead if you can hear me.

23
24 **Tracy Derr:** Okay, thank you. Thank you, Madam President. Okay, so this is the
25 proposed budget that was developed by the National Committee and then reviewed
26 by the Finance Committee and then approved and then brought to the NEC and then
27 approved. And then now we ratify that to have the body approve it, so there's our
28 working budget for 26-27. The budget total, you'll see, is, that would include
29 everything below. My office is in a historical section of the city that I'm in and it's all
30 brick buildings, so. I'm trying here. This is the sweet spot, like right here on this table.
31 Hopefully it'll work. All right, so it consists of some changes from the year before,
32 which were discussed and approved through Finance Committee and then again the
33 NEC, which would be the changes. We'll just start from the top line. I mentioned
34 Convention is \$40,000. We've already received \$15,000 of that and also all of our
35 registration money went to, I believe, the Order of North Carolina to cover costs, so
36 we should be well under that \$40,000. We did, however, approve to raise the
37 reimbursement to \$1,000 for those who are reimbursed. The audit, we did raise up a
38 little bit because, as Terri pointed out, last year they charged us \$90 more, so I
39 thought \$3,000 should cover it for the year. He has not gone up much. We paid at
40 one time \$11,000, then \$6,000, and then I found this guy, he does it for us for under
41 three grand, which for an audit and also 990 is an incredible deal and they're really
42 great people. He's always available for us. Stipends were voted to go back. The
43 stipends historically are \$400 for the four people that do the work that they get, which
44 is definitely worth that. We have lowered it and raised it back up over the years
45 depending on our cash flow at that time; and we are very sound at this moment, so
46 it's back up to \$400. Plus we have new things in place that keep us sound, so that's
47 a great thing for the people who do the work. Postage is at \$500.

1 Printing, \$500. That's all kind of broken out into all the executive committee for us,
2 whoever does that. I don't use hardly any. I just use the rebate, so if Judy had to use
3 more, it would just come out of mine, and that's true of all things in the budget. For
4 those who don't know, the President has the power to say we don't all use travel,
5 maybe just the President and the Senior, which is pretty typical, but they need more,
6 they can use it from the other travel lines as long as those people are not traveling.
7 Bank fees and charges are at \$50. That probably should have gone up. Flags and
8 emblems, \$300. Fundraising expenses, \$1,600. That's a newer line item for us, put
9 in year before last. (Inaudible due to microphone went out)...

10
11 **Kristy Gray as Zoom Moderator:** It's still frozen. We can see you but we can hear
12 you.

13
14 **Tracy Derr:** Am I back? Oh good. I won't move. Fundraising, so that's a newer line
15 item that we've come up with in the last couple of years. Colleen one year did shirts
16 and ornaments, and it was such a great winner that that led to more conversation
17 about fundraising and how we can put more money to our General Fund, which is
18 the problem. How do we earn money? We don't have an earning department or
19 something going out to make us money just to keep the lights on, so to speak. So
20 that kind of cultivated into, well, we should do something every year, but it's not fair
21 to make anybody come up with all that money up front since it is fundraising for the
22 General Fund. So we have an expense line there now, which you can use up to
23 \$1,600, and then get reimbursed. Most things with the Auxiliary are you do it, and
24 then you get reimbursed. If it's something great, then we'd have to talk about it, get it
25 approved, and then move from there. So that's a good line. I know Ms. Bellis has
26 already used up some of that this year, so we're hoping that that does great things.
27 Next line item is the professional dues and subscriptions. Over the years, everything
28 is Internet-based. Everything is an online app or a subscription, so that keeps
29 growing. That should cover it. I don't see too many new things, except for the line
30 below it, which is QuickBooks. Put \$900 because when I did the research on it, that's
31 kind of a number to start it out. We'll see what happens. Hopefully, I'll come under.
32 Funds for transferring the secretary items. That is a self-explanatory \$1,700. We left
33 that 501c3 there as an option in case something grows with that, and then we can
34 discuss it amongst the 501c3 committee because that's still an ongoing committee
35 and an ongoing topic of conversation. The new computers for Treasurer and
36 Secretary, they are very old. This was the previous Treasurer before me, and I
37 started in 2014, and I baby it. I use it for nothing but this bookkeeping, period. Even
38 the other forms I do in my own business at my office computer have folders, and I
39 share them on the Google Drive just because I don't want to overload it. But that's
40 why we have Dropbox. That's why we pay the big bucks for Dropbox. Ways & Means
41 expenditures is a way that a Junior Vice Person can be reimbursed with receipts in
42 the fundraising for Ways & Means if necessary. Some people do not. Some people
43 do, but it's there. Travel, officer travel, 3,000. President, 2,000. Senior Vice, Junior
44 Vice, 1,000. And the VAVS is 700. The Martha Washington Award, we provide up to
45 200 for that, and then we have 150 for memorials. That is for if we buy wreaths or if
46 we have to, unfortunately, use it for one of our own. And that's all I have for the
47 2026-27 budget.

1
2 **Fran Holtgreven:** Okay, thank you, Tracy.

3
4 **Tracy Derr:** So, are there any questions? I can't hear you. Is there any questions
5 about the budget?

6
7 **Nancy Lee Birchbach:** Nancy Lee Birchbach, Past National President. Tracy, you
8 brought up as far as you were concerned about the bank fees and charges that you
9 brought up. I move that we change the total for the 501C3 to 2,800, and \$200 we
10 move up to the bank fees and charges to make it \$250. So the ending total will not
11 change.

12
13 **Terri Shattuck:** I'll second that motion. Terri Shattuck, I second that motion.

14
15 **Fran Holtgreven:** Is there any discussion?

16
17 **Tracy Derr:** Can you just give me the totals again? So \$250 for bank fees?

18
19 **Terri Shattuck:** Yes.

20
21 **Tracy Derr:** And take \$200 out of, is that what she said?

22
23 **Nancy Lee Birchback:** Instead of \$3,000, it would be 2,800 for the 501C3.

24
25 **Tracy Derr:** Thank you, Nancy Lee.

26
27 **Fran Holtgreven:** Is there any discussion at this? I do not see any hands raised. So
28 all those in favor to change the budget to \$250 and take \$200 out of the 501c3.
29 All those in favor, please raise your hand. Okay. All those opposed, please raise
30 your hand. Motion carried. Nancy Lee?

31
32 **Nancy Lee Birchbach:** Nancy Lee Birchbach, Department President of Wisconsin.
33 In reference to the interest earned in the E-Trade account for the rebate, I move that
34 National keep 75%, that'd be \$74,213.18, and that the Department and National
35 share the 25%, which would be \$24,734.40. Do I have a second? Second.

36
37 **Gloria Sanchez:** Gloria Sanchez, PNP. I second that motion.

38
39 **Fran Holtgreven:** We have a second. Is there any discussion? Doris Williams?

40
41 **Doris Williams:** I would like to understand the motion. I didn't understand.

42
43 **Fran Holtgreven:** Okay. Nancy Lee, would you please just let them know what you
44 were talking about?

45
46 **Nancy Lee Birchbach:** Do you see your sheet? Is it over here? The clear sheet that
47 shows as far as the rebate, it has \$98,937.58. I move that 75% stays with National,

1 and that the 25% will be given out to the Departments and Units that do the 990 and
2 does the installation and the financial report. Those reports need to be on file with
3 the National Secretary and the National Treasurer to receive your rebate. The
4 interest is from our life membership account, and that money is in an eBay, eTrade
5 account, and with Tracy and her dad, they've been watching that account, and we
6 thank them very much as far as keeping tabs on that. Dennis Wallot has been doing
7 a terrific job, and we miss you both.

8
9 **Tracy Derr:** We miss you guys. The running joke is that he's so smart, and he'll tell
10 you that this is his running joke. He's so smart that even intubated and hospitalized,
11 he still made us money, and he made himself \$65,000. So I told him "I don't want
12 you to be hospitalized, but you can take a few naps". But he's doing great. He's
13 doing much better. He still just needs another surgery. I was hoping to be able to put
14 him on Monday, but we missed each other, so he had a nurse appointment at the
15 house. But he's doing pretty good considering everything that he's been through. We
16 didn't think he was going to make it.

17
18 **Fran Holtgreven:** Okay. Is there any other questions or discussion? Did this answer
19 what you wanted to know, Doris?

20
21 **Doris Williams:** I didn't hear anything. What were the numbers?

22
23 **Fran Holtgreven:** So, Nancy Lee, can you repeat those numbers that you had?

24
25 **Nancy Lee Birchbach:** For National \$74,213.18. For Departments and Units
26 \$24,734.40.

27
28 **Fran Holtgreven:** Thank you. Okay. Did everybody get those numbers? Any other
29 discussion? No? Thank you. We will take a vote. All those in favor raise your hand.
30 All those opposed, raise your hand. I have 29 for that. Okay.

31
32 **Tracy Derr:** Sorry. I lost the whole conversation. I don't know what ya'll are voting
33 on.

34
35 **Fran Holtgreven:** We are voting on the rebate percentages. So I am going to do it
36 this way. All those who disagree raise your hand. Gloria are you up or doen?

37
38 **Gloria Sanchez:** Me? Up.

39
40 **Fran Holtgreven:** Okay. Up. Okay. All those in favor raise your hand. Okay, it
41 passed. Only 5 voted against. Okay. Alright. Motion carried. Okay. Anything else
42 about out budget? Jan?

43
44 **Jan Knapp:** We have lots of money now because we just got rebates to our
45 Departments and Units, but our National President has a \$3,000 budget. We need to
46 do something to increase our President's budget. With all the travel, with all the
47 travel, everything's gone up. Plane fare, gas. I just feel like we should discuss an

1 increase in that president's budget. I mean, you're going to have to put some of your
2 own money in. A trip to national and maybe a couple Department conventions. I think
3 we should add another thousand.

4
5 **Fran Holtgreven:** Is that your motion? There is a motion to raise the President's
6 travel to \$4,000.

7
8 **Terri Shattuck:** Can I add to that motion?

9
10 **Fran Holtgreven:** I'm not hearing you.

11
12 **Gloria Sanchez:** Second it.

13
14 **Terri Shattuck:** Oh. I second that motion. And I agree with Jan. You can't travel
15 anywhere for \$3,000. Think about how much it costs to travel here and that's just
16 one time for Convention. She's supposed to travel to all kind of events with he
17 Commander and there's no way she can do that for \$3,000. I would like ton see, can
18 I... I want to increase the President's budget from the Department percentage. So
19 can we take 10% out of the Department and put it in the National President and
20 Senior Vice travel. Can that, can we do that?

21
22 **Jan Knapp:** We are already in discussion of the motion and that would be a
23 separate motion.

24
25 **Linda Varejcka:** So that one would be turned down and another motion will be made
26 for yours.

27
28 **Terri Shattuck:** Okay. I think that's what I wanted to say,

29
30 **Fran Holtgreven:** We have someone from Zoom wanting to talk. Cheryl Perez?

31
32 **Cheryl Perez:** I think what Terri is trying to do is amend the motion and if she makes
33 That amended motion on the floor it either passes or fails. And then if it fails we go
34 back to the original motion and if it passes then Jan's motion incorporates Terri's and
35 that will be the motion we are voting on. If that makes sense but I think she wants to
36 amend the original motion.

37
38 **Terri Shattuck:** Cheryl, I don't think I can amend Jan's original motion.

39
40 **Cheryl Perez:** Yes you can. You can have up to 2 secondary motions on a main
41 motion.

42
43 Terri Shattuck. Okay. Anyway, I would like to amend Jan's motion to state
44 Department rebates drop down to 15%.

45
46 **Jan Knapp:** That's two different motions.

1 **Terri Shattuck:** I know. I'm sorry. Cheryl, the motion was to increase the president's
2 budget.

3
4 **Cheryl Perez:** Correct.

5
6 **Jan Knapp:** Then if she wants to increase it more, we just change the amount. Not
7 where it comes from at this point.

8
9 **Cheryl Perez:** Okay, I will defer to you.

10
11 **Jan Knapp:** You know, if you want to increase the budget, you need an amount.
12 Because otherwise it's just, you want more than \$1,000.

13
14 **Terri Shattuck:** I second Jan's motion.

15
16 **Fran Holtgreven:** Okay, so, we need to vote?

17
18 **Jan Knapp:** No, you need discussion.

19
20 **Fran Holtgreven:** Are we done with discussion?

21
22 **Maryann Barclay:** Maryann Barclay, Department of Georgia President. I have a
23 question. So, at this point, we're just voting on changing the President's budget
24 \$1,000 to \$4,000. That's Jan's motion. But we are not, we haven't decided where
25 that money is coming from. Is that correct? We're just voting to increase it, but we
26 have not had a discussion on where it's going to come from yet. Correct? Or the
27 correct amount.

28
29 **Terri Shattuck:** Yes.

30
31 **Maryann Barclay:** Okay. Thank you.

32
33 **Fran Holtgreven:** We have to vote on this.

34
35 **Jan Knapp:** Or we can just down this motion.

36
37 **Fran Holtgreven:** So, okay. All those in favor to accept this motion, raise your hand.
38 To increase. No, no, no, no. No, no. to increase to add \$1,000 to the budget. Add to
39 add \$1,000 to the budget. No, no. We want to down it. We do not. We don't. We
40 want to not accept this motion, to reject it. Wait.

41
42 **Jan Knapp:** But you don't tell them that. You just say, all in favor to increase it
43 \$1,000.

44
45 **Fran Holtgreven:** All in favor to increase it to... I mean by \$1000. \$1,000 yea.
46 Okay. All those in favor to increase it to \$1,000, say "Aye". Buy \$1,000, excuse me.
47 Say "Yes". I mean, raise your hand. That's what you say. Raise your hand "Yes".

1 No. It's okay. We'll still get it. Okay. Those in favor?

2
3 **Gloria Sanchez:** I counted ten.

4
5 **Fran Holtgreven:** Those opposed raise your hand. Okay. I have 10 votes. All those
6 opposed, raise your hand.

7
8 **Gloria Sanchez:** (Counting to 20). Can I stop?

9
10 **Fran Holtgreven:** Ha. Yes. Motion not approved. Now, we may have to make
11 another motion.

12
13 **Terri Shattuck:** Terri Shattuck, PNP. I would like to make a motion that we take, Do
14 I want to give percentages or totals?

15
16 **Colleen Orfanello:** Percentages because it will change every year.

17
18 **Terri Shattuck:** Yea. I would like to take 10% of the Department's rebate and put it
19 into travel for the National Officers.

20
21 **Gloria Sanchez:** I second that motion.

22
23 **Fran Holtgreven:** Okay. Do I have any discussion? Does everyone understand the
24 resolution? Oh my, I mean motion.

25
26 **Linda Bellis:** Linda Bellis: I'm in the wrong. Does somebody have a calculator real
27 quick just to let these people know how much of an increase that would be this year?
28 That might help with their decision. \$2,473. \$2,473 is what the motion said this year
29 would be taken to increase the budget for the National President to travel. And I
30 agree. The National President, to fill all of her obligations, needs to travel a lot. We
31 all know what travel costs we pay. That's the amount that Terri is proposing. I agree
32 as far as that to increase money for the national officers to travel.

33
34 **Nancy Lee Birchbach:** I have no problem with that. But you're going to penalize
35 some of these Departments. Michigan has money. So they don't need that. They
36 want to get rebates, and that's fine. But there are some Departments that are
37 hanging on by a thread to help the Units in that. Don't penalize the Departments and
38 the Units.

39
40 **Bailey Paugh:** Bailey Paugh, 632 from Nebraska. I agree with Nancy. I'm probably
41 one of the youngest Unit members we have, and if we want to continue the
42 organization, we can't take money from smaller places because some people can't
43 afford a membership. So some Units will pay for memberships for their members. If
44 we're taking even \$2,000, it could be an entire Department's budget. So we really
45 need to think about that if we want to continue to help our fellow patriots.

1 **Linda Varejcka:** Linda Varejcka, President in unit 200 in Nebraska. We are a small
2 Unit. I personally put out a lot of money out of my own pocket to be able to do things
3 for the veterans because I love the veterans. The next incoming President in the Unit
4 may not have that little extra money. We utilize the HOV. We utilize the VAVS grant.
5 I do fundraisers. But even though our rebate check is not humongous money, it still
6 helps because I don't have to take out of my pocket. So I'm able to do a little bit at
7 this point. I don't know how long that'll last, and I don't know if any incoming
8 President could do it. But the amount that we can get as a rebate does mean a lot to
9 us as a small Unit.

10
11 **Fran Holtgreven:** I left the podium because I have something to say about this. You
12 are talking about having Units not get their money. I'm talking on my own as a
13 member. As you can see, I went over my budget this year. I went to Hawaii to
14 represent everything. I used 75,000 points on my airfare. You were not charged. I did
15 not have meals. I didn't take a per diem for three or four days. I had to take an Uber
16 from the airport. I had to take an Uber to the ceremony itself, and that cost me \$70
17 one way. I attended a ceremony for a patriot and a Past National President's
18 husband in D.C. My airfare, the cheapest I could get, was \$475 to go economy,
19 which I usually do, but I'm lucky because I've been using all this money on my credit
20 card that I got bumped up to comfort one way and then came back on economy
21 because I didn't get bumped up. I had a hotel room for roughly two days. No charge.
22 I had a metro fee. Luckily, I'm old, and I got it for \$2.85 one way. I used an Uber, and
23 luckily that was \$35. None of that was turned in, and that's just two times that I did
24 that. I never charged for per diem per day. Nothing like that. You saw in there it was
25 \$4,000 and something that I turned in. All the times I traveled to Departments, a
26 couple of them I didn't charge for my airfare. I charged my husband. You say if
27 you're taking it away from the Unit that they don't have the money. Well, I'm telling
28 you, the National President is very important to go and get our name out. Last year, I
29 started keeping everything last year that I did do. I quit after Hawaii, because there
30 again, I used points to get over to Hawaii. My husband paid for the rest, but I quit
31 taking it after I had reached \$3,000 just to go to Hawaii. That wasn't going to
32 Veterans Day, Memorial Day, anything, because I was thinking, I did this because I
33 believe in this organization, and thankfully my husband paid for most of this. This
34 year, I don't know. I didn't keep anything, but I did not turn in all my warrants,
35 anything, luggage, anything. He took care of it. So, the National President, if you
36 want them to travel and get the name out, you need to update some of this. I was
37 lucky. I was real lucky. And that is the same thing that the next President is going to
38 have to do.

39
40 **Linda Varejcka:** Thank you. Madam President, just to piggyback on myself, what I
41 did say, I understand your expenses, and I thank you very much for what you have
42 done. I think the question that I have is that, can we be taken on a different part of
43 the budget instead of penalizing the Departments in this?

44
45 **Colleen Orfanello:** I'd like to say a few words, and also Tracy Derr would like to say
46 a few words. So, as a Past National President, I think that it's our responsibility to be
47 your voice and your face of the Auxiliary. If we're not represented at these wonderful

1 historical events, Veterans Day in D.C., Memorial Day, Pearl Harbor Day,
2 representing all 8,000 members, what are we doing? We have to be your face. We
3 work for you. However, we all know that travel is very expensive, and most of us are
4 happy to be able to donate. However, there are certain times the economy is a little
5 hard. I wouldn't want to put any pressure on the National President. National
6 Presidents, and we have many in this room, they're working 7 days a week. There's
7 no vacation times. We have East Coast members, West Coast members. We're
8 answering phone calls and emails at all hours of the night, midnight, 3 o'clock in the
9 morning, whatever. Let them do their job, but I think \$3,000 is really hard, working
10 365 days a year, 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, for \$3,000. I want to just discuss
11 with Bailey. The \$2,000 isn't for one Department. We only have 8 Departments,
12 guys. It's \$160 a year. That's all you're going to be donating. My math is bad, but I'm
13 guesstimating. So let her be your voice. Let her work for you. Tracy Derr would like
14 to say a few words.

15
16 **Tracy Derr:** I was just looking at last year, and I know this to be true for most of the
17 past years, there's always leftover money in the officer travel category. So maybe the
18 solution, and we could try it for a year, and I don't know who brought this up. I
19 missed the first part of the conversation. I hope I'm not offending anybody. But,
20 again, I'm speaking my mind, and this is my thought. But we could move \$1,000 if
21 you take the Junior Vice. I haven't seen travel on Junior Vice in years, and I mean
22 years. We could move, what did I say, Colleen? Reduce Junior Vice to \$500 and
23 reduce Senior Vice to \$1,500, giving an extra \$1,000 to the President for her travel.
24 And that's all within the numbers that we're already using. You know, I don't know
25 what the goal I heard donate to and units or departments donate to. I missed the
26 whole beginning, and I am sorry, but I do believe since there hasn't been anything
27 turned in for Junior Vice for travel before the end of this convention, that, you know,
28 and again, year before and year before, I know we all come out of pocket with some
29 things, but I think that that is a solution as well.

30
31 **Colleen Orfanello:** But we didn't have a Junior Vice, though. That's why we didn't
32 have travel.

33
34 **Tracy Derr:** The last five years? I mean, like, I'm not reimbursing. I don't know when
35 the last time I reimbursed a Junior Vice was. And also we're giving \$1,000 now for
36 reimbursement for convention. So that also is up from \$400 a person. Which doesn't
37 even cover the hotel. I hope I didn't jump into something, because I changed
38 computers. So I missed the first part of this. I do apologize if I'm out of pocket here
39 with what I'm saying. But if we need to get more money to use in the budget, it's
40 there. We can move the numbers and allow the President another \$1,000 for the
41 travel. If it's something that is an ongoing concern and we need to get money for it
42 somehow, and this was an idea, then we can certainly talk about that. But I'm just
43 giving my two cents.

44
45 **Nancy Lee Birchbach:** Nancy Lee Birchbach, Past National President and present
46 Department President of Wisconsin. Instead of taking it from the Senior Vice and
47 Junior Vice, because we need them to get training. It's kind of a mentoring thing.

1 Why not take the money out of the 501c3? That's \$1,800. I would rather see it
2 coming out of there than taking it from the Senior Vice and Junior Vice. To me, that's
3 the simplest thing.

4
5 **Tracy Derr:** I may not have to, Nancy, this year. Next year, you can put a 501c3
6 back into the budget, but that would be \$2,800. The committee could still do its
7 research, and if something came up, we could put it back in for next year, year after.
8 But we were under budget \$17,275. That means that somewhere within last year's
9 budget, we didn't spend what we had said we were going to spend by \$17,000. I
10 think there's definitely ideas like Nancy Lee's and what I said that we could give the
11 travel more attention. And I do believe it's crucial for our officers to travel and be
12 seen and our presence be known and be a part of all of these huge things that
13 happen every year. So however we can make that happen would be great.

14
15 **Maryann Barclay:** Maryann Barclay, Department of Georgia President. I agree with
16 Nancy Lee and some of these other ladies. I agree that the President's budget needs
17 to be increased by \$1,000 at the minimum, but I also think we need to remember that
18 the Department Presidents and the Unit Presidents are doing the same thing as the
19 National Presidents regarding travel, just on a smaller scale. But they're still doing it
20 and putting in their own funds. And like Angie said, some of these departments, mine
21 included, are just barely hanging on and barely able to reimburse us. I'm going to be
22 out of pocket. I won't be reimbursed for everything for where I came here. I also have
23 a couple of questions. The 501c3, I thought we had already voted that we are not
24 doing that for now. So I'm not quite sure what that money is being held aside for.
25 What is that money since we're not doing the 501c3?

26
27 **Tracy Derr:** We're not doing the 501c3 but we're still researching the 501c3. If we
28 come up with something that works for our organization.

29
30 **Maryann Barclay:** Okay, and so we have \$3,000 for research.

31
32 **Tracy Derr:** No, no, we won't spend it. We won't spend it, but in case something, it
33 was a group decision. We all voted on it. And it was because if they do find a lawyer
34 that can do it for \$500 or if they do find some easier way that we can do it instantly,
35 we don't have to go through the process of re-voting, getting it done, all of that. So,
36 like Nancy Lee said, we can definitely remove it. But as far as the Department and
37 the Units, I mean, the Departments could give you your reimbursement.

38
39 **Maryann Barclay:** Okay, so we can very feasibly reduce that 501c3 as was
40 suggested. But my other question is I'm not sure where all of our income is coming
41 from. I see this \$40,000 figure. Where is, do we have revenue? So my suggestion is
42 to try to find revenue elsewhere to raise the President's travel, what we're saying, but
43 without taking it from the Senior Vice and the Junior Vice. Where is it? Do we have
44 any other source of revenue that it could come from?

45 **Tracy Derr:** So the \$40,000 is from the Service Foundation and it is restricted
46 revenue. That is our CDCE grant. And then the \$2,800 is for our audit that they pay
47 for. The only income we have is our convention sales or supplies, which goes back

1 to buy more supplies. Our fundraising, which we just started two years ago. And our
2 interest from our rebate, that's why we always have to vote on keeping some of it so
3 that it keeps the National moving. So those are your sources of income. Also
4 donations. We do receive donations.

5
6 **Linda Bellis:** Ladies and gentlemen, Linda Bellis, Junior Vice. As Fran told you, all
7 her travels, she did not tell you that the Commander had her go to a convention in
8 D.C. for five days. There's other travel that goes on. Yeah, you have Hawaii. You
9 have to definitely go to D.C. for those two times. But the Commander wants you, you
10 go. And that money, \$3,000, \$4,000 today, look at what everybody spent just to get
11 here. Yeah, she used a lot of her points, but a lot of us don't have points. And we
12 need to spread the word about Purple Heart because that's how we grow. And by
13 traveling out to these areas, we're getting the word out. So, it's an investment for our
14 organization to grow. Upping it up just a little bit is not going to help.

15
16 **Terri Shattuck:** This is Terri Shattuck, PNP. I would like to amend my motion to
17 state the extra travel that we're putting into the National Officers' travel, the extra
18 money, will come out of Nationals' money. Rebate.

19
20 **Linda Bellis:** We can, We can move...How much?

21
22 **Terri Shattuck:** 10% or how much? We can...

23
24 **Fran Holtgreven:** Are we still in discussion? The queue?

25
26 **Colleen Orfanello as Zoom Moderator:** So we have two people in queue.

27
28 **Terri Shattuck:** I'm amending the motion that we're discussing. Can I not do that? I
29 thought we had discussion first.

30
31 **Colleen Orfanello as Zoom Moderator:** But we still have two more people in the
32 queue for discussion.

33
34 **Terri Shattuck:** Tell me when to talk.

35
36 **Colleen Orfanello as Zoom Moderator:** Okay, I'm sorry. We have Gwen and
37 Cheryl.

38
39 **Terri Shattuck:** It's okay. I got to go pee, so can you go on right now?

40
41 **Linda Varejcka:** Hey, I think everybody's kind of getting off of the topic here. We all
42 are all in agreement that the travel expense needs to be increased. The problem is
43 where the money is coming from to increase it. Madam President, we are all in
44 agreement that the travel must be increased, correct? What the debate is about is
45 where the money is coming from to make that increase. We don't need to hear any
46 more about why. Madam President, you have done a fantastic job representing us
47 and we expect the incoming President to do the same. We all agree, and you have

1 represented us very, very well, and we realize that the cost coming up needs to be
2 increased, and they want to get it back to them. Let's hear it for her!

3
4 **Collective Group:** (Clapping)

5
6 **Gwendolyn Gilliard:** Thank you all. This is Gwen Gilliard, PNP and National Co-
7 Chaplain. Thank you all for coming, and I do agree that the National President needs
8 the money to travel. But I have a question for you to think about or consider. If you
9 do take money from the Junior, the Senior Junior Vice President, to increase their
10 amount, and if and when, the National President assigns them to go, representing
11 MOPHA, how will that be paid for? And what if it's not enough with the \$500 or the
12 \$1,000? Then they will have to pay it yourself. So if you increase theirs, they're going
13 to be paying out of pocket, or something has to be done for them as well.

14
15 **Colleen Orfanello as Zoom Moderator:** Cheryl?

16
17 **Cheryl Perez:** How much do we make in Ways & Means this year?

18
19 **Tracy Derr:** Last year? But that's for the HOV program. But let me just say this in the
20 simplest thing. We're over-talking this. We had \$17,000 left over in our budget. Every
21 year, we have at least \$10,000 to \$20,000 left in our budget. The money is in the
22 bank. We should just pick a number, put it there, and be done with it. We have the
23 money to up the travel line. We don't have to take it from anywhere. It's in our
24 checking account.

25
26 **Cheryl Perez:** I was just going to say that we voted in the 2020 convention that
27 disbursement of funds from the Ways & Means would be determined by the National
28 Body.

29
30 **Cheryl Perez:** That's true, but I think the HOV is very popular, and if we can use
31 those \$250 grants, that's so helpful. We get a lot of those. We used \$3,650 worth of
32 those this last year. I don't want to discourage any Veteran spending for sure, but
33 like I said, we have the money in the bank. If you want to up the travel line, then we
34 just need to say, okay, we've been smart in our choices; we had \$17,000 we didn't
35 use; we historically don't use all our budget. Do we think we should give this person
36 \$10,000 to go to work? No, absolutely not. But we should come up with a respectful
37 number and raise it. We do have the money. And again, we could raise it to \$5,000,
38 and I bet you a dollar we'll still be under budget next year by 10 grand.

39
40 **Linda Varejcka:** I think if I'm understanding the motion, that the motion was to take
41 10% away from the Department rebate to put into the President's travel. Is that the
42 motion? Now, is she allowed to amend that motion at this point?

43
44 **Several Voices:** (Inaudible - talking at the same time off microphone).

45 **Terri Shattuck:** Do I amend my amendment? Oh geesh. There's a motion on the
46 floor and it needs to be taken care of first.

1 **Linda Varejcka:** So once again, we need to vote on this. I'm sorry, Madam
2 President. Vote on this one. They can decide to do the motion or reject it and won't
3 have another.

4
5 **Fran Holtgreven:** Okay, so all those in favor to approve it, raise your hand. Anyone
6 on Zoom?

7
8 **Kristy Gray:** No ma'am.

9
10 **Fran Holtgreven:** All those repoused? Opposed? Opposed it. Raise your hand. All
11 right, all right. Done deal.

12
13 **Linda Varejcka:** Okay, so Madam President, Linda Varejcka: Sergeant of Arms. I
14 move that we increase the President's travel pay by 10%. Is that what you said?

15
16 **Terri Shattuck:** No.

17
18 **Linda Varejcka:** No? No? She wanted 10% in the travel budget.

19
20 **Unknown Voice off Microphone:** \$5,000 to the travel budget.

21
22 **Linda Varejcka:** Increase the President's travel by \$5,000, making the budget be
23 9,000?

24
25 **Colleen Orfanello:** Just say \$5,000.

26
27 **Fran Holtgreven:** You mean increase it by \$5,000. You want it increased by it. Plus
28 you just want the in, included, added to, so from the current budget which now says
29 \$3,000. \$3,000 and it will be increased to \$8,000?

30
31 **Linda Varejcka:** Yes. We're adding.

32
33 **Fran Holtgreven:** Okay, Okay. A motion has been, 8,000 to increase it to \$8,000.
34 Okay. There's been a motion to increase the President's travel to \$8,000. All those...
35 Oh wait. I need a second,

36
37 **Gloria Sanchez:** Gloria Sanchez, PNP, I second the motion.

38
39 **Fran Holtgreven:** Okay. A motion has been, and seconded to have the President's
40 travel increased to \$8,000 for this year, all those in favor, raise your hand. Okay.
41 Raise your hands real high please. All those opposed? All those who don't care? Ha!
42 Okay okay. This has been approved, the President's travel will be \$8,000 and as the
43 National President of the last two years, thank you so much, because this will help
44 the next National President. Thank you, so at this time, before we proceed on to any
45 more new business, let's take a 20-minute break.

1 **Fran Holtgreven:** Okay. Welcome back. Okay, I'm getting a big echo back here,
2 getting a big echo. Everyone on Zoom that can hear me, how are we doing? Good
3 morning ladies on Zoom. And we miss you. And the other thing is, a lot of people
4 don't understand what we're trying to do.

5
6 **Linda Varejcka:** Madam President, before we do that, can we sing God Bless
7 America?

8
9 **Fran Holtgreven:** Yes.

10
11 **Linda Varejcka:** Members of the Auxiliary, with pride let us sing God Bless America.

12
13 **Linda Varejcka and Members:** God bless America. Land that I love. Stand beside
14 her and guide her through the night with the light from above. From the mountains, to
15 the prairies, to the oceans, white with foam God bless America, my home sweet
16 home. God bless America. My home sweet home.

17
18 **Terri Shattuck:** Now we need to sing "Joy to the world"

19
20 **Several Voices:** Laughing.

21
22 **Fran Holtgreven:** Okay, if everybody would sit down. Wow, this is a lot better, guys.

23
24 **Colleen Orfanello as Zoom Moderator:** We used a speaker from the Patriot
25 Games last night. I kind of stole some of their equipment, some of our equipment, we
26 MacGyvered it, and now it's kind of working.

27
28 **Several Voices:** Cheering

29
30 **Linda Varejcka:** The next motion on the floor is to increase Colleen's budget by
31 100%. Since she has zero pay, maybe we should do that. Ha.

32
33 **Fran Holtgreven:** Oh yes. So much better! Okay, so we're waiting on our Junior
34 Vice here. She was tending to Sheryl Osburn. Yeah, we told her to go back to her
35 room, but she said no. She's feeling better. So, we'll just sit here and wait a few
36 minutes, and we will draw for a door prize.

37
38 **Terri Shattuck:** Pull me!

39
40 **Gloria Sanchez:** You can pick the ticket but you can't pull your name.

41
42 **Terri Shattuck:** Oh yes I can. Ha! I've got most of it in my hands.

43
44 **Linda Varejcka:** Check her hands so she doesn't get sticky fingers.

45 **Several Voices:** Laughing.

46
47 **Fran Holtgreven:** Nancy Lee!

1
2 **Nancy Lee Birchbach:** A present for me?

3
4 **Judy Fiddler:** Sandy has your present.

5
6 **Linda Varejcka:** Madam President, are you drawing more?

7
8 **Fran Holtgreven:** No.

9
10 **Linda Varejcka:** Okay, now that our Junior Vice is back on the floor, this has been
11 fun, but it's now time for us to get serious once again, so everyone please come to
12 order.

13
14 **Fran Holtgreven:** Okay, we're still on new business. Wow, this sounds really
15 different, doesn't it? Okay, back to I don't like my voice on it.

16
17 **Terri Shattuck:** Sounds good too.

18
19 **Fran Holtgreven:** Do I sound like that? Okay, don't answer that. Okay, we're going
20 back to any other new business. Well, we're still on the budget, aren't we? Yep. Is
21 Tracy there?

22
23 **Colleen Orfanello as Zoom Moderator:** She's muted, but she's present.

24
25 **Fran Holtgreven:** Tracy, are you here?

26
27 **Colleen Orfanello as Zoom Moderator:** Tracy's here.

28
29 **Fran Holtgreven:** Okay.

30
31 **Maryann Barclay:** Mary Ann Barclay, Department of Georgia President. I have two
32 questions, please, ma'am, and I apologize if they're stupid questions, but you know,
33 we just mentioned that we have \$17,000 from last year's budget that we haven't
34 used yet, and my question is, I don't understand why in this year's proposed budget
35 we don't see that as a balance carried forward, \$17,000 from last year that we're
36 carrying forward. I feel like I'm being asked to vote on this budget without having all
37 of the information what funds are available. Obviously we have \$17,000 that I need
38 to know about, so I don't know why that's not as a balance carried forward in this
39 proposed budget, and my other question is, I'm on page 44 of the CBL dated August
40 2025, and it says that the Finance Committee has the power to allocate for
41 budgetary purposes all funds received from any source within the limitation
42 prescribed by these articles, and then "C" says it shall supervise and control
43 expenditures and handling of the National Auxiliary's two bank accounts: the General
44 Fund Account and the Life Membership Account, and so that makes me think these
45 figures, if this is the General Fund Account, I understand they are restricted, but, you
46 know, \$378,000 is a lot of money, and maybe we...

1 **Terri Shattuck:** That's our Life membership Account that's restricted.

2
3 **Maryann Barclay:** Okay, that's our Life Membership, this whole thing is our Life
4 Membership, but we have authority to allocate those funds and maybe we can look
5 at not having them restricted. I'm just mentioning a few of my thoughts, and not
6 having them restricted if we need funds to fund some of these things, so I would just
7 like to throw that out, and maybe, I don't understand why we don't see \$17,000 as a
8 balanced port forward, so I have all the information when I vote on whether or not to
9 approve the budget. Thank you.

10
11 **Tracy Derr:** Okay. Tracy Derr, National Treasurer. To the budget... To answer your
12 question... I'm sorry. To answer your question, it's created every year. It's created
13 every year, and the budget is a guideline for that Officer, that President, that Senior
14 Vice, me, the Secretary. These are the funds that we say we're going to spend every
15 year. The amount of money in our bank is the amount of money in our bank. We
16 hope that we don't go over last year's budget of \$72,300, and if we even came close
17 to it, we would have to get a finance meeting and an NEC approval, and it would be
18 a whole conversation. The \$17,000 isn't some amount of money that we would carry
19 forward to next year. We have \$200,000 in our checking account. That could last us
20 three, four years if we're frugal with it. Once the budget year ends, those dollars end,
21 and we start over with a new budget, just so that you understand how that works. So
22 this year, since you're Secretary, you'll probably be involved, and we'll go through all
23 of that, and you'll learn about all of those line items and how each year, each officer
24 wants to make some, maybe like last year, we could have said when we were
25 creating this budget for this next year, or the year we're in, we could have said, you
26 know, the President travel is just not enough, and let's raise that, and then we'll give
27 that finance committee a reason, and we'll explain our thoughts, and then we'll have
28 to explain it to the NEC once it gets approved by the FC, and then the NEC will
29 approve it, because they'll see the value that our President needs to travel, and our
30 President needs more money to do so, or our Junior Vice, and then that whole
31 conversation we just had could have been avoided. But we didn't, we didn't foresee
32 it, because we just didn't. I don't, I didn't know, and you know, it's a conversation
33 that's supposed to be with the President, but as far as being under budget, it's a
34 working document that we say, this is what we're going to spend, this is what we're
35 going to do, we're going to commit to this, and we're not going to go outside of it,
36 because it holds us, holds our feet to the fire that I don't just use the debit card
37 because Linda Bellis has decided she wanted me to go ahead and buy the
38 Department of Michigan sweaters. I mean, there's no, there's lines of safety for the
39 money. We all, as a group, decide how we're going to spend it, and yay, we came in
40 under what we said we were going to spend for 25 and 26. Now that's done, and we
41 move to the next budget, so money isn't like, here's \$17,000 to add. It's just still in
42 the bank. It's a working document, so I hope that explains that to you, Maryann.

43
44 **Fran Holtgreven:** Tracy, would you go ahead and explain to the body what
45 restricted funds are? Because I'm hearing some people say, why can't we just
46 borrow that?

1 **Tracy Derr:** Sure. I should've brought that up, I'm sorry, I apologize. So, the
2 restricted funds, that \$40,000 that gets sent by the Service Foundation is specifically
3 for the CDCE grant. And we have devised a plan, we have security, or not, I guess,
4 not security, we have a protocol involved on how we distribute those grants. Linda
5 Varejcka is sort of the gatekeeper, and if you have a project, then you submit that,
6 and we give up to \$2,000 based on what the project is, and that is all funded by the
7 Service Foundation, so we cannot use it for anything other than a grant. Now, as far
8 as not knowing what the Life Membership Fund is, I know we're new, so let me just,
9 every time a new member comes in, and this is for anybody that's new or doesn't
10 know, a new member comes in, Cheryl processes it as the Membership Officer, and
11 then the principal of that membership, the amount goes into our Chase Bank for the
12 current year, and then after the current year's done, we deposit it, and it gets added
13 to our principal balance, and if you'll look on your rebate sheet, in your report, you'll
14 see that the \$376,325, that is in E-Trade. We invest that, and so that you can get the
15 rebate, which is the \$98,000, that is our interest we earned on the principal for the
16 whole year, and that's how we're able to have a General Fund, and we share that
17 money amongst the Units and Departments. And then you'll see that the
18 Membership Officer took in \$2,350. So that goes and then to our principal, and giving
19 us a new principal, \$378,675. We will work with that through the year to make more
20 money for our next rebate. So those funds are restricted by our bylaws, and we
21 wouldn't need to go into those funds. We haven't needed to go into those funds. We
22 made that resolution because there was a year, I don't know, three, four years ago
23 where we were looking at not having another year or two left. I think we had like
24 \$60,000 or \$80,000 in the bank after a huge convention. It would have been like
25 \$80,000. We kept doing these \$80,000, \$90,000 conventions. Like we had endless
26 money, and we just didn't. So we stopped that, and with our rebate that it earns us
27 from the interest, we're able to build our bank account back up. Is it a lot of money?
28 No. We don't have a huge amount of money. We have like \$200,000 in the bank.
29 If you think about it, that's not a huge amount of money when we do \$40,000
30 conventions. But now we're getting grants from the Order, and we're getting
31 donations, and we have a fundraising idea, and things are going really well. So that
32 explains the principle, that explains the budget, and then our working budget this
33 year is the one that says 26-27. And we'll go under with that as well, I'm sure. Could
34 we make a tighter budget? I don't decide the budget. The Officers decide the budget,
35 and the Finance Committee reviews, and we decide the budget together. I hope that
36 helped you. Maryann.

37
38 **Maryann Barclay:** Yes, ma'am. Yes, ma'am. And you did mention, what is the
39 balance in our checking account now? What is our balance?
40

41 **Tracy Derr:** Our checking account right now is June 30th was \$214,959.73. Now
42 some of that's outstanding, some of that's restricted to like how we have the \$6,900
43 available in CDCE, that's restricted. But Linda Varejcka already has requested
44 warrants for all but \$500 of that, so that will go out. And then also, Maryann, just
45 being in the spirit of being new, I'll tell you uncleared checks that have not cleared by
46 June 30th, unless they're obviously new released checks, go back to the General
47 Fund. So this year, and I reported that at the finance meeting, it's like \$1,000 of

1 people who didn't cash their rebate checks for different Units or Departments. So
2 that goes back into the General Fund too. So I guess you could say \$214,959 minus
3 \$69,500 plus \$1,000. So.

4
5 **Maryann Barclay:** Tracy, the \$214,000, those figures are not in the \$376,000 for the
6 \$378,000, is that correct?

7
8 **Tracy Derr:** No, those are two different bank accounts. A Life Membership Fund and
9 also we have a separate bank account for the deposits of the new members, which
10 is our saving membership. So, we have two bank accounts and an investment
11 account. The general checking is where our General Funds and our restricted funds
12 from the Service Foundation sit. The membership account holds our new member
13 application money. It gets deposited into our E-Trade account where our Life
14 Membership principal sits annually, that new membership money gets put in, and
15 then annually we take out the rebate amount. So we have three accounts only.

16
17 **Maryann Barclay:** Thank you.

18
19 **Tracy Derr:** Absolutely. And you can always text me or send an email.

20
21 **Fran Holtgreven:** Okay. Anything else that before we vote on the budget, any other
22 discussion of anything you want to know? Any on there? Okay. Do I have a motion to
23 accept the corrected budget?

24
25 **Gloria Sanchez:** Gloria Sanchez, PNP. I make a motion that we accept the revised
26 budget. Tracy, I'm not sure exactly what the bottom line is.

27
28 **Tracy Budget:** I'm working on it right now. I'll work on it and then I'll send it, so we'll
29 have it here.

30
31 **Gloria Sanchez:** Oh, okay, the revised budget.

32
33 Tracy Derr: And I have no camera, by the way. I'm sorry. After I came back from
34 break, my camera's gone. I have audio.

35
36 **Colleen Orfanello as Zoom Moderator:** Tracy, we don't have a projector in the
37 room, so it's okay. Kristy Gray and I can see your beautiful face when we do.

38
39 **Fran Holtgreven:** Do I have a second on the revised budget?

40
41 **Sandy Verbos:** Yes. Sandy Verbos. Pennsylvania President. I second the motion.

42
43 **Fran Holtgreven:** Is there any discussion on this motion? Do we have any from
44 Zoom?

45
46 **Colleen Orfanello as Zoom Moderator:** No, ma'am.

1 **Fran Holtgreven:** Okay. A motion has been seconded about accepting this revised
2 budget. All those in favor, raise their hand. All, okay. All those opposed Motion
3 carries to accept the revised budget. Yay! Okay. Is there any other new business
4 that needs to come before this body? I don't see... Is there anything from Zoom?

5
6 **Kristy Gray as Zoom Moderator:** No.

7
8 **Fran Holtgreven:** Okay. Judy?

9
10 **Judy Fiddler:** Judy Fiddler, National Secretary. This was probably the best place to
11 say this. I'm going to discuss resolutions. Any resolution that is presented has to
12 come to the National Secretary, then I have to, the Secretary has to put it out for
13 everybody to have time to review before they come to convention. There was a
14 suggestion made to me that what, to save time on the convention floor, like this year
15 we did not read, do the second reading, what if we presented a resolution to the
16 National Executive Committee, the NEC, have them review it, have them vote on it
17 and pass it, and then we could bring it to the convention body for ratification. It would
18 save an awful lot of time. You would still have the opportunity to discuss, you would
19 still have the opportunity then to vote to reject or pass. I just wanted some opinion
20 about this. Is it something we should try and maybe look to in the future or...

21
22 **Colleen Orfanello:** Colleen Orfanello. Yes. I love that idea, but I would also like to
23 add that perhaps we should send the resolutions in print to all of our members 30
24 days before convention so we're not, they also know. There's nothing in our bylaws
25 saying that we have to, we do, we discuss them, but there's nothing saying that they
26 have to receive them. And because we received them before May 31st, there's really
27 no reason why we can't present it to everyone via email who we have their email.

28
29 **Judy Fiddler:** Well, we put them in constant contact this year. And everybody who
30 receives constant contact had the opportunity to read them and know what we were
31 going to be discussing here at the convention.

32
33 **Colleen Orfanello:** Yes. However, there's nothing written so I would say that if we're
34 going to change it to where we're only doing this once which is, yes, wonderful, I
35 think we should have it formally saying that the members are going to receive it at
36 least 30 days before and that way there's, it's up to them whether they read it and
37 our conscience is clear that they have enough time to discuss and understand it.

38
39 **Cheryl Perez:** Colleen, I have a comment.

40
41 **Colleen Orfanello as Zoom Moderator:** Cheryl Perez, PNP has a comment.

42
43 **Cheryl Perez:** Cheryl Perez, PNP. Yeah, I don't think there's anywhere in our bylaws
44 that says it needs to be read two times. If they're going to be doing a bylaw revision,
45 we can look at it that way. I think that that two day reading was before we had
46 electronic means and email that when you got to the convention, they probably
47 wanted it read one day so then everybody had time to think about it and then to look

1 at it the next day. Robert's Rules on resolutions, because it's amending the bylaws,
2 there's certain members' rights that we have to make sure that we follow with the
3 publishing and giving notice of it and all that which we do, but I don't know why we
4 have to read it two times. We discussed this in the Bylaw Committee this year that
5 it's, we don't need to read it two times. It is the members' responsibility to read it. It's
6 our responsibility to publish it in a timely manner to all the members so they know
7 what their governing document potentially can be changed to, and if they want to
8 weigh in on it, then they come on to the Zoom meeting or they show up at the
9 convention, they get their input and they vote. I think that that would be a good thing
10 to forward to the Bylaw committee to look at. I'm not in favor of the NEC voting on it
11 only because it restricts the scope of the membership that is having the input on
12 what affects the whole membership and the supreme authority is in the body. The
13 Executive Committee does the business, has the authority to do it during the year,
14 but everything they do is supposed to be ratified by the body at the national
15 convention. So you guys got the power. I just want to make sure that we keep it in
16 the hands the way that it's supposed to be. But I don't think we need to read it two
17 times.

18
19 **Colleen Orfanello:** I thought that it was in the rules of the convention on page 27 of
20 our Bylaws. But now that I am scanning it, I don't think it's actually states twice.

21
22 **Cheryl Perez:** Well, the rules of the convention, if you look at the way that the
23 amendment that we just passed, the new article, according to Robert's rules, what
24 goes into the bylaws is just the skeleton. The rules of the convention need to be
25 voted on by the convention body because it's affecting them. We shouldn't have in
26 the bylaws these binding rules that are affecting every convention every year when
27 times change. Those Rules of Convention need to be updated for each convention
28 by the convention planning committee and the National President and her planning
29 committee. So we still, the Rules of the Convention are done by every year to be
30 voted on by the body, not something in the bylaws.

31
32 **Colleen Orfanello:** I'm going to actually recommend that the Next President and her
33 Bylaws Committee, takes the Rules of the Convention out of the Bylaws because our
34 Bylaws are our laws.

35
36 **Cheryl Perez:** It already is. With the new amendment that we, the Article that we
37 passed, it's a skeleton in there. If you look at it, the Order of Business and the Rules
38 of the National Convention is the skeleton to what absolutely needs to be in it and
39 then it is up to the President and the planning commission to put everything else in it.
40 So, it's already done with what we passed.

41
42 **Linda Bellis:** Linda Bellis, Junior Vice. Minnesota. This is a modern day. A lot of this
43 stuff was written before computers. Reading it once, you guys get a Constant
44 Contact. We do it on Zoom and it's in your binder. Everything is there. It is up to you,
45 the Auxiliary, to read this, to study it, and to know what we're talking about. By
46 reading it only once, you have everything at your fingertips. This should be a no-
47 brainer.

Terri Shattuck: Terri Shattuck, PNP. Madam Parliamentarian, are you in agreement with our Membership Officer's explanation?

Jan Knapp: Yes. You know, resolutions are not a simple document. Sometimes they can be very confusing. But if a member reads them prior to convention, each one is open for discussion. So if there's any confusion at that point, it can be explained. I agree, it's very time-consuming. Teviah did them last year. It's like eventually you just want to grab a chair and put your feet up and keep reading. Yes, I agree. I think that explanation happens during discussion.

Fran Holtgreven: Okay, is there anything else that needs to be brought up to the body before I close for lunch? Or recess? Excuse me for lunch. Okay, I have noticed that there's some... Did you raise your hand? So, I noticed outside there is some cards. So stop and look at them. And there's some little stickers you can take. But go and sign those cards. We'll be sending them out to people who are sick, birthdays, whatever's out there. So, just please sign them.

Linda Varejcka: Can we have a few, a couple minutes?

Fran Holtgreven: Sure.

Linda Varejcka: Gwen has a book here that she would like to...

Gwendolyn Gilliard: Thank you, Linda. And thank you, Madam President. I know that Linda is our Americanism Officer. What I would like you to do is first ask your questions. How many reasons can you find about why America that is great? How many reasons can you come up with that America is great?

Colleen Orfanello: 4 million six-hundred and eighty four.

Gwendolyn Gilliard: No, I was kidding there. But in any case, at the one bookstore that I go to, I walked in, and this is the only book that was left on the table, and they called my name. And it's called 250 Great Things About America. And it's written by this wonderful lady. And she talks about the places, people, and principles worth celebrating America. I promise you that once you get into looking at it, and we're looking at all the historical notes, and there are comments by some famous people we know, I've heard about from studying history, and some with you and I. It's really awakening for me. And I hope and pray that once you get into looking at this, and I don't mind passing it around, that you you may want to consider purchasing it. Because we believe in our freedom here in America. And we have all these reasons that she's pointed out, took the time to collect. Let me just read you a couple more minutes. For instance, patriotic reasons, there's the Pledge of Allegiance. Also, when you think about the Rocky Mountains, transformative, Helen Keller – she has a comment from her. Resolute a comment by by Franklin D. Roosevelt, and just a lot of reasons to think about, and pray about, and pray over, and the primary reason, in my opinion, if you will, is because of the freedom that they have in the United States

1 of America, is because of our creator. So, thank you very much, and you're
2 welcomed to look through it as soon as I get my personal notes out.

3
4 **Fran Holtgreven:** Okay, at this time, thank you so much, Gwen. Remember the
5 cards out there, and I'm going to have a recess for lunch. When you come back, we'll
6 finish anything that we need to have done. And, oh, there's a... The supply table will
7 and jewelry will be closed after lunch. And also, remember that jewelry! Wow. Okay.
8 So go over there, look at it, because this is your last time. Kay Jo.

9
10 **Kay Jo Baucom:** We need to close the Bible.

11
12 **Fran Holtgreven:** Okay. Thank you. Okay, so we'll meet back here at 1.30. We will
13 also have nominations and we will go from there this afternoon. Okay, everybody
14 have a good lunch. If you haven't put down who you think your mentor is, do that,
15 because we will tabulate the votes after lunch.

16
17 **-BREAK FOR LUNCH-**

18
19 **Fran Holtgreven:** Excuse me, it's 1:30, I would like to start because we have two
20 people who want to give us a presentation, so we need to get started right now. But
21 first we have Mike to say something.

22
23 **Mike Fiddler:** We are officially closed.

24
25 **Linda Varejcka:** Okay Linda, you need to take your pace at the head table. Okay.
26 Could we just please stand and salute the colors? Hand salute. Toot. Now
27 Chaplains, can you open the Bible and say the inspirational quote?

28
29 **Gwendolyn Gilliard:** Inspiration. Life is not measured by the number of breaths we
30 take, but by the moments that take our breath away. Trust in the Lord with all your
31 heart. And remember, to do, to be curious but not critical. Have self-compassion and
32 validate your own feelings.

33
34 **Kay Jo Baucom:** Would you bow with me? Lord, we thank You for this opportunity
35 to come back together as a group, as a family, as a group of men and women who
36 support one another, who are respectful to each other, and we depend on each other
37 to work together. We are stronger together through You. May our words and actions
38 this afternoon be pleasing in Your sight, Lord, and may the decisions made be
39 decisions that are best for all involved. Amen.

40
41 **Fran Holtgreven:** Colleen and I have been looking for our little, what do you want to
42 call it? It's our Patriot Games plaque. So we looked all over and I remember seeing
43 it, Judy and I remember seeing it on Friday. We couldn't remember which room it
44 was in. We couldn't see it. Well, it went all around. So we found it today. It's the
45 Patriots Games plaque. And I was told that it was in the room, the ballroom down
46 there in the Patriots. So, I went in there and Ed Abbey wasn't there, but two other
47 guys were sitting there at the table. And I said, I think this is what I'm looking for. I

1 opened the box and sure enough, sure enough, it was. This is the new plaque for the
2 Patriot Games. Somehow the other left, disappeared. So I took it out and Ed Abbey
3 stopped me as I was going out of their room. And he says, what are you doing?
4 That's ours. I said, no, it's going up to the Auxiliary room. And he says, it's ours. I
5 said, no, it isn't. The Auxiliary bought it. It's ours. You may have it when you tell me
6 you'd like me to come down and give a presentation to them with this. So, I think
7 they're really glad I'm going to be gone. Really, I do. So anyway, I'm going to pass it
8 around so you all can look at it because we haven't been able to touch this for how
9 many years. So, I'm going to pass it around so you can look at it.

10
11 **Linda Bellis:** If Colleen would have given me the heads up on the answers, we
12 could have won.

13
14 **Colleen Orfanello:** It was fair and square. I am Switzerland.

15
16 **Fran Holtgreven:** So I hope everybody had a good lunch. And I saw many of you
17 were outside. So I hope you enjoyed your lunch. In the ballroom, it was really, really
18 cold. And for me to say it was cold, it was cold.

19
20 **Terri Shattuck:** We all sat on the deck in a line.

21
22 **Fran Holtgreven:** Oh yeah. I guess they all sat in a line because all the chairs were
23 locked. And somebody came out to maybe unlock them. He just looked and went.
24 And off he was. So I think they thought Terri was going to steal them, to tell you the
25 truth. So as we're waiting for two people to come up and give us a presentation, here
26 they are. Here's one right now. Linda, can you?

27
28 **Linda Varejcka:** Madam President and Auxiliary members, please rise. We have
29 guests on the floor.

30
31 **Fran Holtgreven:** I'd like to introduce Jennifer Byrd. She is with the Veterans
32 Advocacy Group. And she has some information for us.

33
34 **Jennifer Byrd:** Thank you, ma'am. Thank all of you all for letting me be here this
35 afternoon. I actually just spoke to the main membership down there. And, y'all, I got
36 so nervous looking at these Purple Heart guys, my heart was just beating out of my
37 chest. So, I thank you for giving us the time to talk to you a little bit here today. So,
38 as she said, my name is Jennifer Byrd. And I work for Aylstock-Whitney Crease and
39 Overholds. It's an attorney's office in Pensacola. And one of the things that I want
40 y'all to know most about us is that AWKO loves our veterans. We have an absolute
41 passion for our veterans. We have donated over \$15,000 to MOPH and many other
42 veteran organizations. Thank you. We also employ over 70 veterans. A couple of
43 those guys back here with me today are veterans as well. And one of the things that
44 I think is wonderful that we've been able to do in our Veterans Memorial Park in
45 Pensacola, we were able to have erected a Gold Star family monument there. And I
46 think that's absolutely important as well. So one of the main reasons that we're here
47 is that in 2019, AWKO started an anti-terrorism division. And it's based on the

1 Foreign Sovereign Immunities Act. And what we get to do is we get to sue the
2 Islamic Republic of Iran for their state sponsor of terror and all the things that have
3 happened because of that. And part of that, what happens is if we're able to win,
4 there is a fund that's set up. It's called the United States Victim of State Sponsor of
5 Terrorism. And for our Gold Star Families or our service members that were hurt in
6 Afghanistan or Iraq, they're able to receive funds. And so far, I think that AWKO has
7 won a little over \$2.4 billion out of that fund. And I will tell you that AWKO is not a
8 stranger to having to deal with things that affect our veterans. We were one of the
9 lead councils on the 3M earplugs cases where we were able to, I think, about \$6.1
10 billion for our veterans that were affected by the defective 3M earplugs. Now, I would
11 love to talk to any of you down there. We have a table. One of the things that we
12 were talking about earlier is that there's been some rulings by federal judges. As we
13 know, that doesn't always go the way that we like. But they've changed a little bit of
14 how this law works. And I would love to see some of you ladies maybe get involved
15 and make sure that anyone that's hurt by the Republic of Islam can recover, not just
16 if there's been a death. And I'd love to explain. I don't want to take up too much of
17 your time, but I'd love to explain any of that to you if you would like to stop and talk to
18 us. And then on top of it, I also do VA disability. And part of that is because I have so
19 many family members that are veterans. And I'm tired of watching our veterans get
20 hurt by the VA system and not compensated for the things that they've earned.
21 That's not something that's given. They earn these. So y'all please come talk to us at
22 our table. I'd love to hear each of your stories, hear why y'all are here, tell you a little
23 bit more about us. And just thank you for giving us our time. And thank you for all
24 that you do for our veterans as well. Thank you.

25
26 **Fran Holtgreven:** Thank you. Are there any questions that you would like to ask her
27 right now? Okay. Just make sure you go down and check in to her. Introduce
28 yourselves in the back.

29
30 **Danny Holloway:** Hey, guys. Do you want me to introduce you? I'm Danny
31 Holloway, U.S. Army veteran, Medic deployed to Iraq. Got out. Can you hear me
32 now? I was the case manager here at AWKO, the 3M Earplug claim. We, like
33 Jennifer said, we secured a \$6.1 billion settlement for compliance. There was about
34 250,000 veterans in the whole litigation. AWKO, we had just north of 37,000
35 registered for settlement. So we were also the legal plaintiffs, plaintiff attorneys in
36 that case. And, yeah, I was a veteran. I spent seven years in the Army. I did some
37 medic stuff, deployed to Iraq, did some flight medic stuff. Got out, got a job at
38 AWKO, and I've been fighting veterans ever since. And we were talking about the
39 Iran case. In my eyes, we're bringing the fight to Iran still. You know, it's very
40 apparent that Iran was supporting people in Iraq and Afghanistan with ammunition,
41 money, training, hence injured service members. And so, you know, we would love
42 to talk to you all about that case and what you all can do to help us. So please, we're
43 the three smiling faces down there at the table. So you all, please make sure you all
44 come say hey to us. We love to swap stories and talk to you guys. So thank you all
45 so much for your time. We really appreciate it.

1 **Will Stranahan:** All right, my turn. Will Stranahan. I was in the Air Force, deployed to
2 Afghanistan in 2009, 2010. I lead our anti-terrorism litigation. And the cool thing
3 about it is our entire team that works on our Iran case is veterans. So it's veterans
4 helping veterans. Like Danny said, we can keep the fight going even after we're out
5 of the military. So we have a passion. One of the things that we do need help on,
6 there was an appeal called the Borkov Appeal in D.C. So up until two years ago,
7 anybody who was injured in Iraq or Afghanistan could apply for a judgment against
8 Iran. These three judges in D.C. decided that no, not everybody can apply.
9 Somebody had to be killed in the attack that injured you in order for you to qualify.
10 So, I have a client that lost both of his legs, but nobody died in the attack, so he
11 doesn't qualify. And it's really a shame. And we took it. After the appeals court, we
12 applied to the Supreme Court, and the Supreme Court refused to hear the case.
13 So our next avenue, what we're doing now, is we're petitioning Congress. So that's
14 really what we've got to do is we've got to get down to Congress and make them
15 aware of this and say we need to update the law and allow everybody to qualify as
16 qualified. Yep, we'll look downstairs, and we'll see you.

17
18 **Terri Shattuck:** What's the Bill Number?

19
20 **Will Stranahan:** We don't have one yet. We're working on it now.

21
22 **Fran Holtgreven:** Okay, so while we are waiting for our second one, they should be
23 coming up here shortly. They are from, the next one's coming are Wreaths Across
24 America that wanted to talk to us. So before they get here, let's have another door
25 prize. Terri Shattuck.

26
27 **Terri Shattuck:** Who's asking for me?

28
29 **Fran Holtgreven:** Can someone give Terri the microphone, please. She wants to
30 draw her name. Her own name.

31
32 **Fran Holtgreven:** Well, you never know what she wants. While I'm doing this, our
33 National Treasurer has a new address that you can put down for her. So Judy's
34 going to give it to you.

35
36 **Judy Fiddler:** Pen and paper ready? 38513 Sycamore Place, Westland, Michigan,
37 48185. Westland is one word. She's moving this weekend, so when you go to do
38 your finance reports this year, if you do send them to her by mail, this is the address
39 you send them to. And please let your Departments and Unit treasurers know this.
40 We'll put it in constant contact, but...

41
42 **Linda Varejcka:** Madam President and Auxiliary members, we have a guest on the
43 floor. Please rise. Close the Bible, please.

44
45 **Fran Holtgreven:** I'd like to introduce Chris Chapman. He's from Wreaths Across
46 America, and he'd like to talk to us this afternoon.

1 **Chris Chapman:** Excellent. Well, thank you. And by all means, welcome to New
2 Bern. How many of you have been to North Carolina before? How many, this is your
3 first time to North Carolina? I saw somebody put your hand up twice. That's pretty
4 amazing. That's impressive. Doesn't remember the first time. But first time for
5 everything, right? How many of you are familiar with Wreaths Across America? And
6 how many of you have not heard of us yet? And there's a few, that's okay. I won't go
7 into what we're all about, if you do know what we do, but there are some of you who
8 have stopped by the booth, and I haven't interviewed any of you yet, so we've got to
9 do that before you leave. But a little bit of background on Wreaths Across America
10 itself. From 1992 until 2007, it was a family donation that was given to Arlington
11 National Cemetery. And in 2005, the photo that's behind me in the booth, a
12 photographer took that photo, and it ended up going viral. Every major news network
13 picked it up, and folks started sending the Worcester family all this money. And they
14 said, well, we're not a non-profit, we can't accept this money, we need to send it all
15 back, but there's something here. So they became a non-profit in 2007. So from the
16 original 5,000 wreaths that were placed in 2000, well, 1992 to 2005, we placed 3.1
17 million wreaths last year. So that was literally thanks to the folks like yourselves who
18 are on the ground doing the work. We're just the catalyst to get the wreaths to the
19 people who are doing the work. And those are location coordinators who are all over
20 the country. And this year we're going to hit over 6,000 locations. So from Arlington
21 all the way to Alaska to American Samoa, we have locations. Those locations have
22 sponsorship groups, and some of you have been asking me about a sponsorship
23 group and what it does. Well, a local sponsorship group is an organization, and we
24 can take chapters of the Auxiliary. You can sign up online for free. It doesn't cost a
25 penny. It doesn't cost you anything to do, and there's no money involved. And I know
26 this sounds like a sales pitch, and I always say that, in that it's not, because there is
27 literally no money involved for you folks at all. What you would do is you would let us
28 know that you wanted to become a sponsorship group. We would create a page on
29 our website, and it would just be a unique link that you could then share out on
30 Facebook, you could share out in newsletters, wherever you would like to share it.
31 And every time somebody clicks that link and sponsors a wreath through your page,
32 \$5 comes back to your group to use however you want. So, for instance, you
33 sponsor 100 wreaths over a year, you will receive \$500 back throughout the year if
34 you sponsored 1,000 wreaths. Now, again, you're not sponsoring them. You're, and I
35 hate to use this word, but I'll put it in quotes so you know, your job is to share that
36 link out and to let people know that you're a sponsorship group. And you can do that
37 through QR codes on handouts, you can do it in Facebook, you can do it on any
38 social media, like I said, newsletters, and all it is is they click on that link, they make
39 a donation of \$17 to your group. Through that page, \$5 goes back to you. 1,000
40 wreaths, \$5,000. And throughout the entire year, you get money back. So if you do
41 fundraising in January, February, and March, and you have a scholarship that you
42 want to do come May or June, by that time, every four to six weeks, we send checks
43 out. Yes, we still send checks. So if you would like to become a sponsorship group,
44 it's very easy, takes us about 48 hours to create the page online, and you're
45 immediately able to share that link out and then take it from there. So if you have
46 cemeteries you'd like to support, it's not just one cemetery. You could have 50
47 cemeteries on your page if you want to. We always ask that you include Arlington, of

1 course. But let's say you're in California, and you're near Riverside, and you wanted
2 that cemetery, but you also wanted another one that was a memorial gardens
3 nearby. You could put that one on the page. So when people go on there, they would
4 look at it and say, well, I want to donate this amount to this cemetery, and boom,
5 they do, say, three wreaths, \$51. Then you're going to get \$15 of that \$51 back. So
6 it's very easy, no work on your part. You can literally do nothing with it for 20 years
7 other than just sign up, or you could use it as a major fundraiser. We've got, let's
8 see, there's a Civil Air Patrol group somewhere in North Dakota. Over a couple of
9 years, they were able to go from renting their own space to using the money they got
10 back from their \$5 back group to build their own building. There's a group in, it's a
11 Kiwanis club in Pensacola. Last year, they were the second largest fundraising group
12 in Wreaths Across America. They earned over \$85,000 back just from their
13 sponsorship. So, yeah, so the ability to raise money and do good in your community
14 twice is the way to go. If you'd like to find out more, you can come on by and see me.
15 We can get you hooked up with your local location coordinators. We have a bunch of
16 those around the country. So please come on down and see me. But here for
17 questions, if anybody has any.

18
19 **Colleen Orfanello:** What is the theme this year?

20
21 Chris Chapman: The theme is "Remember Me". So what's the theme? Every year we
22 have a different theme. This year, it's always been about some sort of service or
23 something about the collective. Well, this year, we decided that why not focus on the
24 individual? So we always talk about a theme. It usually comes out in like October,
25 November. We start thinking, what's going to be the theme for next year? December
26 comes around, we're busy. January comes around, we haven't got a theme. And
27 usually about the second week of January, somebody will say, hey. And this year, it
28 was literally, what about we focus on the individual? And that's why it became
29 "Remember Me".

30
31 **Colleen Orfanello:** It's my favorite day of the year. Our local Unit goes to two
32 different cemeteries to do cocoa and cookies. It's a great way for promoting Purple
33 Heart families. It's a fun day. It's 11 o'clock worldwide. Whether you're in Normandy
34 or Pacific Cemeteries or local United States cemeteries, it's 11 o'clock December
35 19th.

36
37 **Chris Chapman:** Correct. It'll be December 19th this year.

38
39 **Colleen Orfanello:** Get your Units together and just have, this is a beautiful event.

40
41 **Linda Bellis:** Yes. So, Linda Bellis, Junior Vice, Minnesota. We have Fort Snelling
42 Cemetery in Minneapolis there. I know the Boy Scouts do stuff on their own, but if
43 the Boy Scouts are doing a Wreath thing, can we still do the same thing at the same
44 cemetery?

45
46 **Chris Chapman:** Great question. Whereabouts do you live in Minnesota?

1 **Linda Bellis:** Just a little south of Minneapolis.

2
3 **Chris Chapman:** I used to do radio in St. Cloud for seven years. I know the directors
4 at Fort Snelling. That's a great question. And we get that question a lot. Arlington
5 alone has over 600 sponsorship groups dedicated to raising funds for Arlington. And
6 still, we don't get enough money to cover Arlington, believe it or not. We have
7 pledged to cover Arlington, so out of our operational budget, what we don't get for
8 sponsorships, we paid for the rest of those wreaths to be placed. It can't be said for
9 the other cemeteries, but there can be as many sponsorship groups as you want for
10 a cemetery. If they have full coverage, meaning, let's say there's 1,500 veterans'
11 graves at a cemetery, and they already have seven sponsorship groups that are
12 supporting that particular cemetery, and every year they get 1,500 wreaths, the last
13 thing they want is another sponsorship group to come in and try and give them
14 wreaths because they're already full. So if your community has a cemetery, and I can
15 tell you just by looking on our list downstairs, that whether or not they get full
16 coverage, usually most of the national cemeteries, like Riverside or Fort Snelling,
17 they're not going to be full. So you can create your own group, but now you want Fort
18 Snelling as the one you want to support, and that would just go to more veterans
19 being honored there.

20
21 **Linda Bellis:** Okay, thank you.

22
23 **Chris Chapman:** You're welcome. Yes?

24
25 **Terri Shattuck:** In the picture that you're talking about, that is exactly what the
26 cemeteries look like.

27
28 **Terri Shattuck:** Terri Shattuck, PNP. The picture that's up behind him downstairs,
29 that is exactly what that cemetery looks like after the wreath are up.

30
31 **Chris Chapman:** It can be quite stunning, and there are some cemeteries that have
32 no headstones. As you know, they're just the in-ground stones. We are challenged,
33 depending on the climate, to find those. If they're in a northern climate, sometimes
34 they have to go out and put flags or big sticks or something so they can find them.
35 Others, they just lay them out, and it's beautiful. But, yeah, unfortunately, there are
36 some cemeteries that don't get full coverage, and someday we would love to see
37 every cemetery get full coverage for their veterans.

38
39 **Chris Chapman:** All right, well, if you have any questions, I'll be here through 5
40 o'clock today. They always kick us out at 5. And then here tomorrow until about noon
41 or 1 o'clock. So please come on out. And if you have any stories, we'd love to
42 document your stories on Wreaths Across America Radio. It's painless. It takes
43 about 10 minutes. I won't ask you anything you don't know. I promise. And then what
44 we'll do is we'll put it on the SoundCloud page, and you can use that as a fundraiser,
45 even. Or if you have newsletters or things like that. So it's a shareable link that you
46 can use. Come on over, talk to me, tell me a story. Even if you don't think you have
47 one, everybody has a story. Thank you so much.

1
2 **Fran Holtgreven:** Okay, so I was getting ready to draw a little thing here. I'm going
3 to... No, Terri, not you. I'm going to get somebody else. Ha. Is it Terri?

4
5 **Kristy Gray:** I don't know. I didn't look at all. Promise.

6
7 **Fran Holtgreven:** Chris Day.!

8
9 **Christine Day:** Yay! Thank you.

10
11 **Linda Varejcka:** Just a little bit of humor. As Chris left me in the hallway, he says,
12 "Do you know, the ladies clap louder when we're leaving?"

13
14 **Several Voices:** Laughter.

15
16 **Fran Holtgreven:** All right, Auxiliary members. Okay, so I'm going to ask for the final
17 time, is there any new business that needs to come before this body? No? Okay,
18 let's move on then. Okay, now we are going to have nominations for our new
19 national officers for 2026-2027. Nominations will come from the floor, and letters of
20 intent will only be read if the member does not attend the convention in person.
21 Madam Secretary, do we have any letters of intent of someone who is not attending
22 the convention in person?

23
24 **Judy Fiddler:** Tracy's letter of intent was received on Tuesday, June 30th, 2026. It is
25 with great joy that I would like to run for Treasurer for the MOPHA 26-27 year. I have
26 been Treasurer since 2014 by the way of my father, Patriot Dennis Wallot. I am
27 looking forward to this role once again, Tracy Derr.

28
29 **Fran Holtgreven:** Okay, nominating speeches for national office are limited to one
30 for each candidate not to exceed three minutes. At this time, I would like to have
31 nominations for the National President of the Military Order of the Purple Heart
32 Auxiliary.

33
34 **Darlene Hanneman:** My name is Darlene Hanneman. I am the Senior Vice
35 President of the Department of Ohio Military Order of the Purple Heart Auxiliary. I
36 would like to nominate Judy Fiedler for the National President. She is eligible for
37 membership under her father's Purple Heart, Frederick Walsh, who was the first
38 American that was wounded in Korea. Judy has been a life member since 1999, 27
39 years, and is a Unit 743 Mid-Ohio Valley's Parliamentarian. In the Department of
40 Ohio, she has been President, Chaplain, and is currently our Secretary. Here at
41 National, she has been the National Secretary for the last 13 Presidents, 14 years,
42 learning something new from each one. She knows the inner workings of the
43 Auxiliary very well, and if she doesn't have an answer, she will find the answer. She
44 has worked with her local mayor to have Massillon named as a Purple Heart City,
45 and has worked with the Blue Star Mothers and Gold Star Families to have
46 memorials put in the city's Veterans Park. She has also been her Neighborhood
47 Association's Treasurer and Secretary over a 10-year span. Many may remember

her mother, Joan Walsh, who was the National President in 1993 and 1994. She has been married to Mike, over there in the corner, for 44 years, and has four, I'm sorry, two fur babies, Harley and Bella. Judy will help make this Auxiliary shine bright with a can-do attitude. Thank you.

Linda Varejcka: Just a friendly reminder that we shouldn't clap during nominations.

Fran Holtgreven: Okay, are there any nominations for the National President? Are there any other, are there any other nominations for the National President? Are there any other nominations for the National President? At this time, there is no other nominations for National President. Are there any nominations for the Senior Vice President of the Military Order of the Purple Heart Auxiliary?

Sheryl Osburn: Good afternoon. My name is Sheryl Osburn. I am the President of the Department of Minnesota, and I have the honor to nominate Linda Bellis for Senior Vice. She is now our Junior Vice, and she's also been our Region 2 Representative. In Minnesota, Linda is the biggest supporter of veterans that I've ever known throughout my time with the Purple Heart. She works with all nine of our nursing homes, two hospitals, and the Homeless Center in Minneapolis. These people have her on their speed dial when they need something, call Linda. Linda is always ready to help. She has a daily job, full-time job, and she also works weekends with hockey. The Purple Heart comes first. We know that Linda works in the high school because when she needs to, she treats us like her students. We know that. If the Department of Minnesota or her Unit needs anything, she is always there. She is a natural at getting donations that just blow my mind. I feel that Linda will be a great Senior Vice President. She is a go-getter, and she's not afraid to talk to people. She's very kind. Linda, along with her husband Dave, attend many military events throughout the state of Minnesota, and I've seen her work with the band and the whole group in the last few years. She does an amazing job. On top of all this, Linda is a dear friend. She's a lot of fun. Minnesota is happy to represent her and to share her with all of us. Thank you.

Fran Holtgreven: Are there any other nominations at this time for Junior Vice President? Senior. Senior. Senior Vice. Are there any other nominations for Senior Vice President? Are there any other nominations for Senior Vice President? Okay. Nominations are now open for the position of Junior Vice President.

Linda Varejcka: Nebraska Department Chaplain. I am very honored to submit the name of Angie Foster for National Junior Vice President. She is eligible through her father. She has had chairmanships and leadership roles in her Unit in the Department. She is also a VAVS rep at the local Grand Island Medical Facility, VA Medical Facility. I have known her for years. She's energetic. She's very creative. She would be a good candidate for Junior Vice.

Fran Holtgreven: Nominations are now open for Treasurer. We have heard the letter of intent. Do we need to have...

1 **Terri Shattuck:** This is Terri Shattuck, PNP. I would like to nominate Tracy Derr as
2 Treasurer. She's been with us for years. Her and her father work very closely
3 together to make us lots of money. She's very adamant on her reports. She works on
4 them on Mondays. If you needed to call her for anything with a Purple Heart, you call
5 her on Mondays. She's there for you. If you have to leave her a message, she'll call
6 you back that night. She's very active. She's in my unit. We all love her.

7
8 **Fran Holtgreven:** Are there any nominations for National Treasurer? Are there any
9 nominations for National Treasurer? Are there any other nominations for National
10 Treasurer? Nominations are now open for the position of Sergeant-at-Arms.

11
12 **Angie Foster:** Angie Foster, Region 2 President. I nominate Linda Varejcka for
13 National Sergeant-at-Arms. She is endorsed by her Unit 200 in Lincoln and by the
14 Department of Nebraska. She is eligible for membership through her husband who
15 received two Purple Hearts. She is serving in leadership roles on the Unit,
16 Department, and national level. As you can see, she's done wonderful during this
17 convention. She can do it all. She would be great to stay on as Sergeant-at-Arms.
18 Thank you.

19
20 **Fran Holtgreven:** Are there any nominations for Sergeant-at-Arms? Are there any
21 other nominations for Sergeant-at-Arms? Are there any nominations for Sergeant-at-
22 Large? Nominations are now open for the position of Parliamentarian.

23
24 **Terri Shattuck:** Terri Shattuck, PNP. I would like to nominate Jan Knapp. She does
25 a marvelous job. She will answer your questions. If she can't answer them, she finds
26 the answer. She's awesome.

27
28 **Fran Holtgreven:** Nominations are now open for the position of Four-Year Finance.

29
30 **Terri Shattuck:** Terri Shattuck, PNP. I would like to nominate Gloria Sanchez. She's
31 been on the Finance Committee with us for eight years, I think it is. We work well
32 together. We get the job done.

33
34 **Fran Holtgreven:** Nominations are now open for the position of Region 1. Oh, I'm
35 sorry, we don't have a 1-3-6, sorry. Are there any nominations are now open for the
36 position of Region 2 President?

37
38 **Barbara Meyer:** Madam President, I Barbie Meyer, Unit 632, Nebraska. I nominate
39 Bailey Paugh, like a bear paw is how it's pronounced. For Region 2 President. She is
40 endorsed by her Unit and Department, Unit 632 and the Department of Nebraska.
41 She is currently serving as Department Trustee and her Unit's Patriotic Instructor.
42 She has been involved in veteran organizations since she was four years old. And
43 currently works at her local hospital where she helps many local veterans. She is
44 eligible for membership in the Purple Heart Auxiliary through her grandfather, Larry
45 Meyer, who received the Purple Heart for wounds sustained during his service in
46 Vietnam in 1969. As the last generation in her family eligible to carry on his Purple
47 Heart legacy, she is dedicated to honoring his sacrifice by serving and supporting the

1 organization in every way she can. I have a little memory of her asking when she first
2 became aware of her grandfather's wounds. She pointed to them and said, Grandpa,
3 how did you get hurt? And so he had to tell his story to her with his tank being
4 rocketed and him riding on top and it being full of ammunition. And he sat and calmly
5 told her about it. And he turned to her and he says, Now, you understand? And she
6 said, Yeah, Grandpa, don't drive any more tanks. And I appreciate her asking me to
7 nominate her.

8
9 **Fran Holtgreven:** Are there any other nominations for Region 2 president? Are there
10 any nominations for Region 2 President? Are there any other nominations for Region
11 2 President? Nominations are now open for the position of Region 4.

12
13 **Maryann Barclay:** Maryann Barclay, President of the Department of Georgia. It is
14 my honor to nominate Kay Jo Balcom for Region 4 President. Everyone knows Kay
15 Jo. She's been very active in the organization at the National, Department and Unit
16 level. She is enthusiastic. She's fun. She's professional. She knows it all. If she
17 doesn't know it all, she can find an answer. She gets us stirred up and motivated.
18 She does a great job. And it would be my honor to nominate Kay Jo for Region 4
19 President.

20
21 **Fran Holtgreven:** Are there any more nominations for Region 4 President? Are
22 there any other nominations for Region 4 President? Are there any other
23 nominations for Region 4 President? Nominations are now open for the position of
24 Region 5.

25
26 **Herlinda Sifuentes:** My name is Herlinda Sifuentes, Department of Texas
27 President. I nominate Doris Williams for Region 5 President. Doris Williams
28 submitted a letter of intent. I will go ahead and cover information on her. She's been
29 a Unit 1876 President from 2012 to 2015, 2017 to 2021, and 2025 to present. She
30 joined the Auxiliary in 2012 and was eligible for Patriot Earl Williams who was
31 wounded in Vietnam. She's held the following positions. Department of Texas
32 President 2015 to 2017. Past Region 5 President and also worked with federal
33 government for 34 years in various positions, such as budget technician, educational
34 technician, and guidance counselor. Certified VA claims representative. She was a
35 lead facilitator for spouse resiliency courses. Fought to Vietnam. Fought or through
36 Vietnam spouses and partners at Armed Forces Association for one year in
37 conjunction with University of Texas. She has a bachelor's degree. 39 hours in a
38 master's degree in psychology. She's an honorary member of Women Army Corps in
39 Killeen. Honorary member of Armed Forces E9 Association since 2017. And serves
40 as a treasurer and administrative assistant of the organization. She loves being part
41 of organizations that give back to our veterans and the community. She inspires
42 camaraderie among the organizations. And she would be honored to serve as
43 Region 5 President again. I am proud to say that she is running for another term.
44 And I know that the Texas Units are very happy to serve under Doris Williams as
45 well as her other Units that she serves. Thank you.

1 **Fran Holtgreven:** Okay. Thank you. Hearing none, we will break into caucus. And
2 each one will come and talk to you. And we will have our elections tomorrow
3 morning. And then we will have installation, close this convention out, and then have
4 the post-finance and NEC meetings then. So, if the Regions would set up all here
5 and we will have a caucus. Excuse me, what? How about 1, 2, and 3 over there and
6 4 over here, and 5 and 6 there. No there. Make yourself where you want to instead
7 of moving all around.

8
9 **Linda Varejcka:** Members, it's time to get back into business mode. Madam
10 President, the floor is yours.

11
12 **Fran Holtgreven:** Okay. So we've had our caucuses. If there is no more old or new
13 business to come before the body here, I would like to recess and tomorrow, until
14 tomorrow morning, and tomorrow morning, let's start at 9:00. How does everyone
15 feel about that. We can have our elections, Installation, and then close this
16 convention down and then the new President will have her Finance and NEC. We
17 have a hand up out there.

18
19 **Linda Varejcka:** They are asking about the amount of the Supply Table and the
20 closest Linda can come to sales.

21
22 **Linda Bellis:** I have absolutely no idea on the jewelry. Yeah. I don't. So you can
23 make checks out to MOPHA please. And I will have the totals in the morning about
24 how many magnets, ornaments, and tickets – the dollar value of the tickets tomorrow
25 morning.

26
27 **Fran Holtgreven:** Mike, do you have a final count?

28
29 **Mike Fiddler off mic:**

30
31 **Fran Holtgreven:** Oh, okay. Say it again with the microphone.

32
33 **Mike Fiddler:** Okay. Somehow all together, we made \$478.

34
35 **Linda Varejcka:** Judy, do you have a teller for these or are you just going to...

36
37 **Judy Fiddler off mic:** (inaudible)

38 **Fran Holtgreven:** Okay, since they are discussing and before I go to recess, does
39 anybody have any questions or anything? My gosh you had questions earlier.
40 Everybody is ready to get out. Okay. Here's a question.

41
42 **Kristy Gray:** Kristy Gray: When is the raffle being held again?

43
44 **Fran Holtgreven:** Oh. Oh yes.

1 **Linda Bellis:** The raffle for the mailbox will be held tonight in the Doubletree
2 hospitality room. I think. I think that is where we had it last night. I think. If you are not
3 present, I have names and phone numbers so I will call you if you are not there.

4
5 **Fran Holtgreven:** Yes?

6
7 **Darlene Hanneman:** Darlene Hanneman. Beaucoups to fixing the system. Whoo
8 whoo whoo. It has been so nice to be able to talk today with no screeching and
9 sqwalking.

10
11 **Kristy Gray as Zoom Moderator:** Teamwork.

12
13 **Colleen Orfanello as Zoom Moderator:** Teamwork makes the dream work.

14
15 **Fran Holtgreven:** Dorris?

16
17 **Dorris Williams:** Linda, when are we going to do this?

18
19 **Linda Bellis:** They need to pay us. I drew a line at the bottom of who will win.

20
21 **Dorris Williams:** And that's who will pay us?

22
23 **Linda Bellis:** Yes. It will say Susie Q and underneath that there is a line.

24
25 **Dorris Williams:** Okay. I got it.

26
27 **Linda Bellis:** If someone put there name under the line then nope.

28
29 **Dorris Williams:** Okay. I get it.

30
31 **Linda Varejcka:** Madam President, Do you still have time?

32
33 **Fran Holtgreven:** Yes.

34
35 **Linda Varejcka:** Okay, Dorris.

36
37 **Fran Holtgreven:** Okay. Anything else?

38
39 **Terri Shattuck:** Wait. The Bible is still open.

40 **Dorris Williams:** Linda?

41
42 **Linda Bellis:** They will come over to us.

43
44 **Fran Holtgreven:** Okay. If there is nothing else, we will close, I mean recess until
45 9:00 tomorrow morning. Kay Jo, Can you... Oh wait. Tara do you have something?

46
47 **Tara Waugh:** I was wondering about the group picture.

1
2 **Colleen Orfanello:** Let's close the Bible and take it now since some people are
3 leaving tonight.

4
5 **Fran Holtgreven:** Yes. As soon as we are done. Don't leave without the group
6 picture.

7
8 **Kay Jo Baucom:** I want you to think about Joy. Joy is one of my favorite words.
9 I want you to think about the joyous journey.

10
11 **Fran Holtgreven:** They are just doing inspiration while money is being counted.

12
13 **Kay Jo Baucom:** Yes. There is great joy in the journey and mundane details in
14 confusing times and the confusing moments and in the tears. There is so much joy
15 that you can find but you have to look for it. You have to find it. Pity parties and
16 comparisons create a direct path for the enemy to steal our joy. Jesus gives us the
17 gift of little joy-filled moments. There's hope in varying forms when that sunshine
18 pours through your window. When I opened the drapes this morning, and there was
19 sunshine. That ray of sunshine reminded me that God is looking out for me. He gave
20 me today, I woke up and I was able to come and see all of you today. If you were at
21 the grocery store, and the checkout person was personable. Sometimes, that
22 checkout person is taking to the next checker or maybe they are not having a great
23 day, so if you get to that checkout counter and that person is wearing a smile or just
24 being kind, or just carrying on a nice conversation, there's joy in having that person
25 there. For me, joy is like turning up the radio in your car and me singing so loud
26 when I sing. I don't know all the words and sometimes I make up my own. That is joy
27 for me in that moment. I can have my own dance party. My husband has never been
28 one to dance. Never. So Kay Jo makes up her own dance party and make up my
29 own moves. So find joy in your own moves, girls. You got them! You just got to find
30 them or if you are worn out after a long day, hopefully your husband or significant
31 other has made dinner for you. But as you sit down, and have that delicious meal,
32 just think about how good that makes you feel. If I walk in my house and I can smell
33 the cleaner, I know that someone has cleaned the toilets and that is a joy moment for
34 me. I don't know about you but another rule and these are little things. When I go to
35 a public restaurant. And I feel the toilet tissue. And it's not slick. It's not bad, it's a
36 nice cushy toilet tissue and that's joy to me. I love having it. So whatever the
37 moment, whatever the moment is. Look for the joy in that moment, because you can
38 find it. Even when you have had an awful day. There'll be some sweet little
39 grandchild or your child or your neighbor or somebody, just somebody you don't
40 even know. They'll just they, they'll come up and say you look fabulous. That's a joy
41 moment because somebody else has noticed you. You matter. Some days, you go
42 all through your day and nobody notices. Terri's done all the work. It's her job, she's
43 supposed to. That doesn't mean we can't say. Terri, thank you so much for having
44 everything together. See that smile on her face? I just used words. It didn't cost me a
45 thing. Now I could have said Terri, you did not get the dust off the things on the
46 bottom of the floor. What is the matter with you? I couldn't had that attitude. Gotta
47 choose joy, ladies, you gotta choose joy. Here is my prayer. God, there's really joy to

1 be found in every moment that we're living. You've blessed me with breath in my
2 body. You've given me wonderful friends, and you also provided opportunities for me
3 to grow in faith. To grow in my faith and to just enjoy the beauty that You have
4 provided for me. Thank you for each new day Lord, and the joy that You provide if
5 we look for it.

6
7 **Fran Holtgreven:** Thank you. Sorry, just a minute, I have a couple, a couple
8 announcements that just came in to me. Um, the new Commander is Frances
9 Figueroa Lowe. The Senior is Andrew Del Gaudio. Kristy, have you heard about the
10 Junior?

11
12 **Kristy Gray:** I am trying to text right now.

13
14 **Fran Holtgreven:** I guess we will be in suspense a little more longer. Okay. So,
15 while we're waiting for that, Judy?

16
17 **Judy Fiddler:** Ladies and gentlemen, we have a little situation. We have three
18 people that each received 5 votes. I only have one pin. So, we're going to take one
19 for each one of the people that received 5, put them in a bag and let someone draw
20 to see who gets the award because it usually only goes to one person. The three
21 people are Jan Knapp. Kay Jo Balcom, and Fran Holtgreven for the Sharon Carlton
22 award.

23
24 **Christine Day:** Christine Day: Is it possible for me to purchase two more awards and
25 give it to the other two nominees?

26
27 **Judy Fiddler:** I ordered them the week before I came and they just came in. We will
28 talk about that.

29
30 **Fran Holtgreven:** Oh, its Kay Jo! what? Okay.

31
32 **Kay Jo Baucom:** Oh, Thank you. Thank you. I am not. I am not deserving of this
33 below. I am. I'm humbled and I'm honored and I'm not gonna cry. I'm just not. I'm just
34 not. Thank you. Thank you, thank you.

35
36 **Fran Holtgreven:** Okay. I just heard that the National Junior Vice Commander is
37 Keith Gray. Yeah. Yeah. And if anyone is wondering, this is Keith's wife. If no one,
38 no. If nobody doesn't know. Okay. So remember, we are going to meet here at
39 9:00am tomorrow morning.

40 **Sandy Verbos:** Sandy Verbos, Pennsylvania National President. No No No! Not
41 National, the state.

42
43 **Fran Holtgreven:** Did you just turn in your intent to run for National President?

44 **Sandy Verbos:** Oh no, never! Oh anyway, I have a problem that I am meeting a
45 friend and she lives an hour away and so we're getting ready to leave for there but
46 but I have a wonderful lady Tee Seng Reed who is going to go from being a Member

1 at Large to our member. She's joined in Pennsylvania. I can't stay to do the
2 paperwork and she's leaving at 5:00 in the morning.

3
4 **Terri Shattuck:** We can take care of it.

5
6 **Sandy Verbos:** That's what I needed. Thank you.

7
8 **Fran Holtgreven:** Okay. So wait a minute, let well, let's recess the meeting. OK.
9 Remember, we will meet at 9:00 AM tomorrow. Don't be late. OK, and breakfast is
10 only to 8:30, Judy reminded me. So let's round up for our picture and then we
11 recess.

12
13 **-END OF DAY-**



MINUTES OF:
MOPHA NATIONAL CONVENTION BUSINESS SESSION 4
July 16, 2026

1 **Fran Holtgreven:** Good morning, everyone. We're going to be starting in a few
2 minutes. Good morning, everyone on Zoom. Thank you again for joining us. Ladies
3 and gentlemen, can we get ready. Linda needs us at attention.

4
5 **Linda Varejcka:** Please rise. With pride in your voice, please join me in reciting the
6 pledge to our flag and our nation.

7
8 **Linda Varekcja and several voices:** I pledge allegiance to our Flag of the United
9 States of America and to the republic for which it stands, one nation under God,
10 indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

11
12 **Linda Varejcka:** Toot.

13
14 **Kay Jo Baucom:** Will you bow with me? Heavenly father, we come to you with
15 hearts full of joy. Joy for the beginning of this new day. Joy for the sunshine You not
16 only provided not only outside, but in our hearts. We praise Your name for the
17 blessings that you have bestowed upon each one. Each one of us is uniquely made
18 in Your image. Help us to share those talents that You have given us. Help us to
19 have willing hearts to serve others. And help us to be the person that You have
20 planned for us to be. God, our actions here today, we celebrate the work that has
21 been done in the past. And we joyously look forward to what will be done in the
22 future. May our actions and our words reflect our faith in You. Amen.

23
24 **Kay Jo Baucom and several voices:** Amen.

25
26 **Fran Holtgreven:** Good morning, everybody. Hope everyone, again, had a good
27 sleep. This is our final day. And our main objection today is to have elections for new
28 officers for 2025 and 2027. I have an announcement to make at this time. I want you
29 to remember about the Craven County Remembrance Ceremony. There will be a
30 bus, the way I understood it, around 12:00 or 12:30 to take you to this activity. So
31 you should all have your little brochures that they gave to us. So, yeah, think about
32 attending and supporting North Carolina. Colleen, can you tell me who is on Zoom
33 this morning, please?

34
35 **Colleen Orfanello as Zoom Moderator:** Yes, ma'am. We have Dixie Pickart. We
36 have Sharon Lewinsky, Jennynne Bilsky, Cheryl Perez, Bonnie Weil Brown, and
37 Tracy Derr.

38
39 **Fran Holtgreven:** Okay, thank you. Welcome, Zoom members. Glad to see you
40 here again. Okay, at this time, may I have the credential count, please?

41
42 **Tara Waugh:** Tara Waugh Unit 459. Thank you, Madam President. Our count today
43 begins with National Officers at 7, Department Presidents at 8, Past National
44 Presidents at 6, Unit Presidents is at 3 today. It was at 4 yesterday. It is now three.
45 Delegates, there are 11 delegates that total 56 votes. The total vote is 80.
46 Additionally, Associates and guests signed in are 2 and 4 Members at Large. Region
47 One – 7 total, Region Two – 31. Region Three – 1, Region Four - 12. Five is 34, and

1 six - none. No change from yesterday. It will be 41 to elect if needed. Thank you so
2 much.

3
4 **Fran Holtgreven:** Thank you, Tara. Judy, do you have anything that you need to,
5 any letters, anything, communications? Okay. I understand the Bylaws Chairman
6 has something to say here.

7
8 **Linda Bellis:** Ladies and gentlemen, do you mind if I sit? Is there any objections?
9 Thank you. The Bylaws Committee talked about this, and it was okayed at last
10 summer's convention. It did not get corrected. Page 42 of the Bylaws, Article 12,
11 National Committee Section 2F48. We added Webmaster. And this is in regards to
12 the stipends. So before it was a combo, but we made the Webmaster a single
13 identity name. So page 42, article 12, National Committee, Section 2F, as in Frank,
14 4A, add the word Webmaster, please. Thank you, Madam President.
15 So the Bylaws Committee so moves to make this amends to this Bylaws Article. It's a
16 word correction. We already discussed it. Oh and Patriotic instructor needs to be
17 changed to Americanism Officer.

18
19 **Nancy Lee Birchbach:** Basically, it was a few missed words from previous changes.
20 In some places it was changed, and there were some places the ad hoc committee
21 noticed that, you know, we noticed that wherever it had Patriotic Instructor, it needs
22 to be Americanism also.

23
24 **Linda Bellis:** Right. Thank you, Nancy Lee.

25
26 **Nancy Lee Birchbach:** Yeah. I moved that for housekeeping in that, that we add the
27 Webmaster as far as that section, because she was receiving that stipend; it was just
28 omitted.

29
30 **Linda Bellis:** Do we have a second?

31
32 **Terri Shattuck:** I second it. Terri Shattuck. I second the motion.

33
34 **Fran Holtgreven:** Okay. Okay. We have a motion on to change the Bylaws, as was
35 recorded. Do I have, did I have a second. Okay, all for discussion. Is there any
36 discussion? Okay, no discussion. Let's vote. All those in favor, raise your hand and
37 raise them high please. Okay, all those that disagree. Motion carried. Okay, is there
38 any other old or new business that needs to be taken care of before we have
39 elections.

40
41 **Nancy Lee Birchbach:** Nancy Lee, Past National President. Last night, all of a
42 sudden I was thinking, you know, we might have this problem again, where we have
43 a National Convention, and there is no Department Auxiliary. We need to look out for
44 our Auxiliary. I think that where Fran, Linda and Kay Jo paid for that hospitality. I
45 don't think that's correct. We have a convention line item. I think if we need to have a
46 ladies' tea, or to put on a night of hospitality. That should come out of our convention

1 line item. It's not the responsibility of those ladies, we might not have a Linda in a few
2 years. Then what, you know, we need to look out for our organization.

3
4 **Linda Varejcka:** Are you trying to say something?

5
6 **Fran Holtgreven:** I was wondering, do we need to know something that we haven't
7 heard or...

8
9 **Several Voices:** Laughing

10
11 **Nancy Lee Birchbach:** I'm just saying. Just like Colleen buys stuff.

12
13 **Colleen Orfanello:** I donate my salary back because I love you guys.

14
15 **Nancy Lee Birchbach:** Yeah. But, you know, we do have to look out for our
16 organization. Otherwise, you know, I think, you know, what was sent. We have to
17 have it come come out of our National fund. I so move.

18
19 **Fran Holtgreven:** Do I have a second?

20
21 **Terri Sahttuck:** I second that motion. Terri Shattuck, PNP.

22
23 **Fran Holtgreven:** Discussion? Okay, I have something to say. Don't know if I need
24 to step. Okay, we were told this year that the hospitality room would not be
25 considered convention money by the Finance National Finance Officer that we could
26 not use the money we are receiving from them for hospitality. That is what we were
27 told. So, therefore, all year during the convention meetings, they kept saying, who's
28 going to sponsor, who's going to sponsor, who's going to sponsor. The three of us
29 decided with the help of Kay Jo's son, that we would take care of the Patriot Games.
30 So, I don't know. Maybe next year this will change, who knows if we're going to get
31 \$15,000 that they said was in their budget because this year, I was notified on...
32 trying to think... I was sitting in an airport. June 28 at about 6pm. I was notified that I
33 had to turn in all receipts that we had by June 30, their fiscal year, or we were not
34 going to get any money. And if we, because a lot of times we don't have the receipts
35 until we get here. And we could still get the money, but we will lose the \$15,000 from
36 25-26. And that money would go off the new National President for the following
37 year. So, for example, if we didn't turn in any receipts, we lost the \$15,000. If I didn't
38 have any receipts in by that time. So, therefore, it meant, because I made sure I
39 understand from the previous National Finance Officer, that we would get something.
40 But the next year, that money would come out of there and I said, how do you even
41 know that we're going to get to \$15,000? Well, it's on our budget. Well, I said, it
42 hasn't come before your body yet. How do you even know it's going to pass? I was
43 hoping deep down that it would pass because I think we have a lot of support from
44 all the Patriots. So, anyway, I was in the airport. I started calling people saying, do
45 you have any receipts? Please send them to me. Send them to me. Next morning, I
46 didn't get home till two o'clock in the morning. The next morning, I was up and, and

1 trying, you know, still working on this at five o'clock, six o'clock. I got my different
2 times because Central and Eastern. I got a call. Do you have those receipts yet?
3 Do you have those receipts yet? Yes, I'm working on them now. Send them to me
4 now. I have to have that checked out by midnight tonight. I said, I'm working on it
5 now. He says, take a picture of them and send them, text them to me. Well, I was not
6 about to take my phone and take all this. I said, I can scan them. I'll scan them and
7 send. Oh, no, no, no. I need pictures. Well, he didn't get the pictures. He got the
8 scans. So he called me and he said, I said let me know if you have received this.
9 And some things were not allowed that he didn't accept. I mean, I was coming up
10 with stuff just to get \$15,000, you know, \$15,000. And he said, okay. I said, I need to
11 know when you got this, because I have some more receipts coming in, and I will
12 send them to you to get that \$15,000. I didn't hear anything from him. So, I assumed,
13 well, he said, yeah, got them. You're close is what he told me when he called. I said,
14 if I am that close, please, again, let me know. He says, oh, I think you're going to be
15 okay. So how to take his, you know. And then finally, he said, it was, I had enough.
16 And yes, so he was going to send that check to Tracy National Treasurer and I. I
17 think I kept bugging her so much. Did we get it? Did we get it? I think it was like a
18 day and a half, maybe two days in that timeframe. We did get it. And so luckily, the
19 next National President, hopefully, will have \$15,000. But it may change. But this
20 year, we could not use that money for hospitality. Because I kept, we all kept telling
21 them, Judy, Kay Jo, and I, they kept, I said, they kept saying, well, the Auxiliary is
22 going to sponsor the hospitality room. No, no, we're not going to do that. We're
23 having Patriot Games only. We aren't. They had nobody to sponsor that. At a late
24 time, within what, girls? A day or two? Something like that? So that's when we
25 decided.

26
27 **Colleen Orfanello:** Colleen Orfanello. I just want wanted to thank you guys so
28 much. We are here to support our veterans. That's our job. That's our goal. We're
29 here to do our business. And we're here to have fun too. But our veterans are our
30 number one priority. Sometimes we forget our Patriots in our own organization. We
31 help our nursing homes and we help our veterans, our homeless veterans. What
32 about our Purple Heart guys right here? I'm going to make a motion. And I know it's
33 for next year's budget, that if we have a surplus, perhaps we can always have the
34 hospitality room up to a certain amount.

35
36 **Fran Holtgreven:** We have a motion on the floor already.

37
38 **Colleen Orfanello:** Oh, I'm sorry. Excuse me. I'm sorry.

39
40 **Jan Knapp:** Okay. You just established that the motion to take the money from
41 convention expense is not allowable. Correct?

42
43 **Fran Holtgreven:** Yes. That was for this year. I do not know what will happen next
44 year. So I just wanted to let you all know that that is why we could not use
45 convention money for the hospitality room.

46
47 **Unknown Voice off mic:**

1 **Fran Holtgerevn:** I don't know. It depends on the National Finance Officer.

2
3 Nancy Lee Birchbach: I would keep all of thee receipts and then, you know, saying,
4 you know, on the right that we might not be doing the hospitality, you know, because,
5 well, maybe not on a cruise ship, but you don't know. There's only 10 Departments
6 as far as Auxiliaries. So we're going to have this problem in the future if we have a
7 convention site and there's no Auxiliaries to really help host the convention.

8
9 **Fran Holtgreven:** Well, that's been that way in Reno. There was no auxiliary. this
10 year, North Carolina, there's no Auxiliary, so we help as much as we can by getting
11 on the meetings and letting and helping them and keeping actually keeping them
12 straight.

13
14 **Tracy Derr:** Can you hear me? Can you hear me? Okay, good. My video is not
15 working. My computer is kind of crazy because it's so thick and smoky. So I hope I
16 don't go in and out. I just would like to remind everybody and that's future Presidents,
17 Past President, everybody in the room. There was a time where we had to say, no,
18 we cannot be on a convention call or a convention committee and say, "oh yeah, the
19 Auxiliary can do that". We just cannot do it because what happens is a lot of stuff will
20 get slid under that hospitality, under the guise of a hospitality room or a Patriot
21 Game. I think that we could possibly come up with a dollar amount everyone's
22 comfortable with on the Finance Committee and NEC working with the next budget
23 year. That would be 27 - 28 because our budget's already passed and say, oh, all we
24 could donate is this or whatever the amount is. But if we say, and this has happened
25 to us time and time again, when we were on the hook, we get put on the hook for
26 thousands, tens of thousands of dollars. I've written checks for where, well, I mean,
27 we didn't know and well, we're signed in a contract and well, I'm sorry, but we agreed
28 to do it. So we have to pay it. We have been so smart and so great about not doing
29 that in the last three, four years. And it has really benefited us to be wise about our
30 choices. I'm not saying that we shouldn't participate in it. I'm saying never should we
31 say the Auxiliary will sponsor the hospitality room. That is so open for interpretation.
32 So I would ask that whatever we do, we really just drill it down to, oh, the auxiliary
33 would like to donate to whatever state is hosting because usually that's on them. And
34 I understand things are hard for everybody. That's why I'm saying, I don't think we
35 shouldn't donate, but we should say to whatever state is hosting, oh, the Auxiliary will
36 make a donation of 2000 or 5,000 or whatever it is, whatever we decide, but I do not
37 think ever anybody on any of those committee calls should say, let me talk to
38 Auxiliary. We got it. Once you say that, I just, it puts us on the hook. So that's just me
39 bringing doom and gloom to the future convention. Good morning.

40
41 **Terri Shattuck:** Terri Shattuck, PNP. Isn't it legal for the Ppresident to move money
42 in her budget from line to line? I believe it is.

43
44 **Tracy Derr:** Yes. As long as we're under 10%.

1 **Terri Shattuck:** Okay. We have last year less over \$13,000 in a Convention line
2 budget. Couldn't we, we wouldn't even have to make a motion to, you could just
3 move that money to, or take it from, the convention line?
4

5 **Tracy Derr:** No, because that budget's closed. So that money, that's just a working
6 document to keep us all in line of our spending. That is closed. But what that also is,
7 the surplus from that, we were given \$30,000 the year before from the Order and
8 they didn't check us on that. So technically the leftover money is still from the Order
9 and it'll be going it's in our bank account still. It all goes back to the General Fund.
10 We can vote on, if we have a \$40,000 budget line for convention, \$15,000 of that is
11 now we will call it restricted to what the Order tells us we can use for 2026 - 2027.
12 And that's this convention we're in, by the way. So the next budget that we come up
13 with will be for next year's convention, because it's always in the next fiscal year.
14 So we can think about that this year and come up with a number and add it in. But
15 this year is done and last year's is done.
16

17 **Maryann Barclay:** Mary Ann Barclay, President Department of Georgia. I know that
18 we have passed our budget revised, but we are still in convention now. Can we, is
19 there a prohibition against revising the budget since we're still in convention now and
20 revising the budget that we just passed?
21

22 **Tracy Derr:** Tracy Derr, National Treasurer. The problem with that is the budget that
23 we're working on for 26-27, this convention has already happened. We're in it. So it
24 has to go to the next budget, unless you're saying you'd like to revise the budget or
25 vote to make a donation to cover whatever hospitality costs were incurred by
26 whomever. But those funds really still are working from the Order. So if we took them
27 from that particular budget of the budget before, those dollars are still donations from
28 the Order.
29

30 **Maryann Barclay:** Isn't our budget that we just passed 2026-2027, doesn't that
31 include the expenses for the 2027 convention?
32

33 **Tracy Derr:** No, the 26th, because our fiscal year runs July 1st to June 30th. So we
34 are in the new budget.
35

36 **Fran Holtgreven:** And also the three of us have decided that we do not want no
37 reimbursement. We were happy to do this. We love this organization. So we all are
38 shaking our head that this is the we want it. We thank you. Work on this next year,
39 maybe.
40

41 **Tracy Derr:** Yeah. This is the conversation I had yesterday about, we really need to
42 think deeply about our budget for the year coming ahead. What are we going to
43 need? Where are we going to go? What do we want to do? That kind of stuff. And so
44 we'll just add this into the conversation. But there's nothing that we can't make a
45 motion to say we'd like to donate. It doesn't even have to be a convention expense.
46

1 It could be a donation back or however anybody wants to do it from this budget. I
2 just. I don't know that I'd put it in convention expense. I guess whatever receipts we
3 give to the Order to cover what they're giving us, as long as it's not something they
4 don't want us to pay for, then we've proven to them that that's what they're paying
5 for. What we pay for is our business. The additional part of our convention budget is
6 our business. If they want to pay for that, that's what they pay for. They can only tell
7 us what to do with the money they give us, not, they cannot tell us what to do with
8 our money. I guess that's what I'm saying.

9
10 **Terri Shattuck:** Terri Shattuck, PNP. I have the perfect plan. Because we're doing
11 rebates to Departments and Units, why can't we put an email out to everybody and
12 say, hey, can your unit send \$20? Can your Department send \$40 to sponsor the
13 hospitality group?

14
15 **Fran Holtgreven:** That's a good idea, but that has to be taken care of next year. The
16 next president should, but that's a good idea. We had a nice donation by Kay Jo's
17 son. He helped us. We were just very proud to do it. I will say, as I was handing out
18 sandwiches, I had to keep my mouth shut because I was going to jump over that
19 table, but then I thought, oh, I just had hip replacement. I don't need to do that. So
20 the complaints, why are you only giving us one sandwich? Why are you doing this?
21 And we would say, we are trying to make sure everyone will have at least one
22 sandwich. And, oh, this is all we get? So the three of us, it was very hard for us to...

23
24 **Tracy Derr:** I will say this too, Madam President. If you remember when we said to
25 the Patriots, I'm sorry, we can't attend your convention. We don't have the money
26 and we can't agree to sign anything because we don't have the money to cover it. If
27 we also stayed up front, I'm sorry that we don't have the money to help or do your
28 hospitality room. They'll figure out a way to make a hospitality room and then we can
29 donate to it. But I just think that for them to tell us, no monies go towards a
30 hospitality. So then you should say, okay, so then the Patriots, you should make an
31 announcement that you're not wanting to have a hospitality room. Everyone's on
32 their own and let them know it was your choice because that's a problem where
33 we're being punished for something everybody wants. The Patriots want that, the
34 Auxiliary wants that, and there's no need to do that. It should be a joint effort for all of
35 us to celebrate each other and all of our efforts and to celebrate our Patriots. I'm sure
36 that there's something that could happen if the hosting state could not put that on. I
37 mean, you can't expect the hosting state to do everything either. That's a lot of
38 money. So, I'm sure that it should be a topic of conversation with your new
39 Commander or whomever's on that for next year.

40
41 **Nancy Lee Birchbach:** Nancy Lee Birchbach, Past National President. I rescind my
42 motion, but in the future, I hope that if we come up with this year, if you know, let the
43 Finance Committee know a little bit more of what's going on so that we're more
44 prepared for the future.

45
46 **Fran Holtgreven:** That's a good idea. But it happened so quickly that we just want to
47 take care of it.

1 **Sandy Arnold:** Sandy Arnold, Department of Pennsylvania. I was just wondering,
2 you talked about the \$15,000 that they, the Patriot gives. Does that specify what you
3 can and cannot use it for? I know you said you weren't allowed to use it for
4 hospitality.

5
6 **Fran Holtgreven:** Yes, it's for convention expenses, and we had to make sure that
7 we had that on when we sent it to the National Finance Officer. And he did say, "No",
8 some of this was not allowed. We couldn't do that because I was just hunting,
9 hunting, hunting, calling whatever you got. And I told him, I said, we don't have our
10 receipts. Well, then get an estimate. But not according to their accountant at that
11 time.

12
13 **Linda Varejcka:** The way it was explained to me, the way it was explained to me, it
14 wasn't absolutely necessary for the business of the Auxiliary. Food is not necessary,
15 fun is not necessary. I mean, the tea. It's our fun time. It's our time of honoring the
16 President. But, you know, we didn't need to have that. That wasn't business. So the
17 way it was explained to me when I asked a few questions was, if it isn't business, it
18 will not be allowed as a receipt for the convention.

19
20 **Tracy Derr:** Madam President? It may be because if you think, if I'm thinking of it in
21 that way, it may be because meals and entertainment are very frowned upon at the
22 IRS now. It's something that's looked at closely. And because they were sort of in a
23 hot seat for their taxes and that sort of thing, and their audits weren't caught up, their
24 new CPA may be just really drilling them on. No, you can't pay for that. That's not a
25 write-off or no, it's not necessary for your business. So it may be that they're being
26 looked at. So we have to, you know, we have to understand whatever it is they're
27 going through, but we also have to take care of ourselves as well.

28
29 **Fran Holtgreven:** That's correct.

30
31 **Angie Foster:** Angie Foster, Region 2 President. Since we can't give you a
32 donation, can we just do a standing ovation?

33
34 **Collective Group:** Cheering

35
36 **Fran Holtgreven:** Thank you. Thank you. I'm going to move on now because we
37 need to get our election, but we appreciate all three of us appreciate your four, four
38 of us.

39
40 **Kay Jo Baucom:** North Carolina did sponsor hospitality room on Monday night. So if
41 you came and you had those wings and whatever, the Caesar salad, that was
42 sponsored by the Department of North Carolina. But like many other Departments
43 and state organizations, we could not afford to do every single night. North Carolina
44 believes in the Auxiliary and we support the Auxiliary one hundred percent.

45
46 **Linda Varejcka:** Really. Kay Jo, Fran, and I were very, very proud to be able to do
47 that.

1 **Fran Holtgreven:** Yes. So thank you. Okay. Okay. So let's hope there's somebody
2 behind you right now.

3
4 **Karen Haltiner:** I would like to make a presentation. Linda has been walking around
5 keeping us straight but there's one thing she missed since she made Sergeant. So I
6 went out and I found a way to help her. I'll let her open it up. She works hard. This
7 will help.

8
9 **Linda Varejcka:** (Blows a gifted whistle). Thank you! That is something that reminds
10 me of the first conventions that I went to as Sergeant at Arms. And I can remember
11 blowing the whistle for all of them. And I saw one around his neck yesterday and I'll
12 go and I'm going, you know, maybe I should have one of those. Because that kind of
13 gets their attention. Blowing the whistle.

14
15 **Fran Holtgreven:** Okay, so thank you. Okay, so moving on.

16
17 **Colleen Orfanello:** Madam President, Char Flippo from South Dakota is not in
18 today. She's ill, but she wanted to let everyone know she made these last night, little
19 ghosts. And she said, "Do not be a ghost to your Units and Departments. Go back
20 and spread the word". She made these little ghosts and everyone receives them.

21
22 **Fran Holtgreven:** Oh, thank you. Thank you. Okay, well, they're being passed out.
23 Okay, can I have the final total for the supply? For, excuse me, for the supply table?

24
25 **Mike Fiddler:** Supply table is \$490.

26
27 **Fran Holtgreven:** Okay, thank you. I guess I forgot to say that the motion that was
28 on the floor was rescinded. I'm sorry, I forgot to say that. So, you need to have a
29 count of the Bylaws, Oh not the Bylaws! The Ways & Means.

30
31 **Linda Bellis:** Ladies and gentlemen, I broke it up in two sections. The Purple Heart
32 ornaments. We made \$1,035 off of that, and that will be going to the General Fund.
33 The following will be going to our HOV. The magnets, we made \$365. The shells that
34 I donated, \$85. The tickets for the mailbox, so this is pure cash for us. I donated the
35 mailbox. We made \$380, which Kristy Gray won. The belt buckles that were being
36 sold, my husband was selling them. And he gave us \$60 for that. The jewelry, thank
37 you for doing that, \$478. Thank you, Doris, for helping. The auction, we made
38 \$1,231. We received for BFF a nice check for \$500. We also received a donation of
39 \$95. Ohio gave us \$30. So, HOV will be getting \$3,224.

40
41 **Fran Holtgreven:** Good job. Great job. Thank you. Okay. So, if there is no other old
42 business or new business, I'm going to go to the elections now. If I see no hands,
43 Gloria?

44
45 **Gloria Sanchez:** Gloria Sanchez, PNP. Madam President, I've been talking to some
46 of the ladies, and some of us would like to know how the Auxiliary feel about their
47 doing a cruise for the convention next year. We don't have a whole lot of information.

1 So, people have been talking about they don't really know the actual cost, because
2 the cost is going to depend on what cabin that you may want to have on the cruise
3 and how many of the Auxiliary members are actually interested in going. And if we
4 don't have enough Officers, what are we going to do about the convention for 2027?
5 So, I don't know. Like I said, there's a lot of unknowns. And I know Colleen said that
6 she knows the travel agent, and I don't know if she's had a chance to get some
7 information, but have you received any additional information from the Order?

8
9 **Fran Holtgreven:** No, I have not. And at this time, I know there's quite a few other
10 things that are going on, and they're still looking into this. So, I do not know anything.
11 We have no information at this time. So, we will have to wait and see exactly what is
12 going to happen.

13
14 **Gloria Sanchez:** Okay, thank you.

15
16 **Christine Day:** Christine Day, the Standing Unit President, 535. So, I'm going to
17 repeat a rumor. Gloria, they are looking for sponsors. So, even though the cruise line
18 says the room is X, if they can get some national type sponsors who will give, and
19 I'm making up numbers here, \$10,000, \$15,000, \$5,000, somebody to supplement
20 the total bill for Purple Heart, then that'll possibly bring the room price back. So,
21 that's just, so don't panic yet, is what I'm trying to say.

22
23 **Fran Holtgreven:** Okay, at this time, I am appointing one judge, Nancy Lee, and two
24 tellers. They will be Patty Andrews and Kristy Gray. So, if we need an election, they
25 will be taking care of this.

26
27 **Terri Shattuck:** Terri Shattuck, PNP. They may hear me if I yell.

28
29 **Colleen Orfanello as Zoom Moderator:** They need the microphone.

30
31 **Terri Shattuck:** We need more microphones on the floor.

32
33 **Fran Holtgreven:** Well, we were lucky to get just one, and we, wait a minute, wait a
34 minute. We were lucky to get one, one, and we used the convention money to
35 purchase four on our own. So, we're lucky to even have these.

36
37 **Terri Shattuck:** Terri Shattuck This is Terri Shattuck, PNP. Okay, I have \$16 to add
38 to the HOV fund for the phone calls and my money for not saying Terri Shattuck,
39 PNP and Linda Varejcka for not saying Linda Varejcka, Sergeant at Arms. And I do
40 have two phone calls that refused to pay, I'm assuming because I announced that
41 they owed. But that's okay. We'll pass it by.

42
43 **Fran Holtgreven:** No passing the money until the Bible is closed. So, just wait until
44 later. Okay, so let's move on. We had no more people running for office. So, I would
45 like to have a motion. Can I do that or not? No, we'll just go ahead and do it. Okay. I
46 got the look. Okay. Nominations are now open for the Office of President. Senior
47 Vice, would you accept the nomination of National President for 2026-2027?

1 **Judy Fiddler:** Yes, ma'am. I will accept, Judy Fiddler.

2
3 **Linda Varejcka:** We will refrain from clapping until the nominations are completed.

4
5 **Fran Holtgreven:** Are there any – Linda Bellis has been nominated for the Senior
6 Vice President. Is there any other nominations at this time? Linda, will you accept the
7 nomination of Senior Vice? I want to call you Junior.

8
9 **Linda Bellis:** Madam President, yes, I will.

10
11 **Fran Holtgreven:** There is one nomination for Junior Vice President, Angie Foster.
12 Are there any other nominations? Angie, will you accept the position of the Junior
13 Vice President?

14
15 **Angie Foster:** Madam President, I absolutely accept the position.

16
17 **Fran Holtgreven:** Thank you. There is one nomination for National Treasurer, Tracy
18 Derr. Are there any other nominations? Tracy, will you accept the position of the
19 National Treasurer?

20
21 **Tracy Derr:** Yes, Madam President, I accept. Thank you.

22
23 **Fran Holtgreven:** Thank you for accepting. Sergeant-at-Arms, there is one
24 nomination. Linda Varejcka, are there any other nominations on the floor? Linda
25 Varejcka, will you accept the position of Sergeant-at-Arms?

26
27 **Linda Varejcka:** I will, and I am deeply honored to serve you.

28
29 **Fran Holtgreven:** Thank you. There is one nomination for National Parliamentarian,
30 Jan Knapp. Are there any other nominations on the floor? Jan, will you please accept
31 the position of Parliamentarian for the National MOPHA?

32
33 **Jan Knapp:** I accept, Madam President. Thank you.

34
35 **Fran Holtgreven:** Four-Year Finance, Gloria Sanchez has been nominated. Is there
36 any other nomination on the floor? Gloria, will you accept the position for Four-Year
37 Finance?

38
39 **Gloria Sanchez:** Madam President, I do accept the position as the Four-Year
40 Finance position.

41
42 **Fran Holtgreven:** Region 2 President, Bailey Paugh has been nominated. Are there
43 any other nominations on the floor? If not, Bailey, would you please accept the
44 Region 2 position?

45
46 **Bailey Paugh:** Yes, Madam President.

1 **Fran Holtgreven:** Region 4 President, Kay Jo Baucom was nominated. Are there
2 any other nominations from the floor? PNP Kay Jo Baucom, do you accept the
3 Region 4 Region President?

4
5 **Kay Jo Baucom:** I proudly accept.

6
7 **Fran Holtgreven:** Region 5 Nomination for President, Doris Williams. Are there any
8 other nominations? Doris Williams, will you accept the position of Region 5?

9
10 **Doris Williams:** Madam President, I accept the nomination.

11
12 **Judy Fiddler:** Okay. Nominations for the offices are now closed. And the slate of
13 officers for 26-27 are President Judy Fidler, Senior Vice President Linda Bellis,
14 Junior Vice President Angie Foster, National Treasurer Tracy Derr, National
15 Sergeant-at-Arms Linda Varejcka, National Parliamentarian Jan Knapp, Four-Year
16 Finance Gloria Sanchez, Region 2 President Bailey Paugh, Region 4 President Kay
17 Jo Baucom, Region 5 President Doris Williams. As National Secretary, I cast one
18 vote for the slate of officers.

19
20 **Fran Holtgreven:** Thank you, Judy. Well, we didn't have to use the tellers or that,
21 but I would like to dismiss the tellers, the judge and the credentials committee. Thank
22 you so much for all the help you have given us during this convention. You are now
23 dismissed.

24
25 **Linda Varejcka:** And also remember, you may now clap for your newly elected
26 Auxiliary officers.

27
28 **Fran Holtgreven:** Madam President, would you like to present and elect your...

29
30 **Judy Fiddler:** (Inaudible off mic)

31
32 **Fran Holtgreven:** Oh, I'm ready. President-elect, would you like to name your
33 Secretary and Installation Officer, please?

34
35 **Judy Fiddler:** My secretary will be Maryann Barclay. And my Installing Officer is
36 PNP Jan Knapp.

37
38 **Fran Holtgreven:** I am turning the meeting over to the Installing Officer. You
39 already named all the elected. OK.

40
41 **Jan Knapp:** Judy, would you like a break before your installation? OK. All right.

42
43 Madam Secretary Maryann, would you please do the roll call of officers to come up
44 to the podium? To the front. Do you want your appointed too?

45
46 **Maryann Barclay:** The President Judy Fidler, Senior Vice Linda Bellis, Junior Vice
47 Angie Foster, Treasurer Tracy Derr, Sergeant-at-Arms, Linda Varejcka,

1 Parliamentary Jan Knapp, Four-year finance Gloria Sanchez, Region 2 President
2 Bailey Paugh, Region 4 President Kay Jo Baucom, and Region 5 President Doris
3 Williams. That is your skate of Officers.

4
5 **Jan Knapp:** Thank you, Madam Secretary and I think you do need to come up here.
6 Judy, this is such an honor. I know in my heart this is (inaudible). So it's a special
7 honor for me. So thank you. If you'll raise your right hand and repeat after me.
8 I do solemnly promise...

9
10 **Jan Knapp:** I do solemnly promise

11
12 **Officers:** I do solemnly promise

13
14 **Jan Knapp:** That I will faithfully discharge...

15
16 **Officers:** That I will faithfully discharge

17
18 **Jan Knapp:** The duties of the office...

19
20 **Officers:** The duties of the office

21
22 **Jan Knapp:** Which I am about to assume...

23
24 **Officers:** Which I am about to assume

25
26 **Jan Knapp:** According to the Constitution...

27
28 **Officers:** According to the Constitution

29
30 **Jan Knapp:** Bylaws and Procedures Manual...

31
32 **Officers:** Bylaws and Procedures Manual

33
34 **Jan Knapp:** Of the Military Order of the Purple Heart Auxiliary

35
36 **Officers:** Of the Military Order of the Purple Heart Auxiliary

37
38 **Jan Knapp:** And any Bylaws of this National Auxiliary...

39
40 **Officers:** And any bylaws of this National Auxiliary

41
42 **Jan Knapp:** to the best of my ability...

43
44 **Officers:** To the best of my ability.

45
46 **Jan Knapp:** And that I will...

1 **Officers:** And that I will

2
3 **Jan Knapp:** At the close of my term...

4
5 **Officers:** At the close of my term

6
7 **Jan Knapp:** Deliver all books...

8
9 **Officers:** Deliver all books

10
11 **Jan Knapp:** Papers...

12
13 **Officers:** Papers

14
15 **Jan Knapp:** Money...

16
17 **Officers:** Money

18
19 **Jan Knapp:** And all other property belonging to the National Auxiliary...

20
21 **Officers:** And all other property belonging to the National Auxiliary

22
23 **Jan Knapp:** To my successor...

24
25 **Officers:** To my successor

26
27 **Jan Knapp:** This I pledge on my honor...

28
29 **Officers:** This I pledge on my honor

30
31 **Jan Knapp:** As a member of the Military Order of the Purple Heart Auxiliary...

32
33 **Officers:** As a member of the Military Order of the Purple Heart Auxiliary.

34
35 **Jan Knapp:** Madam President, may I be the first to congratulate you? She has been
36 a great secretary for me and helped me so much. Thank you.

37
38 **Mike Fiddler:** Don't you think it should have been me? I've been sleeping with the
39 President for 40 years.

40
41 **Several Voices:** Laughing and cheering.

42
43 **Judy Fiddler:** Now I will have the hoer of installing you. Raise your right hand and
44 repeat after me: I do solemnly promise...

45
46 **Jan Knapp:** I do solemnly promise

1 **Judy Fiddler:** That I will faithfully discharge...

2
3 **Jan Knapp:** That I will faithfully discharge

4
5 **Judy Fiddler:** The duties of the office...

6
7 **Jan Knapp:** The duties of the office

8
9 **Judy Fiddler:** Which I am about to assume...

10
11 **Jan Knapp:** Which I am about to assume

12
13 **Judy Fiddler:** According to the Constitution and Bylaws...

14
15 **Jan Knapp:** According to the Constitution and Bylaws...

16
17 **Judy Fiddler:** And Procedures Manual...

18
19 **Jan Knapp:** And Procedures Manual

20
21 **Judy Fiddler:** Of the Military Order of the Purple Heart Auxiliary

22
23 **Jan Knapp:** Of the Military Order of the Purple Heart Auxiliary

24
25 **Judy Fiddler:** And any Bylaws of this National Auxiliary...

26
27 **Jan Knapp:** And any Bylaws of this National Auxiliary

28
29 **Judy Fiddler:** to the best of my ability...

30
31 **Jan Knapp:** To the best of my ability.

32
33 **Judy Fiddler:** And that I will at the close of my term...

34
35 **Jan Knapp:** And that I will at the close of my term

36
37 **Judy Fiddler:** Deliver all books...

38
39 **Jan Knapp:** Deliver all books

40
41 **Judy Fiddler:** Papers, money...

42
43 **Jan Knapp:** Papers, money

44
45 **Judy Fiddler:** And all other property belonging to this National Auxiliary...

46
47 **Jan Knapp:** And all other property belonging to this National Auxiliary

1
2 **Judy Fiddler:** To my successor...

3
4 **Jan Knapp:** To my successor

5
6 **Judy Fiddler:** This I pledge on my honor...

7
8 **Jan Knapp:** This I pledge on my honor

9
10 **Judy Fiddler:** As a member of the Military Order of the Purple Heart Auxiliary...

11
12 **Jan Knapp:** As a member of the Military Order of the Purple Heart Auxiliary.

13
14 **Jan Knapp:** I want to gift you my jacket but...

15
16 **Judy Fiddler:** You are duly installed.

17
18 **Judy Fiddler:** I'm not sure it will fit. I'm not petite.

19
20 **Terri Shattuck:** Picture time. We need pictures.

21
22 **Fran Holtgreven:** All right, it is my honor to give Judy a Past National President of
23 the Auxiliary. I mean President Pin. She has been such a great Secretary. Thank
24 you, Judy.

25
26 **Mike Fiddler:** Now President Jude, It's time to put this on your head. I'm proud.

27
28 **Judy Fiddler:** Fran, who is going to put your Past national President's Pin on?

29
30 **Fran Holtgreven:** Carder can? Can you?

31
32 **PNC Carder Ferguson:** Yes Ma'am. It's my first time, I don't know if anybody else
33 has done this, but it's my honor.

34
35 **Fran Holtgreven:** Ouch! Just joking.

36
37 **Several Voices:** (Inaudible laughing)

38
39 **Fran Holtgreven:** Okay. If there is no more business that should come before this
40 convention, I now close the convention for 2025-2026. Please stand

41
42 **Kay Jo Baucom:** Before we close, you know I like to have these little inspirational
43 moments or encouragement moments or whatever. I'm going to move where I can
44 look at everyone's face because I want you to understand how important this is to
45 me. You are perfect. Now, I want you to listen to that again. You are perfect. When
46 you look in the mirror, and you see what's staring back at you, and you see the
47 imperfections, you see that little extra roll you didn't have before, you see the gray in

1 your hair, or maybe your hair's coming out. I don't know, but you notice
2 imperfections, but God doesn't. When God looks at you, you are his perfect creation.
3 And I want you to find joy in the fact that you were created in God's image, and
4 everything about you was perfectly planned for you as that unique individual. So, my
5 prayer for you today is, Lord, when I see my own imperfections, sometimes it's just
6 overwhelming, and sometimes it's depressing. But I want to thank you, God, for
7 seeing me as who I really am, your child created in your image. And yes, I am
8 perfect as each one of you is perfect. Would you bow with me? God, we thank you
9 for the moments together. We thank you for the laughter. We thank You for the love
10 and the dedication. Fun is essential. Laughter is one of the things that we find
11 throughout Your word. They had fun, and there were moments of joy. We also
12 understand, Lord, there are challenges. No matter what our faith or our
13 circumstances, somewhere along our life's journey, we will have challenges.
14 We praise Your name for walking with us through those challenges, for creating a
15 beautiful day like today, for allowing our lovely new National President and her team
16 to come forward and serve our organization. Our cup of blessings truly does
17 overflow. God, continue to walk with us, be with us through this coming year of
18 service, as we all serve in Your name for those who first served us. Amen.

19
20 **Several Voices:** Amen.

21
22 **Linda Varejcka:** Madam President, we have a guest on the floor.

23
24 **Fran Holtgreven:** This is the new Commander, Frances Figueroa Lowe.
25 Welcome.

26
27 **Commander Frances Figueroa Lowe:** Good morning, ladies and gentlemen.
28 Thank you guys so much for having me. I look forward to working with all of you guys
29 this week. Not this week, this whole year. Not just the week. And I look forward to a
30 good year in progress for both the Auxiliary as well as the Order. Thank you guys so
31 much for all of your support. Congratulations to the new National President, Judy
32 Fiddler. So this can be great working with her and working with all of you guys this
33 year. Again, thank you guys so much. Thank you.

34
35 **Kay Jo Baucom:** I think she needs a standing "O".

36
37 **Auxiliary Members:** "Whoo Whoo Whoop"

38
39 **Fran Holtgreven:** Congratulations and thank you for coming up and speaking to us.
40 We really appreciate it. Okay, we are now going to please keep standing. We are
41 now going to retire the colors after this. After this, this meeting will now be adjourned.

42
43 **-END OF 2027 CONVENTION BUSINESS SESSIONS-**



MINUTES OF:
MOPHA NATIONAL CONVENTION
POST NATIONAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE
July 16, 2026

1 **Judy Fiddler:** We need to get started people, please take your seats. Seargent at
2 Arms, please lead us in the pledge.

3
4 **Linda Varejcka:** Please stand and with your hand over your heart, repeat after me.

5
6 **Linda Varejcka and Members:** I pledge allegiance to the flag of the United States of
7 America, and to the republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible,
8 with liberty and justice for all. Thank you.

9
10 **Kay Jo Baucom:** Let us pray. Please bow with me. Lord Jesus, God of words, God
11 of hearts in the direction that You would have us to go. Help us to see need and do
12 something about it. Help us to focus our attention on the betterment of our mankind.
13 We all need to support one another, and through You, Lord, we can do amazing
14 things. Amen.

15
16 **Judy Fiddler:** We need to get started, people. Please take your seats. Madam
17 Secretary, please do roll call.

18
19 **Maryann Barclay:** President Judy Fiddler? **(Present)**, Senior Vice President Linda
20 Bellis? **(Present)**, Junior Vice President Angie Foster? **(Present)**, Chaplain Kay Jo
21 Baucom? **(Present)**, Secretary Maryann Barclay **(Present)**, Treasurer Tracy Derr?
22 **(Present on Zoom)**, Membership Officer Cheryl Perez? **(Present)**, Parliamentarian
23 Jan Knapp? **(Here)**, Region 2 President Bailey Paugh? **(Here)**, President Region 4
24 Kay Jo Baucom? **(Present)**, President Region 5 Doris Williams? **(Inaudible off mic)**,
25 Sergeant-at-Arms Linda Varejcka? **(Present)**, Pennsylvania Department President
26 Sandy Verbos? Michigan Department President Sharon Lewinsky? **(Zoom)**,
27 Minnesota Department President Sheryl Osburn?

28
29 **Unknown Voice off mic:** She went home. She was ill.

30
31 **Maryann Barclay:** Nebraska Department President Joshua Peterson? Ohio
32 Department President Kasandra Christner? **(Senior Vice for Ohio on her behalf**
33 **here)**. Thank you. Wisconsin Department President Nancy Lee Birchbach?
34 **(Present)**. Georgia Department President Maryann Barclay **(present)**. Mississippi
35 Department President Vanessa Duet? Colorado Department President Patricia
36 Andrews? **(Present)**, Texas Department President Herlinda Sifuentes? **(Here)**. Past
37 National President Patricia Sharp? Past National President Joan Walsh? Past
38 National President Carol Lance? Past National President Judith Spaulding? Past
39 National President Nancy Lee Birchbach? **(Present)**, Past National President
40 Gwendolyn Gilliard? **(Present)**, Past National President Karen Haltiner **(Present)**,
41 Past National President Barb Cherone? Past National President Barbara Canode?
42 Past National President Jan Knapp? **(Present)**, Past National President Terri
43 Shattuck? **(Present)**, Past National President Gloria Sanchez? **(Present)**, Past
44 National President Diane Petrini? Past National President Cheryl Perez? **(Present)**
45 Past National President Amanda Flener? Past National President Colleen Orfanello?
46 **(Present)**, Past National President Kay Jo Baucom? **(Present)**, Past National
47 President Barbara Hale Ray? Past National President Fran Holtgreven **(Present)**,

And Linda Bellis is here. Madam President, there is your roll call? I'd like to get started with the appointments for my term. I have Fran Holtgreven is going to be the Region 1,3, and 6 Liaison. My chaplain will be Kay Jo Baucom. My historian is Mike Fiddler along with Kasandra Christner. He's going to do all the photos and she's going to put them in the book. Membership Officer is Cheryl Perez. Patriotic Instructor and Americanism Officer is Linda Varejcka. The Secretary, of course, is Maryann Barkley. Our VAVS CDCE Rep is Linda Varejcka. Our Webmaster and Publicity will be Colleen Orfanello. And Community Service is Gloria Sanchez. Because I am no longer Secretary, that email is going to stay open for a couple months. But Maryann has a new email address that I will give you now. It's MOPHNATSEC@gmail.com. And since I'm no longer Secretary, I have a new email for myself as well. And it's judy.mopha.gmail.com. Pretty much the theme for my upcoming year is We Can. And if you take the M-O-P-H-A letters, M is Make It Happen. O is Offer Time. P is Pray. H is Help. And A is Ask. And all of that is something We Can. So that's why the little can openers or bottle openers you got from me yesterday. So that's pretty much the theme. I was trying to be positive with what I wanted to get accomplished this year. We're going to try and revise the CBL. It needs a lot of help. The Ad Hoc Committee last year pointed out many little things that we need to get cleaned up and taken care of. So another thing I'd like to do this year is I'm trying to find ways to get the National Members at Large more involved with the organization. I believe it was this year we had nine National Members at Large sign up for conventions. When they come, they do not have a vote or did not have a vote. So I'm going to be looking for ways to get them more inclusive into the organization, try and find activities that they can do. They do so much on their own. There's no way that they can document what they do. So, we might have to have another form. I really don't like the forms, but that has some way for like Linda V. to know what they're doing on their level as a National Member at Large. So pretty much that's all I have right now for my first meeting. We're on a time constraint. I just learned that last night after the meeting was closed that we only have this room until noon. So we still have a finance meeting to do. So yes, is there anything anybody has questions about?

Nancy Lee Birchbach: Get the Members at Large involved. A lot of these Members at Large were involved with hospitals. Will they be able to get the HOV funds?

Judy Fiddler: That's something I want to work on. Yeah. Yeah, I'm looking.

Angie Foster: Angie Foster, Junior Vice President now. I do want Linda will pass these out for me. I would like to announce the Ways & Means project so we can get it on the ground right away the minute we get home. And it's called. Okay. The Ways and Means fundraiser is "Pick a Date to Donate". I've got postcards, and there'll be one for each of you. Plus, take the other ones that I have home. Take them back to your Units, Departments. And the Pick a Date to Donate is it's got a little calendar on here with dates. And you have, say, someone writes their name down. They'll do 10, the 10th day on here, put their name on it. They donate \$10. So if you pick the date, the 20th, you're donating \$20. Plus, there's extra bonus squares. If someone goes, I only have \$1, and someone already took the first day, well, just put it on the bonus.

And for each, send these postcards. They have a thing that says name, Unit, Department, and the amount you're donating. And send them to Tracy. And I printed Tracy's new address last night in the hotel and put on little labels. Their printer wasn't the best, so I'm sorry if it wasn't. But check the website with her new address too. And send those to Tracy, and we will get that for Ways & Means. And we'll draw a postcard. We'll draw for \$100 gift card if we're on the ship. It'll probably be a Royal Caribbean gift card. So anyway, and there should be a minimum if you fill out everything minus the bonus, \$496. I've done this fundraiser other places, and it's great. Share it. And I will also have a digital copy. You know, I'll email out to everyone too. But take as many postcards back with you and share them. Thank you.

Judy Fiddler: Yes. At this time, I would like, let's see, Mike Fiddler, Cheryl is on Zoom, Patriotic Instructor Linda, the webmaster Colleen, and Gloria to come up so that I can give you your Oath of Office and install you for your appointment.

Judy Fiddler: Now I will have the honor of installing you. Raise your right hand and repeat after me:

Judy Fiddler: I do solemnly promise...

Appointed Officers: I do solemnly promise

Judy Fiddler: That I will faithfully discharge...

Appointed Officers: That I will faithfully discharge

Judy Fiddler: The duties of the office...

Appointed Officers: The duties of the office

Judy Fiddler: Which I am about to assume...

Appointed Officers: Which I am about to assume

Judy Fiddler: According to the Constitution...

Appointed Officers: According to the Constitution

Judy Fiddler: Bylaws and Procedures Manual...

Appointed Officers: Bylaws And Procedures Manual

Judy Fiddler: Of the Military Order of the Purple Heart Auxiliary

Appointed Officers: Of the Military Order of the Purple Heart Auxiliary

Judy Fiddler: And any Bylaws of this National Auxiliary...

Appointed Officers: And any Bylaws of this National Auxiliary

Judy Fiddler: to the best of my ability...

Appointed Officers: To the best of my ability.

Judy Fiddler: And that I will at the close of my term...

Appointed Officers: And that I will at the close of my term

Judy Fiddler: Deliver all books...

Appointed Officers: Deliver all books

Judy Fiddler: Papers, money...

Appointed Officers: Papers, money

Judy Fiddler: And all other property belonging to this National Auxiliary...

Appointed Officers: And all other property belonging to this National Auxiliary

Judy Fiddler: To my successor...

Appointed Officers: To my successor

Judy Fiddler: This I pledge on my honor...

Appointed Officers: This I pledge on my honor

Judy Fiddler: As a member of the Military Order of the Purple Heart Auxiliary...

Jan Knapp: As a member of the Military Order of the Purple Heart Auxiliary.

Judy Fiddler: Congratulations, you are now installed. Cheryl is now installed, where did she go? There she is. Okay, with no other further business, unless somebody has a question. There is no Zoom this evening. Thank you for attending our meetings. You'll still be on for the Finance Committee to listen. So, thank you for your attendance.

Terri Shattuck: Madam President?

Judy Fiddler: Yes, ma'am?

Terri Shattuck: You should have sworn in Fran.

Judy Fiddler: Yes I should have.

Fran Holtgreven: I accept.
We didn't move on.

Judy Fiddler: Kay Jo, will you please give us a closing prayer?

Kay Jo Baucom: Will you bow with me? Lord, we rejoice in the coming year and the possibilities and opportunities that You will present before us. Guide us in the ways You would have us to go. This is a journey that You will travel with us. Each one has unique gifts. Help us to use those gifts to glorify Your name. The further our organizations purpose is and to build those friendships that last a lifetime. Amen.

Kay Jo Baucom and several voices: Amen.

Judy Fiddler: Fran, I just realized I left you off the Installation. That is why I didn't call you. Fran is the Marshal for the upcoming year. That's why I missed it.

Linda Varejcka: All of you going to the gala tonight, you will be in for a special treat. We have a Medal of Honor recipient. Just, just a bit of protocol. Remember, when you salute him, you are saluting the medal that he has received. Showing respect to him. We salute him and we salute that medal. But you're going to be in for a great treat. With the flags in place, hand salute. Toot.

Judy Fiddler: Retire the colors, please. This meeting is adjourned. We're going to have the finance committee meeting right here in the front row.

-END OF POST CONVENTION NEC MEETING-



MINUTES OF:
MOPHA NATIONAL CONVENTION
POST NATIONAL FINANCE COMMITTEE
July 16, 2026

1 **Terri Shattuck:** So, I'd like to call this meeting to order. I'm calling this meeting to
2 order. First thing that we have to do. First thing that we have to do is choose a chair.
3 Who's going to do the roll call?

4
5 **Maryann Barclay:** First Year Kay Jo Baucom? **(Present)**. Second Year Nancy Lee
6 Birchbach, **(Present)**. Third Year Terri Shattuck? **(Present)**. Fourth Year Gloria
7 Sanchez? **(Present)**. President Judy Fiddler? **(Present)**. Senior Vice Linda Bellis?
8 **(Present)**. Senior Vice Angie Foster? **(Present)**. Treasurer Tracy Derr **(Present)**.
9 Secretary Maryann Barclay **(Present)**. Madam President, Madam Chair, Madam
10 Vice-Chair, that is your roll call.

11
12 **Terri Shattuck:** The first point of business will be to choose your chairperson for this
13 committee.

14
15 **Nancy Lee Birchbach:** Nancy Lee Birchbach. I nominated Terri Shattuck to be the
16 chair.

17
18 **Gloria Sanchez:** Gloria Sanchez, PNP. I second the motion.

19
20 **Terri Shattuck:** Is there any discussion? All those in favor? Opposed?
21 Hearing none, I accept the chairperson position. Okay, at this time I would like to
22 inform everybody there's four members and the President is the only ones that have
23 a vote on this committee. So there's five votes for whatever we decide. Everyone has
24 a voice, just no vote. Tracy Derr.

25
26 **Tracy Derr:** Can you hear me?

27
28 **Terri Shattuck:** We can hear you.

29
30 **Tracy Derr:** Yeah, it's just so smoky. It's so thick. Anyway. Terri, you said my name.

31
32 **Terri Shattuck:** Yes, can you give us any updates on what's happening this year?

33
34 **Tracy Derr:** I think that we should...

35
36 **Terri Shattuck:** With the budget.

37
38 **Tracy Derr:** Well, the budget that we've already discussed, I mean, I revised that
39 and emailed it back out to you guys. A couple of you responded. I know you guys are
40 busy there, but I did update it. And I think that we should work with Madam
41 President, Judy Fiddler, through the year to see what the plan is for her and the
42 upcoming President after that for the budget. Sounds like we have a lot of things that
43 we need to communicate about and share information and find out what it is that we
44 really need to include in that budget for the next year. That was one thing that I was
45 thinking of. The other thing I'd like to know is Linda Bellis, how much did you say
46 your General Fund fundraiser raised?

Terri Shattuck: One minute.

Angie Foster: Angie Foster, Junior Vice President, \$3,245.

Tracy Derr: So then you would have to take out the \$1,190 that it cost us.

Linda Derr: No, that's the difference. Ornaments were \$1,035 for the ornaments.

Tracy Derr: So that was your \$1,190?

Linda Bellis: The ornament for \$1,035 is for the General Fund.

Tracy Derr: Okay, what did we pay you for for the fundraiser? The ornaments, right? We reimbursed you \$1,190. Were those for ornaments and magnets?

Terri Shattuck: One minute, Tracy, she's got to go get her papers.

Tracy Derr: I'm sorry, I can't log into my... Oh, maybe I can use my phone to try to get the warrant. I'm just trying to determine what...

Terri Shattuck: Tracy, can you hear me?

Tracy Derr: Yes.

Terri Shattuck: Okay, Judy went to get the figures for her. One moment, please. She has them in her bag. How much did she reimburse you?

Tracy Derr: \$1,190 is what I gave her. I'm trying to figure out what it was for.

Linda Bellis: It was for... I can't hear you yet.

Tracy Derr: I can hear her, kind of.

Linda Bellis: Okay, for the Purple Heart ornament was... I have a number here, \$1,483.

Tracy Derr: That's what you made?

Linda Varejcka: No, that's what the ornaments cost.

Tracy Derr: No, I want to know... My question is this, Linda. What did you make? The amount we reimbursed you... I'm trying to pull it up right now.

Linda Bellis: Oh, you want the difference between what the cost was to us?

Tracy Derr: No. The \$1,190 that I gave you was for what? Gosh darn it. I wish I could pull up the warrant.

95 **Kay Jo Baucom:** The ornaments cost \$1,483.

96
97 **Linda Bellis:** Yes.

98
99 **Kay Jo Baucom:** We took in \$1,035, so we are in the minus.

100
101 **Linda Bellis:** We made that much money.

102
103 **Colleen Orfanello as Zoom Moderator:** What did it cost you and what did you
104 make? What's your net?

105
106 **Kay Jo Baucom:** It cost you \$1,483. We took in \$1,035. Right now, we are in the
107 minus \$400 or whatever you said \$400.

108
109 **Linda Bellis:** I'm sorry. It's in the hotel room.

110
111 **Terri Shattuck:** Tracy? Yes. You reimbursed her \$1,483 for the cost of the
112 ornaments. For the ornaments. She made \$1,035, but she has ornaments left to sell.

113
114 **Tracy Derr:** Okay, that's where I was kind of going with this. Where are those
115 ornaments? Are they going to be on the website? What are we going to do with
116 them? What's the plan? Because we're not making any money now.

117
118 **Terri Shattuck:** They're going to be on the website for sale and she's still hoping to
119 sell more tonight.

120
121 **Tracy Derr:** That's what I wanted to know and how many do we have left?

122
123 **Terri Shattuck:** How many do you have left, Linda?

124
125 **Linda Bellis:** I sold 69 and I

126
127 **Terri Shattuck:** She sold 69.

128
129 **Linda Bellis:** And I have...

130
131 **Tracy Derr:** How many did you buy?

132
133 **Linda Bellis:** 250.

134
135 **Terri Shattuck:** She bought 250 and she sold 69.

136
137 **Tracy Derr:** Okay, that's good. That makes me feel better. Yes.

138
139 **Colleen Orfanello as Webmaster:** Minus one from someone who bought it in
140 January and was waiting on back-order.

Terri Shattuck: Minus one ornament that was purchased in January.

Tracy Derr: So we've got 180 left. And then how much are we charging for them?

Linda Bellis: \$15. However, after counting the box, I came up six short.

Tracy Derr: All right, so then we have 181 minus six. So we have 175.

Linda Bellis: I'm sitting with 175, but I sold 69.

Tracy Derr: 175 times \$15 is \$2,625. So, we potentially have another \$2,600.

Terri Shattuck: Yes.

Tracy Derr: But right now we're in the hole, so about \$2,300. So for our original investment, initial investment of \$1,400, we'll make like \$2,300 if we can get them sold. So we should probably push before Christmas on our Constant Contact and push as much as we can for fall conventions and all that kind of stuff, you think?

Linda Bellis: Okay. Now you want the magnets?

Tracy Derr: Well, I haven't even paid you for those yet. You sent me a receipt. It was for 507, but I don't have a warrant. I just have a receipt. So whenever anybody lets me talk about that... Unless I didn't get it, and if I did, I'm sorry. I looked through all my warrants and paid everybody out prior to convention.

Linda Bellis: I emailed them to you.

Tracy Derr: Yeah, I just have the 507. Anyway, so my purpose is to... No, I have to have it on here.

Terri Shattuck: In order to be reimbursed for anything that you purchase or use, you have to send the receipt to the Secretary to have a warrant written to send to the Treasurer before you get reimbursed. Is that clear?

Tracy Derr: Yes. Yes, I read in the bylaws many moons ago that the Secretary is supposed to receive the request for a warrant and then create the warrant and send it to the President and then the Treasurer, and then it gets paid. You know, Judy and I have worked together for 15 years. So there are times where it's like, oh, hey, I did this. Can you just do this or that? But that comes with 15 years, and we both know that we've got each other. So for Maryann's sake, we need to keep it very rule-like until she gets used to it.

Linda Bellis: Tracy, it was sent to Judy and Fran. It went under the convention \$15,000. So I will resend...

Tracy Derr: That has not been taken care of? Those are things that you need to set. That's not convention expense. That actually goes into the fundraising expense line. Fundraising is not convention. Fundraising is different. We only pay up to the line that we decided and voted on when we did the budget, and that is \$1,600 or whatever it was. So we need to, I guess...

Terri Shattuck: So maybe when you have a receipt, maybe jot down the line item or line number that it's supposed to go to. That might make it a little easier for everybody to understand. Maybe even on the back of your receipt or something, or put a little note on it, a sticky note.

Tracy Derr: Yeah. Maybe. Yeah, I mean, we can't go over... So this is just another budget conversation. I think we really should do some work on the understanding of the budget. It would help, especially newer people. You know, when we say, this is what we have, that's what it is. It's not up for, like... Oh, I went... I'm not picking on you, Linda. I want you to know that. I'm not picking on you. But what I'm telling you is, per the Bylaws, I can only pay out up to the budget line and whatever the percentage is over without going back to the NEC. Yes, ma'am?

Judy Fiddler: Tracy? There is a chance that I probably sent you that warrant. But it may have been around the same time that we were trying to send you all the receipts that we needed to claim that \$15,000.

Tracy Derr: Right. And it may have, it... none of that has been paid yet.

Judy Fiddler: It may have already been. Fran has a copy of it.

Tracy Derr: That's great. I saw her receipt. I just couldn't find the warrant. We'll find a way to get it paid, but it can't go under convention expense.

Fran Holtgreven: I used... There was anything I could get a hold of for convention expenses to get the \$15,000. But, the things... a warrant was sent in. It's me. Okay. That's not me. We signed a warrant that we all approved, and that was paid for out of the Ways & Means and the other \$1,500, \$1,600? It's out of Ways & Means, and that means that's enough money. But I sent those into for convention expenses to get the money.

Tracy Derr: I get it now. Okay. So the magnets are the Ways & Means. So the 507 and change go out of Ways & Means.

Fran Holtgreven: Yes.

Tracy Derr: Got it. Okay. Not out of convention expenses. I'll look for that. I'll look for that warrant.

Fran Holtgreven: I have the warrant on my phone. Oh, okay. You want me to look for it?

Tracy Derr: Well, I want to get Linda paid, and I was trying to decipher how all of this ended up getting broken out, and that's good. Well, that's good, because that means that we didn't do, you know, an extra \$400 or whatever in the fundraising line.

Fran Holtgreven: No. I was trying to get that money.

Tracy Derr: That's good. We still have the, we still have leftover magnets, I'm assuming. And will they be sold as Ways & Means projects still?

Fran Holtgreven: Yes.

Tracy Derr: Okay.

Linda Bellis: And Maryann Barkley will be taking the boxes home with her.

Tracy Derr: For shipping. Okay.

Linda Bellis: And in there, I also included all the tickets, the double tickets, and the invoice books.

Tracy Derr: All right. Great. I just wanted to get that clear in my mind in our finance committee so that I knew what the heck was happening. As far as the budget, we've gone over it and revised it as a group, this convention. Does anybody have any questions about this current year budget? I'll be setting up the new Dropbox for the current year, and I'll add Maryann to that.

Linda Bellis: Tracy, I have an announcement to make. The Department of Minnesota Auxiliary will be donating \$1,000 to pay Kay Jo, Fran, and Linda Varejcka and Colleen and her son for the hospitality room.

Colleen Orfanello: I didn't contribute.

Tracy Derr: That's great.

Kay Jo Baucom: Very gracious. But we're going to donate it back. We really do appreciate that donation. We do. We do. That may be the last time I might not be able to do it. Okay.

Nancy Lee Birchbach: Well then can you add it in for the convention in case you , we don't have it in the budget next year?

Gloria Sanchez: Just say thank you. Thank you.

Tracy Derr: We can work out all of those logistics later. So, I'll be adding Maryann into the drop box. And everybody else? I think Nancy Lee. Somebody told you they'd help you figure out your Dropbox. Was that Colleen? She'd help you? Yeah. I don't know why you're not going to get to it. Everybody else. I verified that.

Terri Shattuck: Tracy? Tracy? I hate to but need to cut you off, Tracy. Tracy?

Tracy Derr: Yep.

Terri Shattuck: I hate to cut you off, but we're going to have to do this through email communication. We have to vacate the room.

Terri Shattuck: Already? He's already at the door. Yeah, we have to be out of the room by noon. Out of the building.

Tracy Derr: That's okay. We really don't have a lot to talk about. So, that was it, really. For me.

Judy Fiddler: Why don't we set up a National Zoom to continue?

Terri Shattuck: I have to look at my calendar.

Judy Fiddler: How much more do we have?

Linda Bellis: Yeah. How much do we got?

Terri Shattuck: I don't think we have anything more.

Tracy Derr: That was it.

Gloria Sanchez: Let's see if we do.

Terri Shattuck: Okay, at this time, if you have anything else that you would like to discuss, send me an email and I will arrange a Zoom meeting at that time. I can't do it right now because I don't have my schedule in front of me, Nancy Lee.

Tracy Derr: That is awesome.

Nancy Lee Birchbach (off mic): As far as the \$1,000, I'd like to have it set aside and earmarked for conventions. You know, future conventions.

Nancy Lee Birchbach: Nancy Lee Birchback, Past National President. Yeah. With this \$1,000 donation, Nancy Lee Birchback, I would like to have it set aside, not to put into the General Fund, have it earmarked for a convention to help, you know, hospitality or whatever to make it run smoothly in the future.

Gloria Sanchez: Gloria Sanchez, PNP, and I second that.

Terri Shattuck: Give me that mic. Is there any discussion? All those in favor? Opposed? Motion carried. I would like to recess this meeting at this time. If you have anything you want to discuss, send me an email. I will set up a Zoom and we can reconvene another day.

Tracy Derr: Thank you, Terri.

Terri Shattuck: Thank you, ladies, so much. I'm sorry they're making us leave the building at noon.

-RECESS MEETING 7/16/26@11:34am Eastern Time UNTIL FURTHER DATE AND TIME-

-MEETING RECONVIENED via email sent by President Judy Fiddler on 8/9/26 at 1:50pm CST.

Motion to close the Post Convention Finance Committee Meeting was made by Gloria Sanchez.

Seconded by Kay Jo Baucom.

Unanimously passed. Motion accepted by Chair Terri Shattuck.

This concluded the 2027 MOPHA Pre Finance Committee, Pre NEC Committee, Business Sessions, Post NEC Committee, and Post Finance Committee Minutes.

Respectfully Submitted by Colleen Orfanello, PNP, Zoom Moderator and Transcriptionist - 2026