

AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY  
DEPARTMENT OF CALIFORNIA  
97th ANNUAL CONVENTION  
SUNDAY, JUNE 26, 2016  
FRESNO, CALIFORNIA

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Reported by: Karen A. Aufdermaur, CSR No. 10919

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AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY  
DEPARTMENT OF CALIFORNIA  
97th ANNUAL CONVENTION  
SUNDAY, JUNE 26, 2016; 8:38 A.M.  
FRESNO, CALIFORNIA

CALL TO ORDER

DEPARTMENT PRESIDENT TOZIER: Good morning.  
Chaplain will offer prayer.

INVOCATION

DEPARTMENT CHAPLAIN BAKER: Heavenly Father,  
bless us. We pray for the safety and well-being of the  
members of the American Legion Family at Post 711 Kern  
River Valley. The fire remains out of control in the  
county and two members -- I'm sorry. Two residents and  
possibly another one have died. Four firemen have been  
injured.

We thank you for this privilege in bringing us  
together to work as a team for the principles of our  
organization, for God and country. Thank you for  
providing us our differences, some favorable for him, some  
not so favorable, but in the end we will accomplish our  
goals. Please bring our plans and programs to a  
successful ending. These things we ask in your name.  
Amen.

AUDIENCE MEMBERS: Amen.

DEPARTMENT PRESIDENT TOZIER: Secretary will  
report roll call.

ROLL CALL

DEPARTMENT SECRETARY/TREASURER KAPSALIS:  
Department President Susie Tozier.

DEPARTMENT PRESIDENT TOZIER: Yes.

DEPARTMENT SECRETARY/TREASURER KAPSALIS: Vice  
President Wendy O'Brien.

DEPARTMENT VICE PRESIDENT O'BRIEN: She's here.

DEPARTMENT SECRETARY/TREASURER KAPSALIS:  
Secretary/Treasurer Ruby Kapsalis. Maybe I'm here. I'm  
not sure. NEC Woman Harriet Clendenin.

NEC WOMAN CLENDENIN: I'm here.

DEPARTMENT SECRETARY/TREASURER KAPSALIS:  
Chaplain Susan Baker.

DEPARTMENT CHAPLAIN BAKER: Here.

DEPARTMENT SECRETARY/TREASURER KAPSALIS:  
Historian Susan Morgan.

DEPARTMENT HISTORIAN MORGAN: Here.

1 DEPARTMENT SECRETARY/TREASURER KAPSALIS:  
2 Parliamentarian Diane DeLashmit.  
3 PARLIAMENTARIAN DeLASHMIT: Here.  
4 DEPARTMENT SECRETARY/TREASURER KAPSALIS:  
5 Musician Kathy Smith.  
6 MUSICIAN SMITH: Here and rockin.  
7 DEPARTMENT SECRETARY/TREASURER KAPSALIS:  
8 Sergeant-At-Arms Tracy Varnell.  
9 SERGEANT-AT-ARMS VARNELL: Here.  
10 DEPARTMENT SECRETARY/TREASURER KAPSALIS: Marshal  
11 Elizabeth Doidge.  
12 MARSHAL DOIDGE: I'm ready for cooler weather.  
13 DEPARTMENT SECRETARY/TREASURER KAPSALIS: I am  
14 too. Finance Committee Chairman Kathie Martinez.  
15 FINANCE COMMITTEE JUNIOR MEMBER HAYES: She's  
16 around.  
17 DEPARTMENT SECRETARY/TREASURER KAPSALIS: Finance  
18 Committee Senior Member Terry Mikesell.  
19 FINANCE COMMITTEE SENIOR MEMBER MIKESELL: She  
20 went home.  
21 DEPARTMENT SECRETARY/TREASURER KAPSALIS: Finance  
22 Committee Junior Member Linda Hayes.  
23 FINANCE COMMITTEE JUNIOR MEMBER HAYES: I'm here.  
24 DEPARTMENT SECRETARY/TREASURER KAPSALIS:  
25 Advisory Committee Anita Biggs.  
26 ADVISORY COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN BIGGS: Cluck.  
27 DEPARTMENT SECRETARY/TREASURER KAPSALIS: Cluck.  
28 Advisory Committee Pilar Reyes.  
29 ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEMBER REYES: Present.  
30 ADVISORY COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN BIGGS: No.  
31 ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEMBER REYES: Oh, yeah.  
32 ADVISORY COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN BIGGS: You have to  
33 do a cluck.  
34 ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEMBER REYES: Cluck, cluck.  
35 DEPARTMENT SECRETARY/TREASURER KAPSALIS: That's  
36 a pretty pathetic cluck. Advisory Committee Terry  
37 Mikesell.  
38 ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEMBER MIKESELL:  
39 Cock-a-doodle doo.  
40 DEPARTMENT SECRETARY/TREASURER KAPSALIS: There  
41 you go.  
42 ADVISORY COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN BIGGS: She's in the  
43 hen house.  
44 DEPARTMENT SECRETARY/TREASURER KAPSALIS: Past  
45 National President Nancy Brown-Park. Americanism Kim  
46 Vincent.  
47 AMERICANISM CHAIRMAN VINCENT: Present.  
48 DEPARTMENT SECRETARY/TREASURER KAPSALIS:  
49 Auxiliary Emergency Fund Sharon Moore.  
50 AEF CHAIRMAN MOORE: Here.

1 DEPARTMENT SECRETARY/TREASURER KAPSALIS:  
2 Children & Youth Joan Cannon.  
3 CHILDREN & YOUTH CHAIRMAN CANNON: Present.  
4 DEPARTMENT SECRETARY/TREASURER KAPSALIS:  
5 Community Service Gloria Williams.  
6 COMMUNITY SERVICE CHAIRMAN WILLIAMS: Here.  
7 DEPARTMENT SECRETARY/TREASURER KAPSALIS:  
8 Constitution & Bylaws Donna Scott.  
9 CONSTITUTION & BYLAWS CHAIRMAN SCOTT: Good  
10 morning, Ruby.  
11 DEPARTMENT SECRETARY/TREASURER KAPSALIS: Good  
12 morning, Donna. Convention Chairman Gloria Sinopoli. On  
13 her way to Girls State. Convention Commission Melanie  
14 Taylor.  
15 CONVENTION COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN TAYLOR: Over here.  
16 DEPARTMENT SECRETARY/TREASURER KAPSALIS:  
17 Credentials Joy Saunders.  
18 CREDENTIALS CHAIRMAN SAUNDERS: Here.  
19 DEPARTMENT SECRETARY/TREASURER KAPSALIS:  
20 Distinguished Guest Chairman LuAnn Capazzi.  
21 DISTINGUISHED GUEST CHAIRMAN CAPAZZI: Howdy.  
22 DEPARTMENT SECRETARY/TREASURER KAPSALIS: Is that  
23 howdy getting a little higher? Editor Estella Avina.  
24 EDITOR CHAIRMAN AVINA: Here.  
25 DEPARTMENT SECRETARY/TREASURER KAPSALIS:  
26 Education Tami Bell.  
27 EDUCATION CHAIRMAN BELL: I'm here.  
28 DEPARTMENT SECRETARY/TREASURER KAPSALIS:  
29 Elections June Coatney.  
30 ELECTIONS CHAIRMAN COATNEY: Here.  
31 DEPARTMENT SECRETARY/TREASURER KAPSALIS: Girls  
32 State Chairman Elissa Kirkland. At Girls State. Donna  
33 Enright. At Girls State. Junior Activities Robin  
34 Falkenberg.  
35 JUNIOR ACTIVITIES CHAIRMAN FALKENBERG: Where the  
36 future farmers farm.  
37 DEPARTMENT SECRETARY/TREASURER KAPSALIS: Junior  
38 Conference Director Jackie Cleveland.  
39 JUNIOR CONFERENCE DIRECTOR CLEVELAND: Good  
40 morning, Ruby.  
41 DEPARTMENT SECRETARY/TREASURER KAPSALIS: Good  
42 morning. Leadership Kathie Martinez.  
43 LEADERSHIP COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN MARTINEZ: Good  
44 morning, Ruby.  
45 DEPARTMENT SECRETARY/TREASURER KAPSALIS: Good  
46 morning. Legislative Harriet Clendenin.  
47 LEGISLATIVE CHAIRMAN CLENDENIN: Good morning.  
48 DEPARTMENT SECRETARY/TREASURER KAPSALIS:  
49 Membership Chairman Wendy O'Brien.  
50 MEMBERSHIP CHAIRMAN O'BRIEN: I'm here. Thank

1 you. No. Thank you for the fan.  
2 DEPARTMENT SECRETARY/TREASURER KAPSALIS:  
3 National Security Chairman Dee Ann Graham.  
4 NATIONAL SECURITY CHAIRMAN GRAHAM: Here.  
5 DEPARTMENT SECRETARY/TREASURER KAPSALIS: Past  
6 Presidents Parley Terry Mikesell.  
7 PPP CHAIRMAN MIKESELL: She's here.  
8 DEPARTMENT SECRETARY/TREASURER KAPSALIS: Poppies  
9 Helen McClurg.  
10 POPPY CHAIRMAN McCLURG: Present.  
11 DEPARTMENT SECRETARY/TREASURER KAPSALIS: Public  
12 Relations Jean Cooley-Desmeules.  
13 PUBLIC RELATIONS CHAIRMAN COOLEY-DESMEULES:  
14 Here.  
15 DEPARTMENT SECRETARY/TREASURER KAPSALIS:  
16 Resolutions Linda Fercho. Upstairs typing away. Rules  
17 Geri Fitzpatrick.  
18 RULES CHAIRMAN FITZPATRICK: I'm still here.  
19 DEPARTMENT SECRETARY/TREASURER KAPSALIS: VA&R  
20 Loretta Marsh.  
21 VA&R CHAIRMAN MARSH: Here.  
22 DEPARTMENT SECRETARY/TREASURER KAPSALIS: Ways &  
23 Means Karen Munch.  
24 WAYS & MEANS CHAIRMAN MUNCH: Here.  
25 DEPARTMENT SECRETARY/TREASURER KAPSALIS:  
26 District 1 Marialice Canclini.  
27 DISTRICT 1 PRESIDENT CANCLINI: Back again.  
28 DEPARTMENT SECRETARY/TREASURER KAPSALIS: Oh,  
29 she's back. I've got your membership cards upstairs.  
30 District 2 Judy Henderson.  
31 DISTRICT 2 PRESIDENT HENDERSON: Turnips are  
32 still here.  
33 DEPARTMENT SECRETARY/TREASURER KAPSALIS:  
34 District 3 Lola Ramey.  
35 DISTRICT 3 PRESIDENT RAMEY: Good morning, Ruby.  
36 DEPARTMENT SECRETARY/TREASURER KAPSALIS: Good  
37 morning. District 4 Jean Edson.  
38 DISTRICT 4 PRESIDENT EDSON: The Fantastic 4th is  
39 still here.  
40 DEPARTMENT SECRETARY/TREASURER KAPSALIS:  
41 District 5 Melanie Taylor.  
42 DISTRICT 5 REPRESENTATIVE TAYLOR: I'm still  
43 here.  
44 DEPARTMENT SECRETARY/TREASURER KAPSALIS:  
45 District 6 Ramona Tafoya.  
46 DISTRICT 6: Good morning, Madam President. The  
47 sack of tomatoes are still in the hot house.  
48 DEPARTMENT VICE PRESIDENT O'BRIEN: Hoping for a  
49 Bloody Mary.  
50 DEPARTMENT SECRETARY/TREASURER KAPSALIS: They

1 can't give you a Bloody Mary. Only a Fireball. District  
2 7 Linda Harmon.  
3 DISTRICT 7: District 7 is heading back to the  
4 gold country.  
5 DEPARTMENT SECRETARY/TREASURER KAPSALIS:  
6 District 8 Kathleen Sullivan.  
7 DISTRICT 8 PRESIDENT SULLIVAN: Here.  
8 DEPARTMENT SECRETARY/TREASURER KAPSALIS: She's  
9 here. District 9 -- did any of you know that Kathleen  
10 Sullivan and her sister were Poppy Girls for the  
11 Department of California in the '80s? Kathleen, stand up.  
12 In the '80s.  
13 (Applause.)  
14 DEPARTMENT SECRETARY/TREASURER KAPSALIS:  
15 District 9 Dolly Rios.  
16 DISTRICT 9 PRESIDENT RIOS: Here.  
17 DEPARTMENT SECRETARY/TREASURER KAPSALIS:  
18 District 10 Gwen Woody.  
19 DISTRICT 10: Good morning, Madam President.  
20 DEPARTMENT SECRETARY/TREASURER KAPSALIS:  
21 District 11 Beverly Villines.  
22 DISTRICT 11 PRESIDENT VILLINES: Yeah.  
23 DEPARTMENT SECRETARY/TREASURER KAPSALIS:  
24 District 12 Ann Kelley.  
25 DISTRICT 12 REPRESENTATIVE: She's at Girls  
26 State.  
27 CONVENTION COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN TAYLOR: She went  
28 to Girls State.  
29 DEPARTMENT SECRETARY/TREASURER KAPSALIS:  
30 District 13 Jennifer Fanucchi.  
31 DISTRICT 13 PRESIDENT FANUCCHI: Our vegetables  
32 have grown, Madam President.  
33 DEPARTMENT SECRETARY/TREASURER KAPSALIS:  
34 District 14 Ellen McClurg.  
35 DISTRICT 14: Howdy.  
36 DEPARTMENT SECRETARY/TREASURER KAPSALIS: You  
37 didn't have any problem memorizing that, did you?  
38 District 15 Dee Ann Graham.  
39 DISTRICT 15 PRESIDENT GRAHAM: Good morning,  
40 Ruby.  
41 DEPARTMENT SECRETARY/TREASURER KAPSALIS: Good  
42 morning. District 16 Tracy Varnell.  
43 DISTRICT 16: Our strawberries are wilted on the  
44 vine, so when we get home we'll be really fine.  
45 DEPARTMENT SECRETARY/TREASURER KAPSALIS:  
46 District 17 Rachel Wang-Lee.  
47 DISTRICT 17 PRESIDENT WANG-LEE: Good morning,  
48 Madam President Susie. Good morning, Ruby.  
49 DEPARTMENT SECRETARY/TREASURER KAPSALIS:  
50 District 18 Mindy Sinclair, the Elegant 18.

1           DISTRICT 18: Convention is ending, we're all  
2 very sad. We head back to San Fernando Valley with  
3 directions in hand. Farewell from the nut farm, we've  
4 cracked us all. Thank you, Madam President, for the  
5 memories bestowed.  
6           (Applause.)  
7           ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEMBER BIGGS: No cracks  
8 today?  
9           DEPARTMENT SECRETARY/TREASURER KAPSALIS:  
10 District 19 Diana Livas.  
11           DISTRICT 19: It is time for us to park the  
12 tractor. Good morning, Madam President.  
13           DEPARTMENT SECRETARY/TREASURER KAPSALIS:  
14 District 20 Roberta Estes.  
15           DISTRICT 20: District 20 has enjoyed our  
16 convention. We have learned so many things. The list is  
17 too long to mention. Good morning and goodbye, Madam  
18 President.  
19           DEPARTMENT SECRETARY/TREASURER KAPSALIS:  
20 District 21 Judy Bendzala.  
21           DISTRICT 21: Hello and goodbye, Madam President.  
22           DEPARTMENT SECRETARY/TREASURER KAPSALIS:  
23 District 22 April Kochur.  
24           DISTRICT 22: We're here to take you home, Susie.  
25           (Applause.)  
26           DEPARTMENT SECRETARY/TREASURER KAPSALIS: But  
27 she's working her way up through the chairs again.  
28 District 23 Phyllis Meyi.  
29           DISTRICT 23 PRESIDENT MEYI: Good morning, Madam  
30 President.  
31           DEPARTMENT SECRETARY/TREASURER KAPSALIS:  
32 District 24 Ruth Hackney. Ruth Hackney.  
33           DISTRICT 24 PRESIDENT HACKNEY: We're not here  
34 this morning.  
35           DISTRICT 24: Susie Tozier, Madam President, you  
36 must leave Fresno. Time for our decent. She made us run  
37 but we had some fun. Look out for Wendy, here she comes.  
38 Goodbye, goodbye, goodbye.  
39           (Applause.)  
40           DEPARTMENT SECRETARY/TREASURER KAPSALIS: You can  
41 tell she's got some professional organization there.  
42 District 25 Tamra Duron.  
43           DISTRICT 25: Harvest time has come and gone, our  
44 job this year is done, but we'll continue working 'cuz our  
45 vets are number one. Bye, Madam President.  
46           DEPARTMENT SECRETARY/TREASURER KAPSALIS:  
47 District 26 Diane Johnston.  
48           DISTRICT 26: Headed home helping veterans. Back  
49 next year.  
50           DEPARTMENT SECRETARY/TREASURER KAPSALIS:



1 District 27 Victoria Goodchild.  
2 DISTRICT 27 PRESIDENT GOODCHILD: Good morning,  
3 Ruby.  
4 DEPARTMENT SECRETARY/TREASURER KAPSALIS: Good  
5 morning. District 28 Susan Baker.  
6 DISTRICT 28: Good morning, Madam President. The  
7 strawberry farmers are packed and ready for shipment.  
8 DEPARTMENT SECRETARY/TREASURER KAPSALIS:  
9 District 29 Cindy Mayfield.  
10 DISTRICT 29 ACTING PRESIDENT MAYFIELD: Good  
11 morning, Madam President. The rest of the chickens flew  
12 the coup and we're stuck here.  
13 DEPARTMENT SECRETARY/TREASURER KAPSALIS: I'm not  
14 sure. She said it so fast. The resident chickens are  
15 still here. Oh. District 30 Kim Vincent.  
16 DISTRICT 30 PRESIDENT VINCENT: I wish I could  
17 say something, but I have nothing. See you all next year.  
18 DEPARTMENT SECRETARY/TREASURER KAPSALIS:  
19 Hospital Reps Lorraine Sullivan.  
20 HOSPITAL REP SULLIVAN: Here.  
21 DEPARTMENT SECRETARY/TREASURER KAPSALIS:  
22 Northern California/Sacramento Wendy O'Brien.  
23 HOSPITAL REP O'BRIEN: I want to go home.  
24 DEPARTMENT SECRETARY/TREASURER KAPSALIS: Central  
25 Valley/Fresno. She's at Girls State; right? Palo Alto  
26 Connie Raya.  
27 HOSPITAL REP RAYA: Hello.  
28 DEPARTMENT SECRETARY/TREASURER KAPSALIS:  
29 Livermore Ruth Briggs.  
30 HOSPITAL REP BRIGGS: Here.  
31 DEPARTMENT SECRETARY/TREASURER KAPSALIS: San  
32 Diego Susie Tozier.  
33 HOSPITAL REP TOZIER: Here.  
34 DEPARTMENT SECRETARY/TREASURER KAPSALIS: Loma  
35 Linda, Jerry L. Pettis Mavis Kanka. Mavis is not here.  
36 Pat Alvarez. She's gone. Greater LA Earlean Paige.  
37 Barstow Evangeline Acosta.  
38 HOSPITAL REP ACOSTA: Good morning, Miss  
39 Fireball.  
40 DEPARTMENT SECRETARY/TREASURER KAPSALIS: Chula  
41 Vista Lois Cornish.  
42 HOSPITAL REP CORNISH: I'm still here.  
43 DEPARTMENT SECRETARY/TREASURER KAPSALIS: Fresno  
44 Rosalie Taylor. Redding Terry Mikesell.  
45 HOSPITAL REP MIKESELL: She's here.  
46 DEPARTMENT SECRETARY/TREASURER KAPSALIS:  
47 Lancaster Linda Hayes.  
48 HOSPITAL REP MIKESELL: She's over there.  
49 DEPARTMENT SECRETARY/TREASURER KAPSALIS: Ventura  
50 Madeline Lee.

1 HOSPITAL REP LEE: Yes.  
2 DEPARTMENT SECRETARY/TREASURER KAPSALIS: Ruth  
3 Hackney, West LA.  
4 HOSPITAL REP HACKNEY: Here.  
5 DEPARTMENT SECRETARY/TREASURER KAPSALIS:  
6 Yountville Peggy Grabski.  
7 That concludes roll call, Madam President. May I  
8 just remind the outgoing Department Chairmen, your  
9 procedure books need to be turned in so the new chairman  
10 can pick them up. They will not be going home with me.  
11 So if you're an outgoing chairman, you need to get it to  
12 the new chairman to pick it up before she leaves right  
13 after close of session before installation. Or they will  
14 be mailed COD if I have to mail them to you.  
15 DEPARTMENT PRESIDENT TOZIER: Robin, are you  
16 ready?  
17 JUNIOR ACTIVITIES CHAIRMAN FALKENBERG: Yes,  
18 ma'am. Good morning, ladies. We're going to do this one  
19 more time. Code changes -- the Junior Activities  
20 committee met Sunday morning at the Fresno Convention  
21 Center in the back of the room and agreed upon -- and  
22 agreed upon this report.  
23 Code change recommended. Page 45, number 25,  
24 bullet number 2 currently reads: "The Junior Activities  
25 Chairman, Junior Conference Director, and the Committee  
26 will choose a Department Junior Delegate and Alternate to  
27 National Convention at Junior Conference. If the delegate  
28 turns 18 prior to or during the National Convention, she  
29 will be eligible to attend National Convention but will  
30 not be eligible to hold a National Office."  
31 The committee agreed on the proposed change will  
32 read: "The Junior Activities Chairman, Junior Conference  
33 Director, and the committee will choose two Department  
34 Junior Representatives to Junior National Convention or  
35 Junior Mission Training at Junior Conference. The  
36 representatives may or may not be the Honorary Junior  
37 Department President or Honorary Junior Department Vice  
38 President, but must exhibit leadership qualities. If the  
39 representative turns 18 prior to or during the Junior  
40 National Convention or Junior Mission Training, she will  
41 be eligible to attend Junior National Convention or Junior  
42 Mission Training but will not be eligible to hold a  
43 National Office."  
44 The rationale behind this is the original mission  
45 trainings are a temporary. They're trying it out at this  
46 time so we don't know whether it's going to stay mission  
47 training or will be going back. So this way the code  
48 will cover either way. So as directed from the committee,  
49 I so move.  
50 ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEMBER REYES: Second.

1 DEPARTMENT PRESIDENT TOZIER: It has been moved  
 2 to change code number 2 to: "The Junior Activities  
 3 Chairman, Junior Conference Director, and the committee  
 4 will choose two Department Junior Representatives to  
 5 Junior National Convention or Junior Mission Training at  
 6 Junior Conference. The representatives may or may not be  
 7 the Honorary Junior Department President or Honorary  
 8 Junior Department Vice President, but must exhibit  
 9 leadership qualities. If the representative turns 18  
 10 prior to or during the Junior National Convention or  
 11 Junior Mission Training, she will be eligible to attend  
 12 Junior National Convention or Junior Mission Training but  
 13 will not be eligible to hold a National Office."

14 Is there any discussion?

15 (No response.)

16 DEPARTMENT PRESIDENT TOZIER: All in favor?

17 ALL PRESENT: Aye.

18 DEPARTMENT PRESIDENT TOZIER: Opposed?

19 (No response.)

20 DEPARTMENT PRESIDENT TOZIER: Pass.

21 JUNIOR ACTIVITIES CHAIRMAN FALKENBERG: Thank  
 22 you. Bullet number 3 currently reads: "Airfare, \$100 per  
 23 diem for two days and the registration fee will be paid  
 24 for by the Department Office for the Delegate and  
 25 Alternate to National Convention. Should the Delegate not  
 26 be able to attend, the Alternate will move up to Delegate.  
 27 The Department President, Junior Activities Chairman,  
 28 Junior Conference Director, and Junior Conference  
 29 Committee will select a Junior that attended the current  
 30 year Junior Conference to attend as the Alternate. In the  
 31 event that both Delegate and Alternate are unable to  
 32 attend National Convention, the Department President,  
 33 Junior Activities Chairman, Junior Conference Director and  
 34 Junior Conference Committee will select two junior members  
 35 that attended the current year Junior Conference to attend  
 36 as the Delegate and Alternate."

37 The proposed change will read: "Airfare, \$100  
 38 per diem for two days and the registration fee will be  
 39 paid for by the Department Office for the First  
 40 Representative to Junior National Convention or Junior  
 41 Mission Training. Should the First Representative not be  
 42 able to attend, the Second Representative will move up to  
 43 First Representative. The Department President, Junior  
 44 Activities Chairman, Junior Conference Director, and  
 45 Junior Conference Committee will select a Junior that  
 46 attended the current year Junior Conference to attend as  
 47 the Second Representative. In the event that both the  
 48 First Representative and Second Representative are unable  
 49 to attend National Convention, Junior National Convention,  
 50 or Junior Mission Training, the Department President,

1 Junior Activities Chairman, Junior Conference Director and  
2 Junior Conference Committee will select two junior members  
3 that attended the current year Junior Conference to attend  
4 as the First Representative and Second Representative."

5 The rationale behind this is removing basically  
6 the words "delegate" and "alternate" to say first and  
7 second representative. I so move by rationale of the  
8 committee.

9 AUDIENCE MEMBER: Second.

10 DEPARTMENT PRESIDENT TOZIER: It has been moved  
11 to change number 3: "Airfare, \$100 per diem for two days  
12 and the registration fee will be paid for by the  
13 Department Office for the First Representative to Junior  
14 National Convention or Junior Mission Training. Should  
15 the First Representative not be able to attend, the Second  
16 Representative will move up to First Representative. The  
17 Department President, Junior Activities Chairman, Junior  
18 Conference Director, and Junior Conference Committee will  
19 select a Junior that attended the current year Junior  
20 Conference to attend as the Second Representative. In the  
21 event that both the First Representative and Second  
22 Representative are unable to attend National Convention,  
23 Junior National Convention, or Junior Mission Training,  
24 the Department President, Junior Activities Chairman,  
25 Junior Conference Director and Junior Conference Committee  
26 will select two junior members that attended the current  
27 year Junior Conference to attend as the First  
28 Representative and Second Representative."

29 Is there any discussion?

30 (No response.)

31 DEPARTMENT PRESIDENT TOZIER: All in favor?

32 ALL PRESENT: Aye.

33 DEPARTMENT PRESIDENT TOZIER: Pass.

34 (Applause.)

35 JUNIOR ACTIVITIES CHAIRMAN FALKENBERG: Okay.  
36 Bullet number 4 currently reads: "It shall be the  
37 responsibility of the Junior Conference Director to  
38 contact the parents/guardian of any Junior member that is  
39 selected as a delegate/alternate to attend the National  
40 Convention to ensure they will have a chaperone while  
41 traveling to, from, and during the National Convention.  
42 The outgoing director shall coordinate with the Department  
43 Secretary to ensure all necessary paperwork is complete  
44 and forwarded to National."

45 The proposed change will read: "It shall be the  
46 responsibility of the Junior Conference Director to  
47 contact the parents/guardian of any Junior member that is  
48 selected as a representative to attend the Junior National  
49 Convention or Junior Mission Training to ensure they will  
50 have a chaperone while traveling to, from, and during the

1 Junior National Convention or Junior Mission Training.  
2 The outgoing director shall coordinate with the Department  
3 Secretary to ensure all necessary paperwork is complete  
4 and forwarded to National."

5 By the direction of the committee, I so move.

6 DEPARTMENT PRESIDENT TOZIER: Number 4 to read:  
7 "It shall be the responsibility of the Junior Conference  
8 Director to contact the parents/guardian of any Junior  
9 member that is selected as a representative to attend the  
10 Junior National Convention or Junior Mission Training to  
11 ensure they will have a chaperone while traveling to,  
12 from, and during the Junior National Convention or Junior  
13 Mission Training. The outgoing director shall coordinate  
14 with the Department Secretary to ensure all necessary  
15 paperwork is complete and forwarded to National."

16 Is there any discussion?

17 (No response.)

18 DEPARTMENT PRESIDENT TOZIER: All in favor?

19 ALL PRESENT: Aye.

20 DEPARTMENT PRESIDENT TOZIER: Pass.

21 JUNIOR ACTIVITIES CHAIRMAN FALKENBERG: This is a  
22 housekeeping. We would be removing the bulleted items,  
23 just the bullets, and putting in numbering 26, 27, 28, and  
24 29. By direction of the committee I so move.

25 DEPARTMENT PRESIDENT TOZIER: This is a  
26 housekeeping change to renumber according to removing --  
27 there's like bullets instead of numbers and creating  
28 numbers 26, 27 and 28 and 29. Is there any discussion?

29 (No response.)

30 DEPARTMENT PRESIDENT TOZIER: And 30. All in  
31 favor?

32 ALL PRESENT: Aye.

33 DEPARTMENT PRESIDENT TOZIER: Opposed?

34 (No response.)

35 JUNIOR ACTIVITIES CHAIRMAN FALKENBERG: Thank  
36 you.

37 (Applause.)

38 DEPARTMENT PRESIDENT TOZIER: Thank you, Robin.

39 JUNIOR ACTIVITIES CHAIRMAN FALKENBERG: Thank  
40 you. It's been an honor.

41 DEPARTMENT PRESIDENT TOZIER: Will the  
42 Sergeant-at-Arms and Marshal please escort Marian Rocha up  
43 to the stage.

44 (Processional.)

45 DEPARTMENT PRESIDENT TOZIER: Ladies, I would  
46 like to introduce to you the Auxiliary Woman of the Year  
47 for the Sons of the American Legion, Marian Rocha-Carlos.

48 (Applause.)

49 DEPARTMENT PRESIDENT TOZIER: She does things for  
50 the Sons and they just love her.

1 SAL AUXILIARY WOMAN OF THE YEAR ROCHA: Thank  
2 you.

3 DEPARTMENT PRESIDENT TOZIER: You're welcome.  
4 We're going to have Americanism and then Melanie for  
5 convention report.

6 CONVENTION COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN TAYLOR: Madam  
7 President --

8 DEPARTMENT PRESIDENT TOZIER: Okay. I'll get you  
9 in a minute. After Americanism we'll have -- I need Tami  
10 Bell to give a report on the Learning Center, wherever you  
11 are. Those of you who got notes for the Americanism  
12 program, can you come over here, please. After the  
13 Learning Center is going to be Melanie followed by  
14 Finance, Kathie.

15

16

AMERICANISM CONVENTION REPORT

17

18 AMERICANISM CHAIRMAN VINCENT: Good morning. The  
19 convention committee on Americanism met on Thursday, June  
20 23rd, 2016 in Room 2007 of the Fresno Convention Center,  
21 Fresno, California. The statistical report of the Chair  
22 appears in the Book of Reports on page 22.

23

24 With the consent of the delegates Robin  
25 Falkenberg was appointed Secretary, Sharon McGhan offered  
26 prayer, and Betty Ramos was appointed Sergeant-at-Arms. A  
27 total of 20 delegates answered roll call and there were  
28 seven guests present.

28

29 The code was read and the committee agreed on the  
30 following changes: Code number 4, Group V currently  
31 reads: "Children with exceptional learning needs below  
32 that of average students."

32

33 The committee agreed to change it to read:  
34 "Students with exceptional learning needs below that of  
35 average students."

35

36 Madam Department President, by the direction of  
37 the committee I move to accept this motion.

37

38 DEPARTMENT PRESIDENT TOZIER: I have to stand  
39 next to the tall people. Okay. This is located in --  
40 there's a table in the code number 4. For Group V in the  
41 table it says: "Children with exceptional learning needs  
42 below that of average students." We're changing the  
43 wording to read -- when you look at the department code,  
44 there's a table. In the table there's a column that talks  
45 about the grades and stuff, and the current table says:  
46 "Children with exceptional needs below that of average  
47 students." They're changing that to read: "Students with  
48 exceptional learning needs below that of average  
49 students." So they're changing the word "children" now  
50 and putting "students" in.

50

Is there any discussion?

1 (No response.)  
2 DEPARTMENT PRESIDENT TOZIER: All in favor?  
3 ALL PRESENT: Aye.  
4 DEPARTMENT PRESIDENT TOZIER: No?  
5 (No response.)  
6 DEPARTMENT PRESIDENT TOZIER: Pass.  
7 AMERICANISM CHAIRMAN VINCENT: Thank you. Code  
8 number 4 -- well, number 2, but number 4 currently reads:  
9 "Group V are students classified as children with  
10 exceptional learning needs below those of average  
11 students." Committee agreed to change it to read: "Group  
12 V shall be classified as students with exceptional  
13 learning needs below those of average students."  
14 Madam Department President, by direction of the  
15 committee I move to accept this motion.  
16 DEPARTMENT PRESIDENT TOZIER: "Group V students  
17 are classified as children with exceptional learning needs  
18 below those of average students." They're changing that  
19 to read: "Group V shall be classified as students with  
20 exceptional learning needs below those of average  
21 students." All in favor?  
22 ALL PRESENT: Aye.  
23 DEPARTMENT PRESIDENT TOZIER: Is there any  
24 discussion first?  
25 (No response.)  
26 DEPARTMENT PRESIDENT TOZIER: All in favor?  
27 ALL PRESENT: Aye.  
28 DEPARTMENT PRESIDENT TOZIER: All opposed?  
29 (No response.)  
30 DEPARTMENT PRESIDENT TOZIER: Pass. Thank you.  
31 AMERICANISM CHAIRMAN VINCENT: 100 percent  
32 reporting certificates were given to Districts 3, 4, 7, 8,  
33 10, 11, 14, 15, 17, 18, 23, 24, and 27. Citations were  
34 awarded to units and districts. Americanism essay  
35 certificates and checks for second and third place awards  
36 were given on the floor Friday. Oh, oh. Sunday. Sorry.  
37 Meeting closed at 11:00 a.m.  
38 May I give my supplemental report and first place  
39 awards?  
40 DEPARTMENT PRESIDENT TOZIER: Yes.  
41 AMERICANISM CHAIRMAN VINCENT: In keeping with  
42 Madam President's theme Growing the Legion Family for  
43 Veterans, we completed the year with 23 district reports  
44 including 13 with 100 percent reporting. Several active  
45 units were reported from districts -- several activities.  
46 Members continue to educate other members of the programs  
47 as well as the public on Americanism opportunities. We  
48 continue to reach new goals and soar to new heights.  
49 Knowledge is important when we think of flag  
50 history, etiquette, and proper disposal methods. Flag

1 ceremonies are a time to educate students in proper  
2 display and retirement of the American flag. Furthermore,  
3 in an effort to educate our junior members, several of  
4 them actively participated in a flag retirement ceremony  
5 during the 2016 Junior Conference. Units delivered flag  
6 etiquette brochures and promoted patriotism and  
7 citizenship in schools. Legislative process booklets were  
8 also distributed. Comic books and rulers with the  
9 presidents were given to children and youth. There was  
10 also participation with Wreaths Across America.

11 Promoting the observation of patriotic holidays  
12 so our community will look to the American Legion  
13 Auxiliary is a wonderful opportunity for community  
14 outreach. Units presented American flags to individuals  
15 and businesses. In addition, units promoted flying the  
16 American flag daily. Patriotic holidays were recognized.  
17 Members organized and participated in Veterans Day and Old  
18 Glory Boat Parades, Memorial Day ceremonies, Prisoners of  
19 War and Missing in Action, and Patriot Day ceremonies,  
20 cards for the troops to send in care packages, and  
21 children prepared Hero Packs which included flags and  
22 Americanism materials.

23 Pocket flags, in upwards of 1550, were assembled  
24 and distributed. On Flag Day, Boy Scouts folded pocket  
25 flags to send in care packages. During the Junior  
26 Conference there was an opportunity for 40 plus junior  
27 members to learn how to properly fold pocket flags and  
28 learn the objective as to why we fold them and send to our  
29 active duty military serving overseas. Units supported  
30 the constitutional amendment to protect the United States  
31 flag from desecration. The amendment currently reads:  
32 "The Congress shall have power to prohibit the physical  
33 desecration of the flag of the United States."

34 Several units participate in Get Out the Vote.  
35 In Abraham Lincoln's second inaugural address, he promised  
36 to care for him who shall have borne the battle and for  
37 his widow and his orphan. Let us serve and honor the men  
38 and women who are America's veterans. This year's theme  
39 is how do we keep Lincoln's promise to our veterans and  
40 their families. Units promoted the National Americanism  
41 essay contest, receiving one at the national level. The  
42 department essay contest had 694 essays submitted at the  
43 unit level for judging. The Veronica Spence Award is  
44 given to junior members who submitted an essay, and I  
45 received five.

46 Promoting pride in belonging to the world's  
47 largest women's patriotic organization begins within our  
48 own units. Members showed their Auxiliary pride by  
49 wearing the Auxiliary pin, red, white, and blue attire,  
50 and singing patriotic songs during fundraisers and other



1 unit events. Members highlighted contributions of  
 2 veterans and attend and represented the Auxiliary at city  
 3 council meetings. Members are given opportunities to  
 4 speak with other organizations to share the mission of the  
 5 American Legion Auxiliary.

6 Blue or gold star banners were presented to  
 7 families, a military honor Christmas tree lighting  
 8 ceremony took place, laminating blue stars with photos of  
 9 our military, past and present, adorning the tree with a  
 10 special place reserved for the gold star families.

11 Participation in the promotion of the American  
 12 Legion Americanism programs included the Oratorical  
 13 Contest and Legion Baseball where several units gave  
 14 support.

15 Total dollars reportedly spent by the Department  
 16 of California members was \$32,811 and total volunteer  
 17 hours donated 597,441. This chairman is honored to report  
 18 to you wonderful activities the Department of California  
 19 members have participated in the year throughout 2015-2016  
 20 in order to serve our veterans, active duty service  
 21 members, their families, and the children and youth in our  
 22 communities.

23 Now for my first place awards. And I was going  
 24 to post the winners in the department office, but today's  
 25 the last day so -- okay. They're all over there. Okay.  
 26 For the Veronica Spence, group I, \$20 goes to Georgia  
 27 Sifulli, Unit 291, District 29. Kendall Madsen is the  
 28 Chair.

29 (Applause.)

30 AMERICANISM CHAIRMAN VINCENT: And if I could ask  
 31 you to hold your applause, it will save time. Thank you.  
 32 Group II, \$20, Lola Sifulli, Unit 291, District 29.  
 33 Kendall Madsen is the chairman. Group III, \$30, Leila  
 34 Consovich, Unit 291, District 29 Kendall Madsen. Group  
 35 IV, \$50, Magenta Stubbs, Unit 247 from District 18, Mindy  
 36 Sinclair. And the Veronica Spence is given to junior  
 37 members of the organization. Okay. Congratulations to  
 38 those.

39 And for the Americanism contest, we have Group I,  
 40 first place \$100 to Mariam Hernandez from Unit 853,  
 41 District 22. Carol Lewis is the chairman. Group II \$100  
 42 to Riley Archilarious, Unit 118, District 27. Danielle  
 43 White was the chairman. Group III, 1st place is \$200 for  
 44 Sarah Carter, Unit 475 at District 18. Betty Ramos is the  
 45 chairman. Group IV, the \$2500 grant with a \$500 check  
 46 today and 2,000 for the grant for college goes to Jack  
 47 Murphy Unit 673 in District 4. Loretta Dowden was the  
 48 chairman. Is the chairman. Group V, \$200 goes to Nathan  
 49 Jimenez Unit 261, District 18. Betty Ramos.

50 (Applause.)

1 AMERICANISM CHAIRMAN VINCENT: Okay. And for my  
2 brand-new first place awards, the Most Outstanding  
3 Americanism Program Targeted to Children and Youth, first  
4 place is Hollywood Unit 43, District 24.

5 Most Outstanding Americanism Program By a Junior  
6 Group, El Monte Unit 261, District 18, H. Estella Torres  
7 De Cera.

8 Most pocket flags purchased. Although we have  
9 1550, I didn't have accurate numbers in reports so I gave  
10 it to the 2016 Junior Conference for the purchase of 300  
11 flags. Best Overall Unit Get Out the Vote program was to  
12 Hollywood Unit 43, District 24, Lelani Squire. And most  
13 American flags presented, El Monte Unit 261, District 18,  
14 H. Estella Torres De Cera.

15 And I also wanted to recognize and give a  
16 certificate for the immigration and nationalization oath  
17 ceremony that District 22 puts on. Ann Marie Pena Brown.  
18 Congratulations.

19 Okay. The Best Overall Unit Supplemental, first  
20 place is John M. Armitage Unit 684, District 27, LuAnn  
21 Capazzi. And the Best Overall District Supplemental,  
22 first place, District 27, Danielle White.

23 (Applause.)

24 AMERICANISM PRESIDENT VINCENT: Madam President  
25 Susie, thank you for this appointment. I am honored to  
26 serve you and the Department of California. Madam  
27 Department President, this concludes my report.

28 (Applause.)

29 DEPARTMENT PRESIDENT TOZIER: I want you to know  
30 Kim is the member from our American Legion Auxiliary, for  
31 all the work she does at District 30 in the north/central  
32 area, she's the one who flew with the Blue Angels. It is  
33 with great pleasure we present this certificate to you to  
34 your 2015-2016 Department Americanism Chairman. The  
35 National Americanism committee achieved 100 percent  
36 reporting at year-end with your Americanism chairman.  
37 Would you please -- I have a certificate to present to  
38 you. It's -- a certificate of appreciation is greatly  
39 presented to Kimberly Vincent in recognition for her  
40 devoted service by reporting year-end to the American  
41 Legion Auxiliary Americanism program, dedicated to God and  
42 country. Presented by the 2015-2016 National Americanism  
43 Committee.

44 (Applause.)

45 AMERICANISM CHAIRMAN VINCENT: Okay. It's a  
46 little something from me to you, and also I put on the  
47 Five Flag Ceremony at the Junior Conference and so it's  
48 something like I to do with the kids. I would like to  
49 acknowledge that Jackie Cleveland was the director this  
50 year and also Junior President, Honorary Junior President

1 Paige Solomon. So I wanted to present Susie with hers  
2 here in front of all of her members of the Department.  
3 (Applause.)  
4 AMERICANISM CHAIRMAN VINCENT: Presented to Susie  
5 Tozier, American Legion Auxiliary Department of  
6 California. Live retirement ceremony April 22nd, 2016.  
7 (Applause.)  
8 DEPARTMENT PRESIDENT TOZIER: Will the  
9 Sergeant-at-Arms and Marshal along with the Distinguished  
10 Guest Chairman please present to the station our very  
11 distinguished guests.  
12 (Processional.)  
13 SAL COMMISSIONER CRIST: Good morning, ladies.  
14 I'm David Crist, Commissioner of the Sons of the American  
15 Legion and I am here to present to you and the president  
16 the new Attachment Commander, Matt Parsons, and he will  
17 introduce his new detachment team.  
18 (Applause.)  
19 SAL COMMANDER PARSONS: Good morning, ladies. I  
20 am very happy to be here. Before I introduce my team, I  
21 have a coin for you, Madam President. And actually I have  
22 something very special for Wendy O'Brien. She actually  
23 passed our Five Star Metal Test and I got her Five Star  
24 Metal right here, so --  
25 DEPARTMENT VICE PRESIDENT O'BRIEN: Thank you.  
26 (Applause.)  
27 SAL COMMANDER PARSONS: I'm very happy to be  
28 here. From left to right we've got Philip "Tiny" Stuart  
29 as our Senior Vice Commander.  
30 (Applause.)  
31 SAL COMMANDER PARSONS: We have James Fischer as  
32 our Junior Vice Commander.  
33 (Applause.)  
34 SAL COMMANDER PARSONS: Our Judge Advocate Robert  
35 Stover.  
36 (Applause.)  
37 SAL COMMANDER PARSONS: Our Adjunct Jeffrey  
38 Flynt.  
39 (Applause.)  
40 SAL COMMANDER PARSONS: Chaplain Steven Culp.  
41 (Applause.)  
42 SAL COMMANDER PARSONS: Finance Officer James  
43 Eubanks.  
44 (Applause.)  
45 SAL COMMANDER PARSONS: My amazing  
46 Sergeant-at-Arms Bruce Way.  
47 (Applause.)  
48 SAL COMMANDER PARSONS: Assistant  
49 Sergeant-at-Arms Sandy Loeb.  
50 (Applause.)

1 SAL COMMANDER PARSONS: Assistant  
2 Sergeant-at-Arms Chris Affolter, Jr.  
3 (Applause.)  
4 SAL COMMANDER PARSONS: And then from fantastic  
5 Area 1 Bill Bryant.  
6 (Applause.)  
7 SAL COMMANDER PARSONS: And Area 2 Vice Commander  
8 Eugene Pierce.  
9 (Applause.)  
10 SAL COMMANDER PARSONS: Area 3 Vice Commander Mr.  
11 Walt Butler.  
12 (Applause.)  
13 SAL COMMANDER PARSONS: Area 4 Vice Commander  
14 Mike Losoya.  
15 (Applause.)  
16 SAL COMMANDER PARSONS: Area 5, Mr. Bill  
17 Hernandez.  
18 (Applause.)  
19 SAL COMMANDER PARSONS: Area 6, Charles Curtis.  
20 (Applause.)  
21 SAL COMMANDER PARSONS: And my NEC Man Mark  
22 Severance.  
23 (Applause.)  
24 SAL COMMANDER PARSONS: I'm very happy to be  
25 here. I hope you have great rest of your convention.  
26 Thank you, ladies, for all of your support. It's going to  
27 be a great year.  
28 DEPARTMENT PRESIDENT TOZIER: Matt, I would like  
29 to present you with my pin. Each year the Department  
30 President has themes and mine is Growing the Legion Family  
31 for Veterans. The Legion Family is the American Legion,  
32 the American Legion Auxiliary, the Sons of the American  
33 Legion, and Legion Riders. They're all in there. Thank  
34 you.  
35 (Applause.)  
36 SAL COMMANDER PARSONS: Thank you.  
37 DEPARTMENT PRESIDENT TOZIER: And this is  
38 homemade jam.  
39 DEPARTMENT SECRETARY/TREASURER KAPSALIS: It  
40 comes from the San Fernando Valley.  
41 (Applause.)  
42 SAL COMMANDER PARSONS: Thank you very much.  
43 I've got another Sergeant-At-Arms, Dan Swett.  
44 (Applause.)  
45 CONVENTION COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN TAYLOR: Commander,  
46 he's doing a rescue mission.  
47 SAL COMMANDER PARSONS: Enlist us, ladies. We're  
48 here to help. Oh, and my wonderful wife, Julie, in the  
49 back in the green dress. Thank you. Love you, Julie.  
50 (Applause.)

1 CONVENTION COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN TAYLOR: My report  
2 fell down the back of the stage.  
3 (Processional.)

4 DEPARTMENT PRESIDENT TOZIER: Will the  
5 Sergeant-At-Arms and Marshal please escort Pete Conaty to  
6 the stage. He's right over here.  
7 (Processional.)

8 NEC CHAIR CLENDENIN: Pete Conaty is a lobbyist  
9 for the American Legion in Sacramento, and I believe he's  
10 amazing at getting his word out for us and as well as the  
11 Legion.

12 (Applause.)

13 NEC CHAIR CLENDENIN: And I just lost my train of  
14 thought. Getting the word out about things that are  
15 really, really critical for our California veterans. And  
16 it was suggested that we let him know how much we  
17 appreciate all of his efforts. So with that in mind, we  
18 are going to present him with a certificate that reads:  
19 "Certificate of Appreciation. Being a great advocate for  
20 our veterans in California. To Pete Conaty this 26th day  
21 of June 2016." And it's signed by Susie and myself.

22 (Applause.)

23 NEC CHAIR CLENDENIN: You have a purple heart.

24 MR. CONATY: Yes. Ladies, I learned a new word  
25 just yesterday. Well, I've known it for a long time, but  
26 that's dualy. Dualy is somebody who belongs to the Sons  
27 or Auxiliary and is also a member of the Legion. So how  
28 many people here are dualies, dual members? Raise your  
29 hands. Don't be embarrassed.

30 (Applause.)

31 MR. CONATY: So this is Lorraine Plass and she's  
32 now legislative chairman and adjunct for the American  
33 Legion. It's been a long weekend. Okay. And she's also  
34 a member of the Auxiliary. So she helps me with  
35 legislation.

36 (Applause.)

37 MR. CONATY: So a little bit about myself. I  
38 spent 21 years in the Army, and then I got awarded for a  
39 dangerous job, I went to work for the State Capitol. I  
40 like to tell people after ten years working there at the  
41 State Capitol, I went to work for a lobbying firm. And I  
42 naturally gravitated to veterans issues, and the next  
43 thing you know, I'm representing about a billion veterans  
44 and their families in the State of California.

45 And as a result of that, we're able to pass a lot  
46 of legislation to help veterans, their families, active  
47 military and their families. As a matter of fact, we  
48 passed so much legislation I can't even keep up with it on  
49 what we've passed.

50 This year alone we have 80 bills, separate pieces

1 of legislation, dealing with veterans and active duty and  
 2 their families. Not all of them make it. A lot of them  
 3 fall by the wayside because of funding. They lost a lot  
 4 of money and the state doesn't want to fund it. So  
 5 there's still 60 bills alive that are active. And they're  
 6 very good bills. The ones we don't get through the first  
 7 year, we double and triple down the next year.

8 And a lot of people are interested in  
 9 legislation. Let me see a show of hands of the people  
 10 that like to be involved in legislation. Okay. That  
 11 leaves more work for me. Slow down. Slow down. Okay.  
 12 I'll talk slower. Okay.

13 So I will start working with the committees and  
 14 your Chair. And I'm assuming that's what you would like  
 15 to do?

16 DEPARTMENT VICE PRESIDENT O'BRIEN: Yes.

17 MR. CONATY: And we will give you information and  
 18 tell you how to get involved. We also have a National  
 19 Legislative Day for the American Legion. I have some of  
 20 you ladies that come to that, so we will be sure you know  
 21 about that. And if we get enough people to come, we just  
 22 might have a separate venue for you and everything else.

23 So I've got a few copies of the bills. And I  
 24 know you're busy; I'm not going to spend a lot of time.  
 25 Thank you so much for this. It's wonderful. And, you  
 26 know, I can't say enough about everybody that helps  
 27 veterans, and you ladies are -- I see a lot of familiar  
 28 faces out here. So you ladies are the ones that keep us  
 29 men going, if you will. So thank you very much. I hope  
 30 you've had a successful convention.

31 Oh, one other thing I've got to talk about, and  
 32 that is there's a ballot measure that will be on the  
 33 ballot in November. And we have some information, we'll  
 34 put it out. It is really meant for veterans and their  
 35 families. It will drive up the prices of drugs at the  
 36 Veterans Administration and the Department of Defense and  
 37 it will cause havoc in the State of California. And all  
 38 the veterans groups, including the Legion, have come out  
 39 in opposition to it. So we'll leave you some information  
 40 on that and I'll leave also a list of the most important  
 41 bills that we have going.

42 Okay. Thank you very much for having me.

43 (Applause.)

44 DEPARTMENT PRESIDENT TOZIER: The Department  
 45 President every year picks a theme and mine is Growing the  
 46 Legion Family for Veterans, and that is the American  
 47 Legion, the Sons of the American Legion, and the Riders.  
 48 And so this pin is for you.

49 This is for you, Lorraine.

50 MS. PLASS: Thank you.

1 DEPARTMENT PRESIDENT TOZIER: And part of growing  
2 is enjoying our crops. Here's some jelly.

3 MR. CONATY: Oh, wonderful. Did you make this?

4 DEPARTMENT PRESIDENT TOZIER: I did. Enjoy.

5 MR. CONATY: I will, I will.

6 (Processional.)

7 DEPARTMENT PRESIDENT TOZIER: Will the  
8 Sergeant-at-Arms and Marshal please escort John Ellis,  
9 president of C.A.L.P.A.

10 (Processional.)

11 DR. ELLIS: Good morning, Fresno. My name is Dr.  
12 John Ellis. I have a doctorate degree in education from  
13 Oklahoma State University. I am a -- I was going to say  
14 former Marine, but once a Marine, always a Marine.  
15 Oo-rah.

16 Many of you may know what C.A.L.P.A. is. That's  
17 the acronym for the California American Legion Press  
18 Association. Now what's interesting about it, most of you  
19 have seen the program for the convention; correct? Every  
20 single individual in this program is a member of the  
21 California American Legion Press Association including  
22 Tozier.

23 Now how many of you out there right now aren't  
24 members of C.A.L.P.A.? Stand up. We've got a few. Thank  
25 you very much. Now isn't that an embarrassment? All  
26 right. Simply because we're not among the Auxiliary, in  
27 the past it has been thought that membership in the  
28 California American Legion Press Association was just for  
29 the Legionnaires, but that's not the case. Auxiliary  
30 members and Sons and Riders can belong to the Press  
31 Association, and I'm here to tell you why you should be  
32 too.

33 Number one is it's ten bucks a year. But what  
34 does C.A.L.P.A. do for you, the Auxiliary? We work with  
35 communication. Okay? Isn't that what it's all about,  
36 internal communications with our own members within our  
37 posts, external communications with the community at  
38 large. How do you do that? Well, what C.A.L.P.A. can do  
39 for you is help you design a flier if you needed it. If  
40 you have a special event, if there's a Valentine's Day  
41 dance or St. Patty's Day dinner, a pancake breakfast, any  
42 kind of fundraiser, we can do a 24-hour turnaround in  
43 color, professionally designed flyers at absolutely no  
44 cost to you. We can help you design a Facebook page. We  
45 can help you create one at no cost to you. If you don't  
46 have a website, we can point you in the right direction.  
47 We can help you develop your newsletter, lots of things.  
48 Press releases.

49 When I first came into my post, the commander --  
50 we were having an event. I don't know who to contact or

1 what they want. Besides, we're Navy guys. We don't know  
2 how to write ourselves out of a paper bag. Well, we can  
3 help you with the press release. All you've got to do is  
4 contact us and we'll write it for you, get it in the  
5 newspaper for you with photographs.

6 Now does that sound like something that would go  
7 a long way towards promoting the Legion? Absolutely yes.  
8 Because here's what happens when you get the word out.  
9 When you get the word out internally with your own members  
10 in the Auxiliary, when you get the word out with the  
11 community at large, four things happen: membership  
12 increases, membership retention increases, fundraising  
13 goals are elevated, 50/50 drawing, more tickets are sold,  
14 people donate. They buy more for the gift baskets, that  
15 sort of thing, and greater community recognition occurs.

16 So that's what we're all about. That is what the  
17 California American Legion Press Association is all about  
18 is helping you elevate your game, raising your game,  
19 helping the Legion grow. And what's really interesting  
20 and exciting for me is that this year's theme is what? Is  
21 team membership is, what? Full speed ahead. Right? Team  
22 membership full speed ahead.

23 So I'm here to invite you each to join the  
24 California American Legion Press Association. We will  
25 work with you one on one. All you have to do is send us  
26 an email, pickup a phone and give us a call, mention it to  
27 your commander. You do not have to be media savvy to be a  
28 member of the Press Association. You don't have to be an  
29 editor. All you have to do is care about your Auxiliary,  
30 to care about your post, to care about the Legion because  
31 that's what it's all about. And you're proving that by  
32 being right here at the convention.

33 So what I'm going to do is I'm going to leave a  
34 stack of membership applications. We have the address you  
35 can send ten bucks in. If you like your press card,  
36 you'll get it. It's a hard plastic press card. It will  
37 have your name on it and also we have a hat, pens, and  
38 lapel pins and that sort of thing. For ten bucks you can  
39 become a member of the Press Association.

40 And with that, I'd like to thank you for your  
41 time. And now what is a theme of this convention? It's  
42 team membership --

43 AUDIENCE MEMBERS: Full speed ahead.

44 DR. ELLIS: Louder.

45 AUDIENCE MEMBERS: Full speed ahead.

46 DR. ELLIS: You got it. Thank you very much.

47 (Applause.)

48 DEPARTMENT PRESIDENT TOZIER: Every year the  
49 Department President has a theme, and mine is Growing the  
50 Legion Family for Veterans. This includes all the symbols



1 of our organization. So here's a pin for you. And we  
 2 have been growing all year, so here's the product of our  
 3 crops, a jar of jam for you to enjoy.

4 DR. ELLIS: You're terrific.

5 DEPARTMENT PRESIDENT TOZIER: Thank you.

6 (Applause.)

7 (Processional.)

8

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LEGISLATIVE CONVENTION REPORT

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LEGISLATIVE CHAIR CLENDENIN: Good morning. The convention committee on Legislative met on June 23rd, 2016 in Room 2009 of the Fresno Convention Center, Fresno California. The statistical report of this chairman appears on page 28 of the Book of Reports.

Pilar Reyes, District 10, was appointed secretary; Patricia Galatiota, District 25, offered prayer; and Barbara Ross, District 7, was appointed Sergeant-at-Arms. Prayer and pledge were recited. A total of 16 delegates answered roll call and there were three visitors present.

The committee agreed on the following report: The code was read and there were no code changes.

(Applause.)

LEGISLATIVE CHAIRMAN CLENDENIN: Second and third place unit and district awards were given out and time allowed for a discussion. It was discussed that until January 2017, the five VA subcommittee members would hold their office. Also at any time one may Google "federal legislation on veterans affairs" they find several pages of current legislation. Closing prayer was recited. Meeting adjourned at 10:05 a.m.

Madam President, may I continue with my supplemental and first place awards?

DEPARTMENT PRESIDENT TOZIER: Yes.

LEGISLATIVE CHAIRMAN CLENDENIN: Thank you. Good morning, Madam President, Distinguished Guests and Delegates. The Miracle Growers have been fabulous advocates for our veterans this year. Examples include units sending out thousands of letters to both state and federal officials. Units report thanking their congressmen for sponsoring specific legislation and asking for support from others.

Units invite their local officials to attend parties in their post homes, and as a result have signed up a new member or two. One unit reported they attended a legislation networking workshop held at the Joint Forces Base. I wish there were more of those. Unit members help drive those that couldn't otherwise get to the election polls to vote.

1 Many districts report supporting efforts for the  
 2 Korean War Wall of Remembrance which will be located next  
 3 to the Korean War Memorial in Washington D.C. One  
 4 district chairman reported that she had ordered and passed  
 5 out over 1,000 of the legislative process booklets that  
 6 she had obtained. She and the district units gave them to  
 7 schools and libraries in her area.

8 This program can seem to creep and crawl slowly,  
 9 and all of a sudden the action alerts come in fast and  
 10 furious. Yesterday, Saturday, I received two emails of  
 11 importance. Before the July 4th recess, the senate will  
 12 vote on VA funding. The American Legion is in support of  
 13 this and are requesting us to contact our senators to  
 14 ensure a favorable outcome.

15 And I know many of you have been waiting this  
 16 news. Drum roll, please. House of Representatives voted  
 17 June 22nd to authorize an appropriation for the  
 18 construction of the Veterans Affairs Facilities, including  
 19 the long-awaited hospital in French Camp serving Central  
 20 Valley veterans.

21 (Applause.)

22 LEGISLATIVE CHAIRMAN CLENDENIN: The Miracle --  
 23 yeah, a victory. Miracle Growers have been an important  
 24 part of the crops this year as we grow the Legion family  
 25 for our veterans.

26 Now I would like to give my first place awards.  
 27 First Place Unit Supplemental that went to National went  
 28 to Patricia Galatioto, Unit 422, District 25. And then  
 29 First Place District Supplemental went to Stephanie Janji,  
 30 Chairman, District 29.

31 (Applause.)

32 LEGISLATIVE CHAIRMAN CLENDENIN: Thank you, Madam  
 33 President. That concludes my report.

34 DEPARTMENT PRESIDENT TOZIER: Thank you.  
 35 Melanie.

36  
 37 CONVENTION COMMISSION CONVENTION REPORT

38  
 39 CONVENTION COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN TAYLOR: Good  
 40 morning, Madam Department President. I met with the 2017  
 41 Riverside Convention City Commission June 1st through the  
 42 3rd and toured the hotels and convention center where we  
 43 will be meeting. I can report that the hotels and  
 44 convention center more than meet our requirements and the  
 45 Riverside Visitors and Convention Bureau are excited that  
 46 the Legion family will be returning to their city.

47 The Legion and the Auxiliary will both be housed  
 48 at the Marriott Riverside at the convention center.

49 (Applause.)

50 CONVENTION COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN TAYLOR: It is a

1 beautiful hotel, ladies. They remodeled. The DEC meeting  
2 Thursday morning and all preconvention meetings will be  
3 held in the convention center located just across the quad  
4 from the hotel. All meeting rooms and the Department  
5 Office will be located on the second floor of the  
6 convention center with the DEC meeting downstairs. The  
7 Past President Parley Luncheon and President's Banquet  
8 will be held in the convention center. The candidates  
9 reception Thursday evening will be held on the second  
10 level of the convention center indoors instead of outside  
11 in the heat.

12 During the meeting and tour with the American  
13 Legion and the Visitors and Convention Bureau staff, each  
14 were given a copy of the Auxiliary convention  
15 requirements. These were addressed and I advised them  
16 that when the Department President makes her official  
17 tour, she will then sign the contract with the Convention  
18 City Commission.

19 As of now there is no bid for the 2018 convention  
20 which is to be held in the north. I have been told that  
21 Ontario has the bid for the 2019 convention with specific  
22 instructions to include the Auxiliary in all site  
23 inspections before any contract is signed.

24 (Applause.)

25 CONVENTION COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN TAYLOR: Madam  
26 President Susie, thank you for this appointment. I have  
27 enjoyed the past three years serving as chairman of this  
28 committee. This concludes my report.

29 (Applause.)

30 DEPARTMENT PRESIDENT TOZIER: Thank you. Okay.  
31 Girls, we're going to have a brief update on the Learning  
32 Center that we funded through our program.

33

#### 34 LEARNING CENTER CONVENTION REPORT

35

36 EDUCATION CHAIRMAN BELL: Good morning, ladies.  
37 For those of you that were not at midyear, we presented a  
38 wonderful group of ladies from the U.S. Vets Womens  
39 Advance Center which are formerly homeless female veterans  
40 that 95 percent of them suffered some sort of sexual  
41 trauma while they were in the military and their lives  
42 crashed.

43 So they come to this program, and many of them  
44 have lost their children and they're able to regain them  
45 through the Womens Advance Program. President Susie and I  
46 found the need that these women need to develop a  
47 relationship with their children, so with the permission  
48 of U.S. Vets, they created a special room for us to make  
49 the Children's Learning Center Project.

50 In the project they've gone ahead and painted and

1 made one wall with chalkboards so that the kids can draw  
 2 pictures. And with the help of Past Department President  
 3 Anita, I wrote a grant that we submitted to National, and  
 4 fingers crossed, this last May we found out that we were  
 5 awarded over \$8,000.

6 (Applause.)

7 EDUCATION CHAIRMAN BELL: And with all of your  
 8 donations to President Susie's Special Project, we've put  
 9 together over close to about \$18,000. And working with  
 10 Best Buy nationally and my teammate out of Best Buy Long  
 11 Beach that created special use of eight top-of-the-line  
 12 Apple computers, some laptops that the kids can create  
 13 music using microphones so that they can have music  
 14 therapy with their mothers, cameras for photography which  
 15 they will go and -- go on outings with their mothers, and  
 16 printers. And we also have a team from Best Buy that's  
 17 going to go out and teach them how to use all of this  
 18 equipment.

19 So we feel that this is a very worthwhile  
 20 project, and with all of your help we wanted to thank you  
 21 very much. And President Susie and I will be going in a  
 22 couple of weeks to present the Womens Advance Program with  
 23 a big truck. Best Buy is going to bring the truck with  
 24 all the equipment and we're going to present them with  
 25 this very special donation from the Department of  
 26 California.

27 (Applause.)

28 DEPARTMENT PRESIDENT TOZIER: Okay. Are we ready  
 29 for the reading of the budget? They said it's not  
 30 painful. Okay. Ruby is going to read the DEC minutes  
 31 while the finance comes up. I did not have to stop at  
 32 McDonald's. I have my unsweetened tea.

33

34 READING OF MINUTES

35

36 DEPARTMENT SECRETARY/TREASURER KAPSALIS: Madam  
 37 Department President, I move that we dispense with the  
 38 reading of the DEC meeting because they have been posted  
 39 for six months on the website.

40 AUDIENCE MEMBERS: Second.

41 AUDIENCE MEMBER: And third and fourth.

42 DEPARTMENT VICE PRESIDENT O'BRIEN: Fifth and  
 43 sixth.

44 DEPARTMENT PRESIDENT TOZIER: It's been moved to  
 45 dispense with the reading of the minutes from the Long  
 46 Beach DEC. All in favor?

47 ALL PRESENT: Aye.

48 DEPARTMENT PRESIDENT TOZIER: Opposed?

49 (No response.)

50 DEPARTMENT PRESIDENT TOZIER: Passed.

1 DEPARTMENT SECRETARY/TREASURER KAPSALIS: These  
 2 are the minutes from the Department Executive Committee  
 3 meeting Fresno, June 23rd, 2016. The Department Executive  
 4 Committee was called to order by the Department President  
 5 Susie Tozier on Thursday, June 23rd, 2016 at 7:00 a.m. and  
 6 adjourned at approximately 9:00 a.m. at the Fresno  
 7 Convention Center.

8 The following motions were made by the respective  
 9 District Presidents or authorized representative, seconded  
 10 and carried.

11 Henry Tucker Unit 565, District 2 surrendered  
 12 their charter. Eagle Lake Unit 162, District 3  
 13 surrendered their charter. Benicia Unit 101, District 5  
 14 removed from probation. Citrus Heights Unit 637, District  
 15 6 will remain on probation until January 2017. Willow  
 16 Glen Unit 318, District 14 will remain on probation until  
 17 June 2017. Mission City Unit 564, District 13 removed  
 18 from probation. Madera Unit 11, District 14 removed from  
 19 probation.

20 Lemoore Unit 100, District 14 will remain on  
 21 probation until January 2017. Firebaugh Unit 346,  
 22 District 14 will remain on probation until January 2017.  
 23 State Center Unit 511, District 14 will remain on  
 24 probation until January 2017. Squaw Valley Unit 621,  
 25 District 14 will be reinstated.

26 East Bakersfield Unit 682, District 15  
 27 surrendered their charter. City of Paramount Unit 134,  
 28 District 14 will remain on probation until January 2017.  
 29 Rivera Unit 411, District 19 removed from probation.  
 30 Hollydale Unit 723, District 19 will remain on probation  
 31 until January 2017. Lynn Mort Unit 200, District 21  
 32 removed from probation.

33 South Gate Unit 335, District 23 will remain on  
 34 probation until January 2017. Sammy Davis, Jr. Unit 784,  
 35 District 23 removed from probation. Hollywood Unit 43,  
 36 District 24 removed from probation. Ontario Unit 112,  
 37 District 25 will remain on probation until January 2017.  
 38 Guy Winton Morris Unit 710, District 25 will remain on  
 39 probation until January 2017. Hesperia Unit 725, District  
 40 25 removed from probation. Santa Ana Unit 131, District  
 41 29 removed from probation. Corregidor of Imperial Valley  
 42 Unit 597, District 30 removed from probation.

43 Madam Department President, I move the acceptance  
 44 of these DEC minutes.

45 CONVENTION COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN TAYLOR: Second.

46 DEPARTMENT PRESIDENT TOZIER: It's been moved and  
 47 seconded to accept the DEC minutes. Is there any  
 48 discussion?

49 (No response.)

50 DEPARTMENT PRESIDENT TOZIER: All in favor?

1 ALL PRESENT: Aye.  
2 DEPARTMENT PRESIDENT TOZIER: Okay. Now we have  
3 Finance Committee. Oh, all in favor?  
4 ALL PRESENT: Aye.  
5 DEPARTMENT PRESIDENT TOZIER: Opposed?  
6 (No response.)  
7 DEPARTMENT PRESIDENT TOZIER: Motion passed.  
8

9 FINANCE COMMITTEE CONVENTION REPORT

10  
11 FINANCE CHAIRMAN MARTINEZ: Thank you, Madam  
12 President. Good morning, ladies. Good morning.  
13 Okay. Here we go. The Convention Finance  
14 Committee met on June 23rd, 2016 in Room 2010. Okay.  
15 How's that. Better? Okay. I've got to move my -- the  
16 Convention Finance Committee met on June 23rd, 2016 in  
17 Room 2010 of the Fresno Convention Center, Fresno,  
18 California.

19 Linda Hayes, Junior Committee Member, District 20  
20 was appointed secretary. Terry Mikesell, Senior Finance  
21 Committee Member, District 2, was appointed chaplain.  
22 Sandy Urban, District 4 was appointed as Sergeant-at-Arms.  
23 Chaplain Terry offered prayer. A total of 22 delegates  
24 answered the roll call. Three visitors were present.

25 The department code was read and the following  
26 changes were recommended. Miscellaneous code 1 currently  
27 reads: "An amount not to exceed \$10,000, California  
28 Disaster Fund, be released and expended under the  
29 supervision of the Department President,  
30 Secretary/Treasurer, and the Finance Committee in the  
31 event of a major disaster. Those eligible for assistance  
32 shall be members and dependents of the American Legion  
33 Auxiliary and or The American Legion. 2011."

34 The proposed change will read: "An amount not to  
35 exceed \$10,000, California Disaster Fund, be released and  
36 expended under the supervision of the Department  
37 President, Secretary/Treasurer, and the Finance Committee  
38 in the event of a major disaster. Those eligible for  
39 assistance shall be members and/or dependents of the  
40 American Legion Auxiliary and/or The American Legion."

41 Rationale, adding "or" to "and." By the  
42 direction of the committee I move the acceptance of this  
43 code change.

44 DEPARTMENT PRESIDENT TOZIER: The proposed change  
45 reads: "An amount not to exceed \$10,000, California  
46 Disaster Fund, be released and expended under the  
47 supervision of the Department President,  
48 Secretary/Treasurer, and the Finance Committee in the  
49 event of a major disaster. Those eligible for assistance  
50 shall be members and/or dependents of the American Legion

1 Auxiliary and/or The American Legion."  
2 Is there any discussion?  
3 (No response.)  
4 DEPARTMENT PRESIDENT TOZIER: All in favor?  
5 ALL PRESENT: Aye.  
6 DEPARTMENT PRESIDENT TOZIER: Opposed?  
7 (No response.)  
8 DEPARTMENT PRESIDENT TOZIER: Pass.  
9 FINANCE CHAIRMAN MARTINEZ: Miscellaneous code 2  
10 currently reads: "In the event there is a deficit in the  
11 operation period, the amount of the deficit be transferred  
12 from the General Fund until the time funds -- until the  
13 time funds are available from the Girls State Reserve  
14 Funds to repay General Fund with written approval of the  
15 Department President, the Department Secretary/Treasurer  
16 and the Finance Committee."  
17 Proposed change will read: "In the event there  
18 is a deficit in the Girls State Program during the  
19 operation period, the amount of the deficit be transferred  
20 from the General Fund until the time funds are available  
21 from the Girls State Reserve Funds to repay General Fund  
22 with written approval of the Department President, the  
23 Department Secretary/Treasurer and the Finance Committee."  
24 Rationale is to add "Girls State Program" in the  
25 beginning. Madam President, by the direction of the  
26 committee I move the acceptance of this code change.  
27 AUDIENCE MEMBER: Second.  
28 ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEMBER BIGGS: Don't need a  
29 second.  
30 DEPARTMENT PRESIDENT TOZIER: Oh, I'm sorry. I  
31 have an itch on my earlobe. "In the event there is a  
32 deficit in the Girls State Program during the operation  
33 period, the amount of the deficit be transferred from the  
34 General Fund until the time funds are available from the  
35 Girls State Reserve Funds to repay General Fund with  
36 written approval of the Department President, the  
37 Department Secretary/Treasurer and the Finance Committee."  
38 Is there any discussion?  
39 (No response.)  
40 DEPARTMENT PRESIDENT TOZIER: All in favor?  
41 ALL PRESENT: Aye.  
42 DEPARTMENT PRESIDENT TOZIER: Opposed?  
43 (No response.)  
44 DEPARTMENT PRESIDENT TOZIER: Pass.  
45 FINANCE CHAIRMAN MARTINEZ: Thank you. The  
46 proposed budget was read and recommended changes were  
47 made. The closing prayer was given by Chaplain Terry  
48 Mikesell. The meeting was adjourned at 11:31.  
49 Madam President, this concludes the report of the  
50 Finance Committee. I move for its acceptance and may I

1 now present the budget?  
 2 DEPARTMENT PRESIDENT TOZIER: Yes.  
 3 FINANCE CHAIRMAN MARTINEZ: Okay. Ladies, does  
 4 everybody have a budget? Special thanks to our  
 5 Sergeant-at-Arms and Marshal for getting them out. I  
 6 appreciate it.  
 7 Okay. I will read these. I've got to move this  
 8 microphone a little bit so I can see my paper. Can you  
 9 still hear me? Yes. Okay. I will read the account  
 10 titles as opposed to the numbers, if there is no  
 11 objection. Thank you. Don't scare me like that.  
 12 Americanism Donations, 7,200. Dues Membership -  
 13 Senior and Junior, \$350,106. Dues - Unit 1000, 12,800.  
 14 Dues - Auxiliary New Assessment, 20,000. Postage Income,  
 15 2,000. Department Supply Orders, 1,000. Funding eScript,  
 16 \$20. Ways & Means - Other, \$3,500. Current Department  
 17 Presidents Pins, 5,800. Donations - In Loving Tribute,  
 18 1,200. In Loving Tribute. I apologize. Donations -  
 19 Presidents Club, 500. Interest Income - Unrestricted,  
 20 5,000. Administrative Income - Other Accounts, 12,600.  
 21 Fidelity Bond, 1,065. Delegate Fees - Convention, 17,000.  
 22 Income/Reimbursement from National, 1,000. Department  
 23 Convention Proceedings, 100. California Disaster Fund,  
 24 2500. Sweepstakes, 8,000. Department President Special  
 25 Project, 20,000. Leadership Cards, \$25. Department  
 26 Convention Banquet, 3,500. Department Past President  
 27 Parley Luncheon, 2500.  
 28 Midyear/DEC, 2,500. Convention Donations - PDP,  
 29 unknown. National Convention Income, 1700. Live Units,  
 30 2100. National Candidate Campaign Fund, 500. Relocation,  
 31 12,000. General Fund Program Income, \$496,216.  
 32 General Fund - Administration Expenses. Salary  
 33 Net 86,142.25. Payroll Tax, 17,500. Insurance, 4,300.  
 34 Supplies, 3,000. Postage, Mailing Service, 6,000.  
 35 Telephone, Telecommunications, 3,300. Computer  
 36 License/Website, 150. Workers' Compensation Insurance,  
 37 650. Equipment Rental and Maintenance, 17,000. Facility  
 38 Donations, 2,400. Fidelity Bond - Dishonesty Insurance,  
 39 1,300. Finance Committee, 3,000. Accounting and Audit,  
 40 11,000. Payroll Services, 2,200. Auxiliary News -  
 41 Editor, 50. Auxiliary News - Publishing, 18,000. Finance  
 42 - Chair, \$50. Filing Fees & FTB Fees, 600.  
 43 Charitable Trusts, 7500 -- or \$75. I apologize.  
 44 Bank Fees and Returned Checks, 1,500. New Computer/Office  
 45 Equipment, 1,000. Contract Services, zero. General Fund  
 46 - Administrative-other, zero. General Fund -  
 47 Administrative Expenses, \$179,217.  
 48 General Fund Other Expenses. Relocation/Office  
 49 Expenses, \$6,500. Relocation/Storage, 1,140.  
 50 Relocation/Communication IT, \$1,000. Relocation/Movers,



1 \$6,360. National Dues, 180,067.25. Department President  
 2 Pins, 2,000. Fundraising - Pins & Charms/Promo, 1,500.  
 3 Ways & Means - Other, \$500. Department President Special  
 4 Project, 20,000. Live Units, \$2,130. Temporary  
 5 Administrative Staff Expenses, 15,000. Total General Fund  
 6 - Other Expenses, \$236,197.25.  
 7 General Fund - Executive Expense. Department  
 8 President, 7500. Department Vice President, 200.  
 9 District Presidents, \$4,395. Training and Program  
 10 Workshop, 5,200. Parliamentarian, 25. Authorized Travel,  
 11 2,000. Executive Committee Meeting, 12,300.  
 12 Distinguished Guests, 400. Secretary/Treasurer Travel  
 13 Allowance, 500. Past Department President Pin, \$450.  
 14 National Candidates Reserve, 500. National President's  
 15 Visit, 1500. National Department Leadership Conference,  
 16 225. Musician, 25. General Fund - Executive Expense,  
 17 \$35,220.  
 18 General Fund - Convention Expense, 21,000.  
 19 Department Convention Proceedings, 400. Convention  
 20 Reporter, 5500. Convention Commission Chairman, 200.  
 21 Convention Chair - Department, 150. AL Convention  
 22 Commission, 2500. National Convention, \$1,200. Total  
 23 General Fund - Convention Expense \$30,950.  
 24 General Fund - Committee Expense. Auxiliary  
 25 Emergency Fund - Chair, \$50. Americanism - Chair, \$75.  
 26 Constitution & Bylaws - Chair, 225. Chaplain  
 27 Chair/Memorial Program, \$300. Community Service - Chair,  
 28 \$50. Historian - Chair, 375. Junior Activities - Chair,  
 29 \$50. Leadership - Chair, \$150. Legislative - Chair, \$50.  
 30 American Legion Auxiliary DC Conference, \$500. Membership  
 31 - Chair, \$350. Membership - Promotion \$500. National  
 32 Security - Chair, \$50. Public Relations - Chair, \$50.  
 33 Public Relations - Press Book, \$50. Ways & Means - Chair,  
 34 \$50. Americanism Essay Awards/Grants, \$6,200. California  
 35 Disaster Fund Expense, \$2,500. Americanism Administrative  
 36 Fee, \$1,800. Total expense, \$13,375.  
 37 Summary of General Fund. General Fund  
 38 Administrative, \$179,217.25. General Fund - Other  
 39 Expense, \$236,197.25. General Fund - Executive Expense  
 40 \$35,220. Convention Expense, 30,950. Committee Expense,  
 41 13,375. Total General Fund Program Expense, \$494,959.50,  
 42 which leaves us under budget \$1,256.50.  
 43 (Applause.)  
 44 FINANCE CHAIRMAN MARTINEZ: I'm sorry we didn't  
 45 balance. Okay. Give me a second to wet my whistle,  
 46 ladies.  
 47 General Fund Reserves and Restricted Summary.  
 48 General Fund Reserves, total \$283,660.40. Americanism  
 49 Essay, \$56,113.48. California Disaster, 44,890.78.  
 50 Auxiliary News, 28,652.35. Display Case, \$3,093. Total

1 General Fund Restricted, \$132,749.61. General Fund  
2 Reserve, 150,910.79.  
3 Welfare Funds. Poppy Orders, 55,000. Poppy  
4 Distribution, 12,000. Interest Income - Restricted, \$50.  
5 Poppy Donations, 1,000. Total Poppy Production Fund  
6 Income, \$68,050.

7 Poppy Production Fund Expense. Postage - Poppy  
8 Production Manager, 2,200. Poppy Proceeds Distribution,  
9 1,200. Administrative Fee, 5,500. Poppy Production  
10 Labor, 40,755. Poppy Production Poppy Kits, 18,000.  
11 Poppy Awards, 200. Poppy Chair \$175. Bank Fees/Service  
12 Charge, \$20. Total Poppy Production Expense \$68,050.

13 DEPARTMENT PRESIDENT TOZIER: Wait a minute.  
14 Wait a minute.

15 FINANCE CHAIRMAN MARTINEZ: Somebody sure did pop  
16 up quick.

17 DEPARTMENT SECRETARY/TREASURER KAPSALIS: Add  
18 five more dollars to that budget.

19 DEPARTMENT VICE PRESIDENT O'BRIEN: Well, I only  
20 have a 20. Take it. Here, take it.

21 DEPARTMENT SECRETARY/TREASURER KAPSALIS: Whoever  
22 it was is in big trouble.

23 FINANCE CHAIRMAN MARTINEZ: We appreciate the  
24 donations. Thank you. Okay. Ladies, are we ready to  
25 continue?

26 Okay. Poppy Reserves. Welfare Fund/VAR. VAR  
27 Donations/Unit Income, 18,500. Poppy Proceeds  
28 Distribution, \$300. Donations - Gift/Patient Remembrance,  
29 13,000. Interest Income - Restricted, 900. VAR TFA,  
30 2,750. Spirit Of Youth Fund -- okay. Welfare Fund/VAR,  
31 \$35,450.

32 Welfare Fund Expense. Administrative Fee,  
33 \$5,000. TFA Cases \$5,250. Patient Welfare Funds, \$1,200.  
34 VAMC Tours, \$1,900. Gift Shop/Patient Remembrance,  
35 \$12,300. Hospital Representatives Allowance/Midyear,  
36 \$5,200. Chairman, \$400. Bank Fees/Service Charges, \$200.  
37 Total Welfare Fund Expense VA&R, \$35,450.

38 Welfare Fund/Children & Youth. The \$185 that's  
39 in there is a miscellaneous donation that will be put into  
40 the right column. Children & Youth Donations/Unit Income,  
41 \$8,000. Poppy Fund Distribution, \$300. Total Welfare  
42 Fund Children & Youth, \$8,300. Welfare Fund Expense  
43 Children & Youth. Administrative Expense, 2,000.  
44 TFA/Welfare Cases, \$6,150. Chairman, \$150. Welfare Fund  
45 Expense - Children & Youth \$8,300.

46 Welfare Children & Youth Fund Reserves,  
47 \$32,161.87. Welfare Fund/Education. Education  
48 Donation/Income, \$10,825. Poppy 10 Percent Distribution,  
49 \$300. Income - Restricted -- I apologize, ladies. I'm  
50 seeing this out of the corner of my eye and I'm trying to

1 concentrate over here and --  
2 PARLIAMENTARIAN DeLASHMIT: It's freezing up  
3 here.  
4 ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEMBER BIGGS: We got her.  
5 Thanks, Terry.  
6 FINANCE CHAIRMAN MARTINEZ: Income - Poppy Seals,  
7 1,700. Connie Settle Memorial Scholarship, \$5,000. Total  
8 Welfare Fund Education/Income, \$17,825. Page 9. Top of  
9 page 9.  
10 Welfare Fund Expense/Education. Administrative  
11 Fee \$2,125. Scholarships - General, 10,000. Poppy Seals,  
12 \$550. Chairman, \$150. Connie Settle Memorial  
13 Scholarship, \$5,000. Total Welfare Fund  
14 Expense/Education, \$17,825.  
15 Welfare Fund/Past Presidents Parley. Unit Income  
16 Donations, \$11,975. Poppy Fund Distribution, \$300.  
17 Welfare Fund/Past Presidents Parley Unit Income \$12,275.  
18 Welfare Fund/Past Presidents Fund Expenses.  
19 Administrative Fee, \$1,675. Nurse Scholarships, \$10,000.  
20 Chairman, \$100. Welfare Fund/Past Presidents Parley  
21 Luncheon Awards, \$500. Total Welfare Fund/Past Presidents  
22 Parley, \$12,275.  
23 Summary of Income Welfare Fund/VAR, \$35,450.  
24 Welfare Fund/Children & Youth, \$8,300. Welfare Fund  
25 Education/Income 17,825. Welfare Fund/Past Presidents  
26 Parley, \$12,275. Summary of Expenses Welfare Fund  
27 Expense/VAR, \$35,450. Welfare Fund Expenses - Children &  
28 Youth, \$8,300. Welfare Fund Expense/Education, 17,825.  
29 Welfare Fund Past President Parley, \$12,275. Total  
30 Expense Accounts, \$73,850. We did balance.  
31 Summary of Welfare Reserves. Veterans Affairs &  
32 Rehabilitation, 115,415.70. Children & Youth, \$32,975.91.  
33 Education, \$42,397.60. Past President Parley, \$44,753.03.  
34 Total Welfare Reserve, \$235,542.24.  
35 Madam President, I move the adoption of the  
36 budget as presented.  
37 ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEMBER BIGGS: Second.  
38 DEPARTMENT PRESIDENT TOZIER: It's been moved and  
39 seconded for the adoption of the budget as presented. Is  
40 there any questions?  
41 (No response.)  
42 DEPARTMENT PRESIDENT TOZIER: All in favor?  
43 ALL PRESENT: Aye.  
44 DEPARTMENT PRESIDENT TOZIER: Opposed?  
45 (No response.)  
46 DEPARTMENT PRESIDENT TOZIER: Passed.  
47 (Applause.)  
48 FINANCE CHAIRMAN MARTINEZ: Thank you. Ladies,  
49 the last couple of pages are for information only. That  
50 is why they were not read.

1           And at this time I would like to introduce the  
2 finance committee who helped. Without their help and  
3 input we couldn't do this. Our Junior Member of Finance  
4 Linda Hayes.

5           (Applause.)

6           FINANCE CHAIRMAN MARTINEZ: And our Senior Member  
7 of Finance Terry Mikesell.

8           (Applause.)

9           FINANCE CHAIRMAN MARTINEZ: Again my name is  
10 Kathie Martinez. And, Madam President, I think I -- I  
11 think I thank you again for letting me try this one last  
12 time before I move on.

13          DEPARTMENT PRESIDENT TOZIER: I want to thank  
14 Terry Mikesell for stepping up in the vacancy we had this  
15 year.

16          (Applause.)

17          DEPARTMENT PRESIDENT TOZIER: Ways & Means,  
18 Resolutions, and the Past Presidents. Advisory. I forgot  
19 my Advisory.

20          ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEMBER BIGGS: You didn't want  
21 any advice.

22

23                           ADVISORY COMMITTEE CONVENTION REPORT

24

25          ADVISORY COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN BIGGS: Good morning.  
26 My little cluckers are with me. They match; right?  
27 That's not by mistake.

28          Madam President, since our midyear meeting your  
29 Mother Hens have not had to hatch any eggs. We've been  
30 sitting on the nest and occasionally have been circling  
31 around the farm. This year, Madam President, you have  
32 done a great job and we were happy to assist you in any  
33 way we could. You didn't want our advice, but we tried to  
34 give it.

35          As Christopher Robin once said, "Always remember  
36 you are braver than you believe, stronger than you seem,  
37 and smarter than you think." Right? You agree, don't  
38 you?

39          Do the two cluckers have anything you'd like to  
40 say?

41          ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEMBER MIKESELL: Thank you.  
42 We're looking forward to going home.

43          ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEMBER REYES: Thank you,  
44 Madam President.

45          ADVISORY COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN BIGGS: She's not  
46 paying any attention, once again. We wish for you, Madam  
47 President, a successful convention and the bountiful  
48 harvest of growing this great Legion family. You're  
49 moving us forward.

50          Thank you so much for this easy appointment. Not

1 hatching any eggs, your Mother Hen.

2 DEPARTMENT PRESIDENT TOZIER: Thank you, chicken  
3 group. We'll have Ways & Means.

4

5 WAYS & MEANS CONVENTION REPORT

6

7 WAYS & MEANS CHAIRMAN MUNCH: Those of you who  
8 don't know, I'm Karen Munch, chairman -- halfway between.  
9 How about that?

10 I'm Karen Munch. I'm chairman of the Ways &  
11 Means committee. I wanted to thank you, President Susie,  
12 for my appointment. This year it has been wonderful. All  
13 you ladies have been so great and support me and spend  
14 your hard earned money. And we did well. The total for  
15 this convention is \$4,802.

16 (Applause.)

17 WAYS & MEANS CHAIRMAN MUNCH: And we would like  
18 to take this time to thank my committee people. You know  
19 this lady, Marian Rocha, and my helpers in the back Lucy  
20 Rocha and Kate Sisrone. They work hard.

21 Now we have 27 items and we're going to go in  
22 order very quickly. There is a name on the ticket. I  
23 will read the name. If there is no name, we read the  
24 number. So starting with starting with basket number 1,  
25 Sandy Rodriguez, District 28. Basket number 2, Carol  
26 Fuqua. Basket number 3 is a yellow ticket, no name.  
27 0679697. Yellow ticket. Probably a square one.

28 DEPARTMENT PRESIDENT TOZIER: Check your numbers,  
29 ladies.

30 WAYS & MEANS CHAIRMAN MUNCH: 0679697. I see  
31 somebody here searching. The number again, the last three  
32 is 697. No? Well, we'll move on.

33 Basket number 4, Janice Scott, District 19.  
34 Basket number 5, Vicky Urban, District 14. Basket number  
35 6 is M. Hernandez. Basket number 7 is Geni Lefler. Or is  
36 that Geri? Geni. Oh, Geni. You guys wrote these really  
37 fast.

38 Okay. Basket number 8 is Arlene Barton. Basket  
39 number 9 is a wreath, and the ticket was signed Cyd,  
40 C-Y-D, District 25. Number 10 is the hat. Norma D.  
41 Norma Duvall. Number 11 is a blanket. Diana Livas,  
42 number 18. Number 12 is a tote bag. And I'm not sure of  
43 the name. It's District 16. It's Vicky, is it Kyle or  
44 Kile? Okay. Very good. Number 13 is the red, white, and  
45 blue pillow. Debbie Fletcher, District 25.

46 (Applause.)

47 WAYS & MEANS CHAIRMAN MUNCH: Number 14 is the  
48 long blanket. Carol Fuqua. Number 15 is the star wall  
49 hanging, Geri Johnston, District 26. Number 16 is the set  
50 of star pillows. There is no name on it. It's a yellow

1 ticket. Last three numbers 738. Probably a square  
2 yellow. There she is. She got it. Thank you.  
3 Number 17 is also a set of blue pillows. Cecilia  
4 Reyes.  
5 DEPARTMENT PRESIDENT TOZIER: Hey, Ellen, can you  
6 get them to turn the AC down, please? We're freezing up  
7 here.  
8 WAYS & MEANS CHAIRMAN MUNCH: Number 18 is a  
9 wreath. Kim Vincent, District 30. Number 19 is the black  
10 painting. No name. It's a pink ticket. Last three  
11 numbers is 634. Congratulations. We're skipping ahead.  
12 Number 26 is the wagon. The red wagon is Joanna, District  
13 24. Joanna.  
14 Back to number 20 is the beautiful beach bag.  
15 Ruby Kapsalis. Number 21 is the handmade blanket. I'm  
16 not sure if the name was Lyle or Liz Perez.  
17 (Applause.)  
18 WAYS & MEANS CHAIRMAN MUNCH: The next one is the  
19 blanket, number 22. It's June from District 22. I really  
20 missed that one. Number 23 is the blanket. Michelle  
21 Banks, District 25. And blanket number 24 is Vicky Kiles  
22 again. Congratulations. Number 25 is a basket. Debbie  
23 Fletcher, District 25. Number 27 is a hand quilted  
24 runner. It is a yellow ticket, last three numbers 731.  
25 Number 28 is the final basket, and it's Jean  
26 Cooley-Desmeules, District 19.  
27 We will see you at the workshops and we will see  
28 you in -- oh, I forgot that one. And we will see you at  
29 the DEC in February. We have lots more stuff for you.  
30 Bring money. Okay. The last item I have is the 50/50.  
31 We made \$626.  
32 (Applause.)  
33 WAYS & MEANS CHAIRMAN MUNCH: So the winner is  
34 going to be \$313. We will have Madam President draw a  
35 ticket. The winner of \$313 is Terry Oclaray, District 16  
36 president.  
37 (Applause.)  
38 WAYS & MEANS CHAIRMAN MUNCH: I had a great time.  
39 Thank you.  
40 EDITOR CHAIRMAN AVINA: Okay. We have the 50/50  
41 on the convention for next year. We -- it was \$200 so we  
42 gave \$100 to Charlene M.  
43 ADVISORY COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN BIGGS: What is this  
44 for?  
45 EDITOR CHAIRMAN AVINA: 50/50 from the convention  
46 down there. Okay. District 11, do you have somebody  
47 named Charlene?  
48 DISTRICT 11 DELEGATE: Yes.  
49 EDITOR CHAIRMAN AVINA: Well, tell her she has a  
50 hundred dollars. If not, tell her we're going home. And

1 then I have the winner of the ticket items in the back.  
2 One is Nicole, District 28. She goes in the back with the  
3 ticket. Esther Napole, go to the back. We have something  
4 for you. And then this ticket had no name. It's an  
5 orange ticket. It's from way in the back at the  
6 convention committee for next year. It's an orange  
7 ticket. If anybody has orange tickets, I'm going to read  
8 the number. 872210. Yes, no, maybe? 872210.

9 (Applause.)

10 EDITOR CHAIRMAN AVINA: Go in the back. Thank  
11 you, ladies.

12 DEPARTMENT PRESIDENT TOZIER: Okay. We're going  
13 to be calling up the presidents club. And this year Ruby  
14 because my pin -- my pin was so detailed, we did a key  
15 chain instead. And it has links on it where you can add  
16 charms to it. And so we're going to put -- present those  
17 to those that have ordered them already.

18 DEPARTMENT SECRETARY/TREASURER KAPSALIS: As I  
19 call your name, if you would come up to the Department  
20 President. You will be receiving your pin -- your key  
21 chain if you haven't already received your card. Past  
22 Department President Diane DeLashmit. Terry Mikesell.  
23 Ellen McClurg. Dorothy Castillo. American Legion  
24 Auxiliary Unit 837, District 10. Auxiliary Unit 629,  
25 District 22. Auxiliary Unit 595, District 21. Auxiliary  
26 Unit 564, District 13. Auxiliary Unit 460, District 22.  
27 Unit 432, District 16. Unit 328, District 21. Unit 310,  
28 District 22. Unit 176, District 20. Unit 149, District  
29 22. Unit 79, District 21. Unit 43, District 24. Unit  
30 26, District 15. Melise Monroe. Donna Smith. Melanie  
31 Taylor. Anita Biggs. And Kathie Martinez.

32 DEPARTMENT PRESIDENT TOZIER: Okay.

33 DEPARTMENT SECRETARY/TREASURER KAPSALIS: And  
34 Wendy O'Brien.

35 DEPARTMENT PRESIDENT TOZIER: Okay. Now we have  
36 our very special guests coming forward, the Past  
37 Department Presidents. Oh, wait a minute. Resolutions.

38 RESOLUTIONS CHAIRMAN FERCHO: Do you want  
39 Resolutions now?

40 DEPARTMENT PRESIDENT TOZIER: We'll do  
41 Resolutions first. Bring your team.

42

43

RESOLUTIONS

44

45 RESOLUTIONS CHAIRMAN FERCHO: The Resolutions  
46 committee met -- okay. The convention committee on  
47 Resolutions met on June 23rd, 2016 in Room 2004 of the  
48 Fresno Convention Center, Fresno, California. There is no  
49 statistical reports. A total of 13 district delegates  
50 answered roll call and there were two visitors present.

1           The committee agreed upon the following report:  
2     The department code for Resolutions was read. The  
3     different types of resolutions were discussed.  
4     Suggestions for next year. Resolutions chairmen were  
5     discussed, i.e., having each District Resolutions Chairman  
6     submit a Resolution regarding what their district did this  
7     year that give -- and give out awards for the best  
8     resolution. Also have each District Resolutions Chairman  
9     do the same with the units in their district starting to  
10    educate on the importance of what resolutions are and how  
11    they are used to implement change. Practice writing  
12    resolutions in your district/unit workshops and discuss  
13    why we use the terms "whereas" and "so be it resolved"  
14    when writing a resolution.

15           Went over the importance of adhering to the dates  
16    set forth in our constitution and bylaws for submitting  
17    resolutions for Department Convention. Meeting adjourned  
18    11:25.

19           Madam President, we have our Resolutions and I  
20    have joining me Vicky Goodchild who's the president of 27  
21    and Bobby Estes, District President from 20. Over here.  
22    So they will step forward and read their resolutions.  
23    These are courtesy resolutions. So here they are.

24           DISTRICT 27 PRESIDENT GOODCHILD: Whereas,  
25    Convention Chairman Gloria Sinopoli, District 14 President  
26    Ellen McClurg, and the entire 14th District have been most  
27    efficient and worked tirelessly to make our 97th  
28    Convention the success it has been; therefore be it  
29    resolved that we express our gratitude and appreciation  
30    for all their hard work at this Department Convention on  
31    June 23rd through the 26th of June, 2016.

32           And be it further resolved that a copy of this  
33    resolution be sent to District 14 and that we give them a  
34    standing ovation for a job well done.

35           (Applause.)

36           DISTRICT 27 PRESIDENT GOODCHILD: Okay.  
37    Whereas, a number of distinguished guests found time in  
38    their busy schedule to accept our President's invitation  
39    to attend our Department Convention; and whereas we were  
40    honored to welcome them and enjoyed their informative  
41    greetings and informative remarks; now therefore be it  
42    resolved that we express our appreciation to the following  
43    for their attendance at this meeting: Mr. Hugh E. Crooks,  
44    Jr., American Legion National Executive Committeeman and  
45    Past Department Commander. Mr. William Siler III,  
46    American Legion Department -- Siler. Sorry. Mrs. Ellen  
47    McClurg, American Legion Auxiliary 14th District  
48    President. President John Ellis, American Legion Press  
49    Association. Mr. Ed Grimsley, American Legion Fifth Area  
50    Vice Commander. Mr. Mick Sobczak, American Legion Riders



1 President. Miss Paige Solomon, Honorary Junior Department  
2 President. Mr. Pete Conaty of Pete Conaty & Associates.  
3 Mr. Scott Stump, TAL North Carolina Desert Storm Memorial  
4 Deligation from the Sons of the American Legion. Woman of  
5 the Year Sons of the American Legion, Marian Carlos.

6 (Applause.)

7 DISTRICT 20 PRESIDENT ESTES: Whereas, there were  
8 Past Department Presidents in attendance at this  
9 convention; whereas their presence and diligence of  
10 themselves to share their knowledge in and experience with  
11 others demonstrates a true genuine concern for the members  
12 of the organization; therefore be it resolved that we give  
13 a rising vote of appreciation to the Past Department  
14 Presidents for their continued dedication and service to  
15 our organization.

16 (Applause.)

17 DISTRICT 20 PRESIDENT ESTES: Whereas, the  
18 Department of California takes great pride in its members  
19 of this department who are serving in national  
20 organization; therefore be it resolved that we recognize  
21 the following members: Mrs. Nancy Brown-Park who brought  
22 pride onto this department by serving as National  
23 President and who is serving as the National Vice Chairman  
24 Past President Parley and also the Centennial Strategic  
25 Plan Committee, along with the following strategic plan  
26 team: Mrs. Anita Biggs, Mrs. Sandra Weiss, Miss Kendall  
27 Madsen, Mrs. Diane DeLashmit, and Mrs. Melanie Taylor.  
28 Mrs. Linda Workman, National Western Division Vice  
29 President; Mrs. Harriet Clendenin, National Executive  
30 Committee Woman; Mrs. Melanie Taylor, National Membership  
31 Vice Chairman, Mrs. Linda Fercho, National Western  
32 Division Junior Activities Chairman; Mrs. LuAnn Capazzi,  
33 National Community Service Member; Mrs. Tamara Bell,  
34 National Public Relations Committee Member.

35 And be it further resolved that we give this  
36 standing ovation to thank these members for the honor and  
37 the prestige they bring to this department.

38 (Applause.)

39 RESOLUTIONS CHAIRMAN FERCHO: Whereas, the  
40 Department Commander of the American Legion, Lawrence Van  
41 Kuran made time in his busy schedule to join us at our  
42 Department Convention; and whereas his cooperation in  
43 working together with our Department President and also  
44 our members reinforced the close relationship of the  
45 California American Legion Family and further enhances all  
46 the programs of our organization; now therefore be it  
47 resolved that we address Commander Van Kuran with the  
48 appreciation for the kindness that he has extended to our  
49 Department President during their travels throughout the  
50 department and we thank him for his presence at our

1 Department Convention.

2 And be it further resolved that a copy of this  
3 resolution be mailed to the Department Commander and the  
4 American Legion Department Office.

5 (Applause.)

6 RESOLUTIONS CHAIRMAN FERCHO: Whereas, the  
7 American Legion Auxiliary Department of California --  
8 Linda, where are you? Our own Linda Workman.

9 Whereas, American Legion Department of California  
10 was honored by the visit of the Western Division National  
11 Vice President, our own Linda Workman, at our Department  
12 Convention; therefore be it resolved when we were  
13 assembled at this meeting, we express our deep sincere for  
14 our Western Division National Vice President Linda for her  
15 capable leadership, sincerity that she extends to all our  
16 members.

17 And be it further resolved that copies of this  
18 resolution be given to Linda Workman and to the National  
19 Headquarters of the American Legion Auxiliary.

20 (Applause.)

21 RESOLUTIONS CHAIRMAN FERCHO: Let's turn over  
22 this way. Whereas, President Susanne Susie Tozier is now  
23 coming to the end of a very successful year and has shown  
24 timely and capable leadership as she represents our  
25 organization nationwide and throughout the great state of  
26 California; and whereas her Growing the Legion Family for  
27 Veterans theme has inspired us to plant seeds of knowledge  
28 about who we are and what we do so that we will grow our  
29 membership to obtain the million member goal while serving  
30 our great organization and continuing the mission for our  
31 veterans, military, and our communities and our youth;  
32 therefore be it resolved that the members and guests  
33 assembled at this Department Convention express their deep  
34 appreciation and sincere thanks to President Susie for her  
35 dedication and service to the American Legion Auxiliary.

36 And be it further resolved that we show our  
37 gratitude by rising for their appreciation; and be it  
38 further resolved that copies of this resolution be sent to  
39 President Susie and her San Diego Unit 6 in District 22.

40 (Applause.)

41 RESOLUTIONS CHAIRMAN FERCHO: Thank you, Madam  
42 President, for giving me the opportunity to write the  
43 resolutions. I've had a great time with it.

44 Whoever is your Resolution chairman, Wendy, I  
45 suggest they bring a laptop at all times. Thank you very  
46 much.

47 (Applause.)

48 DEPARTMENT PRESIDENT TOZIER: Okay. Thank you,  
49 Linda. Thank you, ladies. Now we're going to have the  
50 presentations by the Past Department Presidents. Bring

1 your fur coats.

2

3

PAST DEPARTMENT PRESIDENTS PRESENTATION

4

5 PAST DEPARTMENT PRESIDENT WORKMAN: If you're a  
6 Workman or Park's Patriots and you're in the audience,  
7 please rise. On behalf of Linda's Workmen and Park's  
8 Patriots, we are donating \$150 to the General Fund for  
9 restoration and to Junior Scholarship \$20.

10 (Applause.)

11 PAST DEPARTMENT PRESIDENT CUCCARO: Madam  
12 Department President, I would like just to take a moment  
13 to explain that I am the last living Peach. I served with  
14 Mable back in 1961-'62. I then ten years later became the  
15 Department President and I served in 1971-'72.

16 (Applause.)

17 PAST DEPARTMENT PRESIDENT CUCCARO: We still have  
18 one Performer, but she could not be at this convention.  
19 And she usually is at the convention, Louann Johnston.  
20 She had a slip and she got injured and she could not be  
21 here. But she's on the mend.

22 Many years ago I got the Classy Performers, so on  
23 behalf of the Peachy Performers --

24 PAST DEPARTMENT PRESIDENT BIGGS: Penguins.

25 PAST DEPARTMENT PRESIDENT CUCCARO: Penguins. No  
26 I'm saying on behalf of the Peachy Performers and the  
27 Classy Penguins, we would like to donate \$50 to the TFA,  
28 \$50 to the California Diaster Fund, and \$20 to the Past  
29 Department President Juniors.

30 (Applause.)

31 PAST DEPARTMENT PRESIDENT SPARKS: I am Bev, Bev  
32 Sparks. My district presidents were called Stars. Are  
33 there any Stars in the audience? Oh, one Star.

34 DEPARTMENT VICE PRESIDENT O'BRIEN: Where are  
35 they?

36 PAST DEPARTMENT PRESIDENT SPARKS: Madeline's  
37 Miracle Workers?

38 DEPARTMENT PRESIDENT TOZIER: Back there.

39 PAST DEPARTMENT PRESIDENT SPARKS: Anyway, we got  
40 together and we're donating \$180 to Girls State and \$20 to  
41 junior scholarship. And I thank you very much.

42 (Applause.)

43 PAST DEPARTMENT PRESIDENT REYES: Okay. We have  
44 \$595 from Ruby's All Stars, from the Dream Catchers, and  
45 my Musicians. And this whole collection will go towards  
46 the restoration of two books that Ruby has in the office.  
47 And this is the book by Lucille Grany, Past Department  
48 President, and the book by -- historical book by Jan  
49 Hodinger when she was a Girl State chairman. And so all  
50 of this collection, \$595 will go towards those two books'

1 restoration. It costs a lot so she needed some more  
2 money.

3 (Applause.)

4 PAST DEPARTMENT PRESIDENT DeLASHMIT: The  
5 donations for Virginia Ganay's Engineers, Judy Lloyd's  
6 Editors, and Diane DeLashmit's Circus Acts, if you're  
7 here, please stand.

8 SENIOR FINANCE COMMITTEE MEMBER MIKESELL: We're  
9 standing.

10 PAST DEPARTMENT PRESIDENT DeLASHMIT: They're  
11 standing behind me. I was very fortunate to have three  
12 Circus Acts go on to become Department Presidents.

13 (Applause.)

14 PAST DEPARTMENT PRESIDENT DeLASHMIT: In all my  
15 shuffling of paper, I've misplaced the envelope with most  
16 of the money, but I know it's only \$50 in cash so we'll  
17 get you the checks. But I still have \$10 for the Junior  
18 Scholarship, \$55 for VA&R, and the rest of the money when  
19 I find it, which is about \$280, will be for VA&R.

20 (Applause.)

21 PAST DEPARTMENT PRESIDENT DeLASHMIT: And all of  
22 this is in memory of Tanya Donovan who was one of the  
23 Engineers.

24 (Applause.)

25 PAST DEPARTMENT PRESIDENT TAYLOR: Okay. I've  
26 got it. Madam Department President, on behalf of  
27 Melanie's Balloon Pilots, Sue's Lighthouses, and BJ's  
28 Torch Runners, I present to the department a total of  
29 \$335. \$10 to the Junior Scholarship Fund and \$325 to the  
30 VA&R TFA.

31 (Applause.)

32 PAST DEPARTMENT PRESIDENT CHRISTNER: Do we have  
33 any Prom Princesses or Sandy's Colonels in the audience?  
34 Please stand.

35 PERSONAL PAGE FUQUA: I'm here. I'm here.

36 PAST DEPARTMENT PRESIDENT CHRISTNER: We have  
37 decided to donate our funds of \$345 in lieu of the fires  
38 that are going on right now to the California Disaster  
39 Fund.

40 (Applause.)

41 PAST DEPARTMENT PRESIDENT CAPAZZI: Hello. Do I  
42 have any Ship Captains out there in the audience today?  
43 Okay. There you are. She's back there. Okay. Good. We  
44 had the breakfast on Saturday morning and the donations  
45 included \$86 for Girls State, \$87 for Junior Conference,  
46 \$87 for VA&R. Thank you, Ships Captains.

47 (Applause)

48 PAST DEPARTMENT PRESIDENT DUVALL: Are there any  
49 Birds of Paradise in the audience? On behalf of the Birds  
50 of Paradise we are donating \$150 to the VA&R TFA.

1 (Applause.)

2 PAST DEPARTMENT PRESIDENT FERCHO: Okay. Rodeo  
3 Queens, let's stand up. I've got a couple up here. I  
4 want to thank the Rodeo Queens for donating \$200 to VA&R  
5 TFA, 150 TFA for Children & Youth, and \$70 for Junior  
6 Conference. And this year I'm also reading for the  
7 Past Department Presidents. We met Thursday evening for  
8 dinner and they always bring in a little money for some  
9 dues and they've chosen to give \$25 to VA&R, \$25 In Loving  
10 Tribute for Marge Shank, \$25 Junior Scholarship, and \$25  
11 to President Susie's Special Project.

12 (Applause.)

13 PAST DEPARTMENT PRESIDENT MIKESELL: Terry's  
14 Treasures, please stand. Hey, these ladies were very  
15 generous. We're going to donate \$20 for the Junior  
16 Scholarship, \$15 to the book repair, and \$120 to VA&R TFA.  
17 Thank you, ladies.

18 PAST DEPARTMENT PRESIDENT BIGGS: Are there any  
19 All Stars here? And we got ahead of the mission and we  
20 got 10 more dollars -- hold on. Hot mic. Very generous,  
21 my All Stars, with a total of \$660. We broke it down to  
22 \$150 to Junior Conference, followed by for the fire  
23 disasters \$210 to the California Disaster Fund, and \$300  
24 to VA&R TFA.

25 (Applause.)

26 PAST DEPARTMENT PRESIDENT CLENDENIN: Are there  
27 any Harriet's Crafters in the house? Anyway, we have  
28 voted to give \$20 to the Junior Scholarship, \$215 to the  
29 general fund for the book binding.

30 (Applause.)

31 DEPARTMENT PRESIDENT TOZIER: No money for me?  
32 Okay. Is there any further business to come before this  
33 convention?

34 (No response.)

35 DEPARTMENT PRESIDENT TOZIER: Okay. Will the  
36 districts and units that have their flag down here, not  
37 District 22 or 6, they're later, but would they please  
38 line up at the back so we can retire the colors on the  
39 sides. We can do it now or later.

40 Please escort Peter Douglas to the stage.

41 (Processional.)

42 PAST DEPARTMENT GOPHER DOUGLAS: Good morning,  
43 ladies. Good morning all my PDPs. And on behalf of the  
44 PDG, Past Department Gophers, we have a donation of \$250.  
45 And this goes to your special project.

46 (Applause.)

47 PAST DEPARTMENT GOPHER DOUGLAS: \$280. Thank  
48 you, ladies. Enjoy.

49 DEPARTMENT PRESIDENT TOZIER: He's freezing. He  
50 gets the gopher later. He's having fun right now.

1 PAST DEPARTMENT GOPHER DOUGLAS: I love you.  
2 Daddy misses you.

3 (Processional.)

4 DEPARTMENT PRESIDENT TOZIER: Is that worth \$5?  
5 Those of you who have not picked up your checks, see the  
6 finance committee after we break. Okay? Don't forget to  
7 get your checks. All right.

8 Ladies, are you ready? Wendy, do you want to  
9 come up? Come here, Wendy.

10 DEPARTMENT VICE PRESIDENT O'BRIEN: Ladies, for  
11 the installation we'll be meeting in the back of the room  
12 in 45 minutes. Yeah, let's meet at noon.

13 DEPARTMENT PRESIDENT TOZIER: Will the  
14 Sergeant-at-Arms and Marshal, along with the Distinguished  
15 Guest Chairman, retire the colors, please. Or not. Are  
16 we going to retire the colors?

17 (Processional.)

18 DEPARTMENT PRESIDENT TOZIER: Please take the  
19 numbers off of your poles. You can keep them. And all  
20 your decorations with them. And pick up anything that you  
21 have on the floor: trash, cups, whatever. Be back here  
22 at 12:00 o'clock for installation of our new officers.  
23 Thank you. We are recessed.

24 (Recess from 11:26 p.m. to 12:19 p.m.)

25

26 INSTALLATION OF OFFICERS FOR 2016-2017

27

28 INSTALLING OFFICER FERCHO: Okay. At this time I  
29 would like to have our Department President Susie call us  
30 to order.

31 DEPARTMENT PRESIDENT TOZIER: We are now resuming  
32 our last session, please.

33 INSTALLING OFFICER FERCHO: It is my pleasure to  
34 introduce myself. I'm Linda Fercho, Past Department  
35 President. I will be the installing officer for today.  
36 I'd like to also introduce our Honorary Distinguished  
37 Guest Chairman Linda Workman. Honorary Sergeant-at-Arms  
38 will be Sherry Watson. Honorary Marshal, Danielle White.  
39 Honorary Chaplain is Josephine Sullivan. And our  
40 Musicians are Kathy and Dave Smith.

41 We will now proceed with the installation of  
42 officers for the 2016-2017 years. Year. Years. Will the  
43 Honorary Sergeant-at-Arms and Marshal with the  
44 Distinguished Guest Chairman please escort the honor guard  
45 for today's installation. Mistro.

46 (Processional.)

47 RESOLUTIONS CHAIRMAN FERCHO: At this point the  
48 Sergeant-at-Arms and Honorary Sergeant -- oops.

49 Will the Honorary Sergeant-at-Arms and Marshal  
50 along with the Distinguished Guest Chairman please escort

1 the Department Chairmen for 2016-2017.  
2 (Processional.)  
3 INSTALLING OFFICER FERCHO: Will the Honorary  
4 Sergeant-At-Arms and Marshal with the Distinguished Guest  
5 Chairman please escort the District Second Vice Presidents  
6 for the year 2016-2017.  
7 (Processional.)  
8 INSTALLING OFFICER FERCHO: Will the Honorary  
9 Sergeant-At-Arms and Marshal with the Distinguished Guest  
10 Chairman please escort the District First Vice Presidents  
11 for the year 2016-2017.  
12 (Processional.)  
13 INSTALLING OFFICER FERCHO: Will the Honorary  
14 Sergeant and Marshal -- will the Honorary Sergeant-At-Arms  
15 and Marshal with the Distinguished Guest Chairman please  
16 escort the District Presidents for the year 2016-2017 to  
17 the stage, please.  
18 (Processional.)  
19 INSTALLING OFFICER FERCHO: Will the Honorary  
20 Sergeant-At-Arms and Marshal with the Distinguished Guest  
21 Chairman please escort the Department Officers for the  
22 year 2016-2017. Musician Alzora Carter, Parliamentarian  
23 Diane DeLashmit, Sergeant-at-Arms Elizabeth Doidge,  
24 Marshal Susan Morgan, Historian Dolly Rios, and Chaplain  
25 Sharon Moore.  
26 (Processional.)  
27 INSTALLING OFFICER FERCHO: I can't sing a lick,  
28 but I sure know the words. I think I get credit for that.  
29 (Applause.)  
30 INSTALLING OFFICER FERCHO: Will the Honorary  
31 Sergeant-At-Arms and Marshal with the Distinguished Guest  
32 Chairman please escort the Junior Member of Finance Elect  
33 Brenda Preston. Her stand in today will be Terry  
34 Mikesell. Oh, you're here. We're not walking her in.  
35 She's here. That's all right, Terry. I had a special  
36 song for you too. This is all about the money.  
37 All right. Thank you, Dave, very much.  
38 Will the Honorary Sergeant-At-Arms and Marshal  
39 with the Distinguished Guest Chairman please escort  
40 Department Vice President Elect Loretta Marsh escorted by  
41 her husband Harold.  
42 (Processional.)  
43 INSTALLING OFFICER FERCHO: Will the Honorary  
44 Sergeant-At-Arms and Marshal with the Distinguished Guest  
45 Chairman please present the colors of Unit 521,  
46 Haggin-Grant.  
47 (Processional.)  
48 INSTALLING OFFICER FERCHO: Will the Honorary  
49 Sergeant-At-Arms and Marshal with the Distinguished Guest  
50 Chairman please escort to the station the Department

1 President Elect Wendy O'Brien escorted by her long-time  
2 friend Ann Sanchez.

3 (Processional.)

4 INSTALLING OFFICER FERCHO: The installation of  
5 our newly elected and appointed officers is one of the  
6 most important and impressive ceremonies of our Department  
7 Convention. As we begin this transition from one  
8 administration to another, we wish to express our  
9 appreciation to the retiring department and district  
10 officers for their outstanding contributions to the grand  
11 history of the American Legion Auxiliary, Department of  
12 California.

13 As we turn from the memories of the successful  
14 year we have just completed, let us all look forward with  
15 renewed dedication and enthusiasm to a new year conducted  
16 by our new Department and District Officers as we honor  
17 and serve our veterans, their families, and our country.  
18 We congratulate our new officers and wish for them a year  
19 filled with smooth sailing, calm seas, and lots of fun and  
20 excitement while serving veterans from sea to shining sea.

21 District Vice Presidents -- District Vice  
22 Presidents -- okay. District Vice Presidents and District  
23 Presidents and Department Officers, please rise.

24 District Vice Presidents, District Presidents and  
25 Department Officers, my fellow members, you have chosen to  
26 fill -- you have been chosen to fill the various offices  
27 of the American Legion Auxiliary, Department of  
28 California. You will, I know, vindicate the trust that  
29 has been reposed in you and fulfill in every way the  
30 obligations which that trust entails. You will  
31 familiarize yourself with the duties of your respective  
32 offices as given in the department bylaws.

33 Always remember that the welfare and success of  
34 this administration depends upon you, and upon your  
35 shoulders rests the burden of preserving the integrity of  
36 the American Legion Auxiliary. You must protect its good  
37 name before the people of the United States and at all  
38 times endeavor to have them understand its policy and its  
39 purpose.

40 Always remember the tolerant spirit of the  
41 American Legion Auxiliary. Allow no distinction of class  
42 and creed to appear among our members. There is no rank  
43 among us, for each serves as the equal of her fellow  
44 members and all strive towards the same goal, which is the  
45 realization in the life of the republic of the ideas of  
46 justice, freedom, democracy, and loyalty.

47 Please raise your right hand and repeat after me  
48 giving your time where I give mine. I, Linda Fercho.

49 (Response.)

50 INSTALLING OFFICER FERCHO: Promise to perform



1 faithfully.  
2 (Response.)  
3 INSTALLING OFFICER FERCHO: All the duties of the  
4 office.  
5 (Response.)  
6 INSTALLING OFFICER FERCHO: I am about to assume.  
7 (Response.)  
8 INSTALLING OFFICER FERCHO: And I further pledge.  
9 (Response.)  
10 INSTALLING OFFICER FERCHO: That I am not a  
11 member of.  
12 (Response.)  
13 INSTALLING OFFICER FERCHO: And do not subscribe  
14 to.  
15 (Response.)  
16 INSTALLING OFFICER FERCHO: The principles of any  
17 groups.  
18 (Response.)  
19 INSTALLING OFFICER FERCHO: Opposed to our form  
20 of government.  
21 (Response.)  
22 INSTALLING OFFICER FERCHO: Now I'm not going to  
23 do that anymore. District Second Vice Presidents, please  
24 rise. That's you guys.  
25 Into your helpful hand replace the responsibility  
26 of assisting the First Vice President in all her duties.  
27 Your responsibilities will contribute much to the success  
28 of this year. Congratulations.  
29 (Applause.)  
30 INSTALLING OFFICER FERCHO: District First Vice  
31 Presidents, please rise.  
32 To you is given the active cooperation with the  
33 President for the continued development of your District  
34 program. In the absence of the President you will be  
35 prepared to assume the duties of her office. This year  
36 can be a rewarding, learning experience for you and  
37 prepare you for future goals. Congratulations.  
38 (Applause.)  
39 INSTALLING OFFICER FERCHO: District Presidents,  
40 please rise. Don't they look great.  
41 You are assuming a tremendous responsibility in  
42 leading the day-to-day activities of the units in your  
43 district as a deputy to the Department President. You are  
44 the most important member of the official family, for you  
45 represent the link between the members of this great  
46 department and the Department President. With full  
47 confidence in your abilities you have been chosen by your  
48 District to fill this important position. May your year  
49 of service as the Department Commander of your cruise ship  
50 be a happy, exciting, and rewarding adventure for you and

1 your District. Congratulations. Please be seated.

2 (Applause.)

3 INSTALLING OFFICER FERCHO: Will the Musician --  
4 Alzora Carter can't be with us today, so Past Department  
5 President Anita Biggs will be taking charge for Alzora.

6 Yours have been in an enviable position in the  
7 official family for your music will set the tone and  
8 beauty of our ceremonies and bring to life to our  
9 meetings. Your willingness to share your talent as the  
10 Musician is a source of joy for all of us.  
11 Congratulations.

12 (Applause.)

13 INSTALLING OFFICER FERCHO: Parliamentarian Diane  
14 DeLashmit, please rise.

15 Your duty is to advise the Department President  
16 on procedural matters in the deliberation of this  
17 Department. The benefit of your experience and wise  
18 counsel will be a great asset to her in the performance of  
19 her duties as it has been for so many of us, and me  
20 included. Congratulations, and thank you again for  
21 serving.

22 (Applause.)

23 INSTALLING OFFICER FERCHO: Historian Dolly Rios.  
24 Doing double duty.

25 To you is given the rather awesome responsibility  
26 of compiling the history of this administration. Many  
27 memorable accomplishments will occur this year and your  
28 official record will preserve those golden moments for  
29 those who follow. Congratulations, Dolly.

30 (Applause.)

31 INSTALLING OFFICER FERCHO: Chaplain Sharon  
32 Moore, please rise.

33 You have been asked to serve as the spiritual  
34 leader of this Department. The love and empathy with  
35 which you will perform the duties of your office will do  
36 much to help lighten the sorrows that may fall upon our  
37 members. You will have the opportunity of offering  
38 prayers that will be uplifting to us and to assist our  
39 members to develop a sense of inner strength gained from  
40 God's blessings. Congratulations.

41 (Applause.)

42 INSTALLING OFFICER FERCHO: Junior Member of  
43 Finance. Brenda could not be with us today. Terry  
44 Mikesell will take that charge. We like her in charge,  
45 don't we?

46 Brenda/Terry, you are entering in a three-year  
47 term as the Junior Member of Finance, a very important  
48 position to the Department. Study carefully your  
49 responsibility as outlined in the bylaws and policies.  
50 Always remember that you were elected by the membership to

1 represent their best interests. We know you will consider  
2 well your duties and enjoy your services on this committee  
3 as the Department Pirates guarding our Treasure Chests.  
4 Congratulations.

5 (Applause.)

6 INSTALLING OFFICER FERCHO: At this time I would  
7 like to have our Vice President Elect Loretta Marsh and  
8 Past Department President Madeline Lee. Past Department  
9 President will be giving the charge, and I have the honor  
10 of pinning her.

11 PAST DEPARTMENT PRESIDENT LEE: Loretta, as the  
12 first mate to the Department's theme of "Serving Our  
13 Veterans from Sea to Shining Sea," you will be Wendy's  
14 right hand. The President may call on you for counsel or  
15 to represent her on any occasion. You should be prepared  
16 to do so, as well as assuming the duties of her office if  
17 the need should arise. Your enthusiasm and cooperation  
18 will add much to the success of this administration. May  
19 this year be a rewarding and learning experience and help  
20 prepare you for future goals. Congratulations.

21 (Applause.)

22 INSTALLING OFFICER FERCHO: I'm harmless. It's  
23 very nice that you don't have a skin-tight dress on. I  
24 appreciate that. Congratulations.

25 DEPARTMENT VICE PRESIDENT ELECT MARSH: Thank  
26 you.

27 (Applause.)

28 INSTALLING OFFICER FERCHO: At this time I have  
29 the honor of please having the Department President Elect  
30 Wendy O'Brien and Past Department President Terry Mikesell  
31 join me at the podium. Past Department President Mikesell  
32 will be giving the charge and I have the privilege of  
33 putting on her pin.

34 PAST DEPARTMENT PRESIDENT MIKESELL: You know,  
35 pay back is wonderful. Great trust has been reposed in  
36 you by your election to the highest office within the  
37 Department of California. I charge you to carry  
38 constantly in your mind the obligation which is yours;  
39 that of upholding the four great principles expressed in  
40 the preamble to the constitution: justice, freedom,  
41 democracy, and loyalty.

42 As Department President you have the great  
43 challenge of developing and improving the program of the  
44 American Legion Auxiliary. You have been selected by the  
45 members to fulfill this challenge. We have faith in your  
46 ability and integrity.

47 DEPARTMENT PRESIDENT ELECT O'BRIEN: Wow.

48 PAST DEPARTMENT PRESIDENT MIKESELL: We know you  
49 will exemplify the qualities of leadership that the  
50 members expect from their Department President. You will

1 the spokesperson for all of us to the public. Our members  
 2 will look for you for guidance, inspiration, and  
 3 understanding.

4 Wendy, we know that you will continue to use your  
 5 talents, your strength, and your love of the American  
 6 Legion Auxiliary in the best interest of all our members.  
 7 Your leadership will inspire our members to achieve goals  
 8 never before thought possible in all of our programs.  
 9 Your theme of cruising and "Serving Our Veterans from Sea  
 10 to Shining Sea" will unite our membership as they work as  
 11 a team "the crew" aboard each cruise ship in your Shipping  
 12 Fleet united in service, ideas, and equipment upon calm  
 13 seas and smooth sailing to accomplish service, not self  
 14 during your year as president.

15 As president of the cruise line, your cruise ship  
 16 fleet awaits your direction as they sail from port to port  
 17 until they reach their final port of call in Riverside and  
 18 celebrate all the wonderful experiences they have had  
 19 cruising the Department of California this year.  
 20 Congratulations and best wishes.

21 (Applause.)

22 INSTALLING OFFICER FERCHO: Wendy, it's an honor  
 23 and privilege as one of my royal pains to pin over your  
 24 heart the insignia of the American Legion Auxiliary  
 25 Department President. I know that you will wear it with a  
 26 great deal of pride, uniting our members in service,  
 27 ideals and commitment leading for another successful year  
 28 of service to others, not self.

29 DEPARTMENT PRESIDENT ELECT O'BRIEN: They don't  
 30 pop.

31 INSTALLING OFFICER FERCHO: I suggest we pin this  
 32 on your ribbon next time. We're going to have Susie do  
 33 this.

34 DEPARTMENT PRESIDENT ELECT O'BRIEN: There's a  
 35 trick to it.

36 INSTALLING OFFICER FERCHO: Oh, there's a trick.  
 37 (Applause.)

38 INSTALLING OFFICER FERCHO: And at this time I  
 39 would ask Wendy to please stay for the purpose of passing  
 40 on the ribbon. Okay. At this time would you like to  
 41 please take your seats. We'll go that way. We didn't  
 42 have a lot of practice on this.

43 Will all the newly installed officers please  
 44 rise. Members and guests -- please rise. Members and  
 45 guests, I present to you the officers for the Department  
 46 of California for the year 2016-2017.

47 (Applause.)

48 INSTALLING OFFICER FERCHO: Please stay standing.  
 49 My fellow members, I share in the pride that is yours --  
 50 oops. Reverse. Please be seated. Oops. Well, we

1 decided that we weren't going to have a Sergeant-at-Arms  
 2 and Marshal on the stage escorting people to the podium  
 3 because every time we do that, we start tripping over each  
 4 other. So I crossed off Sergeant-at-Arms and Marshal in  
 5 the whole program. I'm sorry. Nope, nope, nope. I just  
 6 have to find it now.

7 At this point I do offer this. Sergeant-at-Arms  
 8 for the Department of California, you have served this  
 9 year as Marshal, Elizabeth. You've done an amazing job.  
 10 I'm sure that you have been paying attention. I know you  
 11 have a lot of history too with this organization in your  
 12 family, so I'm sure that you will be a great asset. And  
 13 we are entrusting our most precious flags, our United  
 14 States of America flags as well as our Department flags to  
 15 you and I know that that trust will be well deserved and  
 16 it is also going to be handled in a very, very efficient  
 17 and very honorable way. And thank you very much for your  
 18 service.

19 (Applause.)

20 INSTALLING OFFICER FERCHO: Thank you too. You  
 21 served this year as an amazing historian. You did an  
 22 awesome job. And you've been taking pictures. Now you're  
 23 going to get to assist our Sergeant-at-Arms carrying the  
 24 flags of our state. And thank you very much for your  
 25 service to our department and for taking this position.  
 26 Ladies, thank you.

27 (Applause.)

28 INSTALLING OFFICER FERCHO: At this point --  
 29 okay. Now will all the newly installed officers please  
 30 rise. Boy, this ship is getting off to a rough start.

31 My fellow members, I share the pride that is  
 32 yours for these new officers whom you have chosen this  
 33 coming year. They have been charged with serious  
 34 responsibilities and in turn I charge you likewise. Will  
 35 all the members of the American Legion Auxiliary please  
 36 rise and raise your right hand and repeat after me.

37 I solemnly promise.

38 (Response.)

39 INSTALLING OFFICER FERCHO: To renew my pledge of  
 40 service.

41 (Response.)

42 INSTALLING OFFICER FERCHO: To the American  
 43 Legion Auxiliary.

44 (Response.)

45 INSTALLING OFFICER FERCHO: And to give  
 46 wholehearted support.

47 (Response.)

48 INSTALLING OFFICER FERCHO: To these department  
 49 officers.

50 (Response.)

1           INSTALLING OFFICER FERCHO: At this time your  
2 Honorary Chaplain will offer prayer.

3           HONORARY CHAPLAIN SULLIVAN: Oh, God, this is the  
4 beginning of a new year of our work in our beloved  
5 American Legion Auxiliary. Let us speak words of  
6 encouragement to our newly elected officers. Be with  
7 them, God, as they work to lead us working on all our good  
8 programs we hold so important. Remember each one of our  
9 members, for they are needed in their own unit and the  
10 work in their communities. Let us all work for God and  
11 country together in harmony and love. Dear God, teach us  
12 and thanks to wisdom and art -- and act, I'm sorry, in  
13 love and carrying for others. Amen.

14           AUDIENCE MEMBERS: Amen.

15           INSTALLING OFFICER FERCHO: At this time I would  
16 like to have our Junior Past Department President Susie  
17 Tozier come to the podium, Past Department President LuAnn  
18 Capazzi and Past Department President Harriet Clendenin.  
19 LuAnn will give her charge and Harriet will be giving her  
20 her ribbon.

21           PAST DEPARTMENT PRESIDENT CAPAZZI: Susie, you  
22 have come to the close of your year as President of the  
23 Department of California American Legion Auxiliary. Your  
24 theme "Growing the Legion Family For Veterans" inspired a  
25 great year for our Department. It has been a tremendous  
26 experience for you and we have been very proud of what has  
27 been accomplished under your leadership. As you retire  
28 this office, be assured that you take with you the love  
29 and respect of all our members. We thank you for taking  
30 time out of your busy life to serve as our President. May  
31 you have many happy memories of your year as Department  
32 President. Congratulations and a job well done.

33           (Applause.)

34           PAST DEPARTMENT PRESIDENT BIGGS: This way.

35           PAST DEPARTMENT PRESIDENT CLENDENIN: Susie,  
36 thank you for this honor.

37           (Applause.)

38           INSTALLING OFFICER FERCHO: At this time I would  
39 like to have our President Wendy please come to the  
40 podium. Madam President Wendy, I told you years ago you  
41 were going to do this, and she said: Oh, no, no, no, it's  
42 going to be years and years. Well, no, maybe I'm not even  
43 going to do that. Never say never.

44           I couldn't be prouder of you, Wendy. Madam  
45 President, I represent you with your gavel, your symbol of  
46 authority. May you use it with discretion. She's  
47 probably really going to use that right. And in the best  
48 interest of this Department, I'm not scratching anything  
49 out of the program ever again. We're going to have it  
50 just the way it's supposed to be written.

1           Madam President Wendy, wow, may I be the first to  
 2 congratulate you. I wish for you a successful year of  
 3 calm seas, beautiful sunrises and sunsets as you set sail  
 4 as commander of your cruise line which will be serving  
 5 veterans from sea to shining sea. I'm very, very proud of  
 6 you.

7           My fellow members, I present to you our  
 8 Department President Commander Wendy O'Brien.

9           (Applause.)

10          DEPARTMENT PRESIDENT ELECT O'BRIEN: This thing  
 11 is way too loud so -- I thank you very much, very much for  
 12 this honor. I thank you very much for this honor. I love  
 13 this organization and I love our veterans, so the two  
 14 together I'm hoping it will make for a beautiful  
 15 relationship.

16          I'd like to thank my dear friend, Ann Sanchez, my  
 17 sister wife, and her husband, my district husband,  
 18 Commander Henry Sanchez from the Sixth District. Thank  
 19 you so much.

20          (Applause.)

21          DEPARTMENT PRESIDENT ELECT O'BRIEN: And I would  
 22 like to thank all of my mentors, and there are so many of  
 23 you. I couldn't do this without you. I'd be remiss if I  
 24 didn't thank my Sixth District and my girls from Unit 521  
 25 who have been through a lot with me. And I appreciate  
 26 everything that you've done to encourage me. Thank you so  
 27 much.

28          (Applause.)

29          DEPARTMENT PRESIDENT ELECT O'BRIEN: And most of  
 30 all I'd like to thank my husband of 39 years. He couldn't  
 31 be here today. He's a Vietnam veteran and he has some  
 32 issues so he couldn't be here with me today, but we've  
 33 been married for 39 years and I know he's here in spirit.  
 34 I wanted to thank him because, believe me, you guys don't  
 35 live with me, he does.

36          (Applause.)

37          DEPARTMENT PRESIDENT ELECT O'BRIEN:  
 38 Congratulations to the District Presidents, First and  
 39 Second Vice Presidents, and to all my officers and  
 40 Chairmen. Thank you so much for taking this year on. I  
 41 will try to stay -- not put the ship on the seashore. I  
 42 will try my best not to do that. But thank you so much  
 43 for all of your dedication to this organization and to be  
 44 on the cruise ship with me.

45          Loretta, I hope we have a good time. My theme is  
 46 nautical, so that covers the gamut of everything. So  
 47 District Presidents are going to be Cruise Ship Captains,  
 48 and I hope that our trip is a great trip. I hope you guys  
 49 all enjoy yourselves.

50          I think I'm going to turn it back over to Linda

1 now. Thank you and I hope you have a fabulous year.  
2 (Applause.)  
3 INSTALLING OFFICER FERCHO: At this time -- I'm  
4 kind of like that shrimp boat. At this time, Wendy, I  
5 will announcing your District Presidents. I was going to  
6 have them come forward, but we're a little crowded up  
7 here. So Wendy has a gift for them. I'd like them to  
8 stand when I call their name so they can be recognized and  
9 Wendy will hand them their gift because it's crowded here.  
10 So I don't want anybody tripping or having any issues, so  
11 we will just do it in that manner.  
12 So please stand as I call your name. Wendy does  
13 have something for each of you. So at this time we will  
14 start with that. District 1, Marialice Canclini.  
15 (Applause.)  
16 INSTALLING OFFICER FERCHO: District 2, Judy  
17 Henderson.  
18 (Applause.)  
19 INSTALLING OFFICER FERCHO: District 3, Lola  
20 Ramey.  
21 (Applause.)  
22 INSTALLING OFFICER FERCHO: District 4, Ms. Geri  
23 Fitzpatrick.  
24 (Applause.)  
25 INSTALLING OFFICER FERCHO: District 5, Sandy  
26 Paxton.  
27 (Applause.)  
28 INSTALLING OFFICER FERCHO: District 6, Linda  
29 Schultz. District 7, Linda Harmon. District 8, Tammy  
30 Manini. District 9, Dolly Rios. District 10, Gwenivere  
31 Woody. District 11, Marcia Monroe. District 12, Ann  
32 Kelley. District 13, Pat McLeod. District 14, Gloria  
33 Sinopoli. District 15, Zana Chaney. Yeah, some of these  
34 left for Girls State. That session is going to be  
35 starting Monday.  
36 District 16, Terry Oclaray. District 17, Rachel  
37 Wang-Yee. District 18, Gail Pouliot. Did I get it kind  
38 of right? I got it kind of right.  
39 District 19, Nancy Rayner. District 20, Nancy  
40 Heinisch. District 21, Susan Romero. District 22, Donna  
41 Smith. District 23, Patricia Patrick. District 24,  
42 Deloris Artis. District 25, Maria Terry Granado.  
43 District 26, Louann Johnston. District 27, Vicky  
44 Goodchild. District 28, Karol Adams. District 29, Carol  
45 Borgman. District 30, Kim Vincent.  
46 At this time we're taking presentations, and,  
47 Wendy, I have one for you. I already gave Susie a little  
48 gift earlier and I saw that she was using it too. The  
49 koozie cup. Wendy, I know you're going to have such a  
50 good year so I decided to pack -- well, this is really



1 between kind of my daughter and I. My daughter, Tracy  
2 Varnell, always takes with her a snack bag, but not only  
3 does she have a snack bag, but if you need to have a  
4 three-hole punch, she's got that. Who carries a  
5 three-hole punch with them? But -- so we have a whole lot  
6 of things to make your life I hope comfortable. But one  
7 of the things is here's your captain hat. And this little  
8 guy will travel along to help you.

9 DEPARTMENT PRESIDENT ELECT O'BRIEN: My own  
10 little sailor.

11 INSTALLING OFFICER FERCHO: And there's a lot of  
12 other things like aspirin. We've got your throat  
13 lozenges. We've got hand sanitizer, a little something  
14 for the bath. So there's a whole lot of things in here.  
15 This is for you to get through your year and feel a whole  
16 lot comfortable. Oh, Fireball.

17 (Applause.)

18 INSTALLING OFFICER FERCHO: Are there any other  
19 presentations for Susie and Wendy? PDG. Are the  
20 gophers -- the gophers. Are you gophers doing something?

21 JUNIOR PAST DEPARTMENT PRESIDENT TOZIER: Okay.  
22 I'm an Honorary Gopher.

23 INSTALLING OFFICER FERCHO: She's an Honorary  
24 Gopher. Here comes Peter. He's got snazzy clothes on.

25 PAST DEPARTMENT GOPHER DOUGLAS: Daddy loves you.

26 JUNIOR PAST DEPARTMENT PRESIDENT TOZIER: The  
27 PDG's, if you don't know, are the Past Department  
28 Presidents' Gophers, if you don't know.

29 INSTALLING OFFICER FERCHO: How many Gophers are  
30 in the house? There's one or two.

31 PAST DEPARTMENT GOPHER DOUGLAS: RJ is in the  
32 back. Dennis Fercho.

33 JUNIOR PAST DEPARTMENT PRESIDENT TOZIER: Peter  
34 missed his friend so much. We're now passing the gopher  
35 and all the holes in my yard to Wendy O'Brien.

36 (Applause.)

37 JUNIOR PAST DEPARTMENT PRESIDENT TOZIER: You can  
38 carry him along on your trip. This is his backpack.

39 PAST DEPARTMENT GOPHER DOUGLAS: Gentlemen  
40 Gophers, the gopher is alive and well.

41 (Applause.)

42 JUNIOR PAST DEPARTMENT PRESIDENT TOZIER: And you  
43 notice that he has a whole new set of clothes. I just  
44 have to now find a sailor outfit.

45 DEPARTMENT PRESIDENT ELECT O'BRIEN: Junior Past  
46 President Susie, can you join me at the podium. At this  
47 time I will return the gavel to you for you, the Junior  
48 Past Department President, to close your convention.

49 (Applause.)

50 JUNIOR PAST DEPARTMENT PRESIDENT TOZIER: If

1 there is -- no, wait a second here. Will the  
2 Sergeant-at-Arms and Marshal meet with the district and  
3 unit in the back, please? Can I borrow four ladies here  
4 to retire the district colors and -- because I can't seem  
5 to find the ones that were going to do it. There they  
6 are. Thank you. Everybody must have went home.

7 If there is no further business to come before  
8 this convention, the Retiring Chaplain Susan Baker will  
9 offer prayers. And I'm not going to gavel because I don't  
10 want to disturb my little friend up here. Please stand.

11 RETIRING DEPARTMENT CHAPLAIN BAKER: Lord, as we  
12 depart from this meeting, help us look beyond outward  
13 appearances and see the person beneath. Teach us to love  
14 and accept them, forgive our cynical thoughts and harsh  
15 words. Replace them with your love and forgiveness. Open  
16 our eyes to the needs of the world and fill our hearts  
17 with love and compassion.

18 May we be sensitive to the issues of poverty,  
19 racial, gender, and age discrimination, war and peace,  
20 pollution and environment. Oh, God, help each of us to  
21 recognize and grasp the opportunities for service, that  
22 each one of us might make a difference and let us reach  
23 out and touch someone with a helping hand.

24 And finally, help us to never lose sight of your  
25 continued guidance in our lives as we work for our fellow  
26 man. Amen.

27 AUDIENCE MEMBERS: Amen.

28 JUNIOR PAST DEPARTMENT PRESIDENT TOZIER: I  
29 forgot to introduce someone. This is my sister, Anita.  
30 She comes all the way from Utah to be my escort. And  
31 she's also a member of San Diego Unit 6.

32 (Applause.)

33 JUNIOR PAST DEPARTMENT PRESIDENT TOZIER: Nothing  
34 is worse than saying "Anita" and you get both of them  
35 standing right next to you.

36 Until we meet again, let us remember that our  
37 obligation to our country can only be fulfilled by the  
38 faithful performances of all duties of citizenship. Let  
39 service to the community, state, and nation be a main  
40 objective of the American Legion Auxiliary and its  
41 members. Let us ever be watchful of our organization and  
42 ourselves, that nothing shall swerve us from the path of  
43 justice, freedom, and democracy.

44 Will the Sergeant-at-Arms and Marshal please  
45 retire the colors of District 22 and San Diego Unit 6.

46 (Processional.)

47 JUNIOR PAST DEPARTMENT PRESIDENT TOZIER:  
48 Sergeant-at-Arms and Marshal will escort me and my sister,  
49 Anita Collins, and when I reach the back of the room, this  
50 97th Convention of the American Legion Auxiliary,

1 Department of California will be adjourned.  
2 (Processional.)  
3 (The American Legion Auxiliary Convention  
4 was adjourned at 1:26 p.m.)  
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2 COUNTY OF STANISLAUS )  
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5 I, Karen A. Aufdermaur, a Certified Shorthand  
6 Reporter in the State of California, holding Certificate  
7 Number 10919, do hereby certify that the American Legion  
8 Auxiliary - Department of California 97th Annual  
9 Convention was taken Sunday, June 26, 2016, at the time  
10 and place set forth on the first page hereof.

11 That upon the taking of the meeting, the words of  
12 the American Legion Auxiliary - Department of California  
13 97th Annual Convention members were written down by me in  
14 stenotypy and thereafter transcribed by computer under my  
15 supervision; that the foregoing is a true and correct  
16 transcript of the oratory given by the American Legion  
17 Auxiliary - Department of California 97th Annual  
18 Convention members.

19 I further certify that I am neither counsel for  
20 nor in any way related to any party to said meeting, nor  
21 in any way interested in the result or outcome thereof.

22 Dated this 13th day of July, 2016, at Modesto,  
23 California.

24 Karen A. Aufdermaur, CSR No. 10919  
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