

DEPARTMENT OF CALIFORNIA

American Legion Auxiliary

90th Annual Convention

Friday, June 19, 2009
9:10 o'clock a.m.

Riverside, California

Volume 1
Pages 1 - 121

Reported by:
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P R O C E E D I N G S

1
2 [The Annual Convention of the American
3 Legion Auxiliary, Department of California, was
4 reconvened on June 19, 2009 at 9:10 a.m., President
Capazzi presiding]

5 PRESIDENT CAPAZZI: Ladies, please find
6 your chairs.

7 Ladies, please take your seats.

8 This convention session is now
9 reconvened. Donna Scott, our Department Chaplain,
will give the invocation.

10 CHAPLAIN SCOTT: Before we begin this
11 morning, if any of you did not get memorial service
12 programs yesterday, there are some at the back table
13 by the Poppy display, right next to where the Girls
State sales are going on. And there are some over
here by the prayer books. There are programs
available if you didn't get one yesterday. Please
take one or two.

14 Before our prayer this morning, I would
15 like to read an excerpt from a speech and see if any
16 of you recognize it. "With malice toward none, with
17 charity for all, with firmness in the right as God
18 gives us to see the right, let us strive to finish
19 the work we are in to bind up the nation's wounds,
to care for him who shall have borne the battle; and
for his widow and his orphan to do all which may
achieve and cherish a just and lasting peace among
ourselves and with all nations."

20 It sounds very familiar and very fitting
21 for today. It's actually an excerpt from Abraham
22 Lincoln's second inaugural address, March 4, 1865.
I thought it appropriate for this day and age as
well.

23 Let us pray. Thank you, Lord, for this
24 day and for America. We ask that You defend and
25 protect our Service men and women and keep them in
Your care. Please help to will be peace so they may
return home to their families. This we ask in Thy
name, amen.

1 PRESIDENT CAPAZZI: May we stand in a
2 moment of silence in honor of our dearly departed
members and veterans.

3 [Moment of silence]

4 PRESIDENT CAPAZZI: Our Department
5 Secretary, Doris Kilkenny, will please call the roll
of officers, chairmen, and district presidents.

6 SECRETARY-TREASURER KILKENNY: Good
7 morning, ladies. I hope you guys are bright-eyed
and bushy-tailed because I'm not.

8 [Roll call]

9 SECRETARY-TREASURER KILKENNY: Madam
10 President, that's your roll call.

11 PRESIDENT CAPAZZI: Thank you, Madam
Secretary.

12 SECRETARY-TREASURER KILKENNY: Okay,
13 ladies, I really didn't have much sleep last night.
Earlean Page and Phyllis Holmberg. Thank you.

14 PRESIDENT CAPAZZI: You forgot Pat.

15 SECRETARY-TREASURER KILKENNY: Pat
16 Klang, I didn't call you? Okay, strike three for
me.

17 Gerry Fitzpatrick? She is back there.
18 Did I miss Mary Lou Warner?

19 PRESIDENT CAPAZZI: No, she resigned.

20 In order to keep the convention running
21 smoothly, I am requesting that all pictures be taken
22 at the end of the chairman's report and that those
receiving the awards remain at the right side of the
stage so that individual and group pictures may be
taken.

23 Also, please remain as quiet as possible
24 so as to not interfere with the chairman who is
following you, and I thank you for your cooperation.
25 I know you are going to be great doing this.

I will be calling three chairmen to the

1 stage at a time, so please make sure you send out
2 your notes to those winners so that they will be at
3 the right of the stage when you're giving your
report. And remember, ladies, you have five
minutes. Thank you.

4 For those who haven't done so yet,
5 please turn your cell phones off or on vibrate, if
you choose. Just so they don't ring. Thank you.

6 If we're going along smoothly, I will
7 try to give a break this morning and one this
afternoon, but we want to keep moving. I know
8 you're anxious to hear those winners.

9 Midge Farrar will now read the
convention rules.

10 RULES COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN FARRAR: Good
11 morning, Madam Department President. I move the
convention rules be considered seriatim and adopted
12 as a whole.

13 [Seconded]

14 PRESIDENT CAPAZZI: It has been moved
and seconded that the rules be accepted seriatim and
15 be adopted as a whole. Is there any discussion?

16 All those in favor, "aye."

17 Opposed, "no."

18 Motion carried.

19 RULES COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN FARRAR: This
20 chairman will hesitate after each rule. If there is
a question or an amendment, it may be presented at
that time.

21 Department of California 2009 convention
22 rules.

23 All meetings of the convention shall be
called to order at the designated times or as soon
24 thereafter as a quorum is present.

25 A quorum shall exist when one-third of
the units in good standing are partially or wholly
represented by duly elected delegates or alternates.

1 Article IV, Section 3, Department Constitution.

2 The audience shall remain seated during
3 the business of the convention. The Department
4 President shall designate certain doors to
5 accommodate delegates who find it necessary to enter
6 or leave the convention hall during the reports of
7 committees or when a speaker has the floor.

8 Cell phones must be turned off or in
9 vibrate mode.

10 PRESIDENT CAPAZZI: Did you miss a
11 sentence, Midge?

12 RULES COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN FARRAR: I
13 skipped something? I don't have that in my report.
14 I'm sorry.

15 No. 4. The Chair may deviate from the
16 printed program when necessary or expedient.

17 5. The Credentials Chairman shall
18 report registration as directed by the Chair.

19 6. The registration of delegates and
20 alternates shall close at 9:00 a.m. Saturday, June
21 20th, 2009.

22 7. Only qualified delegates shall have
23 voice and vote.

24 8. It shall be the responsibility of
25 each district president to see that only accredited
delegates and alternates serving as delegates are
seated in her district delegation during the
business meetings of the convention.

9. If a delegate expects to be absent
from the convention, except for the purpose of
attending a committee meeting, she shall relinquish
her delegate's card to her alternate. The alternate
shall then take her seat in the voting section.

In the event the delegate does not have
the opportunity of reporting to the district
president, it shall become the duty of the chairman
of the unit delegation to report to the district
president the absence of both the delegate and
alternate.

1
2 10. A delegate wishing the privilege of
3 the floor shall rise, address the Chair as "Madam
4 Department President," give her name, unit and
5 district numbers, pause, and wait to be recognized
6 by the Chair.

7 11. A member speaking in debate on a
8 question shall be limited to three minutes. No one
9 shall speak more than twice on the same question
10 without the consent of the assembly.

11 12. Delegates attending called
12 committee meetings shall be notified when the
13 convention is considering and voting upon adoption
14 of any change in policy or matters affecting
15 finance.

16 13. Reports of committees which do not
17 appear to be controversial in nature may be adopted
18 by general consent if there is no objection. If
19 there is an objection, a vote shall be taken.
20 Following the acceptance of a report of a committee,
21 recommendations or resolutions may be presented for
22 consideration and adoption.

23 14. Any committee whose proposed
24 changes in policy might conflict with that of the
25 American Legion shall confer with the American
Legion before presenting said change to the
convention.

17 15. A committee recommending an
18 appropriation of funds for any purpose shall consult
19 with the Department Finance Committee before
20 presenting the recommendation or resolution to the
21 convention.

22 16. All resolutions to be presented to
23 the convention shall be in triplicate and properly
24 signed.

25 17. Committees may amend resolutions
and recommendations referred to them before
favorably reporting same. Resolutions or
recommendations rejected by a committee shall be
marked rejected, signed by the chairman of the
committee, and returned to the Department
Resolutions Chairman immediately following the
committee meeting.

1
2 18. A unit, district, or members
3 presenting a resolution or recommendation shall have
4 the privilege of explaining same to the committee to
5 which it was referred.

6 19. Committees shall report to the
7 convention all resolutions properly submitted and
8 accepted by a majority of the convention committee.

9 20. A resolution rejected by a
10 committee may be brought before the convention by a
11 two-thirds vote.

12 21. Emergency resolutions which may
13 arise during the convention or after the date for
14 submitting resolutions may be presented no later
15 than noon of the second day of convention. Article
16 IV, Section 4(b), Department Constitution.

17 22. Nomination of officers, Junior
18 Member of Finance, Department delegates and
19 alternates to the National convention shall be held
20 on Friday afternoon, June 19th.

21 23. Endorsement of candidates for
22 National office shall follow the nominations.

23 24. Nomination speeches shall be
24 limited to three minutes. There shall be no
25 seconding speeches.

26 25. Election of Department officers,
27 Junior Member of Finance, National candidate,
28 Department delegates and alternates to the National
29 convention shall be held on Saturday morning, June
30 20th, 2009.

31 26. The doors of the convention hall
32 shall be closed during the entire election
33 procedure, and no one shall leave or enter the hall
34 until the Chair states that the election is
35 concluded.

36 The exception to this shall be that in
37 an emergency a member may leave. And if her absence
38 affects the voting strength, the district president
39 shall immediately notify the presiding officer.

40 27. When there is but one nominee for

1 Department offices and but one nominee for Junior
2 Member of Finance, the nominees shall be elected
3 viva voce. Article V, Section 3, Department
4 Constitution.

5 Upon roll call, the district president
6 shall report the number of units partially or wholly
7 represented by duly elected delegates or alternates
8 present in the delegation at the time of roll call.
9 This is to determine that there is a quorum of units
10 present at the time of election.

11 28. When there is more than one nominee
12 for the Department offices or Junior Member of
13 Finance or National office, elections shall be by
14 written ballot. The district president shall, when
15 they are instructed by the Chair, take a roll call
16 of their respective delegations to ascertain the
17 total voting strength of their district for the
18 election, reporting the same to the Chair. When
19 there is but one nominee for office for Junior
20 Member of Finance, the ballot may be dispensed with
21 and nominee elected viva voce.

22 29. When there are three or more
23 nominees for an office or Junior Member of Finance,
24 unless one nominee receives a majority vote on the
25 first ballot, the nominee receiving the lowest
26 number of votes shall be automatically dropped
27 before proceeding with the next ballot.

28 30. Each district president and
29 district member of the election committee shall
30 distribute and collect the votes cast by the
31 district delegation and deliver them to the
32 Department chairman of elections.

33 31. Department officers, chairmen,
34 committee members and Past Department Presidents
35 shall vote with their respective districts.

36 32. Each delegate shall be entitled to
37 one vote. The vote of an absent unit delegate not
38 represented by an alternate shall be cast by the
39 majority of the delegates from the unit. When two
40 delegates represent three votes, the chairman of the
41 unit delegation shall cast the third vote.

42 33. A majority of all votes cast shall
43 elect except that in the election of National

1 delegate and the alternate a plurality shall elect.

2 34. These convention rules may be
3 amended during the convention by a two-thirds vote.

4 35. Robert's Rules of Order Newly
5 Revised shall be the parliamentary authority on all
6 points not covered by these rules, the Department
7 Constitution and bylaws and convention mandates.

8 Madam Department President, Rule No. 3
9 provides it is your responsibility to designate
10 certain doors to accommodate delegates to enter or
11 leave the convention.

12 PRESIDENT CAPAZZI: We need a motion to
13 accept these rules first, please, Midge.

14 RULES COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN FARRAR: Oh,
15 I'm sorry. I move the acceptance of these rules.

16 [Seconded]

17 PRESIDENT CAPAZZI: It's been moved and
18 seconded that we accept the rules as read. Is there
19 any discussion?

20 PARLIAMENTARIAN DELASHMIT: Diane
21 DeLashmit, Parliamentarian. On Rule No. 3, there is
22 a sentence in your program that was not read. I
23 amend her motion to delete "There shall be no
24 smoking permitted in the auditorium" from the
25 printed program.

I need to check No. 9. I believe the
last sentence, I'm going to include that in the
amendment. Maybe we need to just do that because
she needs to check No. 9.

PRESIDENT CAPAZZI: We're just --

PARLIAMENTARIAN DELASHMIT: I just
amended to take out "There shall be no smoking
permitted in the auditorium" from the printed
program.

PRESIDENT CAPAZZI: We need to vote on
that amendment

PARLIAMENTARIAN DELASHMIT: First.

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PRESIDENT CAPAZZI: Did I hear a second?

[Seconded]

PRESIDENT CAPAZZI: It's been moved and seconded we delete the sentence in Rule No. 3 "There shall be no smoking permitted in the auditorium." Is there any discussion?

All those in favor, "aye."

Opposed, "no."

Motion carried.

PARLIAMENTARIAN DELASHMIT: Thank you. I'm not sure what you read for No. 9. I think you missed part of it.

I need to amend No. 9. The way it reads in the program, "If a delegate expects to be absent from the convention except for the purpose of attending a committee meeting, she shall relinquish her delegate's card to her alternate. The alternate shall then take her seat in the voting section. In the event the delegate does not have the opportunity of reporting to the district president, it shall become the duty of the chairman of the unit delegation to report to the district president the absence of the delegate and the presence of the alternate or the absence of both the delegate and the alternate."

I move that that be amended to read as in the program.

[Seconded]

PRESIDENT CAPAZZI: It has been moved and seconded in Rule No. 9 -- to amend Rule No. 9 as printed in the program. Is there any discussion?

All those in favor, "aye."

Opposed, "no."

Motion carried.

RULES COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN FARRAR: I

1 guess I didn't get it all. Thank you, Diane.

2 PRESIDENT CAPAZZI: We will now vote on
3 accepting the rules as amended.

4 A DELEGATE: I so move.

5 PRESIDENT CAPAZZI: It has been moved
6 and seconded that we accept the rules of the
7 convention as amended. Is there any discussion?

8 All those in favor, "aye."

9 Opposed, "no."

10 Motion carried.

11 RULES COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN FARRAR: Madam
12 Department President, Rule No. 3 provides it is your
13 responsibility to designate certain doors to
14 accommodate delegates to enter or leave the
15 convention.

16 PRESIDENT CAPAZZI: At this time I would
17 designate the doors to my right in the rear of the
18 auditorium for entering and exiting.

19 RULES COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN FARRAR: Thank
20 you. I would ask the door pages to request
21 delegates entering the hall to stand quietly until
22 the speaker has finished before returning to their
23 seats.

24 Thank you, Madam President LuAnn, for
25 this appointment. This concludes my report.

PRESIDENT CAPAZZI: Thank you, Midge.

[Applause]

PRESIDENT CAPAZZI: At this time we will
have the report of our National Executive
Committeewoman, Shelby Hitch.

NECWOMAN HITCH: Good morning, ladies.
Good morning, Madam President.

Department President, It has truly been
an honor to serve as California National Executive
Committee Woman this year.

1
2 At midyear I gave you my report on areas
3 that National would like to see us accomplish. Now
4 for some highlights of this past year.

5 The most heartwarming of the year was
6 attending the Creative Arts Festival in Riverside.
7 Just being there and watching these men and women
8 show their talents, whether it was in the form of
9 hand crafts or acting or singing on stage, they all
10 showed the true colors of our America. They were so
11 very proud. And many of them stated that this
12 program saved their lives. We must never forget
13 them or that very special program.

14 Another area, I was able to attend the
15 National Commander's visit in the South at Pacific
16 Palisades. He is a truly a gentleman and a great
17 speaker.

18 Then the last of February I was off to
19 Washington D.C. for the Awareness Assembly. Going
20 to the Hill, to Arlington, and watching the changing
21 of the guards always touches my heart and gives me
22 chill bumps right now as I'm speaking, and makes me
23 appreciate more all that our service men and women
24 have done for you and me.

25 On a lighter note, Madam Department
President and I for some reason forgot how cold it
can get in Washington, D.C.

[Laughter]

26 NECWOMAN HITCH: Well, you know, we have
27 to dress while we're there. We're going to
28 Arlington. It was 18 degrees, freezing and snowing.
29 We always have to bring back a gift for our spouses.
30 We went into the gift shop there at the hotel.
31 Well, they didn't have any women's socks. We each
32 bought a pair of men's socks and we wore them to the
33 Hill and brought them home. Little did they know we
34 wore them first.

[Laughter]

35 NECWOMAN HITCH: I really and truly
don't think I got warm until I returned to sunny
California.

1 There were many travels this year, but
2 the ones mentioned were so touching and reminded me
3 again to be humble because we do so little compared
4 to what others have done for us. Some have given
5 their all.

6 It is the close of another great year.
7 Let us not forget why we were organized and, above
8 all, our veterans. God bless our country, our
9 veterans, and each and every one of you.

10 Madam President, this concludes my
11 report.

12 [Applause]

13 PRESIDENT CAPAZZI: Thank you, Shelby.

14 Will the Vice President, Norma DuVall,
15 please assume the chair.

16 Good morning, ladies. Is this better?
17 I received a note on stage that you were having
18 trouble hearing. Can you hear now? Good. Because
19 I know there are going to be some great reports
20 today and you don't want to miss a single word.

21 We chartered a course to new horizons,
22 and my sailboat found many new ports of call and met
23 many members, new and old. What a journey this
24 President has had through our wonderful Department.

25 From the time we left our installation
26 port of Bakersfield last June until we docked here
27 in Riverside this week, we have had wonderful
28 success stories in all our programs.

29 We went back to Bakersfield for our
30 annual Department workshop in September, and what a
31 surprise in attendance. There were 28 members there
32 who had never been to a Department workshop. I know
33 that our Department chairmen gave them many tools to
34 work their programs with, and they took back a
35 wealth of knowledge to their units.

36 We were asked by the National Vice
37 President, Rita Navarette, to host the "Road 2
38 Recovery Bike Ride" that would start in San
39 Francisco at the V.A. Hospital and end in Los
40 Angeles at the V.A. Hospital. Even though we had a

1 short turnaround to make preparations, the members
2 of our California Auxiliary, the Legion, and the
3 Legion Riders turned to and made it happen. The
4 success was overwhelming, and we have again been
5 asked to participate this fall. I know there will
6 be more flag-wavers along the roadside and more
7 members along the route this year when those riders
8 come through.

9 California hosted a wonderful Creative
10 Arts Festival in October right here in Riverside
11 with the help and coordination of our volunteers
12 from the Jerry L. Pettis Hospital and the volunteers
13 from around the Department who helped with monetary
14 donations as well as working in the hospitality
15 room, dining hall, chaperoning on the
16 tour busses and wherever else a veteran needed
17 assistance.

18 At our Department executive board
19 meeting in Ridgecrest, the representatives and
20 deputies in our veterans hospitals, outpatient
21 clinics, and residential homes gave their reports,
22 recounting the thousands of hours that had been
23 volunteered. The certainly honored their promise
24 each day to our veterans.

25 We were given a challenge this year from
the National Chairman which was to increase our
volunteer population by 20 percent. Some units
invited Juniors and Seniors in high school as well
as young adults in their area colleges to come to a
unit meeting to hear from those representatives in
their area. They learned what a daily routine might
be for them in their respective facility and how
these young people might want to consider joining
our Auxiliary efforts in helping our veterans.
Hopefully we have gained a few more helping hands.

We also welcomed our Western Division
National Vice President, Josephine Keanu, from
Hawaii. What a delight to spend the weekend with
her. She especially enjoyed attending part of the
V.A. meeting on Friday morning and hearing the
reports of those representatives and deputies as
VA&R is one of her pet programs. She was amazed at
how many facilities we have in our Department and
just how many veterans and their families we serve
each year.

1 The week after Easter, our National
2 President, Desiree Stoy, paid us a visit. What a
3 wonderful weekend we had with her. We visited the
4 Chula Vista home that afternoon when she came in.
5 We had a Mexican dinner with the members of District
6 22. Then we went to the San Juan Capistrano Mission
7 and visited with the Yountville V.A. Home that
8 weekend. What great hosts District 29 and Unit 291,
9 Newport Harbor, were for Desi's Saturday night
10 dinner party. And then on Sunday, District 6 and
11 Unit 521 Haggin-Grant had a wonderful luncheon
12 buffet. Later that day we walked around the capitol
13 grounds and took lots of pictures. Desi said that
14 she really enjoyed being able to get out and see
15 some of our beautiful Department sites and meet and
16 talk with the veterans.

9 The Districts have been busy this year
10 in membership, and we have four new units already
11 chartered and one doing paperwork. Our work then
12 begins with these new units to be mentors and to
13 train the members so that the unit will grow and be
14 successful.

13 Visiting the V.A. hospitals, outpatient
14 clinics and residential homes this year has been
15 very rewarding. Not only visiting with the staff
16 and the volunteers, but being able to visit with the
17 veterans and hear how they really appreciated the
18 care our Auxiliary volunteers have given them and
19 their families as they recuperate from their wounds
20 and illnesses.

17 The hospitality and generosity of the
18 districts and units, as I made my visitations
19 throughout the Department, were unbelievable. One
20 of the real perks of being the Department President
21 is to be able to tour the Department and meet those
22 members in the units who don't get to a workshop or
23 a midyear conference or a convention. I enjoyed
24 sitting with them at the lunch table or at a dinner
25 and listening to their stories of how they became
members of the Auxiliary and which program they
dearly loved to work or just how pleased they were
with their unit and the successes they were having
this year.

24 As you know, our Department staff had a
25 change a few months into the new year. I want to
thank our new Department Secretary-Treasurer for her

1 hard work and determination to get things on track
2 and to streamline some of the ways we do business.
3 I want to thank the entire staff for their support
4 and dedication to our organization.

5 Our Department American Legion
6 Commander, Al Lennox, asked all of us early in the
7 year to work as a Legion family this year, and I
8 believe in my travels I have found that it was
9 working well in most areas. I want to thank
10 Commander Al and the SAL Detachment Commander, Allen
11 Henry, for working diligently to accomplish this
12 endeavor. I appreciate their support and friendship
13 and wish them a very successful convention.

14 My special projects this year have been
15 our veterans Affairs & Rehabilitation program and
16 the education program, with emphasis on our
17 scholarships. We have been told that there will be
18 three new veterans residential homes in our
19 Department this year. I believe one has already
20 been completed, and they are taking applications,
21 and two more are works in progress. We will also
22 get twelve new outpatient clinics. Therefore, we
23 will need more resources, more volunteers, more
24 money. That is why it is so important to keep those
25 donations coming for our VA&R Program, and also to
26 build up our volunteer staff. Many thanks to all of
27 you who purchased our logo T-shirts and helped with
28 this cause. And before this weekend is out, I will
29 have a total for you on our profit.

30 We know all too well that this has not
31 been a good year for many households. Those who
32 would usually donate to many charities and programs
33 have had to watch their pennies and tighten their
34 purse strings. Hopefully the badge holders that my
35 unit and district members made, and you have
36 purchased, have helped with our scholarship dollars.

37 It has been an honor and a privilege to
38 serve as your Department President and to be the
39 first in California as a dual member to hold this
40 office. Thank you for your trust in me and your
41 continued dedication to our organization. God Bless
42 each of you and may you always have fair winds and
43 calm seas wherever you venture.

44 [Standing ovation]

1 PRESIDENT CAPAZZI: We will hear from
2 our Historian, Esther Garcia, at this time.

3 HISTORIAN GARCIA: The Convention
4 Committee on Historians met on June 18, 2009, in the
5 Embassy Room of the Marriott Hotel in Riverside,
6 California. Alzora Carter from District 23 was
7 appointed secretary. Sonja Thomas from District 25
8 was appointed chaplain. Shirley Reeves from
9 District 22 was appointed sergeant-at-arms. A total
10 of 18 district delegates answered roll call. There
11 were five guests present.

12 The Committee agreed on the following
13 report: The codes were read and the following code
14 changes were proposed. Code No. 1 reads, "The
15 Department Historian's allowance shall be as adopted
16 in the annual budget. The officer shall submit an
17 end-of-year statement of the expenses incurred and
18 proposed recommendations affecting the office budget
19 for the next year to the Finance Committee by May
20 1st."

21 Code No. 1 will now read: "The
22 Department Historian's allowance shall be as adopted
23 in the annual budget. The officer shall submit two
24 end-of-year statements of the expenses incurred and
25 proposed recommendations affecting the office budget
for the next year to the Finance Committee by
December 31st and May 1st."

By the direction of the Convention
Committee, I move for the adoption of this code
change.

PRESIDENT CAPAZZI: A motion has been
made to amend Code 1 in the Historian's program.
Code 1 will now read: "The Department Historian's
allowance shall be adopted in the annual budget.
The officer shall submit two end-of-year statements
of the expenses incurred and proposed
recommendations affecting the office budget for the
next year to the Finance Committee by December 31st
and May 1st."

Is there any discussion? The Chair
recognizes Ruby Kapsalis.

PAST PRESIDENT KAPSALIS: Is it now my
understanding that any -- any what? Chairman's

1 expense, anything under 100 is paid automatically in
2 one payment. I believe -- Oh, historian. You're
3 Historian. I'm sorry. I thought you were
4 Americanism. Sorry.

5 [Laughter]

6 PRESIDENT CAPAZZI: Any other
7 discussion?

8 All those in favor, "aye."

9 Opposed, "no."

10 The code change is carried.

11 HISTORIAN GARCIA: There was a
12 housekeeping correction to Code No. 2. Code No. 2
13 read, "The budget shall include an estimate charge
14 for typing of the Department
15 History."

16 It will now read, "The budget shall
17 include an estimated charge for typing of the
18 Department History."

19 Code No. 4 was deleted. By direction of
20 the convention committee, I move for the adoption of
21 this code change.

22 PRESIDENT CAPAZZI: What was Code 4 that
23 you deleted?

24 One moment, please. We're getting that
25 for you.

26 Code 4 now says, "District historians
27 will submit a report of unit and district activities
28 no later than June 10 and must include a copy of the
29 district president's report." This was done in
30 1992.

31 The committee has voted to delete this
32 code.

33 Is there any discussion?

34 All those in favor, "aye."

35 Opposed, "no."

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Code 4 is now deleted.

HISTORIAN GARCIA: I'm sorry, but Code No. 7(a) was also -- you have it or no?

PRESIDENT CAPAZZI: 7(a): "Only the first-place entry judged by the district with a grade of 90 percent" -- that's nine zero -- "or better shall be brought to convention and submitted to the Department Historian prior to opening session of convention." The committee has voted to delete this. Is there any discussion?

All those in favor, "aye."

Opposed, "no."

Motion carried to delete.

HISTORIAN GARCIA: By direction of the Convention Committee, I move for the adoption of this code change.

All codes will be renumbered accordingly.

There were no resolutions or recommendations. Awards were presented in committee. A complete list of awards will be posted at the Department Office. There was discussion on promoting the program and the importance of recording of the History.

Madam President, this concludes the report of the Historian's Convention Committee meeting. I move for its acceptance.

[Applause]

HISTORIAN GARCIA: Madam Department President, may I continue with a short supplemental report?

PRESIDENT CAPAZZI: Yes, you may proceed.

HISTORIAN GARCIA: Madam President, as your ship gets closer to home, the voyage has been long but rewarding. Calm seas are in your horizons.

1 We are at port for a short leave. Soon it will be
2 time for our final destination in Kentucky to dock
3 your ship for this Auxiliary year. I want to thank
4 everyone who sent pictures, and I look forward to
5 receiving lots and lots of district pictures for
6 your book.

7 Madam President, may I present the
8 first-place awards?

9 PRESIDENT CAPAZZI: Yes, you may.

10 HISTORIAN GARCIA: Best Unit Written
11 History goes to Janice Spriggs, Newport Harbor Unit
12 291, District 29.

13 [Applause]

14 HISTORIAN GARCIA: Best District Written
15 History goes to Alzora Carter, District 23
16 historian.

17 [Applause]

18 HISTORIAN GARCIA: Madam President,
19 thank you for this appointment, and it has been an
20 honor serving the Department of California as
21 Historian.

22 Madam President, may I approach your
23 station for a presentation?

24 PRESIDENT CAPAZZI: Yes, you may.

25 HISTORIAN GARCIA: Madam President, here
are the first of many, many books I hope you will be
receiving. Enjoy and remember your year well.

[Applause]

PRESIDENT CAPAZZI: Thank you. I'm
looking forward to having the time to sit down and
look through this book with the pictures and
remembering the visitations I made this year. I
thank you, Esther, for your all your hard work and
for this beautiful book.

[Applause]

PRESIDENT CAPAZZI: Madam Vice

1 President, would you please assume the chair. I
2 need to make a visit across the hall. I'm going to
visit the Legion and bring greetings.

3 VICE PRESIDENT DuVALL: We're going to
4 hear from the Secretary-Treasurer, Doris Kilkenny.

5 SECRETARY-TREASURER KILKENNY: Good
6 morning again, ladies.

7 Ahoy, maties, and good morning, ladies.
8 What a whirlwind boat ride this has been from August
9 until our port of call here in Riverside. The
10 Department office has weathered stormy seas, cloudy
11 skies, and beautiful days at sea.

12 There are many issues at the current
13 time in the office. Financial issues have hit our
14 organization much as it has touched many throughout
15 our country. Staff has been reduced to two plus me.
16 All of us are currently taking one day off without
17 pay each pay period to try to alleviate some of the
18 financial burdens we are currently experiencing.
19 Many of the donations have decreased in amounts, and
20 our membership has declined as well. Please be
21 aware that further cuts may be necessary for
22 successful operation of our office, and we will make
23 you aware of any changes.

24 While we have also experienced a few
25 surrendered charters, I am happy to report that we
26 have chartered four new units this year. Beginning
27 with 118 Inyo in January. We have also just
28 received the charters for Unit 50, Paso Robles; Unit
29 146, Oceanside; Unit 879, High Desert. And word
30 just via an e-mail this morning that Unit 804 has
31 been approved by National, and we will be receiving
32 this week. Congratulations to all our new units and
33 welcome aboard.

34 A secretary workshop was held on
35 Thursday morning in the Grand Ballroom Salon B,
36 attended by 31 members. At that time information
37 was presented regarding membership forms,
38 applications, and the processing of membership from
39 the unit level to the National level. Many
40 questions were asked and answered for a productive
41 discussion.

42 Other information was the unit monthly

1 mailings and the goal of our Department office to
2 streamline the process of these mailings. At the
3 current time the packets are taking up to five weeks
4 in some cases to be delivered by the post office via
5 bulk mail. Current regulations from the United
6 States Postal Service resulted in increased costs
7 due to the sorting and the discounting of addresses
8 plus the process of verifying all deliverable
9 addresses. These increased costs affect all
10 mailings, including the sweepstakes mailings by the
11 American Legion and the California Legionnaire.

12 In order to cut the costs that are going
13 to be incurred we must look at all our options to
14 make the mailings available online while also
15 assisting those units with no or little access to
16 computers that we will try to make the delivery of
17 the packets in a more timely manner.

18 I want to also take this opportunity to
19 thank Ruby and Art Kapsalis for managing the website
20 for us. They have been a tremendous help, and I am
21 ever so grateful for all the hard work they have
22 done to help the Department office. Please give
23 them a round of applause.

24 [Applause]

25 SECRETARY-TREASURER KILKENNY: Ruby has
26 been very helpful with advice on matters that come
27 up as a result of our working on the website
28 together. Art has the membership statistics on the
29 website immediately upon our sending the information
30 to him, creating an immediate availability to all
31 members.

32 All updates are available on the 1st and
33 15th of each month as well as on the target dates.
34 If you have any questions or issues, please do not
35 hesitate to contact the Department office.

36 One very important item that we
37 discussed in the workshop is the filing of our 990
38 EZ for nonprofit organizations. In the past we have
39 been told and I too have told many of you that there
40 is no money penalty involved in late filing. This
41 statement is not true, ladies. There is indeed a
42 penalty of money for any late filings. So please
43 file them on time. They must be filed within five
44 months after the close of your fiscal year.

1 All Auxiliary units are on a fiscal year from July
2 to June. Your filing should be completed by
3 November 15th. If you need help, please contact me.
4 There have been several answers given by the IRS,
5 and many are not consistent.

6 Also remember that each unit must have
7 their own EIN, employer identification number. You
8 would have had to have one to open your checking
9 accounts. You may not under any circumstance use
10 the Department EIN number.

11 A few things that were addressed also in
12 the workshop were the donations and the way we are
13 receiving the information that comes with the
14 monies. I have to say some of the most innovative
15 forms have been received. They resemble Post-It
16 notes, index cards, and small pieces of paper with
17 watermarks. There is a donation form to use with
18 the transmittal of your donations, and you must use
19 these to properly apply the amounts to the correct
20 programs so that we can properly credit your unit
21 for your hard work. We want credit to be applied
22 where the credit is due. You ladies deserve it for
23 your contributions.

24 Membership issues are slowly being
25 corrected and researched. We appreciate your
26 patience. The transmittal form is now online and is
27 the only form we will be using. Whether you are
28 handwriting the information or filling the form
29 online, a copy must be mailed to the office with
30 your transmittal check. And I didn't put this in my
31 report, but no, you may not e-mail it to me because
32 I want the money with it.

33 We are continuing to work with National
34 on issues at their level, and the future looks
35 brighter each day. All membership cards were
36 brought to convention and are available in the
37 Department office upstairs. Please ask someone to
38 help you so that you can sign the sheet showing that
39 they were received. The district presidents or
40 membership chairman may pick up all units cards or,
41 if the unit wishes, they may pick up their own.

42 Again, we must keep in mind that we are
43 a service organization. That statement not only
44 applies to unit members helping veterans but our
45 office helping our unit members. The staff has been

1 instructed to be helpful and courteous. Our goal is
2 to be there for you. Please do not hesitate to
3 contact us for help. If we don't know the answer,
4 then we will find someone who does. Customer
5 service is our goal, so help us help you.

6 The office hours currently are 8:30 to
7 4:30. If we are not available or the office is
8 closed, you can leave a message so that we can get
9 back to you as quickly as possible.

10 Again, I can't tell you all how much I
11 appreciate your patience as we have ridden the waves
12 of any stormy seas that roll over the horizon. We
13 are all in this boat together, and we will survive.
14 After all, the best ship crew is you.

15 Thank you, Madam President. This
16 concludes my report.

17 [Applause]

18 VICE PRESIDENT DuVALL: By your
19 applause, you have accepted the report of the
20 Secretary-Treasurer.

21 The Parliamentarian will give her
22 report.

23 PARLIAMENTARIAN DELASHMIT: Madam
24 President, the first half of the year had very calm
25 waters and smooth sailing. However, in the past
four months there have been many ripples, heavy
storms, and tsunamis experienced on the horizon.
Most didn't last long, but others created quite a
stir, and this mate has been very busy.

Life lines were thrown to those calling
mayday, and a search party sent to two areas in need
of rescues, trying to bring all of them back to
shore safely. Unfortunately, one ship sunk, but we
are still searching for survivors. The other ship
just needed some help getting through the storm, and
hopefully they are now charting a course to new
horizons.

A strong signal indicates to me that
more emphasis needs to be placed on the study of our
log, weather reports, and checking the compass to
make sure of the direction in which we are sailing

1 -- that is, our Constitution and Bylaws and Robert's
2 Rules of Order -- as most situations could have been
3 avoided if these documents had been used and
4 understood, especially situations regarding
5 membership, elections, and meeting dates.

6 Now that we are finally in port, let's
7 hope that the waters will remain calm for the
8 duration of our stay.

9 Madam President, it has been a pleasure
10 to serve the Department in this capacity.

11 [Applause]

12 VICE PRESIDENT DuVALL: By your applause
13 you have accepted the report of the Parliamentarian.

14 Donna Lennox, are you in the room? No?
15 We're trying to reorganize a little bit here.
16 Auxiliary Emergency Fund, Constitution and Bylaws,
17 we will have you next. And Education, if you could
18 kind of stand by also.

19 Auxiliary Emergency Fund. Marge Rye.

20 CONSTITUTION AND BYLAWS COMMITTEE
21 CHAIRMAN RYE: Good morning, ladies. I've got to
22 put my eyeballs on here.

23 The convention committee on Constitution
24 and Bylaws met on June 18, 2009, in the Orangecrest
25 Room of the Marriott Riverside. The statistical
26 report -- I don't have the page. I just got the
27 report form, but I don't have the page the
28 statistical report is on. Linda Hayes, District 20,
29 was appointed secretary. Carolyn Avery, District
30 21, offered prayer. And Pat Conrad, District 1, was
31 appointed sergeant-at-arms. A total of 15 district
32 delegates answered roll call. And there was one
33 visitor.

34 The code changes. We had some code
35 changes. The committee agreed upon the following
36 report. To delete Code No. 2 in its entirety.

37 VICE PRESIDENT DuVALL: Do you have the
38 code, Marge?

39 CONSTITUTION AND BYLAWS COMMITTEE

1 CHAIRMAN RYE: Code No. 2, "When necessary, a supply
2 of Department Constitution and Bylaws shall be
3 printed every five years." We chose to delete that.
4 I move for approval of that code change.

5 [Seconded]

6 VICE PRESIDENT DuVALL: It's been moved
7 and seconded to delete Code No. 2 in its entirety.
8 Is there any discussion?

9 All in favor say "aye."

10 Opposed, "no."

11 The motion is carried.

12 CONSTITUTION AND BYLAWS COMMITTEE

13 CHAIRMAN RYE: Code No. 3 will become Code No. 2.
14 The current Code 3 currently reads, "Between the
15 printing period, the adopted changes in Department
16 and National Constitution and Bylaws shall be
17 forwarded annually from the Department office as
18 soon as they are received after the National
19 convention. Every unit, district, Department
20 chairman and officer and Past Department President
21 shall receive a free set to attach to their existing
22 copy. A charge will be made for additional sets."

23 The new Code 2 will read, "The adopted
24 changes in National Constitution and Bylaws," we
25 deleted "the Department bylaws," "shall be forwarded
annually from the Department office as soon as they
are received after the National convention. Every
unit, district, Department chairman, Department
officer, and Past Department President shall receive
a free copy to attach to their existing copy. A
charge will be made for additional copies."

I move for acceptance of this Code
change.

[Seconded]

VICE PRESIDENT DuVALL: We have a motion
on the floor to change Code number -- the new Code
No. 2 will read, "The adopted changes in National
Constitution and Bylaws shall be forwarded annually
from the Department office as soon as they are
received after the National convention. Each unit,

1 district, Department chairman, Department officer
2 and Past Department President shall receive a free
3 copy to attach to their existing copy. A charge
4 will be made for additional copies."

5 Is there any discussion?

6 All in favor say "aye."

7 No?

8 The motion is carried.

9 CONSTITUTION AND BYLAWS COMMITTEE

10 CHAIRMAN RYE: A new Code 3 will read: "Any adopted
11 changes in Department Constitution and Bylaws shall
12 be forwarded to the Department chairman as soon as
13 possible after Department convention."

14 I move for approval of this code change.

15 [Seconded]

16 VICE PRESIDENT DuVALL: There's a motion
17 on the floor for a new Code No. 3 which will read:
18 "Any adopted changes in Department Constitution and
19 Bylaws shall be forwarded to the Department chairman
20 as soon as possible after Department convention."

21 Is there any discussion?

22 All in favor say "aye."

23 Opposed, "no."

24 The motion is carried.

25 CONSTITUTION AND BYLAWS COMMITTEE

CHAIRMAN RYE: Code No. 6 currently reads: "All
units and districts must use the model for
unit/district bylaws provided by the Department
office. The Xeroxed set of bylaws with open spaces
for unit/district name, number, per capita dues,
date, and place of meeting, et cetera with
information and instruction sheet included shall be
available at no cost from the Department chairman.
Signature page for unit/district forms are
included."

This code was amended to read: "All

1 units and districts must use the models for
2 unit/district bylaws provided by the Department
3 office. Xeroxed set of bylaws with open spaces for
4 unit/district name, number, per capita dues, date,
5 and place of meeting, et cetera, with the
6 information and instruction sheet included shall be
7 available" -- and we added this -- "on the
8 Department website or at no cost from the Department
9 chairman. Signature page for unit/district forms
10 are included. I move for acceptance of this code
11 change.

12 [Seconded]

13 VICE PRESIDENT DuVALL: There is a
14 motion to change No. 6 which will read: "All units
15 and districts must use the model for unit/district
16 bylaws provided by the Department office. The
17 Xeroxed set of bylaws with open spaces for
18 unit/district name, number, per capita dues, date,
19 and place of meeting, et cetera, with the
20 information instruction sheet included shall be
21 available on the Department website or at no cost
22 from the Department chairman. Signature page for
23 unit/district forms are included."

24 Any discussion?

25 PARLIAMENTARIAN DELASHMIT: Diane
DeLashmit, Parliamentarian. Just a housekeeping on
that. I think we should take out the words "the
Xeroxed set" and just make it a set of bylaws. I
move to amend this motion to remove "the Xeroxed"
and make it just "a set of bylaws."

[Seconded]

VICE PRESIDENT DuVALL: Okay. We have
an amendment to the motion to remove "the Xeroxed"
and just read "a set of bylaws." Is there any
discussion?

All in favor say "aye."

Opposed, "no."

The motion is carried. Now we're going
to vote on the original motion as amended. "All
units and districts must use the model for
unit/district bylaws provided by the Department

1 office. A set of bylaws with open spaces for
2 unit/district name, number, per capita dues, date,
3 and place of meeting, et cetera, with the
4 information and instruction sheet included shall be
5 available on the Department website or at no cost
6 from the Department chairman. Signature page for
7 unit or district forms are included."

8 Any further discussion?

9 All in favor say "aye."

10 Opposed, "no."

11 The motion is carried.

12 CONSTITUTION AND BYLAWS COMMITTEE

13 CHAIRMAN RYE: On Code 9 we just had a housecleaning
14 cleanup in the second sentence where it says "unit
15 report forms are to be sent to te district
16 chairman," "the" was misspelled. That was corrected
17 on the spelling to "the district chairman."

18 The meeting adjourned at 12:05 p.m.

19 Madam President, may I continue with my
20 supplemental?

21 VICE PRESIDENT DuVALL: Yes, you may,
22 Marge.

23 CONSTITUTION AND BYLAWS COMMITTEE

24 CHAIRMAN RYE: Madam President, The USS Constitution
25 has sailed throughout the California waterways this
26 year. It has endured low tides, communication
27 breakdowns, and some stormy seas. As we chartered
28 our course to new horizons, we found there were 19
29 units and one district that had to rewrite their
30 constitution and bylaws this year, which included
31 one from last year. As we dock in Riverside today,
32 our duty roster shows that 17 of the units have
33 completed their rewrites.

34 After numerous ship-to-shore
35 communications, we have not been able to establish
36 compliance with South Butte Unit No. 210 and
37 Rosamond Unit No. 490. In addition, Departmental
38 8/40 Salon 1 has rewritten their constitution and
39 bylaws. Abraham Lincoln Unit 241 has rewritten
40 early, and Merced Unit No. 83 has rewritten to

1 conform to mandates. Five units have amended their
2 bylaws.

3 Four new units, Paso Robles Unit No. 50,
4 Oceanside Unit No. 146, High Desert Unit No. 879,
5 and Inyo Unit No. 118 came on board. We welcome
6 them and wish for them calm seas.

7 Another new unit, Eugene A. Obregon No.
8 804 in District 19, have sent their bylaws, but
9 there are some discrepancies, and they are being
10 held for additional information and clarity.

11 This has been a very interesting,
12 enlightening, and exciting year. We have some very
13 diligent and hard-working members who are to be
14 commended for their devotion and self sacrifice, and
15 I thank you for making this an enjoyable assignment
16 for me.

17 Madam President, may I present my
18 commendations?

19 VICE PRESIDENT DuVALL: Yes, you may.

20 CONSTITUTION AND BYLAWS COMMITTEE
21 CHAIRMAN RYE: For Best Unit Supplemental, there
22 were three recommendations. The first place goes to
23 Hawthorne Unit 314, District 19, Linda Fariss,
24 chairman.

25 [Applause]

26 CONSTITUTION AND BYLAWS COMMITTEE
27 CHAIRMAN RYE: Best District Supplemental, there
28 were seven applications. First place goes to
29 District 25, Carol Fuqua, chairman.

30 [Applause]

31 CONSTITUTION AND BYLAWS COMMITTEE
32 CHAIRMAN RYE: Madam President, thank you for this
33 wonderful opportunity to command one of your ships.
34 It has been an outstanding voyage, and I wish you
35 happy sailings to new horizons. This concludes my
36 report.

37 [Applause]

38 VICE PRESIDENT DuVALL: Sergeant-at-Arms

1 and Marshal with the Distinguished Guest chairman,
2 please escort our Department President back to her
station.

3 [Applause]

4 CONSTITUTION AND BYLAWS COMMITTEE
5 CHAIRMAN RYE: Madam President, may I have one more
moment?

6 PRESIDENT CAPAZZI: Yes, you may.

7 CONSTITUTION AND BYLAWS COMMITTEE
8 CHAIRMAN RYE: Patsy, would you bring that package
out of my bag, please. The little gift package.

9 I know better, guys. It's just that I
10 can't walk all that far. I forgot I had a page up
here.

11 May I approach your station, Madam
12 President?

13 PRESIDENT CAPAZZI: Yes, you may.

14 CONSTITUTION AND BYLAWS COMMITTEE
15 CHAIRMAN RYE: Madam President, I thank you so much
for this opportunity this year. It has been
wonderful. I just can't say enough.

16 PRESIDENT CAPAZZI: Thank you, Marge,
17 for your diligence. My goodness. Oh, my goodness.
It's a USS Constitution medallion from the museum.

18 [Applause]

19 CONSTITUTION AND BYLAWS COMMITTEE
20 CHAIRMAN RYE: This was made out of the copper that
was taken off of the USS Constitution when it was
21 refurbished a few years ago.

22 PRESIDENT CAPAZZI: Thank you so much.
I just have to share with you some exciting news
23 from my travels across the hall.

24 [Laughter]

25 PRESIDENT CAPAZZI: You remember
yesterday when Commander Al was here and he talked
about his membership numbers, and he told us it was

1 273 percent? Well, then he came down a little bit,
2 you know.

3 I went over prepared, ladies, with
4 today's figures, and we are at this moment 88.93
5 percent as a Department, and the Legion's side of
6 the house is at 88.187.

7 [Applause]

8 PRESIDENT CAPAZZI: Needless to say,
9 they were a little taken aback.

10 [Laughter]

11 PRESIDENT CAPAZZI: We hadn't really put
12 anything in concrete of how we were going to work
13 out this challenge, so I told them I would be back
14 to make my collection. We will have to think this
15 over, but I'm very proud of you ladies. I know it's
16 been a struggle this year as well as it has for
17 them. Our households have had to tighten those
18 purse strings. We just didn't reach every member we
19 would like to so far. We still have until July,
20 ladies, so keep going. But I thought you would like
21 to hear that news right away.

22 Now I believe our Auxiliary Emergency
23 Fund chairman is ready. Donna.

24 AUXILIARY EMERGENCY FUND CHAIRMAN

25 ENRIGHT: Good morning. The Convention Committee on
Auxiliary Emergency Fund met on June 18, 2009, in
the Imperial Room of the Marriott Hotel, Riverside.
California. The statistical report of the Chairman
appears in the Book of Reports.

Patricia Patrick, District 23, was
appointed secretary. Leonarda Estigoy, District 10,
offered prayer. Kathy Gosling, District 20, was
appointed sergeant-at-arms. A total of 16 district
delegates answered roll call. There were six
visitors present.

The committee agreed on the following
report: The code was read, and no changes are
proposed.

[Applause]

1 AUXILIARY EMERGENCY FUND CHAIRMAN
ENRIGHT: Certificates for 100 percent reporting
2 were presented in Committee. Second- and
third-place awards for Best Supplemental at district
3 and unit levels were presented in committee. A
complete list of awards will be posted outside the
4 secretary's office.

5 Madam President, this concludes the
report of the Auxiliary Emergency Fund Committee. I
6 move for its acceptance.

7 [Applause]

8 PRESIDENT CAPAZZI: Thank you, Donna.

9 AUXILIARY EMERGENCY FUND CHAIRMAN
ENRIGHT: Madam President, may I continue with the
10 supplemental?

11 PRESIDENT CAPAZZI: Yes, you may.

12 AUXILIARY EMERGENCY FUND CHAIRMAN
ENRIGHT: Units and districts got on board to help
13 the USS Ducklee Doo Right provide for our members in
need. They held bake sales, offered baskets for
14 raffle, held luncheons, dinners, and dances.
Special treat jars were made available for anyone
15 making donations. One district ended their year by
holding a country fair, complete with food, games
16 and a jail. I'm sure that jail cost a pretty penny
to escape.

17 Chairmen talked about the importance of
18 this program and its benefits at their meetings.
And many put articles in their unit/post bulletins.
19 Our members filed nine applications for assistance.
I know of at least two that received help from
20 National, one that is still pending at the unit
level, and four were helped at either the unit or
21 district levels. Great job, ladies.

22 [Applause]

23 AUXILIARY EMERGENCY FUND CHAIRMAN
ENRIGHT: Our USS Ducklee Doo Right jars were set
24 out at district meetings, helping to raise
additional funds. Our units and districts
25 responded, contributing more than \$8,826.

1 [Applause]

2 AUXILIARY EMERGENCY FUND CHAIRMAN

3 ENRIGHT: Not bad when under 40 percent of our units
4 actually made a donation. Can you imagine what
5 would happen if every unit donated something? Every
6 \$5 helps.

7 I am very proud of our members for their
8 hard work and dedication to this most worthwhile
9 program. Remember, the Auxiliary Emergency Fund is
10 members helping other members.

11 Our first-place winners. Best District
12 Supplemental went to District 29, Karen Killen.

13 [Applause]

14 AUXILIARY EMERGENCY FUND CHAIRMAN

15 ENRIGHT: Best Unit Supplemental, Unit 716, District
16 29, Barbara Schrack.

17 [Applause]

18 AUXILIARY EMERGENCY FUND CHAIRMAN

19 ENRIGHT: Madam Department President LuAnn, thank
20 you for this appointment. I have learned so much.
21 And thank you for the opportunity to serve you and
22 our Department.

23 Madam Department President, that
24 concludes my report.

25 [Applause]

26 PRESIDENT CAPAZZI: Thank you, Donna,
27 for a great job this year.

28 [Applause]

29 PRESIDENT CAPAZZI: Vice President,
30 Norma DuVall, with her report.

31 VICE PRESIDENT DuVALL: Thank you Madam
32 Department President. It is amazing how fast a year
33 can pass. Reflecting on specific duties becomes
34 difficult when we as Auxiliary members wear so many
35 hats. Some leave a vague impression, others are
36 crystal clear. Leaving Bakersfield after convention
brought visions of normal structured days -- work

1 9:00 to 5:00, home to relax, an occasional Auxiliary
2 unit or district event, weekends of yard work.
3 Surprising how visions have a tendency not to be a
4 reality. I am finally getting caught up at work and
5 ready to relax for the weekend. Nothing is on my
6 calendar. How quickly my weekend changed.

7 Receiving a last-minute phone call, I
8 had my first experience with Girls State session at
9 Pitzer College in Claremont, a hop, skip and jump
10 from my house. The Girls State citizens are truly
11 amazing and talented future leaders. What a
12 splendid evening. Well, that was until I tried to
13 start my car to go home, and I had a dead battery.

14 Thankfully July and August stayed on
15 track with planned and uneventful activities that
16 included attending several district installations.
17 Then off to San Francisco in August for Department
18 Secretary-Treasurer interviews and a short visit
19 with son and grandchildren.

20 A last-minute decision was made to fly
21 to Phoenix for National convention for the weekend.
22 The American Legion Family Tribute to Service was an
23 outstanding program that included witnessing more
24 than 600 current or soon-to-be soldiers, sailors,
25 airmen, and Marines stand before the assembly, raise
their right hands, and take their oath to defend our
nation. A truly moving event.

September was off to Bakersfield for
Madam Department President's training and program
workshop, followed by four normal structured days.
Then back to Bakersfield for the Girls State
meeting.

In October I had the honor of attending
District 23's official visit as Department President
LuAnn was under the weather after her trip to
Indianapolis. The month concluded attending the
National Creative Arts Festival in Riverside.

In December I had the honor of
participating in the Elegant 18th District's 22nd
annual POW/MIA Christmas candlelight service. Then
off to Ridgecrest in January for the midyear
meeting.

In February I was asked by Madam

1 Department President LuAnn to attend the 8 & 40
2 Pouvoir in Ontario. I couldn't believe my eyes
3 reading the information on the banquet. And I will
4 quote, "All partners are requested to be dressed in
5 the costume of their Salon theme. If you have no
6 costume, you must wear pajamas. Partners not
7 dressed in costume or pajamas must pay the
8 consequences."

9 Well, I was having a real problem with
10 wearing pajamas to a hotel and a banquet. On what I
11 believed was better advice, I chose to wear the
12 traditional all white. Boy, was I surprised seeing
13 all the partners come dressed in their finest
14 pajamas.

15 [Laughter]

16 VICE PRESIDENT DuVALL: Needless to say,
17 Departmental Chapeau Gigi did not give this Vice
18 President any slack. I received one of the booby
19 prizes for not being in the requested evening
20 attire.

21 April was off to Junior Conference in
22 Wonder Valley where I was a room mom, tried to keep
23 up with four 10- and 11-year-olds, and had the honor
24 of installing the Honorary Junior officers for
25 2009-2010.

What a pleasure seeing and hearing from
National President Desi Stoy again when she made her
official visit to Southern California on April 18th.

April concluded the following weekend on
a personal high with the wedding of my son, PFC
Austin DuVall and daughter-in-law Larissa. Being no
rest for the weary, one week later it was off to the
National membership meeting in Indianapolis with
Pilar. We had a lot of fun starting on the
membership program for 2009-2010, had an interesting
scavenger hunt competing with the other divisions,
did some shopping, and talked until the wee hours of
the morning about California's membership goals for
next year. Pilar and I left for home and anxiously
awaited the news of our assigned membership goal.

Ten days later it was off to San
Francisco for the two-day budget meeting. No rest
for the weary. The following Saturday was another

1 meeting for the budget.

2 Spare time? Well, my spare time in May
3 and June was spent preparing for convention, unit,
4 and district meetings and, of course, normal
structured days working 9:00 to 5:00.

5 This Vice President is honored to have
6 been part of the journey charting a course to new
horizons. I look forward to an incredible
conclusion this weekend.

7 Thank you, Madam Department President.
8 This concludes my report, and I wish for you a very
successful convention.

9 [Applause]

10 PRESIDENT CAPAZZI: Thank you, Norma.

11 We will now hear from our Chaplain,
12 Donna Scott.

13 CHAPLAIN SCOTT: Madam Department
14 President, the Convention Committee on Chaplain met
at 11:00 a.m. in the Grand Ballroom B at the
15 Marriott Hotel, Riverside, California. The
16 statistical report of the Chaplain is on Page -- I
put Page 1. It's on the first page of the
17 statistical reports. The pages aren't numbered.
Dorothy Franceschi of District 28 was appointed
18 secretary. Pam Hicks of District 18 offered prayer.
Patsy Thompson of District 21 served as
sergeant-at-arms. A total of 18 district delegates
19 answered roll call, and there were eight visitors
present.

20 The Code was read, with no changes being
made. There were no resolutions referred to the
21 Committee. Twenty-five districts received citations
for reporting, and second- and third-place awards
were announced.

22 Certificates of Participation were
23 included in district packets. A copy will be posted
in the Department convention Office, and one is
24 attached to this report.

25 This concludes the report of the
Chaplain Convention Committee, and I move its

1 acceptance.

2 [Applause]

3 CHAPLAIN SCOTT: Madam Department
4 President, may I continue with my supplemental and
5 first-place awards?

6 PRESIDENT CAPAZZI: Yes, you may.

7 CHAPLAIN SCOTT: I need the page to help
8 me with bringing my things, please. I sent out
9 notes.

10 The "ship's chaplains" of the Department
11 of California were very busy tending to business and
12 those in need. It is with a heavy heart that I must
13 report the loss of 356 members this year. Two of
14 these were Gold Star Mothers. Fortunately no Junior
15 members were reported. Unit and district chaplains
16 draped charters and held memorial services to honor
17 their members who passed on.

18 Forty-five units held or participated in
19 Chapel of Four Chaplains ceremonies. \$1,635 was
20 donated to this program. 180 units took part in
21 Memorial Day ceremonies, 123 in July 4th
22 celebrations, 96 in various 911 memorials, and 166
23 units assisted their American Legion posts and
24 districts with Veteran's Day services. Only 13
25 units reported preparing prayer books, and nine
26 units sent prayers for our Department President's
27 prayer book.

28 Twelve units stated prayers were
29 submitted for the National President's prayer book.
30 2,246 Grace Cards were used during various
31 functions, proving that our chaplains were very busy
32 taking care of business.

33 This Department Chaplain asked for funds
34 to be donated to the "In Loving Tribute" Fund, and
35 \$2,546 was reported for this purpose. Thank you all
36 so much, as these funds go directly into our
37 Department general fund.

38 Seventeen units participated in "Heroes
39 to Hometowns," 29 units in "Make a Difference Day,"
40 six joined in the "Healing Fields" project, and 67
41 units worked in other community support efforts.

1 Some of these were cleaning cemeteries, donating to
2 food banks or pantries, visiting hospitals and rest
3 homes, volunteering in senior centers, working in
4 their local USO, delivering food baskets to families
5 of fallen heroes, taking Thanksgiving and Christmas
6 baskets to needy families, marching in parades,
7 donating to local toy marches, donating to church
8 food banks, collecting food and clothing for fire
9 victims, participating in POW/MIA ceremonies,
10 decorating rooms at veteran's homes and nursing
11 homes, assisting the Legion in local stand-downs,
12 providing backpacks to needy children, serving meals
13 to the homeless, donating funds to the American
14 Cancer Society, Relay for Life, Paralyzed Veterans
15 of America and the Disabled American Veterans and
16 taking elderly people shopping or to doctor
17 appointments.

18 A large part of the Chaplain's job is
19 sending get well, sympathy, "thinking of you" and
20 special occasion cards to members and their
21 families. 101 units reported sending 3184 cards
22 this year.

23 Madam Department President, may I
24 announce the first-place winners?

25 PRESIDENT CAPAZZI: Yes, you may.

CHAPLAIN SCOTT: The largest donation to
the "In Loving Tribute" Fund by a district was
District 16, Dorothy Davis, district chaplain.

[Applause]

CHAPLAIN SCOTT: The largest donation to
the "In Loving Tribute" Fund by a unit was Stella
Van Dyke, Johnson Unit 795, District 7.

[Applause]

CHAPLAIN SCOTT: The most prayers
submitted for Department President's prayer book on
the district level was District 16, Dorothy Davis,
district chaplain.

[Applause]

CHAPLAIN SCOTT: On the unit level, for
the most prayers submitted was William Proud Unit

1 211, District 16, Lucy Rocha.

2 [Applause]

3 CHAPLAIN SCOTT: And now for the unit
4 supplemental reports, the best supplemental reports.
5 The Best Unit Supplemental was presented to Los
6 Alamitos Unit 716, District 29, Carrie Taylor,
7 chaplain.

8 [Applause]

9 CHAPLAIN SCOTT: And the Best District
10 Supplemental was District 28, Dorothy Franceschi.

11 [Applause]

12 CHAPLAIN SCOTT: And Madam President,
13 just a note this supplemental was forwarded on to
14 National.

15 [Applause]

16 CHAPLAIN SCOTT: It was absolutely
17 beautiful. She did an amazing job.

18 I would like to say thanks to my judges
19 yesterday for judging the prayer books. They had a
20 tough job. The first place for the Unit Prayer Book
21 goes to Robin Durkin, Newport Harbor Unit 291,
22 District 29.

23 [Applause]

24 CHAPLAIN SCOTT: The first place for the
25 district -- don't go away -- goes to Carol Borgman,
26 District 29.

27 [Applause]

28 CHAPLAIN SCOTT: Thanks for all the hard
29 work.

30 Congratulations to all ships chaplains
31 throughout this great Department. You served well.

32 Madam President, it has sincerely been
33 an honor and a privilege to serve you and this
34 Department as your "Ship's Chaplain" this year, and
35 I thank you for the opportunity. May I leave you

1 with this little poem. It's entitled "Faith."

2 Faith can move mountains, no matter how
3 steep; and calm the rough waters, no matter how
4 deep.

4 Faith can change darkness to heavenly
5 light; while leading us tranquilly out of the night.

6 All this I can grant with assurance, you
7 see, for countless are the mountains faith has moved
8 for me.

9 May I approach your station, Madam
10 Department President?

11 PRESIDENT CAPAZZI: Yes, you may.

12 CHAPLAIN SCOTT: I would like to present
13 to you your prayer book, "Charting A Course To New
14 Horizons."

15 PRESIDENT CAPAZZI: Isn't that
16 beautiful?

17 CHAPLAIN SCOTT: Nice picture of a ship
18 sailing away. May you enjoy that in your leisure
19 time that you're going to have.

20 PRESIDENT CAPAZZI: Thank you.

21 [Applause]

22 PRESIDENT CAPAZZI: At this time we will
23 hear from our Education Chairman, Rosemary Weber.

24 EDUCATION COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN WEBER:
25 Good morning.

Minutes for the Education Committee
meeting. The preconvention Education meeting met in
the University Room of the Marriott Hotel at 11:00
a.m. on Thursday, June 18th. With the consent of
the committee I appointed Sue Hooker, District 15,
as secretary, Gigi Manno, District 22, as chaplain,
Annette McKendry, District 16, secretary.

The Chaplain offered an opening prayer.
The sergeant-at-arms led the Pledge of Allegiance.

1 Madam Secretary called roll, and the
2 number of delegates present were 22, and the number
3 of guests were five.

4 The Education Code was read, and the
5 Committee approved one code change. This is Code
6 No. 2. It now reads, "The funds for the Department
7 Education Committee, depending upon voluntary unit
8 and district contributions and Poppy proceeds
9 forwarded to Department shall be administered by the
10 chairman in accordance with the annual
11 recommendations as approved by the Finance
12 Committee. The units and district shall be urged to
13 make donations to the Department education funds."

14 We changed the code to read, for
15 clarification for the chairman, "The funds shall be
16 awarded to the Education scholarship recipients by
17 the Department Education Chairman shall depend upon
18 voluntary unit and district contributions and Poppy
19 Seals proceeds that are forwarded to Department.
20 The Department Education Chairman shall contact the
21 Department office prior to awarding any scholarship
22 to verify what funds are available that have been
23 approved by the Finance Committee for the current
24 year. The units and districts shall be urged to
25 make donations to the Department education fund."

 The reasons for this code change is to
clarify for the Department Education Chairman the
procedure she needs to follow to find out what funds
she has available to dispense to the scholarship
recipients.

 I move for acceptance of this code
change.

[Seconded]

PRESIDENT CAPAZZI: It has been moved
and seconded to change Code No. 2 in the Education
program to read, "The funds to be awarded to the
education scholarship recipients by the Department
Education Chairman shall depend upon voluntary unit
and district contributions and Poppy Seals proceeds
that are forwarded to the Department. The
Department Education Chairman shall contact the
Department office prior to awarding any scholarship
to verify what funds are available that have been
approved by the finance committee for the current

1 year. The units and districts shall be urged to
2 make donations to the Department Education fund."

3 Is there any discussion?

4 All those in favor, "aye."

5 Opposed, "no."

6 Motion carried.

7 EDUCATION COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN WEBER:

8 Packets were distributed to each district containing
9 Education Code, meeting agenda, district citations
10 for 100 percent reporting, all scholarship recipient
11 certificates, second- and third-place certificates
12 for unit and district supplementals. A copy of
13 these awards has been placed in the Secretary's
14 office.

15 I am not going to go over all the
16 statistical figures. They have been sent to the
17 Department office, and you can find them in the Book
18 of Reports on Page No. 9.

19 There being no further business to be
20 brought before the meeting, the chaplain gave a
21 closing prayer, and the meeting adjourned at 12:00
22 o'clock.

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

25 PRESIDENT CAPAZZI: Yes, you may.

EDUCATION COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN WEBER:

President LuAnn, this year has been a real education
for this chairman. Due to the reality that not all
the districts and units are computer smart, there
was a lot of mailing and phone calls.

The journey started off with a
leadership workshop in September where all the
district chairmen were given a plan of work from
this chairman and the National Education Chairman.
It was our hope that the District chairman would
pass this valuable information on to their units.
Especially the information on the scholarships and
their deadlines. I can't express it enough.
Deadlines.

1
2 From our district reports, all our units
3 have been very busy following up with great
4 participation with Veterans in the Classroom,
5 American Education Week, literacy activities, Read
6 Across America, and Teacher Appreciation Week.

7 This chairman has received 13 Department
8 scholarships from our units this year.
9 Unfortunately this year, due to our shortage of
10 funds in the Education program, we were not able to
11 give out all the funds that are in the code. It is
12 a shame because there is so many deserving
13 applicants that need these funds to help further
14 their goals in life.

15 At this time I would like to read the
16 list of scholarship winners. We had two that went
17 on to National, I'm very proud to say, and one of
18 our recipients got the National President's Award.

19 [Applause]

20 EDUCATION COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN WEBER: And
21 she had an amazing report. I gave out my little
22 notes.

23 The National President's Award has been
24 awarded to Caireesa Lynn Barry, sponsored by Unit
25 280,, District 18.

[Applause]

EDUCATION COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN WEBER: Is
someone here from District 18 to receive the award?

The Spirit of Youth Award has been
presented to Mollie Kathleen Long, sponsored by Unit
12, District 14.

[Applause]

EDUCATION COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN WEBER: Is
anybody here from District 14.

My first-place awards for Unit
Supplemental, which went on to National, Best
Supplemental goes to Sara Bland from Unit 434,
District 22.

1 [Applause]

2 EDUCATION COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN WEBER: She
3 is saying this is her first year. That's great.

4 Certificate of Participation for the
5 Best District Supplemental, which was sent on to
6 National, was Gigi Manno.

7 [Applause]

8 EDUCATION COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN WEBER:
9 Thank you, Madam President, for this appointment. I
10 had fun, and I received a great education.

11 PRESIDENT CAPAZZI: Thank you, Rosemary.

12 Would the Sergeant-at-Arms and Marshal
13 like to give their report at this time.

14 SERGEANT-AT-ARMS RICHARDSON: I'm going
15 to bend over to help save my back for a minute.

16 Madam President LuAnn, the USS Protector
17 has had a good year and trolled in uncluttered
18 waters. It appears everyone has had a good year.
19 No collisions at sea. Our flags are still flying,
20 being displayed at meetings and on special
21 occasions.

22 At this time I want to thank our Marshal
23 and all the ladies who stood in for me when I could
24 not attend an event. All of you did a fantastic
25 job. Anyway, that was the feedback. Thanks again.

It has been trying to get my land legs
back after being out to sea so long. If you see me
a little out of step, both of us, blame it on the
sea because we probably think we're still out there.

Madam President, thank you for this
appointment, and land legs here we come.

26 [Applause]

27 SERGEANT-AT-ARMS RICHARDSON: And as you
28 know, I'm the Sergeant-at-Arms, Kathy Harris
29 Richardson. And this is Marshal Gloria Williams.
30 We are having a very good time. Thank you.

1 PRESIDENT CAPAZZI: Thank you, ladies.

2 SERGEANT-AT-ARMS RICHARDSON: With that,
3 this concludes the report.

4 PRESIDENT CAPAZZI: At this time Willie
5 Burke will give the Cavalcade of Memories report for
6 Donna Lennox.

7 PAST PRESIDENT BURKE: Good morning.
8 And you are wide awake, aren't you?

9 The Convention Committee on the
10 Calvacade of Memories met on June 18th, 2009, in the
11 Embassy Room at the Marriott Hotel in Riverside,
12 California. Pattie Sharp was appointed secretary.
13 Arlene Kenny from District 7 offered prayer.
14 Shirley Reed from District 22 was the
15 sergeant-at-arms. A total of ten district delegates
16 answered roll call. There were five visitors
17 present. The committee agreed upon the following
18 report. I am the stand-in for Chairman Donna
19 Lennox.

20 Donna is the Department Commander's
21 wife. She would love to be here with you, but she
22 is a little bit under the weather. We know she is
23 going to get well real soon.

24 I opened the meeting with a question on
25 how these delegates felt about the program of
26 Cavalcade of Memories. We had a great discussion on
27 this subject. One of the members left us with this
28 thought for us to remember, that the Cavalcade of
29 Memories is the written story of an individual
30 Auxiliary member.

31 I will say that I left after that
32 question with a new feeling about Cavalcade of
33 Memories, and I do feel that the ladies who were
34 there felt the same way as I did. When you really
35 stop and think about it, you are honoring a certain
36 person in your unit to receive an award, which is a
37 very important thing to do because a lot of us go up
38 the chairs, and we get our little awards, but there
39 are a lot of back there, just like we say with some
40 of our other awards, that women should have been
41 looked at in a certain way, what they have done for
42 this organization.

1 The awards were given out to the first
2 -- we had a tie in second place. There were two got
3 awards, and the third award went, of course, to
4 Odette, who happens to be up here on stage.

5 [Applause]

6 PAST PRESIDENT BURKE: The second award
7 went to Barbara Ross from District 7. District 16,
8 second place, which was a tie, was Hermine Foxmore.
9 I, of course, mentioned Odette already.

10 Now, at this time, before I read the
11 short report from Donna, we also had a first --
12 Cavalcade of Memories first-place winner. This
13 winner is a wonderful lady who all of us know. And
14 it was such an honor for me to have Mary Sinopoli to
15 please come up.

16 [Applause]

17 PAST PRESIDENT BURKE: The author of
18 this beautiful book that was put together by
19 Patricia Sharp, who is right here with her. This
20 book is beautiful. I hope Mary will let some of you
21 look at it because it sure brought memories to me
22 just looking at it and seeing who some of her
23 officers were that we no longer see any more. I
24 just thought it was sort of interesting in the sense
25 because it has a picture of her, and she is sitting
here. She was actually a district president in
1959-1960.

 [Applause]

 PAST PRESIDENT BURKE: Her Department
President was Lucille Gainey. A beautiful picture
here of Mary. Wow, Mary. Pretty. I know some of
you will want to look at it. It's just wonderful.
I'm going to give you the book for you to have.

 Now, I will say I'm going to also give
you this citation which was first given to me. It's
the same one as this one. But you can give that to
someone else in her family who might like to have
it, but I thought this was really neat. When I
talked to Donna, she said, "Willie, I got this
citation I just gave over here to Trish because the
other one hasn't come in." The Department Commander
heard that it was Mary Sinopoli that received this

1 award, he thought it should be framed. I want you
2 to look at this. I think it's beautiful.

3 "The American Legion Auxiliary. Mary
4 Sinopoli, on behalf of the American Legion
5 Auxiliary, Department of California, it is a sincere
6 pleasure to present the first-place achievement
award for all of your years of exemplary service to
the American Legion Auxiliary, Cavalcade Memories
2008-2009." Signed by LuAnn Capazzi, Department of
California President 2008-2009.

7 What a wonderful thing to have done.
8 This thing is absolutely gorgeous.

9 [Standing ovation]

10 DELEGATE SINOPOLI: Thank you very much.
11 I haven't given up. Yet I'm still working.

12 [Applause]

13 PAST PRESIDENT BURKE: You are very,
14 very welcome. I can't think of anyone much nicer to
15 have this.

16 Madam Department President, may I give
17 Donna's supplemental report? "Cruising down memory
18 lane with Admiral LuAnn Capazzi has been a busy
19 year, but an enjoyable one. We have met so many
20 wonderful people and enjoyed hearing many stories.
21 My Commander husband Alan and I have traveled the
22 State of California east, west, north, and south.
23 Everyone was so cordial and friendly. We will
24 remember this time with fond memories.

25 "Thank you, Madam President, for
choosing me to be the chairman for Cavalcade of
Memories. God bless America. Donna Lennox,
Department of California Calvacade of Memories,
2008-2009." Thank you for giving her this honor.

26 PRESIDENT CAPAZZI: Thank you, Willie,
27 for standing in for Donna.

28 At this time, we will hear from our
29 Community Service Chairman, Anita Newell.

30 COMMUNITY SERVICE CHAIRMAN NEWELL:
31 Madam Department President, the Convention Committee

1 on Community Service met on June 18th, 2009, in the
2 Embassy Room of the Marriott Hotel, Riverside,
3 California. The statistical report of this chairman
4 appears on Page 15 of the Book of Reports.

5 Rose A. Kröll from Unit 170 was
6 appointed secretary. Connie Foley of 595 unit
7 offered prayer. Nancy Melpon of 741 was appointed
8 sergeant-at-arms. We had a total of 23 district
9 delegates who answered roll call. There were seven
10 visitors present.

11 The committee agreed upon the following
12 report. The Department Code was read. There are no
13 changes.

14 Certificates for 100 percent reporting
15 were presented to the districts. Second- and
16 third-place certificates were presented for units
17 and district supplementals.

18 The floor was then open for questions
19 and answer period. And did we have a wild
20 discussion. I was really surprised that a lot of
21 them didn't know what counted as community service.
22 I hope the ladies who were in the meeting are going
23 to take back the information that you received
24 because we had a wonderful discussion. Our closing
25 prayer was given by Chaplain Connie Foley. The
meeting closed at 10:55.

May I continue with my supplemental?

PRESIDENT CAPAZZI: Yes, you may.

COMMUNITY SERVICE CHAIRMAN NEWELL:

19 Thank you. Madam Department LuAnn, the crew members
20 of the USS New York have taken to heart the motto
21 "It Takes A Community To Build A Nation." They went
22 out into their communities to see what was needed
23 there and went to work.

24 In July they had community fireworks
25 displays. Then they went to work on cancer
awareness and "Relays for Life" and raised over
\$36,945.

[Applause]

COMMUNITY SERVICE CHAIRMAN NEWELL: They

1 volunteered at local hospitals and hospice centers
2 with 3,417 hours volunteered and \$6,005 in
3 donations. They put on Christmas parties, Easter
4 egg hunts, and Halloween parties, and spent over
5 \$36,945 on these parties. They held Christmas
6 parties and dinners for local veterans, spending
7 \$7,000 and volunteering over 242 hours.

8 They helped local families with rent,
9 utilities, and hospital bills. They worked with
10 meals-on-wheels and volunteered with local police
11 and fire departments.

12 We had 3,964 volunteers give over
13 \$105,927.67, the total of donations to everything
14 across the State of California.

15 [Applause]

16 COMMUNITY SERVICE CHAIRMAN NEWELL: And
17 I counted those figures and kept counting them and
18 counting them and going, "Oh, my goodness."

19 They gave 74,012 hours to their
20 communities. On the other hand, if we had all units
21 reporting, we would have higher numbers to report to
22 National. There were only 184 out of 287 units
23 reporting this year. We lost out on a lot. But we
24 did a lot, the ones I received, but there is a lot
25 not being reported.

100 percent reporting went to Districts
1, 3, 4, 6, 7, 8, 10, 18, 21, 22, 23, 25, 26, 27,
28, 29, and 30.

The Best Unit Supplemental third place
goes to Carol Fuqua, Unit 777, District 25.

[Applause]

COMMUNITY SERVICE CHAIRMAN NEWELL:
Second place goes to Laura M. Bradshaw, Unit 755,
District 18.

[Applause]

COMMUNITY SERVICE CHAIRMAN NEWELL:
Second place District Supplemental goes to Pat
Alvarez, District 29.

1 [Applause]

2 COMMUNITY SERVICE CHAIRMAN NEWELL: Now,
3 Madam President, for our first-place awards. Best
4 Unit Supplemental goes to Wanda Nordstrom, Unit 291,
5 District 29.

6 [Applause]

7 COMMUNITY SERVICE CHAIRMAN NEWELL: The
8 best district Supplemental goes to Diane Nelson,
9 District 23.

10 [Applause]

11 COMMUNITY SERVICE CHAIRMAN NEWELL: Best
12 Cancer Awareness Program goes to Connie Foley,
13 District 21.

14 [Applause]

15 COMMUNITY SERVICE CHAIRMAN NEWELL: Best
16 Random Acts of Kindness goes to Danielle White, Unit
17 118, District 27.

18 [Applause]

19 COMMUNITY SERVICE CHAIRMAN NEWELL: Best
20 Blood Drive goes to Danielle White, Unit 118,
21 District 27.

22 [Applause]

23 COMMUNITY SERVICE CHAIRMAN NEWELL: Now,
24 we had one Junior who went out and beyond her way.
25 The Best Junior Volunteer of the Year goes to Amanda
O'Donnell, District 19.

26 [Applause]

27 COMMUNITY SERVICE CHAIRMAN NEWELL: And
28 she is from my unit. Anette's grandma. For little
29 Amanda. And everybody met Amanda last year. And
30 this year she took her junior girl scout troop, and
31 they went to the local home for the drug rehab
32 center for parents, that get to keep their children.
33 They threw a Christmas party for the children there,
34 and they had a wonderful time. But she took it on
35 her own to organize this thing.

1 Madam President, that ends my report.

2 [Applause]

3 PRESIDENT CAPAZZI: Thank you, Anita.

4 At this time, we will hear from our Past
5 Presidents Parley Chairman, Bonnie Christner.

6 PAST PRESIDENTS PARLEY CHAIRMAN
7 CHRISTNER: Madam Department President, before I
8 begin this morning, I would like to tell you about a
9 little incident that happened to me going to the
10 airport. Of course you know I'm one who always
11 likes to get my ducks in a row. I had the GPS set.
12 Called downstairs last night, got the address to the
13 airport. Put it in the GPS, thanks to my district
14 president and her vehicle. Go to get the ladies
15 from the airport.

16 Well, the address that the kid gave me
17 last night was not for the airport itself, it was
18 for the offices. I come to my destination, says
19 that little girl on the GPS, "You have arrived."
20 I'm like, no, I haven't. I'm not where I need to
21 be.

22 [Laughter]

23 PAST PRESIDENTS PARLEY CHAIRMAN
24 CHRISTNER:: I hung a U-turn. About that time here
25 comes a police officer in a SUV. I get out of my
26 car. I run frantically over there and I say, "Oh,
27 my gosh, officer. Can you help me?"

28 He goes, "What's wrong, ma'am?"

29 I said, "I have to pick up some ladies
30 at the airport, and my GPS put me in the wrong
31 place."

32 [Laughter]

33 PAST PRESIDENTS PARLEY CHAIRMAN
34 CHRISTNER: He's looking at my badge, and I'm
35 thinking this is for real. "I really need to pick
36 up some ladies. Help me out here."

37 He says to me, "Follow me, ma'am."

1 [Applause]

2 PAST PRESIDENTS PARLEY CHAIRMAN
CHRISTNER: Swear to God. I got a police escort to
3 the airport this morning.

4 [Applause]

5 PAST PRESIDENTS PARLEY CHAIRMAN
CHRISTNER: And you know the whole time I'm driving
6 to the airport this morning I'm hearing this little
voice from up there going, "Only you, Bonnie Jean,
7 only you."

8 [Laughter]

9 PAST PRESIDENTS PARLEY CHAIRMAN
CHRISTNER: Thank God for our officers in uniform or
10 we would probably be still out there driving around
Riverside somewhere. See, Linda, I'm still getting
11 lost. Still getting lost. I thought I had to share
that with you. It was just too funny.

12
13 Madam President, the Past Presidents
Parley Committee was called to order on Thursday,
14 June 18, 2009, in the Regency Salon 2 of the
Marriott Hotel, Riverside, California at 9:00 a.m.

15 The Statistical Report of the Past
16 Presidents Parley can be found on, I think, Page 19
of the Book of Reports. By consent, Pacita West of
17 District 22 was appointed as Secretary. Earlean
Page of District 23 offered prayer. Kathy Gosling
18 of District 20 served as sergeant-at-arms and led
the Pledge of Allegiance.

19 A total of 16 district delegates
20 answered roll call, and there were six visitors
present.

21 The Committee agreed on the following
22 report. The Department Code was read and the
following changes were made. Code No. 9 now reads:
23 "Rules, procedures, eligibility requirements and one
copy of the application forms shall be sent to each
24 unit, district president, and district Past
Presidents Parley Chairman, who may provide copies
when needed, (2008)"

25 The proposed code change. "Rules,

1 procedures, eligibility requirements and Nurse's
2 Scholarship applications will be made available on
3 the Department website no later than September 1st
4 of each year. If a unit does not have access to the
5 website, they may contact the Department office, and
6 a copy will be mailed to them, (2009)"

7 By the direction of the committee, I
8 move for the adoption of this code change.

9 [Seconded]

10 PRESIDENT CAPAZZI: It has been moved
11 and seconded for this code change from the Past
12 Presidents Parley program. Code No. 9, "Rules,
13 procedures, eligibility requirements and Nurses'
14 Scholarship applications will be made available on
15 the Department website no later than September 1st
16 of each year. If a unit does not have access to the
17 website, they may contact the Department office, and
18 a copy will be mailed to them."

19 Any discussion?

20 [Music audible from the hall]

21 PAST PRESIDENTS PARLEY CHAIRMAN
22 CHRISTNER: I didn't bring them. I promise.

23 [Laughter]

24 PRESIDENT CAPAZZI: All those in favor,
25 "aye."

Opposed, "no."

The code change is adopted.

26 PAST PRESIDENTS PARLEY CHAIRMAN
27 CHRISTNER: Thank you, Madam President.

28 Code No. 10 now reads, "The rules,
29 procedures, eligibility requirements and Nurses'
30 Scholarship applications will be made available on
31 the Department website no later than September 1st
32 of each year, (2008)"

33 Code No. 10 will now be deleted and,
34 therefore, all remaining codes will be numbered
35 appropriately.

1
2 By the direction of the committee, I
move for the adoption of this code change.

3 [Seconded]

4 PRESIDENT CAPAZZI: It has been moved
and seconded to delete Code No. 10, which previously
5 read, "The rules, procedures, eligibility
requirements and Nurses' Scholarship applications
6 will be made available on the Department website no
later than September 1 of each year."

7 Is there any discussion?

8 All those in favor, "aye."

9 Opposed, "no."

10 Motion carried.

11 PAST PRESIDENTS PARLEY CHAIRMAN
12 CHRISTNER: Thank you, ladies.

13 Awards and citations for second- and
14 third-place winners were presented, and a copy of
these awards were in all delegates packets, and one
15 is posted at the Department office here in the
hotel.

16 With no further business, the meeting
was adjourned at 9:35 a.m.

17 Madam President, may I continue with my
18 supplemental report followed by the awarding of the
first-place winners?

19 PRESIDENT CAPAZZI: Yes, you may.

20 PAST PRESIDENTS PARLEY CHAIRMAN
21 CHRISTNER: Madam President, charting a course to
22 new horizons, what a great theme you chose for this
Auxiliary year. As Past Presidents Parley Chairman
23 this year, this chairman decided to let our past
presidents lounge around on our yacht, the El
24 Presidente, and be treated like queens before
getting ready to work our programs and mentoring our
25 members. After putting into port, though, it was
time to get to work.

1 Our unit Past Presidents Parley chairmen
2 were known as "Navy Nurse's Corps." This
3 association was established in 1987 and, like the
4 American Legion Auxiliary, is a non-profit
5 organization dedicated to bringing Navy Nurses
6 together. It's an association for caring and
7 sharing, where what matters most is not rank, for
8 there is no rank among us, for each serves as the
9 equal of her fellow member, and strives for the same
10 goal. And, also like the American Legion Auxiliary,
11 we are an organization of caring and sharing and
12 volunteering for our veterans, children, and our
13 communities.

14 This was very apparent this Auxiliary
15 year. Even though as past presidents we were
16 allowed to cruise around on our yacht, past
17 presidents from all over the state were giving of
18 their knowledge to mentor and help our new members
19 succeed. In fact, one district has been helping two
20 of their units reorganize after losing several of
21 their key members.

22 There are 78 unit Past Presidents
23 Parleys in California, with a total of 559 members.
24 And I was very excited to learn that we have five
25 new parleys with 52 new members this year. How
26 great is that.

27 [Applause]

28 PAST PRESIDENTS PARLEY CHAIRMAN
29 CHRISTNER: The units have really outdone themselves
30 this year working the Past Presidents Parley
31 program. For Valentine's Day, units filled bags
32 with all kinds of goodies for the districts to take
33 to the West Los Angeles Veteran's Hospital for both
34 ambulatory and confined women veterans, totaling
35 \$2500.

36 One unit gives the lady veterans at the
37 Yountville Veteran's home corsages for Mother's Day
38 while another unit adopted three women veterans who
39 are stationed in Normandy and Iraq, and sent them
40 comfort items.

41 Another unit started off their year by
42 getting together with their post and Sons and
43 putting on an Italian dinner to help raise money for
44 the Nurses' Scholarship.

1
2 They also donated items for the Long
3 Beach Veteran's Hospital luncheon to honor women
4 veterans in the Southern California area. Then they
5 went on to collect items of personal hygiene for
6 travel bags for the women's clinic and Christmas
7 gifts. In fact, they collected so many items that
8 they had enough to donate to the Los Angeles and
9 Ontario USO's for the troops traveling through
10 there. And even though they have already had a very
11 busy year, they are planning a spring garden tea
12 honoring the women veterans in the Long Beach and
13 L.A. area.

14
15 One unit put on a picnic for their women
16 veterans on Memorial Day, while another unit paid
17 the dues of their women veterans. And still another
18 unit adopted veterans living or at the California
19 Mission Inn by giving small gifts on birthdays,
20 Easter and Veterans Day. One of our units has six
21 members who are women veterans. Two of those active
22 members serve on the honor guard and memorial team.

23
24 Another unit sent boxes containing
25 feminine hygiene products, cookies, stamps, shampoo,
conditioner, toothbrushes, toothpaste, gum, candy
and jelly beans to women veterans serving overseas
while another unit sent comfort items to women
veterans from their area totaling over \$300. What a
great way to support our women veterans who are
serving our country.

17 This year we had 16 units seek out women
18 veterans of the Enduring Freedom conflict, and 30
19 units celebrated the effort and accomplishments of
20 these current active duty service women. Units put
21 on luncheons and dinners to show these women how
22 much they appreciate what they do for our country.
23 One unit gives a free dinner on Friday night to
24 their women veterans.

25
26 This year we only had two nominations
27 for outstanding active duty service women, and both
28 of them were from the Navy, so this chairman sent
29 the best of the two to National for consideration.
30 There were no nominees for the Female National Guard
31 Veteran sent to this chairman, but in the district
32 reports one of our units stated they sent their
33 nomination directly to our National Chairman or to
34 the National President.

1
2 26 units and 117 members adopted women
3 veterans this year, and 21 units signed up 27 new
4 women veterans. This year 18 units selected and
5 honored their Auxiliary Unit Member of the Year, and
6 nine of these units sent their applications to the
7 Department President for consideration. They
8 honored their members by giving out certificates and
9 putting on luncheons and dinners in their honor.

10
11 This chairman was very excited to
12 receive seven Nurse's Scholarship applications this
13 year, and even more excited to be able to give each
14 of these very worthy applicants a scholarship. In
15 all we gave one \$2,000, two \$1,500, three \$1,000,
16 and two \$500, for a total of \$9,000.

17 [Applause]

18 PAST PRESIDENTS PARLEY CHAIRMAN

19 CHRISTNER: What a great thing, to be able to help
20 these women who are so dedicated to the nursing
21 program. Let's face it, ladies, \$500 will at least
22 purchase very needed books or lab coats and other
23 supplies that they need.

24 This has been a very exciting year for
25 this chairman. I am very proud of the
26 accomplishments that the members of the Department
27 of California have made this year.

28 Madam President, it was truly an honor
29 to serve as your Past Presidents Parley Chairman.
30 May I continue with the first-place winners and our
31 women honorees?

32 PRESIDENT CAPAZZI: Yes, you may.

33 PAST PRESIDENTS PARLEY CHAIRMAN

34 CHRISTNER: First-place winner for Unit Supplemental
35 Report goes to San Gabriel Unit 442, District 18,
36 Ann Martinez, chairman.

37 [Applause]

38 PAST PRESIDENTS PARLEY CHAIRMAN

39 CHRISTNER: Would you like to say a word or two?
40 No?

41 First-place winner for District

1 Supplemental, District 22, Pacita West, chairman.

2 [Applause]

3 PAST PRESIDENTS PARLEY CHAIRMAN

4 CHRISTNER: I called Pacita to ask her if she would
5 be my secretary at my committee meeting. She was so
6 excited. I thought wait until she gets her award on
7 stage. She will really be excited.

8 [Laughter]

9 PAST PRESIDENTS PARLEY CHAIRMAN

10 CHRISTNER: Before I give this next award, I would
11 like to tell our members not to slight this next
12 award for the largest donation to the Nurses' Past
13 Presidents Scholarship. You ladies make it possible
14 for us as chairman to give out these scholarships.
15 I don't care if your donation \$5, \$2, \$100, \$125.
16 Everything adds up. Like I've always said,
17 everything adds up and, in the end, we are able to
18 give out \$9,000 worth of scholarships. If I could,
19 I would give every one of you that donated a dime an
20 award and tell you thank you from the bottom of my
21 heart. Unfortunately, there are too many of you to
22 do that. But I do thank you from the bottom of my
23 heart for giving as you do to make this program
24 possible.

25 Our largest donation to the Nurses'
26 Scholarship goes to Pacifica Unit 238, District 26,
27 \$840.

28 [Applause]

29 PAST PRESIDENTS PARLEY CHAIRMAN

30 CHRISTNER: Now the exciting part. I'm so excited.
31 Now I would like to present a little bio on our Unit
32 Auxiliary Member of the Year. The reason I'm doing
33 this -- and I have already had the go-ahead from
34 Madam President -- some of our ladies do not go to
35 the Past Presidents Parley luncheon. But wouldn't
36 you like to hear about how wonderful these ladies
37 are if you're not in attendance there?

38 Every year out there is a member who
39 goes above and beyond the call of duty for her unit.
40 This year is no exception. Our Auxiliary Unit
41 Member of the Year serves her unit in many different
42 capacities. She is their chaplain, newsletter

1 editor, public relations chairman and a member of
2 the executive board. She participates in all other
3 programs and attends all unit meetings.

4 As chaplain she provides spiritual
5 leadership at all general meetings by giving an
6 opening and closing prayer. She takes an interest
7 in every member by collecting information about
8 special days and events in their lives through a
9 survey she created. And even though this is
10 facilitated electronically, the members know she is
11 genuinely interested in their lives.

12 She is a dedicated member and works with
13 other chairmen to support the American Legion
14 Auxiliary programs. She flies Old Glory every day
15 at her home and has been working to promote the
16 Pocket Flag Program. She uses Poppy Seals when
17 writing letters and sending cards in support of
18 education, and purchases Poppies to offer to local
19 neighbors.

20 She crocheted a blanket for Menlo Park
21 V.A. Hospital and for National Security facilitated
22 two "Cards for the Troops" workshops during which
23 members hand made blank greetings cards that she
24 sent to service personal. She also sent cards to
25 the troops through www.letssaythanks.com.

For Community service, she gave \$100
worth of Starbucks gift cards to service personal on
Make a Difference Day. If that weren't enough, she
assisted with the Department Leadership Workshop.
She traveled 880 miles round trip to attend the
workshop, and obtained a Leadership Instructor
Certificate.

I could go on and on, but as you can see
our Unit Member of the Year is a model member in
every way. She is hard-working, dedicated, helpful,
and humble.

It gives me great pleasure to introduce
you to our Auxiliary Unit Member of the Year, Mary
Martin from East Palo Alto Unit 472, District 26.

[Standing ovation]

PAST PRESIDENTS PARLEY CHAIRMAN
CHRISTNER: Madam President, would you please ask

1 the Sergeant-at-Arms and Distinguished Guest
2 Chairman to escort Mary to this stage.

3 MS. MARY MARTIN: Thank you. I am so
4 nervous. I hope you don't mind that I'm going to
5 read something.

6 Madam Department President, thank you
7 for honoring me with the Auxiliary Member of the
8 Year Award for 2009. I'm looking forward to meeting
9 the members of this Department. Thank you again for
10 this tremendous honor.

11 [Applause]

12 PAST PRESIDENTS PARLEY CHAIRMAN

13 CHRISTNER: The next young lady I am about to
14 introduce to you has ranked 13 out of a class of 540
15 students, holding a 5.0 grade average. Her peers
16 have been known to call her a very beautiful young
17 woman, as lovely inside as outside. A very
18 intelligent young woman with very high integrity.
19 She excels in every aspect of her life, including
20 being an accomplished point dancer.

21 She virtually sought out students in
22 class who were having a difficult time and assisted
23 them with assignments, wrote essays that
24 demonstrated a clear insight into the novels that
25 were read in class. She took on mountains of extra
work, working more hours for her community service
requirement, reading more than required for outside
reading, tutoring other students, while continuing
to excel in dance as well.

She is bright, upbeat, compassionate,
funny, and willing to put herself forward to pursue
her goals. She will be attending UC Davis
University of California to get her nursing degree.

Please join me in a big round of
applause for our \$2,000 Nurses' Scholarship
recipient, Sarah Holly Ott, sponsored by Frank
Gallino Unit 130, District 7.

[Standing ovation]

PAST PRESIDENTS PARLEY CHAIRMAN

CHRISTNER: I have their certificates, but we're
going to do that part at the luncheon.

1 Would she like to say a few words?
2 Madam President will share her microphone with you.

3 MS. SARAH HOLLY OTT: Thank you very
4 much. As you know, my name is Sarah. I just
5 graduated from high school as a valedictorian. I
6 will be studying at UC Davis next year for exercise
7 biology. Then I will continue on to become a
8 physical therapist. I'm not sure exactly what I
9 want to specialize in quite yet.

10 I just wanted to say thank you so much
11 for all you have done and the difference you have
12 made in my life to help make my dream a reality so
13 that I can go out in the world and make a difference
14 just as you have today. Thank you very much for all
15 you have done.

16 [Applause]

17 PAST PRESIDENTS PARLEY CHAIRMAN

18 CHRISTNER: Chief Muraca is a native of Utica, New
19 York. She enlisted in the U.S. Navy in September
20 1990 and attended boot camp at Recruit Training
21 Center, Orlando, Florida. After completing basic
22 training, she attended electronics and electricity
23 training at Naval Training Center Orlando, Florida,
24 from November 1990 to April 1991 and Electronics
25 Technician A and C school at Great Lakes, Illinois
from April to December 1991.

Following advanced training, ET3 Muraca reported to Naval Facility, NAVFAZ, Argentia, Newfoundland, as a maintenance technician from January 1992 to December 1993. She was selected as NAVFAZ Junior Sailor of the Quarter, and earned her Integrated Undersea Surveillance Specialist qualification.

ET3 Muraca then reported to USS Rainier, San Diego, California, from January 1994 to October 1997. She was advanced to Second Class Petty Officer in March 1995. During this tour she deployed to the Persian Gulf in support of Operation Desert Storm in May 1997, and was awarded her first Navy Achievement Medal.

ET2 Muraca reported to Naval Computer and Telecommunications Area Master Station Pacific,

1 from November 1997 to March 2001. She was assigned
2 as the work center supervisor for the Communications
3 Submarine Fleet Pacific, and was awarded her first
4 Navy Commendation Medal.

5 ET1 Muraca reported to the USS Tarawa.
6 During this tour she earned her Enlisted Surface
7 Warfare Specialist, Enlisted Aviation Warfare
8 Specialist and Afloat Training Specialist
9 qualification. During this tour she deployed to the
10 Persian Gulf in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom
11 in March 2003, and she was awarded two Navy
12 Achievement Medals for professional achievement and
13 superior performance.

14 In September 2004 she was selected Chief
15 Petty Officer and transitioned into the most
16 exclusive of all fraternities, that of the United
17 States Navy Chief Petty Officer.

18 [Applause]

19 PAST PRESIDENTS PARLEY CHAIRMAN
20 CHRISTNER: ETC Muraca reported to Center for
21 Surface Combat Systems Detachment West, San Diego,
22 as an instructor from December 2004 to present. She
23 earned her Master Training Specialist in April 2006.
24 She is currently the manpower officer, and was
25 awarded her sixth Good Conduct Medal.

And after all of that, I will let her
tell you why she supports women's role in today's
armed forces. Please give a big round of applause
for ETC Dawn Muraca from Chula Vista Unit 434,
District 22.

[Applause]

PAST PRESIDENTS PARLEY CHAIRMAN
CHRISTNER: Madam President, would you please have
the Distinguished Guest Chairman escort Dawn to this
stage?

You know, I love a man in uniform, but I
think a woman in a uniform is much better than a man
in a uniform.

PRESIDENT CAPAZZI: Congratulations,
best wishes to you.

1 PAST PRESIDENTS PARLEY CHAIRMAN
CHRISTNER: I told her she might have to say few
2 words.

3 ETC DAWN MURACA: I think I'm as nervous
as the next person who was up here -- or the one
4 before me.

5 I do want to say a few words. Most of
all, I want to thank you all for the honor of being
6 here today to receive this award, especially to
Madam President and all the Auxiliary members who
7 have selected me for this honor. Also, I would like
to thank my post, Post 434, for submitting me and
8 nominating me for this honor.

9 I know most of you are either veterans
yourself or your husband, sons, daughters are
10 veterans. Support of friends and family is so
important in the military. Especially now when the
11 troops -- they're over there so long and there is so
much going on. And after listening to what Bonnie
12 read about all the stuff, all the support that all
of you ladies have done to support the troops -- I'm
13 just one person, but I can tell you how much it
means to all those men and women over there to have
14 the support, not only in their families but, you
know, people like yourselves who they don't
15 personally know but you're sending them stuff, even
if it's a card, just to say thank you. So thank you
16 very much for your support.

17 I think it's extremely important for
this award to recognize why women in the armed
18 forces are important. And this is somewhat of a
history lesson. I have an older brother by two
19 years. My parents didn't raise us any differently.
They didn't put any limitations on me or him. They
20 allowed us to pursue whatever we thought, we dreamt
to do. So if I dreamt it, I thought I could do it.
21 I went to college. I got my four-year degree in
zoology, of all things. I went to Africa. I did
22 some research over there. I lived in the bush. I
thought it was just amazing.

23 I came back to the States. I decided I
was going to go to graduate school. I just couldn't
24 afford graduate school. I was on my own. I
couldn't afford graduate school, to live and make
25 ends meet. My friend said, "The Navy will pay for

1 your education." I thought, okay, I'm not from a
2 military family. I went to a local recruiter, who
3 happened to be a man, who said, "Sure, join our
4 Navy. We'll make you a photographer's mate." I
5 thought okay, I like that idea. I can be a
6 photojournalist when I get out, work for National
7 Geographic, tie the two together.

8
9 Now, I didn't know at the time I could
10 have went in as an officer because he said, you
11 know, get your foot in the door, you know, that's
12 easier that way. I thought, oh, okay, that might
13 make sense. I went in enlisted. And like I said, I
14 was a photographer's mate.

15
16 When I went to boot camp, they looked at
17 my ASCRAB score, which for those who don't know, is
18 your aptitude test. And back in the day, there was
19 a lot of ratings and jobs in the military that were
20 not open to women. Women were clerical, they were
21 nursing. They weren't, you know, technical stuff.

22
23 When I came in in 1990, a couple years
24 before the ratings had opened, a few of them, to
25 women. When I got to boot camp and they looked at
my aptitude, they said, "You know, I don't know what
happened here, but you scored a 91, and we need to
reclassify you." It was 91 out of 100.

I said, okay. They reclassified me to
ET, electronics technician, which I am today. I
said, "What's that?" And they said, you know,
"Electronics technician."

I said, "Hmm."

"You're going to do all this wonderful
stuff. The other thing, you're overqualified for.
You were going, to you know, paint and chip. You
weren't really going to do stuff."

I said, "Oh, that sounds better, right."
Little did I know that going into a male-dominated
rate was a continuous struggle throughout my entire
career, and continues to be so today. Okay. You
know, it is what it is.

Women have fought through history for
equal rights, the right to vote, for equal pay, for
equal recognition, and it still is that way. It has

1 changed. It's a slow process. They say it takes
2 100 years to make a change. Hopefully we're getting
close to that hundred.

3 [Laughter]

4 ETC DAWN MURACA: I'm not entirely sure
5 because it was only in 1948 when President Truman
6 signed into law the Women's Armed Services
7 Integration Act, which actually granted women equal
8 permanent status in all branches of the service. So
by that standard we got 40 years left. But we will
persevere. We will adapt and overcome because
that's what we do.

9 But every day in the military do I
10 continue to feel like I have to work harder than the
11 guy next to me? Absolutely. But you know what?
12 It's not necessarily to prove myself to him, it's
13 because that is my work ethic. By nature, as a
14 woman, we strive for goals and we continue to excel
15 beyond our goals. Today we need young women in the
16 military to continue to fight for what we have all
17 fought for since the early 1900s.

18 So having said that, we're all
19 Americans. And a young lady can do the same job as
20 a young man can do. As long as they believe that
21 and their families instill that in them, they will
22 be successful in whatever they do. Some day the
23 military will open up all the ratings to females.
24 We're getting better. We have opened up some more.
25 There are still a few that aren't open to women,
like SEALS from the Navy perspective, the submarine
community. Eventually that will change. But again,
change takes time.

26 This award to me represents the
27 importance of the past, which is a lot of you who
28 are veterans, who supported your spouses and
29 children in the military and the present, myself,
30 and all those troops serving now and the future, all
31 the young ladies who will soon become part of the
32 military or if they choose to take a different
33 endeavor in life. As long as they know that
34 whatever they set their mind to they can achieve it,
35 that is what is important. America is the land of
the free because of the brave, and a lot of those
brave are women.

1 [Standing ovation]

2 PAST PRESIDENTS PARLEY CHAIRMAN
3 CHRISTNER: Madam President, I think we made some
4 wonderful, wonderful choices this year.

5 I am so looking forward to seeing you
6 ladies at the luncheon where we will carry on with
7 the certificates. I hope you're going to like the
8 food because if you don't, it's my fault. So please
9 like the food.

10 This concludes my report, Madam
11 President.

12 [Applause]

13 PRESIDENT CAPAZZI: Thank you, Bonnie.

14 Our communications officer, do we have
15 any messages from the fleet?

16 SECRETARY-TREASURER KILKENNY: Okay,
17 ladies, very quickly I'm going to go through these.
18 So listen carefully. The first thing I want to take
19 care of is the errors in the book of reports. I'm
20 only going to say this once. I'm sorry. I
21 apologize. I think, as Past Department President
22 Linda Workman said, it's a pic problem. It was
23 operator error. The page numbers did not print.
24 You have my apologies for that. Please try to
25 follow along with the chairman as they say and
26 direct you to what page they have their statistics
27 on.

28 Beginning on the district donation
29 listings, the first column is membership, not goal,
30 and the second column is the goal. District 1 and 2
31 are correct, and I believe District 14 is correct.
32 Again, operator error.

33 We have two tickets for Saturday's
34 banquet for sale. This is District 21. Please see
35 them if you need something from them. District 22
36 needs two tickets for today's PPP luncheon.
37 District 23 has one banquet ticket for sale. Please
38 see District 23.

39 The Poppy Chairman would like you to
40 know the Poppy display contest is waiting to award

1 the Viewers' Choice Ribbon. A dollar a vote is
2 going to LuAnn's special project or program of
3 choice. Please see Harriet Clendenin or Sandy.
4 They're over at the table, ladies, with your money
5 to place your vote. This is going on until Saturday
6 close of business, at which time all displays will
7 need to be picked up.

8 Everyone who attended the public
9 relations/editor meeting yesterday is to meet at our
10 first break in front of the unit and district
11 banners. Do you want that this afternoon? Okay,
12 right now.

13 Someone picked up a bag with the
14 committee reports and left District 26 reports
15 there. This was from District 12 page, Gerri
16 Shippee.

17 All district presidents are to meet at
18 the stage at 7:00 a.m. on Saturday, June 20th, to go
19 over their district delegate strength, preparing for
20 elections. This is from Carol Fuqua, Credentials
21 Committee. And, Carol, I apologize. I didn't list
22 you in the -- ladies, please. I did not list you in
23 the roll call.

24 Sandy's Colonels will meet for lunch on
25 Saturday in room 714 at recess.

26 We have a pin that was found, Auxiliary
27 Past Presidents pin. If someone has lost one,
28 please let us know.

29 Betty's Bears and Bonnie's Prom
30 Princesses will meet in Room 725 at the lunch break
31 on Saturday.

32 Linda's Racers will meet tomorrow
33 morning at 7:30 a.m. in the hotel restaurant beside
34 Starbucks.

35 Margaret's Dreamcatchers, Jerry's Cards,
36 Goldie's Golden Links, Ruby's Allstars will meet
37 Saturday for lunch in the Marriott Hotel, Room 702.

38 The Peachy Performers and Classy
39 Penguins will meet at the Marriott Hotel in Odette's
40 Room 219 at the noon recess on Saturday.

1 Sue's Lighthouses and Melanie's Balloon
2 Pilots will meet for lunch Saturday in the Marriott
3 across the quad in the Olio Restaurant.

4 Bev's Stars will meet for lunch Saturday
5 during the noon break at the Marriott restaurant in
6 the lobby.

7 That is all, Madam President.

8 PRESIDENT CAPAZZI: Thank you. If
9 you're going to nominate a candidate for an office
10 for the 2009-2010 year, please come to the stage
11 following our lunch break. By the way, the lunch is
12 in the Grand Ballroom at the Marriott Hotel.

13 We are in recess until 2:00 p.m.

14 [Luncheon recess]

15 ---o0o---

1 FRIDAY JUNE 19, 2009

AFTERNOON SESSION

2 ---o0o---

3 PRESIDENT CAPAZZI: Ladies, please take
4 your seats. This session is now called to order.

5 Will the Sergeant-at-Arms and Marshal
6 with the Distinguished Guest Chairman please present
7 our distinguished guest.

8 Are all of the people who are going to
9 make nominations on stage?

10 Ladies, I would like to present Joanne
11 Evans, who h

12 As some certificates to share with us.
13 [Applause]

14 LEGIONNAIRE EVANS: Good afternoon,
15 ladies of the Auxiliary. It's an honor to be here.
16 I'm one of you.

17 [Applause]

18 LEGIONNAIRE EVANS: And also the
19 American Legion Public Relations Chair. Since you
20 were coming to Riverside and I know a few people
21 because I have a job on the side called Parris City
22 Councilwoman, I called some people. And if I can
23 have five minutes? From the Board of Supervisors I
24 have a proclamation from the Riverside Board of
25 Supervisors, recognizing -- well, they put the
American Legion, but it's meant for the whole
family.

"Whereas, the American Legion Department
of California will hold its Annual 2009 Convention
in the City of Riverside, Riverside County,
California and

"Whereas, Department Commander Alan C.
Lennox on Thursday, June 19th, 2009, will open the
91st Department of California American Legion
Convention, which will last through Sunday, June
21st, 2009 --" I'm finding typos in here.

[Laughter]

LEGIONNAIRE EVANS: "Whereas,

1 approximately 3500 Legionnaires, Auxiliary members
2 and Sons of the American Legion will meet daily at
the Riverside Convention Center, and

3 "Whereas, during this period of time
4 this dedicated veterans organization will meet and
5 confer, make decisions on improving veterans
6 benefits, write resolutions, and take the
7 resolutions to the National American Legion
8 convention in Louisville, Kentucky this upcoming
9 August for approval and presentation to the Congress
10 and" -- if this was my aide, I would fire him. I'm
11 so sorry, Madam President.

12 "Whereas, during this time decisions on
13 the American Legion programs will be updated, and
14 plans for the upcoming year of Legion programs in
15 the Department of California will be formed to guide
16 all Legionnaires, Auxiliary members, and Sons of the
17 American Legion in working these programs in their
18 home posts;

19 "Now therefore be it resolved, the Board
20 of Supervisors of the County of Riverside does
21 hereby extend its welcome to Commander Alan C.
22 Lennox of the American Legion, President LuAnn
23 Capazzi, American Legion Auxiliary, Sons of the
24 American Legion Detachment Commander Allen Henry,
25 Department of California to the City of Riverside.
The Board of Supervisors further wishes that all the
delegates and their families have an enjoyable time
and a successful convention. Dated this 19th day of
June 2009."

Signed by all five supervisors. And I
do apologize. But as the aide was leaving, he said,
"Oh, we had a high school kid. We got to train them
someplace."

[Applause]

LEGIONNAIRE EVANS: This is a
Certificate of Special Congressional Recognition
presented to Auxiliary LuAnn Capazzi in recognition
of outstanding and invaluable service to the
community. This is from our Congressman who came in
today. He had a young man. I signed him up in the
Legion.

[Applause]

1
2 LEGIONNAIRE EVANS: This is from our
3 Senate. "LuAnn Capazzi, Department President,
4 American Legion Auxiliary. Thank you for your
5 dedicated service in working with Legionnaires,
6 Auxiliary, and Sons of the American Legion. Your
7 efforts to reach out and care for all veterans past
8 and present is indicative of your continued
9 commitment to serving your country. Presented this
10 day, June 19th, 2009." Senator Dennis Hollingsworth
11 of the 36th District.

12 [Applause]

13 LEGIONNAIRE EVANS: This is another one,
14 LuAnn. "Welcome to Riverside and congratulations on
15 your service to our veterans throughout the State of
16 California. American Legion 91st Convention."
17 Given by Assemblyman Kevin Jeffries, 66th Assembly
18 District, June 2009. Member of the Assembly,
19 California State Legislature."

20 [Applause]

21 LEGIONNAIRE EVANS: And then the last
22 one. And this is from the honorable Paul Cook, who
23 will be here tomorrow, but I don't believe I'll be
24 able to get him over here. "On behalf of the
25 California Legislature I would like to thank you for
your service as part of the American Legion
Auxiliary. I am grateful for your dedicated service
to California veterans and wish you the best in all
your future endeavors." Honorable Paul Cook, 65th
Assembly District.

[Applause]

LEGIONNAIRE EVANS: I served in the
Marine Corps, but I want to thank this sailor for
her service. Thank you.

PRESIDENT CAPAZZI: Thank you for coming
over.

My communications officer has been given
this message from the fleet. Everyone who attended
the Public Relations/Editor meeting yesterday,
please meet outside the convention doors right now.
Thank you.

1 Okay, ladies, if we could have your
2 attention, please. We will proceed with the
3 nominations of Department officers, Junior Member of
4 Finance, and delegates and alternates for National
5 Convention. If there is no objection, the Chair
6 will open nominations -- if no objection, the Chair
7 will close nominations later.

8 Nominations are now open for the
9 Department President. The Chair recognizes Odette
10 Cucarro, District 18.

11 PAST PRESIDENT CUCARRO: Madam
12 Department President, Odette Cucarro, Past
13 Department President.

14 Madam Department President, it is my
15 privilege to present for the highest office within
16 the gift of this Department the name of a
17 distinguished member from East Pasadena Unit 280 and
18 the 18th District. She is highly qualified to
19 accept this high office, having faithfully served
20 both her unit and district in many capacities, and
21 has always given outstanding service.

22 She is a very dedicated member of the
23 American Legion Auxiliary, serving as district
24 president in 2001-2002. On the Department level,
25 you have known her as Community Service, Poppy,
Americanism, Education, Children and Youth, as well
as Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation Chairman, and
currently serving as Department Vice President and
Membership Chairman. She has garnered many awards
serving in the aforementioned programs in the
Western Division.

 She has always served with distinction,
high efficiency, graciousness, and excellent
leadership. She is devoted, loyal and sincere. It
is with confidence in her ability and integrity that
I place in nomination for president of the
Department of California the name of Norma DuVall.

[Applause]

 PRESIDENT CAPAZZI: Are there any
further nominations for the office of Department
President?

Hearing none, if there are no

1 objections, the Chair will close the nominations.

2 Nominations are now open for the office
3 of Department Vice President. The Chair recognizes
4 as Asteria de Peratta.

4 DELEGATE DE PERATTA: Madam Department
5 President, Asteria de Peratta, Rizal Unit 598,
6 president of District 10.

6 It is my pride to nominate Pilar Reyes
7 as Vice President of the Department of California
8 for the year 2009 to 2010. Pilar Reyes joined Rizal
9 Unit 598 District 10 under her eligibility through
10 the service of her late husband, Felix Reyes, a U.S.
11 Army veteran of World War II. She has been a member
12 of her unit for 25 years, where she served as
13 president, two terms, vice president, held various
14 chairmanships, and is currently serving as
15 parliamentarian of the unit.

11 At the District level, she served as
12 president in 1991 and 1996, first vice president,
13 second vice president, secretary, parliamentarian
14 for several years up to the present time, and held
15 various chairmanships including leadership,
16 constitution and bylaws, and education.

15 At the Department level, Pilar has been
16 chairman of the following programs: Music, two
17 times, Legislative, Americanism, Elections, Children
18 and Youth, and currently serving as Veterans Affairs
19 and Rehabilitation Chairman.

18 She has received awards for Most
19 Outstanding Overall Legislative and Children and
20 Youth Programs in the Western Division. She served
21 as member of the Junior Conference Committee three
22 times, as member of the UD&R Committee, and
23 presently she is an American Legion Auxiliary
24 certified leadership instructor.

22 Professionally, Pilar earned her degree
23 of Bachelor of Science in Chemistry from the
24 prestigious University of the Philippines, partly on
25 scholarship. Since her arrival in the United States
in 1956, Pilar has worked in several research
laboratories, including her job at the University of
California in Berkeley as a research associate,
where she retired from after 27 years of service.

1
2 In 1985 Pilar was chosen the Most
3 Outstanding Filipino Immigrant by the International
4 Institute of the East Bay together with 41
5 immigrants from other countries.

6 Her other organization affiliations
7 include the California Federation of Women's Clubs,
8 where she served as district president for two
9 years, club president for two years, president of
10 the district Past President Assembly for two years,
11 and held various district chairmanships.

12 She also served as president for three
13 years of a large Filipino organization, the Tanay
14 Club in America, Inc. where she was featured in "Who
15 is Who" of the club and voted as Mother of the
16 Year.

17 Pilar is presently serving as Le Petit
18 Chapeau of Alameda County Salon 236 of the Eight and
19 Forty.

20 Personally, Pilar was married to Felix,
21 who suddenly passed away from a heart attack after
22 38 years of marriage. She has four children and two
23 grandsons who are both in college. A third
24 grandson, Jason, passed away when he was only 12
25 years old.

26 The members of the Rizal Unit 598 and
27 District 10 are proudly re-affirming their support
28 for and trust on Pilar as a candidate for Vice
29 President of the American Legion, Department of
30 California.

31 [Applause]

32 PRESIDENT CAPAZZI: Are there any
33 further nominations for the office of Department
34 Vice President?

35 Pilar Reyes has been nominated for that
36 position.

37 [Applause]

38 PRESIDENT CAPAZZI: Hearing none, if
39 there is no objection, the Chair will close those
40 nominations.

1
2 Nominations are now open for the office
3 of Department Junior Member of Finance. The Chair
4 recognizes Phyllis Holmberg, District 22.

5
6 Phyllis, before you begin, ladies,
7 please turn those cell phones off. Thank you. Or
8 the Department Secretary said she is willing to take
9 any donations that might happen to ring out of turn.

10 [Applause]

11 PAST PRESIDENT HOLMBERG: Madam
12 Department President, the members of San Diego Unit
13 666 and District 22 are proud to endorse our member
14 Susanne Tozier as a candidate for the office of
15 Junior Member of Finance Committee for the State of
16 California. Susanne has a well-rounded background
17 in finance. She has a degree in accounting and a
18 Level III certification in business, contracts and
19 finance management from the Defense Acquisition
20 University. Her eligibility in the Auxiliary was
21 both her mother and father, who both served in the
22 U.S. Navy.

23 She worked 31 years with the Navy in
24 accounting, budgeting, logistics management, and
25 contract management. For the past four and a half
years she has been working for the ITT Corporation
contract management. She has been a member of the
Auxiliary for over 30 years and has served ten years
as Unit 6 president. She also served ten years as
president of the now defunct El Cajon Unit 303.

She went through the district chairs
twice and served as District 22 president. She has
held many unit and district chairmanships as well as
served in Department on Junior Conference committee,
serving one year as the director. We feel she is
very qualified and will make us very proud that she
is a part of the Department Finance Committee.

We ask for your support by electing her
to serve our Department in this position for the
2009-2010 Auxiliary year.

Thank you.

[Applause]

1 PAST PRESIDENT HOLMBERG: I goofed.
2 That's my number one. I apologize. I understand I
3 should have said "I, Phyllis Holmberg, am proud to
4 nominate Susanne Tozier for Junior Member of Finance
5 Committee." Thank you.

6 [Applause]

7 PRESIDENT CAPAZZI: Are there any other
8 nominations for office of Department Junior Member
9 of Finance?

10 The Chair recognizes Juliana Potter,
11 District 18.

12 DELEGATE POTTER: Madam Department
13 President, Julie Potter, 18th District president and
14 delegate to this convention. The members of Unit
15 790 in the Elegant 18th District are pleased and
16 proud to place the name of Pamela Dixon-Hicks as a
17 candidate for the office of Junior Member of Finance
18 for the year 2009-2010. Her resume has been
19 published in many places. To that we add we knew
20 our girl had potential when she could audit
21 Auxiliary books to the penny. She can and has
22 planned events for the Auxiliary over the years,
23 local and statewide, that turned a decent profit.

24 We know in these financial times Pamela
25 will question anything that isn't right, is
unnecessary, doesn't work, and will promote the
pinching of pennies for the good of the Auxiliary,
Department of California. And if the Department of
California Auxiliary were to print money, on the
back of the bills you could put "In Pamela
Dixon-Hicks we trust." There's no monkeying around.

I should say as Julie Potter, President
of the 18th District, I nominate Pam Dixon-Hicks for
the office of Junior Member of Finance for the year
2009-2010.

[Applause]

PRESIDENT CAPAZZI: Are there any other
nominations for the office of Department Junior
Member of Finance? Hearing none, the Chair will
close these nominations.

Are there any nominations for National

1 office? If not, we will proceed with the
2 nominations of the delegates to the National
3 Convention. We are entitled to five delegates for
4 our charter and 19 for the amount of our membership,
5 for a total of 24 delegates. Nominations are now
6 open for delegates to the National Convention. Our
7 secretary will please read the names of the
8 nominees.

9 SECRETARY-TREASURER KILKENNY: Delegates
10 nominated to the National Convention 2009. District
11 1, Marialice Canclini. District 2, pass. District
12 3, pass. District 4, pass. District 5, Nancy
13 Evers. Is that correct? District 6, pass.
14 District 7, Bonnie Bradbury. District 8, pass.
15 District 9, pass. District 10, Pilar Reyes.
16 District 11, pass. District 12, pass. District 13,
17 Sandy Jacob. District 14, pass. District 15, Sue
18 Hooker. District 16, Linda Fercho. District 18,
19 Pamela Hicks. District 19, Jean Cooley-Desmeules.
20 District 20, pass. District 21, Marge Rye.
21 District 22, Gigi Manno. District 23, Joyce Patton.
22 District 24, Rebecca Stewart-Wilson. District 25,
23 pass.

24 Madam President, I have no paperwork in
25 for District 25.

Will the District 25 president see me as
soon as we're finished with this, please.

District 26, Nancy Brown Park. District
27, LuAnn Capazzi. District 28, Rosie Eskridge.
District 29, pass. District 30, pass.

That's all the information I have for
the delegates.

PRESIDENT CAPAZZI: Would the District 5
president -- I mean 25. District 25 president
please come to a microphone.

A DELEGATE: May I have a moment?

SECRETARY-TREASURER KILKENNY: Madam
President, I understand that I made an error on
District 5. I have -- That's three and a half,
guys. I get out of here. I have Melanie Taylor is
the delegate, not Nancy Evers.

1 DELEGATE CANCLINI: Madam President --

2 PRESIDENT CAPAZZI: I'm sorry.
3 Marialice.

4 DELEGATE CANCLINI: I would like to
5 decline that position for District 1. I cannot go.

6 PRESIDENT CAPAZZI: Did you hear her,
7 Doris? She is declining as District 1's delegate.

8 A DELEGATE: Carol Fuqua was our first
9 delegate. And our first alternate was Diane
10 DeLashmit.

11 SECRETARY-TREASURER KILKENNY: Thank
12 you. Are there any other corrections?

13 On District 5, I deleted Nancy Evers and
14 put in Melanie Taylor. It was an error on my part.

15 PRESIDENT CAPAZZI: District 5, do you
16 have another delegate, another name?

17 SECRETARY-TREASURER KILKENNY: Madam
18 President, I just had them reversed on the form.
19 The alternate and the delegate. That was my error.
20 We have Melanie Taylor for District 5 for delegate.

21 Melanie Taylor is the delegate for
22 District 5 and Nancy Evers is the alternate.

23 PRESIDENT CAPAZZI: Now we're into
24 membership strength to fill this.

25 If you will just bear with us for a few
moments. We are having a caucus from one of our
districts.

Maybe we could have a song from Miss
Madeline. She is always so good at that.

["If You're Happy And You Know It" sung]

["Row, Row, Row Your Boat" sung]

PRESIDENT CAPAZZI: Thank you, Madeline,
and thank all of you.

SECRETARY-TREASURER KILKENNY: Madam

1 President --

2 PRESIDENT CAPAZZI: Yes, Madam
3 Secretary.

4 SECRETARY-TREASURER KILKENNY: District
5 5 has caucused. We have a change. Our National
6 delegate nomination is Melanie Taylor. Our
7 alternate nomination is Doris Kilkenny.

8 PRESIDENT CAPAZZI: Now your membership
9 strength.

10 SECRETARY-TREASURER KILKENNY: Our first
11 one would be District 22. I have Gigi Manno.

12 DELEGATE TOZIER: Suzie Tozier, District
13 22. Virgie Gafney. We're going to move her up to
14 delegate.

15 SECRETARY-TREASURER KILKENNY: What was
16 the name?

17 DELEGATE TOZIER: Virgie Gafney. She is
18 our first alternate.

19 SECRETARY-TREASURER KILKENNY: Oh, I'm
20 sorry. I need a nap. I'm sorry.

21 The second one would be District 25,
22 which is Diane DeLashmit. Third would be District
23 29, who passed on both. The next one would be
24 District 21, and I have Joanne Evans. The next
25 would be District 16.

PRESIDENT CAPAZZI: Wait a minute. We
need to make sure -- someone said yes from District
21? That's okay?

SECRETARY-TREASURER KILKENNY: Which one
did I do? District 16, I have Madeline Lee.

A DELEGATE: District 21, I think we
have a conflict. We had Linda Olson as our first
alternate, and Joanne Evans I believe is our second
alternate.

SECRETARY-TREASURER KILKENNY: I did not
have that on the form.

1 A DELEGATE: Can we change the form?
I'm just telling you that's what we had.

2 SECRETARY-TREASURER KILKENNY: It says
3 Marge Rye.

4 A DELEGATE: Correct.

5 SECRETARY-TREASURER KILKENNY: And it
6 says Joanne Evans.

7 A DELEGATE: Okay. If that's what it
8 says, I guess that's what we'll have to stick with.
Thank you.

9 SECRETARY-TREASURER KILKENNY: We did
10 District 16. The next one would be District 18,
which is Norma DuVall.

11 I'm sorry. District 16. Anyone from
12 District 16? Madeline Lee. Okay.

13 District 18 -- I'm sorry. District 19.
14 I have Patricia Ladre. Is that correct?

15 A DELEGATE: Madam President, Trish
16 Laundry changed her mind. We are going to have to
17 pass on an alternate. We do not have a second
18 alternate.

19 SECRETARY-TREASURER KILKENNY: Thank
20 you. The next one would be District 18, which is
21 Norma DuVall.

22 Norma has declined.

23 The next would be District 23. I have
24 Lucille Taylor. District 23.

25 DELEGATE PATTON: Joyce Patton, district
26 president. Yes, we would like to put Lucille
27 Taylor's name.

28 SECRETARY-TREASURER KILKENNY: Thank
29 you. The next would be District 28. I had a pass,
30 is that correct?

31 The next would be District 5, which
32 would be Doris Kilkenny.

1 We just caucused.

2 DELEGATE EVERS: Nancy Evers, District 5
3 president. Okay, we have changed ours to Melanie
4 Taylor is our delegate. Doris Kilkenny is our first
5 alternate, Nancy Evers is second alternate, and
6 third alternate is Barbara Carlson.

7 SECRETARY-TREASURER KILKENNY: That's
8 what I'm reading, is the alternates now. I'm
9 currently reading the alternates.

10 PRESIDENT CAPAZZI: We're still on
11 delegates.

12 SECRETARY-TREASURER KILKENNY: Oh, I'm
13 sorry. Oh, my gosh.

14 DELEGATE NONNEMACHER: Barbara
15 Nonnemacher, 25th District. We have two alternates
16 that are interested in going to convention. So if
17 the 25th District comes back up, we have two more
18 names.

19 SECRETARY-TREASURER KILKENNY: Thank
20 you.

21 The next one is District 20 -- I mean --
22 yes, District 20. I have no one. Is that correct?

23 A DELEGATE: That is correct.

24 SECRETARY-TREASURER KILKENNY: Okay.
25 How many have we got here? I have 22. Does that
concur?

I have District 11, who has no one. Is
that correct? District 14, I have no one.

District 15, I have Harriet Clendenin.
Is that correct? That should be our 24, correct?

Madam President, I so move to close the
nominations for delegates to National Convention.

PRESIDENT CAPAZZI: It's been moved and
seconded that we close the nominations for delegates
to National Convention. Any discussion? All those
-- oops. Okay.

1 DELEGATE CROW: I'm sorry. Vicki Crow,
2 District 16, Unit 741. Could you clarify for me who
our delegate is for the 16th District?

3 SECRETARY-TREASURER KILKENNY: You had
4 Linda Fercho as we went through the second to move
them to delegate.

5 DELEGATE CROW: That would be Madeline
6 Lee.

7 SECRETARY-TREASURER KILKENNY: That
would be Madeline Lee.

8 DELEGATE CROW: Thank you.

9 PRESIDENT CAPAZZI: Is there any further
10 discussion? All those in favor, aye. We are just
closing the nominations. Never mind.

11 [Laughter]

12 SECRETARY-TREASURER KILKENNY: Now we
13 got to go through the alternates. Is that right?

14 PRESIDENT CAPAZZI: Nominations are now
open for alternates to National convention. The
15 Secretary will please read the list of nominees.

16 SECRETARY-TREASURER KILKENNY: District
1, Kathleen Conrad. District 2, none. District 3,
17 none --

18 PARLIAMENTARIAN DELASHMIT: Madam
Secretary-Treasurer, Marialice Canclini was the
19 delegate, and she chose to decline. They had an
alternate that could have moved up to a delegate,
20 and we didn't do that? They have an alternate?
That alternate should have been moved up to a
21 delegate.

22 SECRETARY-TREASURER KILKENNY: Kathleen
Conrad?

23 PARLIAMENTARIAN DELASHMIT: Who was our
24 last delegate? Harriet?

25 SECRETARY-TREASURER KILKENNY: Yes.

PARLIAMENTARIAN DELASHMIT: At this

1 point we need to take Harriet off as a delegate
2 unless we want an election tomorrow.

3 SECRETARY-TREASURER KILKENNY: Okay. My
4 apologies.

5 PRESIDENT CAPAZZI: We still need an
6 alternate from District 1.

7 SECRETARY-TREASURER KILKENNY: District
8 1, we have a decline by Marialice Canclini. We have
9 moved Kathleen Conrad from alternate to delegate.
10 Do you have another alternate for District 1?

11 A DELEGATE: Pass.

12 SECRETARY-TREASURER KILKENNY: Thank
13 you. You have to laugh to keep from crying. It's
14 getting close. The tears are getting close. Okay,
15 we have a pass on District 1 for alternate, none for
16 District 2, none for District 3, none -- pass for
17 District 4. District 5, we have a second alternate.
18 Was it Barbara? Nancy Evers.

19 PARLIAMENTARIAN DELASHMIT: She moved up
20 to a delegate.

21 SECRETARY-TREASURER KILKENNY: Yes,
22 you're right. I hate it when the Parliamentarian is
23 right.

24 [Laughter]

25 SECRETARY-TREASURER KILKENNY: Without
her I couldn't survive, you guys.

PRESIDENT CAPAZZI: So did you put
Barbara there?

SECRETARY-TREASURER KILKENNY: District
6 passed. District 7, Josephine Handy. District 8
passed. District 9 passed. District 10, Emily
Magwili. District 11, no one. District 12, no one.
District 13, Theresa Jacob. District 14, no one.
District 15, Harriet Clendenin. District 16, your
alternate Madeline has been moved to delegate. Do
you have another alternate?

DELEGATE SCOTT: Evone White Scott,
district president. We have no other alternate.

1 SECRETARY-TREASURER KILKENNY: Thank
2 you.

3 District 18, do you have another
4 alternate? District 18?

5 A DELEGATE: No, we don't.

6 SECRETARY-TREASURER KILKENNY: Thank
7 you. District 19, do you have another alternate?

8 A DELEGATE: No, we don't.

9 SECRETARY-TREASURER KILKENNY: Thank
10 you. District 20, none. District 21, your
11 alternate Joanne Evans moved to delegate. Do you
12 have another alternate?

13 A DELEGATE: Excuse me. Joanne Evans
14 cannot be a delegate because she is a delegate for
15 the Legion. We would like to put Linda Olson on as
16 the alternate. That's the one that was not on the
17 form that we thought was on the form.

18 PARLIAMENTARIAN DELASHMIT: Joanne Evans
19 can still register as a delegate whether she is a
20 Legionnaire or an Auxiliary member. The meetings
21 are not always the same time, so there may be times
22 that she can sit in on the Auxiliary's portion.
23 When she is not there, she will be backfilled with
24 an alternate.

25 A DELEGATE: Except we don't have an
26 alternate.

27 PARLIAMENTARIAN DELASHMIT: I thought
28 you said Linda Olson.

29 A DELEGATE: We would like to put Linda
30 Olson --

31 PARLIAMENTARIAN DELASHMIT: We can put
32 Linda Olson in as the alternate.

33 A DELEGATE: Thank you.

34 SECRETARY-TREASURER KILKENNY: District
35 22, we have moved your alternate Virgie Gafney to
36 delegate. Do you have another?

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DELEGATE TOZIER: Suzie Tozier, District 22. Ann Marie Brown.

SECRETARY-TREASURER KILKENNY: Thank you. District 23. Lucille Taylor has been moved to delegate. Do you have another alternate?

DELEGATE PATTON: Yes, we do. Joyce Patton, 23rd District president. We would like to place the name of Anita Biggs as our district alternate.

SECRETARY-TREASURER KILKENNY: Thank you.

District 24, Ruth Hackney. District 25, Diane DeLashmit has been moved to delegate. Do you have another alternate?

DELEGATE NONNEMACHER: Barbara Nonnemacher, District 25. Tamara Bell. Jerri Wilkin.

SECRETARY-TREASURER KILKENNY: See how easy that was, Barbara?

DELEGATE NONNEMACHER: I hate it when the Parliamentarian is right.

[Laughter]

SECRETARY-TREASURER KILKENNY: Oh, I really started something now.

District 26, Linda Workman. District 27, Patricia Sweeney. District 28, no one. District 29 passed. And District 30, no one.

District 5, do you have another alternate? Just say yes or no.

DELEGATE EVERS: Yes, we have Barbara Carlson.

SECRETARY-TREASURER KILKENNY: You had me as your alternate and moved me to a delegate.

DELEGATE EVERS: So we need one more alternate.

1
2 SECRETARY-TREASURER KILKENNY: In the
3 first round of nominations Doris Kilkenny was moved
4 from alternate to delegate. The next one was you,
5 and then Barbara Carlson. Do we have another one?

6 DELEGATE EVERS: No, we do not.

7 SECRETARY-TREASURER KILKENNY: Thank
8 you. District 22. Ann Marie Brown. And do you
9 have another alternate?

10 A DELEGATE: No.

11 SECRETARY-TREASURER KILKENNY: District
12 25, Gerry Wilkin. Tami Bell? Okay.

13 District 21, you had Linda Olson. Do
14 you have another alternate?

15 A DELEGATE: No, we do not.

16 SECRETARY-TREASURER KILKENNY: District
17 16, do you have another alternate?

18 District 19, none?

19 District 18, do you have another
20 alternate?

21 A DELEGATE: No.

22 SECRETARY-TREASURER KILKENNY: District
23 23.

24 DELEGATE PATTON: District 23, Joyce
25 Patton, district president. Put in the name of
Denise Coleman.

SECRETARY-TREASURER KILKENNY: Did you
say Coleman?

DELEGATE PATTON: Coleman. Everybody
likes Kentucky over here.

SECRETARY-TREASURER KILKENNY: We're
going to go back to District 29. They just
caucused.

DELEGATE ALVAREZ: Pat Alvarez, District

1 29 president. Jackie Hancock.

2 SECRETARY-TREASURER KILKENNY: District
3 28, do you have an alternate? Another alternate,
4 District 28?

4 A DELEGATE: No.

5 SECRETARY-TREASURER KILKENNY: District
6 20, do you have another alternate?

6 District 11, do you have another
7 alternate?

8 District 14, do you have an alternate?

9 District 15, do you have another
10 alternate? District 15?

10 A DELEGATE: Second alternate, Zana
11 Chaney.

12 SECRETARY-TREASURER KILKENNY: District
13 13, do you have another alternate? District 13?

13 A DELEGATE: We don't have one.

14 SECRETARY-TREASURER KILKENNY: Thank
15 you.

16 District 27, do you have another
17 alternate?

18 DELEGATE WHITE: I will put myself,
19 Danielle White, as second alternate. My little big
20 self.

20 SECRETARY-TREASURER KILKENNY: Thank
21 you.

21 District 26, do you have another
22 alternate?

22 A DELEGATE: No.

23 SECRETARY-TREASURER KILKENNY: District
24 2, do you have any other alternates?

25 A DELEGATE: No.

1 SECRETARY-TREASURER KILKENNY: District
2 7, do you have another alternate? No?

3 District 4?

4 A DELEGATE: No, we do not.

5 SECRETARY-TREASURER KILKENNY: District
6 6, do you have another alternate? District 6?

7 District 30, do you have another
8 alternate?

9 A DELEGATE: No.

10 SECRETARY-TREASURER KILKENNY: District
11 10, do you have another alternate?

12 A DELEGATE: We have one. Leonarda
13 Estigoy.

14 PRESIDENT CAPAZZI: Leonarda?

15 SECRETARY-TREASURER KILKENNY: Thank
16 you. District 3, do you have another alternate?

17 District 24, do you have another
18 alternate?

19 DELEGATE ARTIS: Delores Artis, District
20 24. We would like to put in the name of Maria Kidd.

21 SECRETARY-TREASURER KILKENNY: Thank
22 you. District 1, do you have any other alternates?
23 District 8, do you have any other alternates?

24 District 9, do you have any other
25 alternates?

District 22, do you have another
alternate?

A DELEGATE: Pass.

SECRETARY-TREASURER KILKENNY: District
25. 25.

A DELEGATE: No.

SECRETARY-TREASURER KILKENNY: Does

1 anybody have any extra alternates?

2 [Laughter]

3 A DELEGATE: Cherie Galvin.

4 SECRETARY-TREASURER KILKENNY: We need
5 four more. Does anyone have any delegates? Or
6 alternates. I'm sorry.

7 DELEGATE PATTON: Yes.

8 SECRETARY-TREASURER KILKENNY: Okay.
9 Joyce.

10 DELEGATE PATTON: Joyce Patton, 23rd
11 District president. We would like to place the name
12 of Melody Farnum. I have another one if you --

13 SECRETARY-TREASURER KILKENNY: Can you
14 give me the spelling of her last name?

15 DELEGATE PATTON: F-a-r-n-u-m.

16 SECRETARY-TREASURER KILKENNY: Just a
17 moment.

18 PRESIDENT CAPAZZI: Madam Department
19 Secretary, we have had a message, emergency message.
20 There is a black Dodge Journey parked in the parking
21 lot -- or at the parking garage, license plate
22 GBLW957. And the police are there ready to tow it
23 away because they have made their own parking space.

24 One moment, please, ladies. There's a
25 mike right there. We have someone at the
26 microphone, Madam Secretary.

27 SECRETARY-TREASURER KILKENNY: Who was
28 here first? District 29.

29 A DELEGATE: The name of Karen
30 Karanickolas.

31 SECRETARY-TREASURER KILKENNY: Thank
32 you.

33 DELEGATE ARTIS: Delores Artist,
34 District 24. Suzie Johanson.

1 SECRETARY-TREASURER KILKENNY: We need
2 one more.

3 DELEGATE PATTON: The name of Curlin
4 Curry, C-u-r-r-y.

5 SECRETARY-TREASURER KILKENNY: We now
6 have 24 alternates.

7 Madam President, I move that the
8 nominations for alternates be closed.

9 [Applause]

10 SECRETARY-TREASURER KILKENNY: And thank
11 you, Madam Parliamentarian.

12 PARLIAMENTARIAN DELASHMIT: Diane
13 DeLashmit, Parliamentarian. For you new delegates
14 who are here for the first time, this is not a
15 normal process.

16 [Laughter]

17 PARLIAMENTARIAN DELASHMIT: I've been
18 coming to conventions since 1970, and I have never
19 ever seen it like this where we didn't have enough
20 delegates and alternates for convention. This is
21 very abnormal. In fact, in the old days we used to
22 have to ballot because we had more delegates than we
23 had spots.

24 [Applause]

25 PRESIDENT CAPAZZI: Will the candidates
26 who were nominated for Department office please come
27 to the stage.

28 It is my pleasure to present to you your
29 Department candidates for the year 2009-2010.
30 Department President, Norma DuVall.

31 [Applause]

32 PRESIDENT CAPAZZI: Department Vice
33 President, Pilar Reyes.

34 [Applause]

1 PRESIDENT CAPAZZI: Department Junior
Member of Finance, Susanne Tozier.

2 [Applause]

3 PRESIDENT CAPAZZI: Department Junior
4 Member of Finance, Pamela Hicks.

5 [Applause]

6 PRESIDENT CAPAZZI: Thank you, ladies.
We will now continue with our Department chairmen.
7 Ladies, at this time we will hear from our.
Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation Chairman, Pilar
8 Reyes.

9 Ladies, may we please have quiet so you
may hear the report.

10 VA&R CHAIRMAN REYES: Madam President
11 LuAnn and fellow members, the Convention Committee
on Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation Program met
12 on June 18, 2009, in the University Room of the
Marriott Hotel, Riverside, California. The
13 statistical report of this chairman appears on a
certain page. There is no page in the Book of
14 Reports, but you will find it.

15 Margaret Quinones of District 18 was
appointed secretary. Frances Ramirez of District 15
16 offered prayer. Connie Rayes, District 28, was
appointed sergeant-at-arms.

17 A total of 25 district delegates
18 answered roll call, and there were five visitors
present.

19 There is a code change that was
20 presented at the preconvention committee meeting,
and the committee agreed on the following report.
21 The Department Code was read, and the following
change was made. Medical Center Gift Shop/Patient
22 Remembrance Code No. 3 currently reads, "All
monetary donations for Gift Shops and Patient
23 Remembrance shall be sent to the Department office.
These donations shall be credited to the
24 Rehabilitation Fund. The Department Chairman shall
allocate the funds as designated by the assigned
25 districts for each medical facility and veterans
homes. Any welfare funds remaining may be used

1 under the supervision of the hospital representative
2 using criteria in Code No. 8 under Medical Center
3 Representatives. A report of all remaining funds
4 deposited as outlined in Code No. 8 shall be
5 reported to the Department Office at the close of
6 the Gift Shop/Patient Remembrance. (2007)"

7 With the adoption of the proposed
8 change, Code No. 3 will now read: "All monetary
9 donations for Gift Shops and Patient Remembrance
10 shall be sent to the Department office. These
11 donations shall be credited to the Department
12 Rehabilitation Fund. (A) The Department Chairman
13 shall allocate the funds as designated by the
14 assigned districts for each medical facility and
15 veterans home.

16 "(1) The Department Chairman shall
17 review hospital representatives reports, district
18 assignments, and needs of medical facilities and
19 veterans homes annually.

20 "(2) The decision regarding district
21 assignments and where gifts will be sent shall be
22 made by the Department Chairman.

23 "(3) She shall reassign districts as
24 needed to meet the needs of the medical facilities
25 or veterans homes.

"(4) All donations not earmarked for
specific locations will be distributed at the
discretion of the Department chairman.

"B. Any welfare funds remaining may be
used under the supervision of the hospital
representative using criteria in Code No. 8 under
'Medical Center Representatives.' A report of all
remaining funds deposited as outlined in Code No. 8
shall be reported to the Department Chairman and the
Department Office at the close of the Gift
Shop/Patient Remembrance."

Madam Department President, by direction
of the convention committee, I move for the adoption
of this code change.

[Seconded]

PRESIDENT CAPAZZI: It's been moved and

1 seconded that under Medical Center Gift Shop/Patient
2 Remembrance, Code No. 3, this will be the change:
3 "All monetary donations for gift shops and patient
4 remembrance shall be sent to the Department office.
5 These donations shall be credited to the Department
6 Rehabilitation Fund.

7 "(A) The Department chairman shall
8 allocate the funds as designated by the assigned
9 districts for each medical facility and veterans
10 home.

11 "(1) The Department chairman shall
12 review hospital representative reports, district
13 assignments, and needs of medical facilities in
14 veterans homes annually.

15 "(2) The decision regarding district
16 assignments and where gifts will be sent shall be
17 made by the Department chairman.

18 "(3) She shall reassign districts as
19 needed to meet the needs of the medical facilities
20 or veterans homes.

21 "(4) All donations not earmarked for
22 specific locations will be distributed at the
23 discretion of the Department chairman.

24 "B. Any welfare funds remaining may be
25 used under the supervision of the hospital
26 representative using criteria in Code No. 8 under
27 'Medical Center Representatives.' A report of all
28 remaining funds deposited as outlined in Code No. 8
29 shall be reported to the Department Chairman and the
30 Department Office at the close of the Gift
31 Shop/Patient Remembrance."

32 Is there any discussion?

33 All those in favor, "aye."

34 Opposed, "no."

35 Code change carried.

36 VA&R CHAIRMAN REYES: Thank you all.

37 All 29 districts reported, with
38 Districts No. 3, 6, 8, 9, 14, 15, 18, 20, 22, 23,

1 24, 26, 27, 28 and 29 awarded citations for 100
2 percent reporting.

3 The second- and third-place certificates
4 of recognition and honorable mention citations were
5 presented at the meeting with a list included in
6 district packets.

7 For the sake of saving time, some of the
8 first-place awards were also distributed. Question
9 and answer period and discussion followed. With no
10 further business, the meeting was adjourned around
11 11:15.

12 Madam Department President, this
13 concludes the report on VA&R committee meeting, and
14 I move for its acceptance.

15 [Applause]

16 V&R CHAIRMAN LEWIS: With your
17 permission, may I continue with my supplemental
18 report and the presentation of the first-place and
19 special awards?

20 PRESIDENT CAPAZZI: Yes, you may.

21 VA&R CHAIRMAN REYES: This year has been
22 enjoyable and a fruitful one for this Captain of USS
23 Americana as she embarked on her journey in charting
24 a course to new horizons. Working with the crew,
25 our dedicated and caring members, re-affirming our
26 commitment to service and support for our veterans
27 and their families with the mission to improve their
28 quality of life through voluntary home, field, and
29 hospital services.

30 Our year started off celebrating
31 Yountville Picnic Day, having the opportunity to
32 visit with our veterans, handing out hundreds of
33 ditty bags full of goodies for them, socks, puzzle
34 books and other fun stuff. It was one way of saying
35 thank you to our veterans for their service to our
36 country.

37 This chairman was privileged to join
38 President LuAnn in tours of the VAMC facilities and
39 the veterans homes. It was heartwarming to see how
40 our veterans are very well cared for by volunteers
41 with the guidance of our XO's, also known as our

1 hospital representatives and deputies, who have
2 shown their loyalty and unselfish dedication,
3 traveling many miles serving 62,223 veterans with
4 the support of 978 volunteers, doing what they need
5 to do to give them comfort.

6 The volunteers are recognized and
7 honored at the facilities with certificates of
8 appreciation at special luncheons. I would like to
9 also mention that hospital representative Mary
10 Sinopoli was awarded a trophy and a 30,000-hours pin
11 for her services by the Director of the Fresno VAMC.
12 And let's give her a real big hand.

13 [Applause]

14 V&R CHAIRMAN REYES: At this point,
15 Madam President, it is with great pleasure that I
16 present our XO's, our hospital representatives and
17 deputies. Please, Sergeant-at-Arms and Marshal and
18 Distinguished Guest Chairman, escort our very, very
19 valuable ladies who really work so hard for our
20 veterans.

21 [Applause]

22 VA&R CHAIRMAN REYES: Ladies, these are
23 our hard-working hospital representatives and
24 deputies. I hope they are all here. I'm so happy
25 that Mary could make it.

I will present them to you. Please step
forward as I call your name. I will start from this
side because I can see her easily. Pat Klang, Palo
Alto VAMC, District 26.

[Applause]

V&R CHAIRMAN REYES: Connie Reyes, Palo
Alto and Menlo Park. Connie Reyes of District 28.

Is there someone behind here? Mary
Sinopoli of Fresno. She received the trophy of
30,000 hours.

[Applause]

V&R CHAIRMAN REYES: I cannot see you,
Ruth. Ruth Briggs of Livermore VAMC, District 11.

1 [Applause]

2 V&R CHAIRMAN REYES: Next is Earlean
Page of VAMC Los Angeles.

3 [Applause]

4 V&R CHAIRMAN REYES: Frances Ramirez of
5 district 15, Bakersfield VAMC.

6 [Applause]

7 V&R CHAIRMAN REYES: Ruth Hackney,
8 District 24, L.A. VAMC.

9 [Applause]

10 V&R CHAIRMAN REYES: Kathy Harris, our
Sergeant-at-Arms, District 23, Los Angeles VAMC.

11 [Applause]

12 V&R CHAIRMAN REYES: Patricia Landre of
13 Long Beach VAMC, District 19.

14 [Applause]

15 V&R CHAIRMAN REYES: And C. J. Reyes, my
16 cousin. She is Reyes, too. She is from District 19
17 in L.A. VAMC.

18 Bonnie Chavoya, District 7. And she is
19 Reno.

20 [Applause]

21 V&R CHAIRMAN REYES: Okay. Next to her
22 is Mavis Kanga, who took care of the Creative Arts
23 Festival last year. It was last year.

24 [Applause]

25 V&R CHAIRMAN REYES: And she is from
Jerry L. Pettis VAMC.

Next to her is Shirley Brown.

[Applause]

V&R CHAIRMAN REYES: Shirley Brown is

1 from District -- what VAMC? Oh, Jerry L Pettis,
2 too. You belong to District 10. But what VAMC?
3 Mavis is from District 25. Anyway, please step
4 forward. I cannot see you from here. Elaine
5 Gallagher. She submitted like 35,000 hours.

6 [Applause]

7 V&R CHAIRMAN REYES: And I sent it to
8 National. She is from Jerry L. Pettis, District 25.

9 Next to her is Evangeline Acosta of
10 Barstow Veterans Home. She is from District 25.

11 [Applause]

12 V&R CHAIRMAN REYES: Next to her is
13 Phyllis Holmberg, representative of San Diego,
14 District 22.

15 [Applause]

16 V&R CHAIRMAN REYES: Next to her is
17 Erma. She is from San Diego, too. She works with
18 Phyllis Holmberg.

19 [Applause]

20 V&R CHAIRMAN REYES: Next to her is
21 Melanie Taylor of District 5. She is Poppy
22 production manager.

23 [Applause]

24 V&R CHAIRMAN REYES: And next to her is
25 Lois Cornish of Chula Vista Veterans Home.

[Applause]

V&R CHAIRMAN REYES: And these are our
important ladies.

She is hiding here. Irene Lopez is from
Long Beach VAMC. Irene, you should be here.

Pat Alvarez is from Long Beach VAMC.
She is from District 29. And you will hear more
about her.

Ladies, thank you very much.

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[Applause]

V&R CHAIRMAN REYES: Someone is going to approach the station. That's my cousin C. J. Reyes.

DELEGATE C.J. REYES: On behalf of all your reps and depts, I would like to present this to you for the wonderful job you have done this year.

VA&R CHAIRMAN REYES: Oh, my gosh. That's my cousin. Thank you very much. Can I open it later?

DELEGATE C.J. REYES: We're both Reyeses. That's why she calls me her cousin.

VA&R CHAIRMAN REYES: Thank you, ladies. I love scarves, you know. Oh, and a card. Thank you very much, ladies. I appreciate it. I really enjoyed working with you because you really worked hard, and I appreciate it very much. I enjoyed working with you. It was a sweat, but it was worth it.

Thank you, ladies. They are being escorted out. So thanks.

[Applause]

V&R CHAIRMAN REYES: Back to normal. After persistent phone calls and e-mails, this captain finally got all 29 districts to report, with 244 units out of 287 reporting. Undoubtedly, all the other units that did not report had served our veterans in many other ways. Those that reported did outstanding jobs.

Most of them held numerous fund-raisings to support local projects for the VA&R and to be able to provide the facilities with donations for bingo scripts and refreshments, ditty bags for the veterans with toiletries, underwear and other material necessities for their comfort. Nineteen units participated with stand-downs in their own areas. Twenty-four units adopted a ward-or-pod. Seven units supported the Road 2 Recovery Riders, with Unit 741 donating \$3,000 to the cause. Let's give 741 a big hand.

1 [Applause]

2 V&R CHAIRMAN REYES: Units in District
3 18 generously donated to the project Operation Mend
4 that gives returning service members with severe
5 facial injuries access to the country's best plastic
6 and reconstructive surgeons. Fifty-two units
7 participated in cleaning and wreath-laying
8 ceremonies in cemeteries, placing hundreds of flags
9 on graves.

10 Other services included clipping of
11 thousands of coupons and sending them to service men
12 and women, crocheting hundreds of Afghans, caps,
13 scarves, and lap robes. Unit 694 had been serving
14 full-course Thanksgiving and Christmas dinners at
15 the spinal cord ward in Palo Alto every year for 26
16 years. They bussed veterans from other Northern
17 VAMCs and treated them to a day at the rodeo.
18 They have also recruited five new non-affiliated
19 volunteers, and their certified volunteer hours were
20 forwarded to National for certificates of
21 appreciation.

22 Several units have sent in orders for
23 Field Service bars and pins on behalf of eligible
24 volunteers to Department and orders were forwarded
25 to National. Forty-four members from units
participated in the Field Service Orientation Course
and were certified.

Five temporary financial assistance,
totaling \$2,900 were granted to five veterans after
proof of their eligibilities and urgency of needs.

As I mentioned earlier, all statistical
figures can be found in the Book of Reports.

In October 2008, our Department hosted
the National Veterans Creative Arts Festival Show
with the participation of members from several
units, supporting the event with financial
donations, serving 989 veterans and guests at the
hospitality room. This chairman was so touched and
impressed by the performances of the veterans,
several of them handicapped, receiving gold, silver
and bronze medal and other forms of awards for their
exceptional talents in all forms of artwork,
literary, and performing arts, that she was
motivated to initiate the Creative Arts Festival

1 Fundraiser, hoping to achieve a successful result.

2 By the way, I have more tickets, and I
3 hope I will sell some more. Half of the sale will
4 go to National Creative Arts Festival and half will
5 go towards prizes. So a lot of you who want tickets
6 will get a good prize.

7 In April 3-5, this Chairman participated
8 in the Junior Conference presenting the VA&R
9 Program. To test if they have learned anything,
10 question and answer followed with every Junior with
11 correct answers receiving prizes.

12 Now, for the first-place awards and
13 other citations. Madam President, before I go to
14 the awards, I had planned to give the awards first,
15 but I think we have a very respectable guest here
16 with us today, and I want to present him first
17 before I give the awards because if I announce the
18 awards, then some of you might leave. Madam
19 President, w

20 Ill the Sergeant-at-Arms --
21 PRESIDENT CAPAZZI: Will the Department
22 Sergeant-at-Arms and Marshal with the Distinguished
23 Guest Chairman please present our distinguished
24 guest.

25 [Applause]

VA&R CHAIRMAN REYES: Madam President
and members, we are very honored to have with us a
special guest who was a participant at the Creative
Arts Festival show. His artwork impressed a whole
bunch of us who were there, and I would like to say
a few words about him. A few words only, okay? He
has such an impressive credential. He is a six-time
gold medal winner in the National Creative Arts
Festival.

[Applause]

V&R CHAIRMAN REYES: He is a combat
veteran in the U.S. Marine Corps, serving nine years
in Vietnam. He is currently working as a registered
nurse. Imagine that. Aside from being a veteran,
he is working in the San Diego health care system in
a patient health library with a 19-year tenure.

He is a member of American Legion San

1 Diego Post 6.

2 [Applause]

3 V&R CHAIRMAN REYES: Past Commander of
4 the world-famous San Diego Bulldog Detachment of the
5 Marine Corps League and a committee chairman of the
6 San Diego Veterans Day parade band competition.
7 Everybody give him a round of applause, a standing
8 "O."

9 [Standing ovation]

10 V&R CHAIRMAN REYES: Thank you all. Mr.
11 Lewis, isn't it worth waiting for this big honor.
12 He waited from morning until this time, and so he
13 was supposed to be presented earlier. But then it's
14 worth waiting for. So Madam President, he's yours.

15 MR. ROBERT LEWIS: Normally I would be
16 chatting, chatting, chatting. Really nervous.

17 [Cry of "we don't mind"]

18 MR. LEWIS: So you say. When I was
19 asked last year to showcase artwork --

20 VA&R CHAIRMAN REYES: He is too tall.
21 See, it's better for me if it's lower.

22 MR. LEWIS: Can you hear me now? First
23 of all, I would like to thank the Academy -- oh, I'm
24 sorry.

25 [Laughter]

MR. LEWIS: Wrong one.

Last year at the Creative Arts Festival
-- it kind of started in St. Louis the year before.
I met a lot of ladies from the American Legion
Auxiliary. I was totally impressed. And then last
year when they asked me to showcase my artwork at
the convention, I really didn't know when the
convention was. I wasn't thinking. Once I got the
e-mail and everything, I was totally impressed.
This is actually my first American Legion
convention.

[Applause]

1
2 MR. LEWIS: So all these Marine Corps,
3 VFW conventions I've been to, this is my first one
4 I've been to, this is my first one, and I've already
5 made an announcement to people in the hallway that I
6 will be at the convention next year.

7 [Applause]

8 MR. LEWIS: I stand here in awe of all
9 of you ladies because I often wondered what is it
10 that you guys do, and now I know. I've been hearing
11 a lot of applause, a lot of yelling and
12 conversations and rules, Robert's Rules of Order.
13 Actually they are my rules. I created those.

14 Anyway, in St. Louis I told the
15 president that I have to pay my dues for the
16 American Legion.

17 Last year I said the same thing because
18 I knew my dues were coming up, but for some reason a
19 good friend of mine, Frank Manthei, kept bugging me,
20 bugging me, bugging me to join Post 6. I joined
21 Post 6. I didn't feel right until I had my cover.
22 Now I have my cover, and I look good in it, too.

23 [Laughter]

24 MR. LEWIS: Sooner or later I will pay
25 my life membership so I can stop paying these yearly
26 dues, a little bit redundant for me. But I would
27 like to let you know -- you're still making me
28 nervous -- that my arts and crafts that I do, I've
29 had a lot of help, a lot of assimilation from my
30 recreational therapist down in V.A. San Diego Health
31 Care.

32 I do it out of love. I do it primarily
33 in the past for me, so I couldn't really take a
34 compliment on something I did when I did it for me.
35 I didn't care about nobody else. It helped me to
36 deal with depression, anxiety, whatever I was going
37 through at the time. It was just a little bit of
38 comfort. Get creative.

39 The last five years when someone gave me
40 a compliment, I literally blushed. It's kind of
41 hard to see, but I do.

42 [Laughter]

1 MR. LEWIS: It's been really good, and
2 last year in the same building, all of these ladies
3 from the Auxiliary came up. I had some who cried.
4 They moved me. I'm not afraid to cry either,
5 ladies. And I was totally impressed, and that's
6 really what pushed me forward to come up here today.

7 Graciously the V.A. hospital gave me the
8 day off. They probably wanted to get rid of me.
9 They gave me the day off. They knew where I was
10 coming. They said, "Go up and have fun," everything
11 else. Since I've been here, I think this is the
12 best convention I have ever had fun at.

13 [Applause]

14 MR. LEWIS: And I think my shoulders
15 hurt a little bit because I've been hugged a lot.

16 By the way, if it means anything to you,
17 I'm single.

18 [Laughter and applause]

19 MR. LEWIS: If I decide to go out one
20 night to the club, I see the ladies in the club, I
21 might walk in there like "Here I am." I can't do
22 that here because they're too many of you.

23 A DELEGATE: You're a good dancer, too.

24 MR. LEWIS: I'll tell you something
25 else. If I could, I would tell you. If I actually
26 could, I'm a damn good cook. If I actually could I
27 would find a way -- maybe next year's convention I
28 will bring you a taste of my world-famous sweet
29 potato custard pie with rum. You're not going to
30 get any.

31 [Laughter]

32 MR. LEWIS: I don't want nobody to say,
33 "Well, Robert made me gain weight. If I hadn't ate
34 that pie, you know, whatever." I just might
35 seriously -- It's going to be up north next year. I
36 just might make a couple. But keep in mind, if I
37 bring them on the plane someone might jack me up on
38 the plane and eat the pie.

1 [Laughter]

2 MR. LEWIS: So if there is anybody that
3 lives near next year's convention, if you get me a
4 steak or something, a baked potato, and cook it for
me, I'll bake the pies over at your house and bring
them in.

5 I would like to thank everybody for
6 having me here. Like I said, once again I have been
7 totally impressed. I will be heading back to San
8 Diego sometime tonight, maybe after the barbecue or
before. I'm not sure. Still have a lot of stuff to
buy out there. So thank you for having me, ladies.
It's been a pleasure being here. Thank you.

9 [Applause]

10 VA&R CHAIRMAN REYES: We will invite him
11 again. Thank you very much, Robert. That was a
tight bear hug. Thank you. Thank you all.

12 [Applause]

13 V&R CHAIRMAN REYES: Now for the
14 first-place awards and other citations. First I
15 would like to announce that we have a lot of entries
to National. Four units submitted entries directly
16 to National for the National President's Award For
Excellence. The most Outstanding Unit VA&R Overall
17 was sent to National. 10,000-hour Volunteer Service
Award, one entry submitted to National. Field
18 Service Volunteer Hours, one entry submitted to
National. Home Service Volunteer Hours Award, one
19 entry submitted to National. And NAC Nominee for
VAVS Volunteer of the Year, one nomination submitted
to National.

20 Now for our Department awards, we have
21 -- the first one is -- we didn't have this last
year. We owe it to two Past Department Presidents
22 who wanted to continue this award. This is the
VISTO Award, Volunteer In Service To Others. We
23 have a winner for this award. I would like to ask
our President to please present this award. This is
a special award.

24
25 This is the first winner for this plaque
here, VISTO plaque.

1 PRESIDENT CAPAZZI: It is my privilege
2 to present the American Legion Auxiliary Department
3 of California VISTO award to Pat Alvarez, hospital
4 representative. Long Beach VAMC, 2008-2009.

5 [Applause]

6 VA&R CHAIRMAN REYES: We would like to
7 recognize the two Past Department Presidents who
8 tried to continue this award. I would like to call
9 on Marge Shank. Veronica Spence is not here. Marge
10 Shank, this is our Past Department President. They
11 continued to get this beautiful plaque. Thank you
12 very much. The Department thanks you.

13 [Applause]

14 V&R CHAIRMAN REYES: Now, the next award
15 is -- we didn't have this last year. This is a
16 special award for a nonaffiliated volunteer. The
17 volunteer is not supposed to be a member of the
18 Auxiliary. This award goes to Johnny McClish, who
19 put in 7,500 hours in the year 2008-2009 at Long
20 Beach VAMC. I would like to call on Pat to please
21 receive this because John McClish is not here. Miss
22 Pat, no crying.

23 DELEGATE ALVAREZ. Johnny is a Vietnam
24 vet who has adopted therapy dogs and brings them
25 over to Long Beach. Plus he works in the wood shop.
He can be very proud of this. Thank you very much,
Pilar.

[Applause]

VA&R CHAIRMAN REYES: I have another
special award, and this unit really donated a lot to
the National Creative Arts Festival, directly to the
show. They gave the largest amount of donation. A
total of \$3,500. This award goes to Palisades Unit
283. I'm opening it. I'm not supposed to open it.
I want to see the name.

Ruth Hackney, who is the VA&R chairman,
this is for your unit. To recognize the amount of
money that they really donated towards the Creative
Arts Festival. Thank you.

Now, for our first-place Most
Outstanding Unit Overall Program, the first place

1 goes to Monterey Cypress Unit 694. And the chairman
is Ruby Kapsalis.

2 [Applause]

3 V&R CHAIRMAN REYES: It's nice to be
4 here. You get lots of kisses. That was a tight
bear hug.

5 The next one is the Most Outstanding
6 District Overall Program. This goes to District 16.
The chairman is Linda Fercho, my friend.

7 [Applause]

8 V&R CHAIRMAN REYES: And the last one --
9 well, this is for the Best Hospital Representative
Supplemental Report. This is awarded to Pat
10 Alvarez. Is she still here? Pat, where are you?
Come back here. You're not done. This is the best
11 supplemental report.

12 The second one went to Phyllis Holmberg.
The third one went to Lois Cornish.

13 [Applause]

14 V&R CHAIRMAN REYES: I already
15 distributed all the other first-place awards, but
just to recognize them for Outstanding Unit Home
16 Services. First place went to Newport Harbor Unit.
Su Eling. The awards, the certificates were already
17 distributed.

18 The Outstanding Unit Hospital Services
went to Chula Vista, first place, Unit 434, District
19 22.

20 [Applause]

21 V&R CHAIRMAN REYES: Outstanding Unit
Field Service, first place, Sandy Jacob, Unit 419,
22 District 13.

23 [Applause]

24 V&R CHAIRMAN REYES: Outstanding
District Home Services went to District 15, Zana
25 Chaney.

1 First place, Outstanding Field Service
2 District Field Services went to District 18,
3 Margaret Quinones.

4 [Applause]

5 V&R CHAIRMAN REYES: Outstanding
6 District Hospital Services, first place went to
7 District 29, Betty Bengry.

8 [Applause]

9 V&R CHAIRMAN REYES; Senior volunteer
10 with the most hours in a V.A. facility, Veronica
11 Spence of Ft. Miley. She put in 2010 hours.

12 [Applause]

13 V&R CHAIRMAN REYES: Junior volunteer
14 with most hours in a V.A. facility, first place went
15 to Chantel Muro.

16 [Applause]

17 V&R CHAIRMAN REYES: The home service
18 and then the field service volunteer hours with
19 10,000 hours went to Barbara Ross, first place.
20 First place for home service volunteer hours, Marie
21 Ehlers. And this was sent to National.

22 Hospital service volunteer hours went to
23 Elaine Gallagher, and was sent to National.

24 That concludes my awarding, Madam
25 President. I'm sorry it took long, but I think it's
worth it to recognize all the work of our members.

[Applause]

V&R CHAIRMAN REYES: I would like to
thank you all for the hard work that you did. 244
units all sent in their reports.

Madam Chairman, may I approach your
station, and I want you to open this thing. May I
approach your station first?

PRESIDENT CAPAZZI: Yes.

VA&R CHAIRMAN REYES: Okay. I think she

1 is tired.

2 PRESIDENT CAPAZZI: Thank you, Pilar.
3 "Dear Admiral LuAnn, thank you for taking me with
4 you and charting a course to new horizons, from
5 Captain of USS Americana, also known as Pilar." A
6 lovely message inside. And also wished me a happy
7 birthday tomorrow. Thank you, Pilar. Isn't this
8 pretty?

9 [Applause]

10 VA&R CHAIRMAN REYES: Thank you. That
11 concludes everything, and I will give way to our
12 Children and Youth Chairman.

13 PRESIDENT CAPAZZI: We will hear from
14 our Children and Youth Chairman, Linda Fercho.
15 Okay, ladies, bear with me.

16 CHILDREN AND YOUTH CHAIRMAN FERCHO:
17 Trust me, it's going to be five minutes or less.

18 [Applause]

19 CHILDREN AND YOUTH CHAIRMAN FERCHO: Not
20 that Children and Youth is not as important as every
21 other program. It totally, totally is. It's an
22 honor to have had this chairmanship this year.

23 I would like to start with the minutes
24 of the Children and Youth pre-convention meeting.

25 The pre-convention Children and Youth
Meeting met in the Orangecrest Room of the Marriott
Hotel at 11:00 a.m. on Thursday, June 18. With the
consent of the committee I appointed Judy Densch,
District 16, secretary, Bonnie Christner, District
20, chaplain, Tamara Bell, District 25,
sergeant-at-arms.

The Chaplain offered an opening prayer.
The sergeant-at-arms led the Pledge of Allegiance.
Madam secretary called roll. The number of
delegates present were 22, and the number of guests
were 16. It was a very large meeting.

I appreciate everyone that came, but I
really think it was for the cookies.

1 [Laughter]

2 CHILDREN AND YOUTH CHAIRMAN FERCHO:
3 Offer food and candy, and they come.

4 We had a great disembarking party.
5 Everyone did receive goodies and had all kinds of
6 prizes. We had a lot of fun. We put on our
7 Mouseketeer ears. We had an awesome time with our
8 awards.

9 The Children and Youth Code was read.
10 There were no housekeeping changes and no code
11 changes.

12 [Applause]

13 CHILDREN AND YOUTH CHAIRMAN FERCHO: I'm
14 leaving it up to next year's chairman to do that.

15 Packets were distributed to each
16 district. They contained the Children and Youth
17 Code, meeting agenda, citations for all the 100 per
18 cent reporting for the district, certificates for
19 donations to the Child Welfare Foundation, and I
20 also put in there a list of all the awards. There
21 is a list of those in the Department Secretary's
22 office. I'm not going to go through them. Please
23 share that information, district first mates, with
24 our districts. Also in there was a copy of my
25 year-end supplemental that went on to National, and
a copy of my statistics. The statistical figures
can be found on Page 8 in the Book of Reports.

There being no further business to be
brought before the meeting, the chaplain gave a
closing prayer, and the meeting adjourned at 12:00
noon.

Madam President, this completes the
minutes of my Children and Youth preconvention
meeting. I move for its acceptance.

[Applause]

CHILDREN AND YOUTH CHAIRMAN FERCHO:
Moving right along. Captain Mickey, co-captain
Minnie Mouse reporting for duty. It is my pleasure
to report to you that your Mouseketeer crew on the
USS Disney has truly completed a very, very

1 successful cruise. They have met the challenge that
2 we gave to them to make this the happiest place on
3 earth for a child, if only for a moment, and to put
4 a smile on every child's face that they came in
5 contact with. Like I said, they truly accomplished
6 this with flying colors.

7 So many wonderful activities reported by
8 your first mates that it would take me hours to tell
9 you about all of them, but I would like to share
10 just a few examples of how your crew made this the
11 happiest place on earth for so many. Units brought
12 together local students with soldiers and women and
13 children in a shelter in Kosovo for a pen-pal
14 program. Taught the students to crochet squares for
15 Afghans for the Ronald McDonald's house as well as
16 hats for an oncology ward. Recycled over 1200
17 pounds of pull tabs for Ronald McDonald's. That's a
18 lot of pull tabs.

19 Working together with their post, family
20 members raised over \$15,000 for toys and food and
21 gift cards for active military. And that was only
22 two units and one district that did that.

23 Visited St. Jude's Research Center --
24 and this one just -- I love this one, in the Los
25 Angeles Children's Hospital, witnessing the effects
on children with terminal or life-threatening
illnesses. But between the gifts, the hugs, and
tears, smiles were abundant. They donated over
\$8,000. And that was District 23.

[Applause]

CHILDREN AND YOUTH CHAIRMAN FERCHO:
District 24 adopted a foster care program with 66
children and provided for them all year long with
presents, gifts, parties. Pat Alvarez's District 29
organized a baby shower for 15 military moms, making
a reality of their wish list. Reported that the
juniors were an intricate part of every activity the
units planned.

And I did slight one little thing, and
that was the \$15,000, happened to be Unit 741 and 48
in District 16.

[Applause]

1 CHILDREN AND YOUTH CHAIRMAN FERCHO: I
2 don't know how my eyes slipped over that. It must
3 have been Rosemary's fault.

4 I received only one request this year
5 for temporary financial assistance. We have funds
6 for this. Please, please, seek out children who
7 need our help. Listen to what your members are
8 sharing about others they know. Often we think it's
9 gossip, but it can be extremely good gossip when
10 they share something about a family and children
11 that we might help. Please be aware of that this
12 next year and put this program into good use.

13 Captain Mickey, if I had to pick one
14 part of our Children and Youth program that put the
15 biggest smile on my face, it has to be the Hero and
16 Good Deed Awards. I received four Good Deed
17 nominations, and I have asked Harriet Clendenin,
18 District 15, to be here on stage. Is she in the
19 house? Oh, good. I've asked her to come up because
20 I just received from National two Good Deed awards.
21 These are for Unit 221, District 15, Tiffany A.
22 Rhea. She collected over 600 stuffed animals for
23 military and underprivileged children.

24 [Applause]

25 CHILDREN AND YOUTH CHAIRMAN FERCHO:
26 Taylor Mae Cummings, Unit 221, District 15, donated
27 13 inches of her hair for Locks of Love For Cancer
28 Victims.

29 [Applause]

30 CHILDREN AND YOUTH CHAIRMAN FERCHO: And
31 Harriet, as the district chairman, first mate and
32 the unit president, took the time to submit this.
33 We received the awards for them from National. So I
34 would like you to take them home.

35 [Applause]

36 CHILDREN AND YOUTH CHAIRMAN FERCHO: And
37 thank you for doing that.

38 Andrea Luna, Unit 299, District 25, will
39 be receiving a National award. She started a club
40 at her school called Going Green. She educated
41 fellow students on the benefits of recycling.

1
2 John W. Courtinbock, Unit 170, District
3 19, is an Eagle Scout. He organized a group of
4 volunteers to remove invasive nonlocal vegetation
and termite-infested wood at the Heritage Creek site
that is now supporting local student projects in
biology environment.

5 [Applause]

6 CHILDREN AND YOUTH CHAIRMAN FERCHO Okay.
7 Does everybody have Kleenex? You have tissues?
8 Because you're going to need them for the next
9 three. I have to always take a deep breath before I
start on these three. And actually I received --
there's five.

10 Robert Martinez, Unit 299, District 25
11 -- 12-year-old Robert is a Boy Scout. He saw a
12 child, 20-month child, actually turning blue, not
13 breathing. He immediately used the skills he
14 learned with CPR and the Heimlich maneuver and saved
15 the life of that child. He has been awarded many
awards for this. The child had started choking
after sucking all the air out of its baby bottle,
and it had a very bad congestion cold. This little
boy just jumped right in there and just took action
and saved that child's life.

16 [Applause]

17 CHILDREN AND YOUTH CHAIRMAN FERCHO:
18 Humberto Romero, 15-year-old, and his sister Sandra,
19 age 16, were late for school. But while they were
20 hurrying to get to school, because they were late,
21 they smelled smoke as they passed an apartment
22 building. Well, immediately Sandra called 911, and
her brother Humberto started knocking on all the
doors. They were able to get everyone out,
including dogs, cats and babies, everyone out of the
apartment building before it burst into flames,
saving several lives.

23 [Applause]

24 CHILDREN AND YOUTH CHAIRMAN FERCHO:
25 Zack McBride, age 14, and his brother Andrew, age
nine, were riding their bikes and encountered a
young woman with a baby in her arms. Well, they
went on riding their bikes. And it was at their

1 school, and it was a track around where they ride
2 bikes and do other kinds of track activities. After
3 they got done riding their bikes, they saw the young
4 girl again, but this time she didn't have the baby
5 with her.

6 Well, they thought about this a minute,
7 so they went back to where they saw her originally,
8 and there was the baby. She had abandoned her
9 nine-day-old baby. Well, the boys picked the baby
10 up, and what did they do? Took it home to mom and
11 said, "Can we keep it?"

12 [Laughter]

13 CHILDREN AND YOUTH CHAIRMAN FERCHO: I
14 know. What else are you going to do when you find
15 something laying around.

16 Well, mom called the authorities, and
17 the baby was taken care of, and they are credited
18 with saving the life of that child.

19 [Applause]

20 CHILDREN AND YOUTH CHAIRMAN FERCHO:
21 Captain Mickey, this was a very humbling experience.
22 I cannot begin to express the overwhelming gratitude
23 I have for all our Mouseketeers. Their hours and
24 hours of unselfish dedication has truly made this
25 not only the happiest place on earth but a much
26 better place for our children.

27 Thank you for giving me this the
28 opportunity to serve the Department and yourself. I
29 have truly enjoyed it.

30 [Applause]

31 PRESIDENT CAPAZZI: Thank you.

32 CHILDREN AND YOUTH CHAIRMAN FERCHO: May
33 I please present my first-place awards?

34 PRESIDENT CAPAZZI: Yes, you may.

35 CHILDREN AND YOUTH CHAIRMAN FERCHO:
36 Thank you. First place Unit Supplemental -- and
37 this is -- in our district meeting in -- I'm not
38 bragging -- well, I am. But I have gotten a few

1 first-place awards, and this young lady is our
2 incoming district president, and I have had the
3 privilege to mentor her to the point where she wrote
4 her report patterning after ones I wrote. Well, she
5 won first place. I got second.

6 [Laughter]

7 CHILDREN AND YOUTH CHAIRMAN FERCHO: I
8 know. I guess I did a really good job, so I am very
9 proud to give the first-place award to Annette
10 McKendry, Unit 48, District 16. It has been sent on
11 to National for judging.

12 [Applause]

13 CHILDREN AND YOUTH CHAIRMAN FERCHO:
14 That was really a great honor for me. We had the
15 district meeting at our post, and I had to go over
16 and cook, so I missed the Children and Youth awards
17 when they were handed out. When I came back in,
18 everybody said she gloated, she yelled just because
19 she beat me. But that was my pleasure.

20 The first-place District Supplemental
21 goes to an outstanding young woman who has done so
22 much, and I believe she told me last night this is
23 her first convention. First Children and Youth
24 chairmanship. This goes to Tamara Bell, District
25 25.

26 [Applause]

27 CHILDREN AND YOUTH CHAIRMAN FERCHO:
28 Well, Captain Mickey, as we all can say together,
29 M-I-C- -- wait, wait M-I-C-- see you real soon --
30 K-E-Y? Why? Because I love you all. M-O-U-S-E.
31 Minnie Mouse signing off.

32 [Applause]

33 PRESIDENT CAPAZZI: Thank you, Linda.

34 Would our Distinguished Guest Chairman
35 like to give her report at this time.

36 DISTINGUISHED GUEST CHAIRMAN KAPSALIS:
37 Madam Department President, before I begin my
38 report, I would just like to let the delegation know
39 about all these wonderful little juniors who are

1 working so hard, quietly.

2 [Applause]

3 DISTINGUISHED GUEST CHAIRMAN KAPSALIS:
4 I want you to know when I came in this morning,
5 there were a lot of people wondering, asking "Where
6 is district? Where is this district? I can't see
7 those numbers." But I want you to know those young
8 ladies, they had it all diagrammed out. When
9 somebody asked, I would say "See the Junior." We
10 should be so organized as those juniors. Let me
11 tell you they're doing a wonderful job.

12 [Applause]

13 DISTINGUISHED GUEST CHAIRMAN KAPSALIS:
14 And not only that, one was interviewed by a news
15 station, so I don't know. We may just be lucky and
16 have a junior on the news tonight.

17 Madam Department President, it has been
18 a privilege and pleasure to serve as your
19 Distinguished Guest Chairman this year. Our first
20 port call was the National Convention in Phoenix,
21 Arizona, which I was unable to attend, and want to
22 thank the Acting Secretary-Treasurer, Melanie
23 Taylor, for assuming my duties and ensuring protocol
24 was taken care of for you and the California
25 delegation.

26 In September, we pulled into Bakersfield
27 for the Department workshop that was chaired by Past
28 Department President Sue Hooker. The
29 Sergeant-at-Arms and Marshal, Kathy
30 Harris-Richardson and Gloria Williams, did an
31 outstanding job meeting the demands of the workshop.
32 It seems to me I heard a few complaints about their
33 feet hurting, but that didn't deter them from doing
34 their job.

35 We completed our first six months
36 deployment pulling into the port of Ridgecrest,
37 docking in January for a very productive,
38 successful, and hopefully memorable Department
39 Executive Committee meeting for you, Madam
40 Department President, hosting and caring for your
41 most distinguished guest, and a very delightful
42 lady, Josephine Keanu, Western Division National
43 Vice President, from Hawaii, was not work but a

1 pleasure.

2 It was smooth sailing and absolutely
3 beautiful weather in April for the National
4 President, Desiree Stoy's visit to California. I
5 want to thank Past Department President Phyllis
6 Holmberg for assuming the duties of the
7 Distinguished Guest Chairman for the visit to
8 Southern California and to the District 29
9 President, Pat Alvarez, and Karen Karanickolas,
10 President of Newport Harbor Unit 291, for all their
11 help in making the visit to Newport Harbor a
12 memorable and fun event for our Department and
13 National President.

14 On to Northern California for another
15 well-attended and memorable visit hosted by
16 Haggin-Grant Unit 521. Likewise, I want to thank
17 the District 6 President, Mary Cogburn, Anne
18 Batchelor, Frances King, Brenda Anderson, president,
19 Haggin-Grant Unit 52, and all the unit and district
20 members who worked so hard to make the visits not
21 only special, but most memorable events. It was a
22 job well done by everyone for both events.

23 We even got in some sight-seeing at the
24 Capitol and Old Sacramento along with a tour at the
25 Yountville Veterans Home which was arranged by
hospital representative Pat Anderson, with other
Auxiliary members from District 5 attending.

A short stop home for some rest and
relaxation -- in the Navy they call it R&R -- then
onto the Department President's homecoming the
following weekend, which was chaired by Past
Department President Pat Sweeney and Jean
Winkler-Ring at John Armitage Unit 684 in
Ridgecrest, where we had loads of fun visiting and
welcoming our Department President home. Almost
home anyway.

Which brings us to our final port call,
Riverside, California, for your Department
convention and want you to know that it has been
absolutely a delight to work with your Convention
Committee, especially Estella Avina, the banquet
chairman, who has gone overboard ensuring the
comfort of your guests and members were met.

The Sergeant-at-Arms, Kathy, Marshal,

1 Gloria, and I want you to know that the many miles
2 that we have walked and as bad as our feet ache, it
3 has been a pleasure to serve with you. Thank you
4 for allowing us to be a small part of your crew as
5 you charted the course throughout the year to new
6 horizons. There is only one thing we ask in return,
7 Madam Department President, and that is some Epsom
8 Salts.

9 [Laughter]

10 DISTINGUISHED GUEST CHAIRMAN KAPSALIS:
11 And that concludes my report.

12 [Applause]

13 PRESIDENT CAPAZZI: Thank you, Ruby, and
14 thank you for all your hard work this year.

15 Madam communications officer, do we have
16 any messages from the fleet?

17 SECRETARY-TREASURER KILKENNY: Okay,
18 ladies, someone is looking for a pink camera. Unit
19 416. So if anyone has found it. I don't know if
20 this means they lost it and want someone to give it
21 to them.

22 [Cries of "We can't hear you"]

23 SECRETARY-TREASURER KILKENNY: Unit 416.
24 It says "Looking for a pink camera in the lady's
25 restroom." I don't know if they still are there, or
26 if they found it or lost it. I think they have lost
27 it. I know I have.

28 If anyone finds a ring, please see
29 District 20. A ring.

30 There was a silver earring found. It is
31 round with white stones. I believe this is District
32 13. See them, please.

33 A DELEGATE: She found it.

34 SECRETARY-TREASURER KILKENNY: Good.
35 Hallelujah

36 This notebook was left in the ladies
37 restroom. You guys have to quit doing that. As

1 long as you're not -- you know, when it gets down to
2 taking your clothes off, I know you have been
drinking Tequila.

3 [Laughter]

4 SECRETARY-TREASURER KILKENNY: Linda's
5 Workmen, Joyce's Nuggets, and Park's Patriots will
6 meet for lunch tomorrow, Saturday, at the noon
recess at Gram's Barbecue directly across the street
from the convention center.

7 Bev's Stars and Queen Love-a-Lot
8 Princesses will meet at noon for lunch on Saturday.

9 Shelby's Actresses will meet at the
10 Marriott Hotel in Room 610 at noon on Saturday.

11 The Old Salts are invited to a cocktail
12 party at 6:15 in Department President's Room 1218
tonight before their dinner.

13 That is all, Madam President.

14 PRESIDENT CAPAZZI: This session is now
in recess until 9:00 a.m. tomorrow morning.

15 [Whereupon, the American Legion
16 Auxiliary, Department of California, recessed at
4:35 o'clock p.m.]

17 ---o0o---

DEPARTMENT OF CALIFORNIA

American Legion Auxiliary

90th Annual Convention

Saturday, June 20, 2009
9:05 o'clock a.m.

Riverside, California

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Pages 122 - 218

Reported by:
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P R O C E E D I N G S

1
2 [The Annual Convention of the American
3 Legion Auxiliary, Department of California, was
4 reconvened on June 20, 2009, at 9:05 a.m.; President
Capazzi presiding]

5 PRESIDENT CAPAZZI: Ladies, please find
6 your chairs.

7 Ladies, it's time to find your chairs.
8 Ladies, the Ladies Auxiliary, Department of
9 California, convention is now reconvened.

10 Chaplain Donna Scott will offer an
11 invocation.

12 CHAPLAIN SCOTT: Let us pray. Lord, we
13 ask Your blessing for this meeting. Be with us and
14 guide us as we make many important decisions that
15 will affect all the members of our great
16 organization. Help us to always remember we are
17 here to serve God and country. Amen.

18 PRESIDENT CAPAZZI: May we stand in a
19 moment of silence in honor of our dearly departed
20 members and veterans.

21 [Moment of silence]

22 PRESIDENT CAPAZZI: The Secretary will
23 please call the roll of officers, chairmen, and
24 district presidents.

25 SECRETARY-TREASURER KILKENNY: Good
morning, ladies. Bright-eyed and bushy-tailed? Can
you tell I slept last night.

[Roll call]

SECRETARY-TREASURER KILKENNY: That is
your roll call, Madam President.

PRESIDENT CAPAZZI: Thank you, Madam
Secretary.

We are still looking for that pink
camera that our Department Secretary told you about
yesterday. Even if she could just get the memory

1 card inside. There are two days of convention
2 pictures in there. So, ladies, keep your eyes out
3 for a pink camera, please. If you do find it, take
4 it back to the Ways and Means Chairman.
5 Thank you.

6 The following chairmen will please come
7 to the platform for your reports. Credentials,
8 Elections, Public Relations and Editor, Junior
9 Activities and Junior Conference.

10 Does our communication officer have any
11 messages from the fleet? She is still opening her
12 -- okay. I think that's a yes.

13 SECRETARY-TREASURER KILKENNY: Okay,
14 ladies. Madam President has informed me we will
15 have another communications prior to lunch. So bear
16 with me. These are the only ones I have open at the
17 current time.

18 One item that I would like to give you
19 the information on is the CALPA luncheon. This is
20 California American Legion Press Association. The
21 luncheon will be held today at El Tortilla
22 Restaurant between 12:00 and 2:00 p.m. on June 20th,
23 today. The cost is \$20. The attendees may pay
24 secretary Sonja Thomas at the meeting. They have an
25 agenda, presentation of the 2010 CALPA awards and
voting on the President's Award and election of new
officers.

Betty's Bears and Bonnie's Prom
Princesses will meet in Room 725 at the lunch break
today. Sandy's Colonels will meet in Room 714 at
the lunch break.

District 1 has two banquet tickets.
Please see them. And one banquet ticket is
available from District 16.

Bev's Stars and Madeline's Love-a-Lot
Princesses will meet today for lunch at the Marriott
restaurant.

We will have more later, Madam
President.

PRESIDENT CAPAZZI: Thank you. We will
now continue with our reports from our Department

1 chairmen. Public Relations, Pat Alvarez. And she
2 is also going to read the report from our -- oh, I'm
3 sorry. Pat, would you just give me one moment.

4 Sergeant-at-Arms and Marshal with the
5 Distinguished Guest Chairman, please present our
6 guest.

7 [Applause]

8 PRESIDENT CAPAZZI: It is my pleasure to
9 present to you Dave Eby. Some of you know him as
10 our editor from our Legionnaire. He's here to
11 present a certificate this morning. Dave.

12 [Applause]

13 LEGIONNAIRE EDITOR EBY: President
14 LuAnn, Department officers, ladies of the Auxiliary.
15 I am here on behalf of the California Legionnaire
16 publication on this 10th anniversary of my being
17 your Department Commander, and my opponent in
18 membership, Linda Workman, as Department President
19 back in 1998, '99. Is Linda here today?

20 Madam President, if you could cause
21 Linda to come up to this station.

22 PRESIDENT CAPAZZI: Would the
23 Distinguished Guest Chairman please escort Linda to
24 the stage.

25 [Applause]

LEGIONNAIRE EDITOR EBY: The American
Legion and the Auxiliary had a tradition. It was a
solid tradition, and it was easy on the Department
Commander. It was a hundred-dollar bet, and it
would go to whoever won, and they could donate that
money to whatever cause they wanted to. I always
asked, well, when did they make this bet and when is
it done? "Don't worry. The Auxiliary handles it."
So, I didn't worry at all. I'm now at my first DEC.
I'm up here, and in the back of the room pops Linda
Workman. And quickly they were tapping me, saying
get Linda up on the stage. I said, "Oh, okay." We
caused her to come up. Where did she run to? I'm
reaching in my pocket. I got the hundred-dollar
bill right there. I'm ready.

1 She steps up to the mike to make the
2 bet. She says, "Well, you know, it's kind of bland,
3 that hundred-dollar thing. So what I've decided" --
4 not what we've decided, what she decided is that we
5 would do a new contest.

6 And says, "When you lose, you will don a
7 pink dress of my choice.

8 [Laughter]

9 LEGIONNAIRE EDITOR EBY: You will come
10 over to the Auxiliary's convention and you will sing
11 "I Am Woman."

12 [Laughter]

13 LEGIONNAIRE EDITOR EBY: I'm reaching in
14 my pants, feeling that hundred-dollar bill and
15 going, "What the" --

16 [Laughter]

17 LEGIONNAIRE EDITOR EBY: And I'm
18 scrambling through my mind, saying "This can't be."
19 What am I going to counter with? A hundred-dollar
20 bill? I said, "That's not worth it."

21 I'm thinking, Well, I've got to make her
22 do something. So I'm thinking, well, there was this
23 song by the Village -- and I go, it's not the
24 idiots. No, it's the Village People. Yes. YMCA.
25 No, that's not it. Ah, it comes to my mind.

I said, "No, Linda, you're going to sing
the Village People's Macho Man on our stage."

[Laughter]

PAST PRESIDENT WORKMAN: You let me
down.

[Laughter]

LEGIONNAIRE EDITOR EBY: She accepted
it. We hugged. We shook. She left. I turned
around to my great advisers behind me, and I said,
"Now, guys, how often do we win?"

They said, "I can't remember when we

1 have ever won."

2 [Laughter]

3 LEGIONNAIRE EDITOR EBY: So I lit a fire
4 under Joe Chillea and that membership team, and I
5 said, "I am not wearing a pink dress." I have
6 little white, hairy legs that don't look good
7 exposed."

8 [Laughter]

9 PAST PRESIDENT WORKMAN: Me, too.

10 [Laughter]

11 LEGIONNAIRE EDITOR EBY: And lo and
12 behold, we were 11th in the nation that year in all
13 of National. We came in 11th.

14 [Applause]

15 LEGIONNAIRE EDITOR EBY: Poor Linda.
16 Every chance I saw her -- her theme was the Workmen,
17 which fit right in. I didn't realize she was the
18 Workman in her theme, but it worked right in with
19 the Macho Man.

20 She had this National theme of a horse
21 race from Kentucky. Every time I saw her I said,
22 "Have you been seeing -- how do you feel in the
23 race? All you're seeing is the back end of our
24 horse."

25 [Laughter]

26 LEGIONNAIRE EDITOR EBY: She didn't
27 realize we were in a chuck wagon. We were feeding
28 our guys. They were happy. We were bringing water
29 way out in front of the horses as we ran across the
30 Mojave Desert. She never thought of that. Chillea
31 did.

32 So, Linda, on this 10th anniversary of
33 the California Legionnaire, we're looking for a
34 picture of Linda dancing. If you have a movie,
35 MPEG, 35-millimeter movie, if you happen to have any
36 pictures, 35-millimeter, it doesn't matter, print or
37 digital, please send them to me. We're working on a
38 whole little presentation for you.

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PAST PRESIDENT WORKMAN: Oh, yes.
Thanks.

[Laughter]

LEGIONNAIRE EDITOR EBY: At the Kentucky Derby that year, we do have the last horse crossing, a picture of him running all the way behind.

[Laughter]

LEGIONNAIRE EDITOR EBY: The American Legion Citation of Excellence for the dedicated Macho Man president for meritorious service and spirited, loyal cooperation on this 10th anniversary of the membership challenge of the unforgettable personal performance of the Village People's Macho Man on stage at the 1999 San Diego State Convention. Linda Workman, Department President 1998-1999, American Legion Auxiliary, Department of California is awarded this citation in recognition thereof by the California Legionnaire, Department of California's official publication, the American Legion, Department of California, June 18-19, 2009, Riverside convention. Signed by the editor of the California Legionnaire, myself, David Eby, and the chairman of the Publishing Commission, Paul Terry.

[Applause]

PAST PRESIDENT WORKMAN: Thank you. You know, I didn't think Macho Man was going to be a big deal until a week before. I thought I had better at least learn the words. Do you actually realize what the beginning of Macho Man starts with? "Body, body, do you want my body"?

[Laughter]

PAST PRESIDENT WORKMAN: It was not a good thing to be singing.

LEGIONNAIRE EDITOR EBY: I'm not remiss, because I'm remiss a lot, I brought my best friend, my wife of almost 40 years.

[Applause]

LEGIONNAIRE EDITOR EBY: If you're so

1 obligated, it is September 6th. Big party in Upper
2 Lake. My wife Carrie.

3 [Applause]

4 LEGIONNAIRE EDITOR EBY: And she is a
5 proud member of the Pacific Palisades Unit.

6 [Applause]

7 PRESIDENT CAPAZZI: As we started to
8 say, our Public Relations Chairman, Pat Alvarez,
9 will give her report.

10 PUBLIC RELATIONS COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN
11 ALVAREZ: The Convention Committee on Public
12 Relations/Editor met on June 18th at 10:30 a.m. in
13 the Orangecrest Room of the Marriott, Riverside,
14 California. The statistical report of this chairman
15 appears under the Past President's Parley section
16 and across from the VA&R section of the Book of
17 Reports.

18 Rebecca Stewart-Wilson, District 24, was
19 appointed secretary. Patty Sharp, District 14,
20 offered prayer. Diana Moreno, District 18, was
21 appointed sergeant-at-arms. A total of 14 district
22 delegates answered roll call. There were ten
23 visitors present.

24 The Committee agreed upon the following
25 report. The Public Relations Code was read, and
there were no changes. There has been a suggestion
from Past Department President Pat Sweeney that a
letter be written to the National Chairman, National
President, and National Secretary asking for an
extension of time for press books to be delivered to
the designated National committee person in that the
Department chairman cannot have submitted press
books judged until later than June 1st, as our
Department convention is always held after the June
1st deadline. This suggestion has been made and
will be placed in the Public Relations Department
procedure book.

26 The Editor's California Auxiliary News
27 Code was read, and on the recommendation of Past
28 Department President Pat Sweeney, per her telephone
29 call, it was moved, seconded and passed to recommend
30 deletion of the following codes as the Auxiliary

1 does not have any say over what is put in or left
2 out of the California Auxiliary News.

3 Therefore, it was moved, seconded and
4 passed to recommend the following Code deletions.
5 Code No. 4 states, "Subsidiary organizations may be
6 allowed reasonable space in the Auxiliary News when
7 available."

8 Madam President, I move that Code No. 4
9 be deleted from our Department Code.

10 [Seconded]

11 PRESIDENT CAPAZZI: It's been moved and
12 seconded that we delete Code No. 4 which states
13 "Subsidiary organizations may be allowed reasonable
14 space in the Auxiliary News when available."

15 Is there any discussion?

16 All those in favor, "aye."

17 Opposed, "no."

18 [Motion passed]

19 PUBLIC RELATIONS COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN
20 ALVAREZ: Code No. 6 states: "The change of
21 addresses shall be mailed by unit secretaries to the
22 National News Circulation Department, providing both
23 old and new addresses."

24 Madam President, I move that Code No. 6
25 be deleted from our Department Code.

[Seconded]

PRESIDENT CAPAZZI: It's been moved and
second that Code No. 6 be deleted. It states that
"The change of addresses shall be mailed by unit
secretaries to the National News Circulation
Department, providing both old and new addresses."

Is there any discussion?

Those in favor, "aye."

Opposed, "no."

1 Passed.

2 PUBLIC RELATIONS COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN
3 ALVAREZ: Code No. 10 states, "The 'In Memorial'
4 column shall be published in lieu of "other items."
The Department Chaplain shall provide the
information to the editor each month."

5 Madam President, I move that Code No. 10
6 be deleted from our Department Code.

7 [Seconded]

8 PRESIDENT CAPAZZI: It's been moved and
9 seconded that Code 10 be deleted. It states, "The
10 'In Memorial' column shall be published in lieu of
11 "other items." The Department Chaplain shall
12 provide the information to the editor each month."

13 Is there any discussion?

14 All those in favor, "aye."

15 Opposed, "no."

16 Motion passed.

17 PUBLIC RELATIONS COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN
18 ALVAREZ: The final suggestion was Code 12. This is
19 not in the report, ladies, because it happened
20 yesterday. And this report was written before that.
21 The final suggestion to be deleted was Code No. 12.
22 And upon reading the Editor's report that was given
23 to me late the day before yesterday, she suggested
24 to leave Code 12 in the Department Code. The Public
25 Relations Committee was called by the banners and
outside yesterday, and they have voted not to delete
that Code. So we're going to leave it in. Do you
want me to read it so the membership knows what it
says? Okay.

26 Madam President, I move to renumber the
27 codes to read 1 through 9.

28 PRESIDENT CAPAZZI: So ordered.

29 PUBLIC RELATIONS COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN
30 ALVAREZ: There were no resolutions presented for
31 action. Second- and third-place awards were handed
32 out for Best Unit Supplemental, Best District

1 Supplemental and Unit and District Press Books.
2 There was no time for discussion, and the meeting
3 adjourned at 11:00 a.m.

4 This concludes the Public
5 Relations/Editor Convention Committee report except
6 for a short report from Alice which I will do after
7 my supplemental.

8 Madam President, may I continue with the
9 supplemental report?

10 PRESIDENT CAPAZZI: Yes, you may.

11 PUBLIC RELATIONS COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN
12 ALVAREZ: At our Post-convention meeting in June,
13 2008, handouts were given to every district in the
14 Department which included "How to Make A Press Kit"
15 and listings of all newspapers in the state with
16 contact names, phone numbers, and e-mail addresses,
17 when available. District chairmen were also asked
18 to distribute the listings to their units and to
19 report to this Chairman any changes or correction
20 for their local contacts in order for the
21 corrections to be reported to all districts.
22 Fortunately, none were reported, although during the
23 year errors and corrections were found out about and
24 communication made to the various district chairmen
25 asking them to inform their units and surrounding
26 districts.

27 It is this Chairman's thinking that not
28 only is a chairman, be it unit, district or
29 Department, responsible for tooting our own horns so
30 the public will learn about our great organization,
31 but every member of the American Legion family's
32 responsibility to do so, and not just including the
33 Legionnaires, but the Sons of the American Legion
34 and the American Legion Riders as well. How much
35 easier can it be when unit, post, squadron, and
36 chapter share newsletter space, be it monthly or
37 bimonthly?

38 For the various Department and district
39 workshops which were held during the year, a
40 plethora of information was given out to the
41 Auxiliary membership instructing them how to get a
42 foot in the door to news publications, radio, and
43 television stations. It was this chairman's
44 pleasure to receive information that one of our

1 members, who volunteers on a regular basis at the
2 Ontario USO on a regular basis, was interviewed for
3 a news show about her volunteering at the USO and
4 what it means to her to, quote, give something back.
5 The website where our members can view the interview
6 over the internet was disseminated to many of our
7 members via an e-mail blast to 400 plus members of
8 the American Legion family.

9
10 Several bulletins were sent out to all
11 units via Department unit mailing packets throughout
12 the year. These included positive-thinking
13 bulletins with attachments of listings of PR
14 resources from National and Department, listings of
15 available resources from the American Legion
16 National office, listings of different brochures
17 available, as well as listings of different CD's
18 available from the American Legion's National
19 office. It is the hope of this chairman that
20 districts and units make use of these resources
21 throughout the year, although none were reported in
22 the end-of-year reports.

23
24 One article was written for our
25 Department's bimonthly publication as requested from
our ALA Editor which was published in October. Very
interesting to have members ask how this chairman
got her picture in the California Legionnaire. It
was done on purpose to attempt to get an idea of how
many ALA members actually read the publication.
With the number of remarks, phone calls, and e-mails
this chairman received, it is believed that many of
our members do take advantage of this publication's
informative information when sent in on a timely
basis.

19
20 Reported on two of the district's
21 year-end reports was a new idea of publicizing
22 events and accomplishments of their unit. They made
23 friends with their local car dealership who had an
24 electronic sign over the freeway passing by the
25 dealership. Then, as the sign is half owned by the
City, they made friends with the department
responsible for granting permissions to what is
flashed across the electronic sign 24 hours a day,
seven days a week at their city hall. They both had
something on the board on a monthly basis, and some
even more frequently. One unit chairman, and in
turn that district's chairmen, was very excited to
report that because of the sign, they increased

1 their membership by ten new members this year. Both
2 units plan on continuing their relationships with
3 the respective entities in order to continue the
4 free advertising and publicity.

5 After spending a year of charting their
6 course to new horizons per our Department
7 President's theme, it was so very exciting to share
8 ideas on how to publicize the Department and
9 National President's visit. Sadly, not one District
10 reported that they were able to have their press
11 releases published or heard.

12 Although there are ups and downs to the
13 Public Relations program, this chairman is of the
14 belief that the more you are able to advertise and
15 actually toot your own horn, the more proficient
16 your unit and district members will become in
17 sharing the news of all unit/district functions and
18 events. As more units realize this, our membership
19 rolls can grow and more active members will renew
20 their membership annually in order to get in on the
21 fun and fellowship with other units and districts.

22 Throughout the year, this chairman
23 requested copies of unit/district newsletters as
24 well as any published articles with mastheads from
25 all units and districts and some posts who do not
26 have units. What a surprise to find we will be able
27 to fill two and a half three-inch binders with at
28 least one copy of unit newsletters from over 100
29 units in the Department and at least one issue of
30 district newsletters from most of the districts in
31 the Department and several copies of newsletters
32 from the American Legion Children's Home, the
33 California Legionnaire, and e-newsletters from
34 National.

35 Now that it's time to turn in the
36 end-of-year report, our "Crow's Nest" will now
37 relinquish the responsibility of searching out the
38 newsworthy events and encouraging all members, not
39 just a unit/district chairman, to publicize all
40 events and accomplishments of their respective units
41 and districts. This chairman hopes that more
42 members will take on the chairmanship and help their
43 members make friends with the press, share the
44 information they've received, and watch their units
45 rolls grow and district meetings attendance
46 increase.

1 Madam President, may I continue with
2 Alice's supplemental.

3 PRESIDENT CAPAZZI: Sure.

4 PUBLIC RELATIONS COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN
5 ALVAREZ: This is from Alice Christensen.

6 Again this year the budget afforded us
7 to submit news articles for four two-page issues in
8 the American Legion newspaper, the Legionnaire, for
9 the year 2008-2009. Three officers are also
10 afforded space in the Legionnaire in two extra
11 issues for which there is no charge to the
12 Auxiliary. We are included in the family page.

13 As you no doubt know, the expense of the
14 Auxiliary News is covered in the current year's
15 budget by each of you through the dues structure.
16 Therefore, a copy should be in every home of an
17 Auxiliary member. The news articles solicited from
18 each contributor for each issue was to inform, to
19 encourage, to give each of us an overall view of the
20 program and the year's special emphasis at the
21 Department and National level.

22 Due to the known fact that everyone does
23 not see the various transmittals that are received
24 at the unit level and includes this information, the
25 Legionnaire affords each member of the current
26 year's main focus at all levels. Each officer,
27 chairman when accepting a position at the Department
28 level also accept the responsibility of
29 participating in informing the members the direction
30 to be focused on for the current year.

31 We proudly belong to one of the finest
32 organizations in support of the veteran, children,
33 and community. And with the leadership of these
34 officers and chairmen, our concern and support will
35 provide for those in need.

36 In reviewing the published issues for
37 this year, most officers and chairmen had an article
38 in the Legionnaire. My thanks to each of you, and I
39 am sure the members appreciate your effort. There
40 were some obstacles that were overcome with
41 understanding of what was trying to be accomplished.
42 There may be some among us who may be considered

1 professional in soliciting articles and pictures to
2 keep the space filled with items of interest. To be
3 editor is a challenge, to fill space with timely,
4 interesting articles for the issues allotted us, and
5 this can only be obtained by you the officers and
6 chairmen who respond.

7 We may not be considered as
8 professionals, but we do the best job we can, and
9 that is all anyone can expect. We have one great
10 purpose, that we do exceedingly well to contribute
11 to the accomplishment of the aims and purposes of
12 the American Legion. Again, thank you.

13 [Applause]

14 PUBLIC RELATIONS COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN
15 ALVAREZ: Madam President, may I announce the
16 first-place winners for the Public Relations
17 program.

18 PRESIDENT CAPAZZI: Yes, you may.

19 PUBLIC RELATIONS COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN
20 ALVAREZ: And you were sent notes early in the
21 convention, so here we go. First place Best
22 Supplemental Report goes to Becky Bullard, Norwalk
23 Unit 359, District 19.

24 [Applause]

25 PUBLIC RELATIONS COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN
26 ALVAREZ: First place District Supplemental goes to
27 Elizabeth, Betty, Mumert, District 19.

28 [Applause]

29 PUBLIC RELATIONS COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN
30 ALVAREZ: First place Best Unit Press Book goes to
31 Irene Gustafson, Unit 149, District 22.

32 [Applause]

33 PUBLIC RELATIONS COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN
34 ALVAREZ: First place Best District Press Book,
35 Margaret, Peggy, McIntosh, District 18.

36 [Applause]

37 PUBLIC RELATIONS COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN

1 ALVAREZ: Madam President, this concludes the Public
2 Relations report. Thank you for this challenging
3 appointment. May I approach for the purpose of a
4 presentation?

5 PRESIDENT CAPAZZI: Yes, you may.

6 PUBLIC RELATIONS COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN

7 ALVAREZ: This is all your stuff, ladies. This is
8 more of your stuff, ladies. This is the tail end of
9 your stuff, ladies.

10 [Applause]

11 PRESIDENT CAPAZZI: Thank you so much.
12 It's going to be great to sit back and look at all
13 these articles and things and pictures you have sent
14 in. Thank you.

15 It is now time to prepare for elections.
16 We will have a 15-minute recess so the district
17 presidents can take the roll call of their delegates
18 and be ready to report their voting strength when
19 the secretary calls the roll of the districts.
20 Please remember that the doors will be closed at
21 about 10:05 and no one will be allowed to enter or
22 leave after they are closed. At this time will all
23 delegates please go sit with their districts.

24 [Recess]

25 PRESIDENT CAPAZZI: This session will
26 come to order.

27 Sergeant-at-Arms, will you close the
28 door on that side, please.

29 Ladies, this session will please come to
30 order.

31 Everyone who is now seated in their
32 districts is a delegate or perhaps an alternate who
33 is taking the place of a delegate. If you are an
34 alternate or a guest, then please come and sit to my
35 left in these chairs that are empty over here on the
36 side. If you are an alternate or a guest, please
37 come to these chairs over on that side while we're
38 in the voting process. Actually, that's where the
39 alternates and guests should be seated. Thank you.

1 The Department Credentials Chairman will
2 give us the final credentials report, please.
3 Carol.

4 CREDENTIALS COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN FUQUA:
5 Madam President LuAnn Capazzi, thank you for asking
6 me to serve on this chairmanship this year. It was
7 indeed a valuable learning experience. This morning
8 we met with the district presidents. We went over
9 the procedures on how to poll the district and what
10 is expected. There were questions that we answered.
11 So we hope to have a great election in record time.
12 And thank you to those ladies that were here super
13 early.

14 My thanks to Department Secretary Doris
15 Kilkenny, Past Department President Odette Cucarro,
16 and Lois Cornish, who were a great help. I couldn't
17 have done it without them. Also, thank you
18 Auxiliary secretaries and members who worked at the
19 registration tables. You did an outstanding job.
20 The total strength of this convention is 625.

21 [Applause]

22 CREDENTIALS COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN FUQUA:
23 Divided by half is 312.50. And we need 313 to
24 elect.

25 PRESIDENT CAPAZZI: Thank you, Carol.

26 CREDENTIALS COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN FUQUA:
27 You're welcome.

28 PRESIDENT CAPAZZI: We will now hear the
29 election rules by Pat Carey.

30 ELECTIONS COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN CAREY:
31 Election rules from 25 through 33.

32 The election of Department officers,
33 Junior Member of Finance, National candidate,
34 Department delegates and alternates to the National
35 Convention shall be held on Saturday morning. And
36 the dates on this is wrong. The doors to the
37 convention hall shall be closed during the entire
38 election procedures, and no one shall leave or enter
39 the hall until the Chair states that the election is
40 concluded. The exception to this shall be that in
41 an emergency a member may leave --

1 PRESIDENT CAPAZZI: Excuse me, Pat.
2 They're having trouble hearing you. You really need
3 to be a little closer to the microphone, please.
4 You might be able to take it off.

5 ELECTIONS COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN CAREY: Is
6 that better?

7 PRESIDENT CAPAZZI: Pull it towards you.

8 ELECTIONS COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN CAREY: The
9 exception to this shall be that in an emergency a
10 member may leave and, if her absence affects the
11 voting strength, the district president shall
12 immediately notify the proceeding officer.

13 27. When there is but one nominee for
14 any Department office and that one nominee -- and
15 but one nominee for Junior vice -- Junior Member of
16 Finance, the nominee shall be elected viva voca,
17 right?

18 PRESIDENT CAPAZZI: Viva voce.

19 ELECTIONS COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN CAREY:
20 Okay. Article V, Section 3, Department
21 Constitution. Upon roll call the district president
22 shall report the number of the units --

23 PRESIDENT CAPAZZI: Partially or wholly.

24 ELECTIONS COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN CAREY: --
25 partially represented by duly elected delegates or
26 alternates present in the delegation at the time of
27 roll call. This is to determine that there is a
28 quorum of units present at the time of the election.

29 28. When there is more than one nominee
30 for the Department office or Junior Member of
31 Finance or National office, election shall be by
32 written ballot. The district president shall, when
33 they are instructed by the Chair, take a roll call
34 of their representative delegation to ascertain the
35 total voting strength of their district for the
36 election reporting at the time of the Chair.

37 When there is but one nominee for office
38 or member -- or Junior Member of Finance, the ballot
39 may be dispensed with and the nominee elected viva

1 voca.

2 29. When there are three or more
3 nominees for an office or Junior Member of Finance,
4 unless one nominee receives a majority vote at the
5 first ballot, the nominee receiving the lowest
6 number of votes shall be automatically dropped
7 before proceeding with the next ballot.

8 30. Each district president and
9 district member of election committee shall
10 distribute and collect the votes cast by the
11 district delegation and deliver them to the
12 Department chair of the elections.

13 31. Department officers, chairmen,
14 committee members, and Past Department Presidents
15 shall vote with their respective districts.

16 32. Each delegate shall be entitled to
17 one vote. The vote of an absentee unit delegation
18 not represented by an alternate shall be cast by the
19 majority of the delegation at the unit. When one
20 delegate represents three votes, the chairman of the
21 unit designation shall cast the third vote.

22 33. A majority of all votes cast shall
23 elect except that in the election of National
24 delegates and alternates, a plurality shall elect.

25 That's all the rules.

PRESIDENT CAPAZZI: There's one more.

ELECTIONS COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN CAREY: I
thought you wanted 33.

34. These convention rules may be
amended during the convention by a two-thirds vote.

You want me to go to 35 also?

PRESIDENT CAPAZZI: Would you please do
No. 32 again.

ELECTIONS COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN CAREY: Did
I miss that one?

PRESIDENT CAPAZZI: Just a little
clarification.

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ELECTIONS COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN CAREY: 32.
Each delegate shall be entitled to one vote. The
vote of an absent unit delegate not represented by
any alternate shall be cast by the majority of the
delegates from the unit. When two delegates
represent three votes, the chairman of the unit
designation shall cast the third vote.

PRESIDENT CAPAZZI: Thank you, Pat.

ELECTIONS COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN CAREY:
You're welcome.

PRESIDENT CAPAZZI: A reminder that no
one will be allowed to enter or leave except in an
emergency until the Chair states that elections are
concluded.

Captains, our district presidents,
please line up at the microphone in numerical order.
The secretary will call the roll of districts.

SECRETARY-TREASURER KILKENNY: Are we
ready, ladies? District 1.

A DELEGATE: District 1 has five votes.

SECRETARY-TREASURER KILKENNY: Thank
you. District 2.

A DELEGATE: District 2 has five votes.

SECRETARY-TREASURER KILKENNY: Thank
you. District 3.

A DELEGATE: District 3 has four votes.

SECRETARY-TREASURER KILKENNY: Thank
you. District 4.

A DELEGATE: District 4 has eight votes.

SECRETARY-TREASURER KILKENNY: District
5.

A DELEGATE: District 5 has 23 votes.

SECRETARY-TREASURER KILKENNY: District
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A DELEGATE: District 6 has 13 votes.

SECRETARY-TREASURER KILKENNY: District
7.

A DELEGATE: District 7 has seven votes.

SECRETARY-TREASURER KILKENNY: District
8.

A DELEGATE: District 8 has one vote.

SECRETARY-TREASURER KILKENNY: Thank
you. District 9.

A DELEGATE: District 9, five.

SECRETARY-TREASURER KILKENNY: District
10.

A DELEGATE: District 10 has 12 votes.

SECRETARY-TREASURER KILKENNY: District
11.

A DELEGATE: District 11 has 11 votes.

SECRETARY-TREASURER KILKENNY: District
12.

A DELEGATE: District 12 has 11 votes.

SECRETARY-TREASURER KILKENNY: District
13.

A DELEGATE: District 13 has 12 votes.

SECRETARY-TREASURER KILKENNY: District
14.

A DELEGATE: District 14 has 12 votes.

SECRETARY-TREASURER KILKENNY: Who left?

A DELEGATE: Unit 191, Kingsburg. Three
votes.

SECRETARY-TREASURER KILKENNY: Thank
you. There are 12 votes for District 14.

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District 15.

A DELEGATE: District 15 has 20 votes.

SECRETARY-TREASURER KILKENNY: Who left?

A DELEGATE: Okay. Unit 94. She is in with the Legion and could not get away.

SECRETARY-TREASURER KILKENNY: Thank you. District 15 has 20 votes.

District 16.

A DELEGATE: District 16 has 35 votes.

SECRETARY-TREASURER KILKENNY: Thank you; District 18.

A DELEGATE: We have 46 votes.

SECRETARY-TREASURER KILKENNY: Who left?

A DELEGATE: Unit 139.

SECRETARY-TREASURER KILKENNY: 139, is that what you said?

A DELEGATE: Yes.

SECRETARY-TREASURER KILKENNY: Can you come to the side of this stage to see the Credentials Chairman.

District 19.

A DELEGATE: District 19 has 47 votes.

SECRETARY-TREASURER KILKENNY: Thank you.

District 20.

A DELEGATE: District 20 has 23. 817 left.

SECRETARY-TREASURER KILKENNY: Left? Okay. District 20 has 23.

1 District 21.

2 A DELEGATE: District 21 has 43 votes.

3 SECRETARY-TREASURER KILKENNY: Thank
4 you. District 22.

5 A DELEGATE: 53 votes.

6 SECRETARY-TREASURER KILKENNY: District
7 23.

8 A DELEGATE: District 23 has 38 votes.

9 SECRETARY-TREASURER KILKENNY: Who left?

10 A DELEGATE: No one left. We had 46
11 come aboard.

12 SECRETARY-TREASURER KILKENNY: Can you
13 come to the side of the stage, please.

14 District 24.

15 A DELEGATE: District 24 has nine votes.

16 SECRETARY-TREASURER KILKENNY: District
17 25.

18 A DELEGATE: 73. Unit 256 left the
19 building.

20 SECRETARY-TREASURER KILKENNY: Thank
21 you.

22 District 26.

23 A DELEGATE: District 26 has 11 votes.

24 SECRETARY-TREASURER KILKENNY: Thank
25 you. District 27.

26 A DELEGATE: District 27 has 16 votes.

27 SECRETARY-TREASURER KILKENNY: District
28 28.

29 A DELEGATE: District 28, 15 votes.

30 SECRETARY-TREASURER KILKENNY: District

1 29.

2 A DELEGATE: 48.

3 SECRETARY-TREASURER KILKENNY: We had an
4 addition?

5 A DELEGATE: Yes. Huntington Beach 133.

6 SECRETARY-TREASURER KILKENNY: Can you
7 please come to the stage, please.

8 District 30.

9 A DELEGATE: Eight votes.

10 SECRETARY-TREASURER KILKENNY: Thank
11 you.

12 PRESIDENT CAPAZZI: It will be just a
13 few moments, ladies, so hang in there.

14 SECRETARY-TREASURER KILKENNY: Once we
15 have made the corrections with the Credentials
16 Chairman, will those three districts please come
17 back to the microphone.

18 District 18.

19 A DELEGATE: Okay. District 18, we've
20 got 45.

21 SECRETARY-TREASURER KILKENNY: Thank
22 you.

23 District 23.

24 A DELEGATE: We have 38.

25 SECRETARY-TREASURER KILKENNY: Thank
you.

A DELEGATE: District 29 has 48.

SECRETARY-TREASURER KILKENNY: Thank
you.

[Applause]

PRESIDENT CAPAZZI: That changes our

1 count, so one moment, please, while our Credentials
Chairman is refiguring.

2 Ladies, please listen so you will know
3 the count.

4 CREDENTIALS COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN FUQUA:
Madam President LuAnn, now, after all the
5 adjustments, the total voting strength of this
convention is 613, divided by half is 306.50. And
6 we need 307 to elect.

7 PRESIDENT CAPAZZI: Thank you, Carol.

8 [Applause]

9 PRESIDENT CAPAZZI: Nice job, ladies.
We will have the election of the Department
10 President. There is but one nominee for the office
of Department President, Norma DuVall.

11 All those in favor of electing Norma
DuVall as the Department President, "aye."

12 Opposed, "no."

13 Congratulations, ladies, you have
14 elected Norma DuVall as the Department President for
the year 2009-2010.

15 [Applause]

16 PRESIDENT CAPAZZI: We will now have the
17 election of the Department Vice President. There is
but one nominee for the office of Department Vice
18 President, Pilar Reyes. All those in favor of
electing Pilar Reyes as the Department Vice
19 President, "aye."

20 Opposed, "no."

21 Congratulations, ladies, you have
elected Pilar Reyes as Department Vice President for
22 the year 2009-2010.

23 [Applause]

24 PRESIDENT CAPAZZI: As you know, we do
have two candidates for the office of Department
25 Junior Member of Finance. As everyone, including
those who will be counting votes, need to be in this

1 room, we are going to now go to the election of the
National delegates and alternates.

2
3 Madam Secretary, you will please read
the nominees for delegates to National Convention.

4 SECRETARY-TREASURER KILKENNY: The
5 nominations for delegates to National convention
2009 are Kathleen Conrad, Melanie Taylor, Bonnie
6 Bradbury, Pilar Reyes, Sandy Jacob, Sue Hooker,
Linda Fercho, Pamela Hicks, Jean Cooley-Desmeules,
7 Marge Rye, Gigi Manno, Joyce Patton, Rebecca
Stewart-Wilson, Carol Fuqua, Nancy Brown Park, LuAnn
8 Capazzi, Rosie Eskridge, Doris Kilkenny, Virgie
Gafney, Diane DeLashmit, Joanne Evans, Madeline Lee,
Lucille Taylor, Nancy Evers, Harriet Clendenin.

9
10 A DELEGATE: Harriet Clendenin
respectfully declines.

11 SECRETARY-TREASURER KILKENNY: Thank
12 you.

13 PRESIDENT CAPAZZI: Harriet declined, so
we now have 24. You have now nominated the
14 delegates to the National convention.

15 All those in favor, "aye."

16 Opposed, "no."

17 The delegates are elected.

18 Secretary, please read the nominees for
alternates.

19 SECRETARY-TREASURER KILKENNY: Nominated
alternates for the National convention 2009:
20 Barbara Carlson, Ann Marie Brown, Geri Wilkin,
Jackie Hancock, Linda Olson, Anita Biggs, Harriet
21 Clendenin, Theresa Jacob, Pat Sweeney, Linda
Workman, Josephine Handy, Emily Magwili, Ruth
22 Hackney, Kathleen Conrad -- no, I'm sorry. Tami
Bell, Karen Karanickolas, Denise Coleman, Zana
23 Chaney, Danielle White, Leonarda Estigoy, Maria
Kidd, Melody Farnum, Suzie Johanson, Caroline Curry.

24 A DELEGATE: Curlin.

25 SECRETARY-TREASURER KILKENNY: Curlin.

1 Okay.

2 PRESIDENT CAPAZZI: One moment, please.

3 You have nominated the alternates. All
4 those in favor, "aye."

5 Opposed, "no."

6 You have elected alternates.

7 [Applause]

8 PRESIDENT CAPAZZI: We will now proceed
9 to ratify the election of the district officers.
10 The secretary will please read the names of the
11 district presidents-elect.

12 SECRETARY-TREASURER KILKENNY: I
13 received no certification of officers for District
14 1. District 2, president Mollie Smith. District 3,
15 no certification of officers. District 4, Geri
16 Fitzpatrick. District 5, Barbara Carlson. District
17 6, Mary Cogburn. District 7, Jean McGinnis.
18 District 8, Jeannette Richardson. District 9,
19 Connie Clement. District 10, Emily Magwili. No
20 certification for District 11. District 12, Norine
21 Ramos. District 13, Theresa Jacob. District 14, no
22 certification received. District 15, Zana Chaney.
23 District 16, Anette McKendry. District 18, Denyse
24 Laugeson. District 19, Anita Newell. District 20,
25 Bobbie Estes. District 21, Cheryl Hathaway.
26 District 22, June Hartin-Coatney. District 23,
27 Heather Martinez. District 24, Delores Artis.
28 District 25, Ilona Thomas. District 26, Elizabeth
29 Marshment. District 27, Danielle White. District
30 28, Michelle Soares. District 29, Rita Johnson.
31 And no certification received for District 30.

32 A DELEGATE: Excuse me. District 6 is
33 Sue Casto from 832, is the president-elect.

34 SECRETARY-TREASURER KILKENNY: Madam
35 President, she is correct. My error.

36 A DELEGATE: Thank you.

37 SECRETARY-TREASURER KILKENNY: District
38 6, president Susan Casto.

1 DELEGATE SHARP: Thank you, Madam
Secretary. Patty Sharp, District 14 secretary. The
2 certification was sent to Department in a timely
manner along with certification of the officers and
3 chairmen as well. And she is present. Barbara
Davis.

4 SECRETARY-TREASURER KILKENNY: Which
5 district?

6 DELEGATE SHARP: District 14.

7 SECRETARY-TREASURER KILKENNY: I need a
copy of it, please.

8 DELEGATE SHARP: I think I might have
9 brought one. If I didn't, I will have to e-mail it
to you.

10 SECRETARY-TREASURER KILKENNY: That's
11 fine. Just as long as I get one.

12 DELEGATE SHARP: Thank you.

13 A DELEGATE: District 19 did not -- the
delegation did not hear the announcement of our
14 president-elect. Would you repeat, please.

15 SECRETARY-TREASURER KILKENNY: Anita
Newell.

16 A DELEGATE: District 1, our district
17 president will be Betty Shelton, and the notice was
sent in, so I apologize.

18 SECRETARY-TREASURER KILKENNY: No
19 problem as long as we get a copy of it, please.

20 A DELEGATE: District 30, Barbara
Shelley is district president, and I did send in the
21 paperwork.

22 SECRETARY-TREASURER KILKENNY: I just
need a copy, please.

23 A DELEGATE: Okay. Thank you.

24 DELEGATE SANCHEZ: Faye Sanchez,
25 District 3 secretary and treasurer. I did send it
in, but Victoria Rothman for president.

1 SECRETARY-TREASURER KILKENNY: Thank
2 you.

3 DELEGATE SANCHEZ: Shall we do the other
4 two right now? Okay. Thank you.

5 SECRETARY-TREASURER KILKENNY: Laura.

6 DELEGATE BARGHOORN: District 11, Laura
7 Barghoorn. Our president is Sheila Pate from 102, I
8 believe it is. I am Laura Barghoorn, first vice.
9 The paperwork should have been in, but --

10 DELEGATE BALLINGER: Madam President,
11 Irene Ballinger, District 25. May I consult with
12 Carol Fuqua for a moment, please?

13 SECRETARY-TREASURER KILKENNY: Yes.
14 Madam President, that fills in the slot. I will
15 reread them that I have added.

16 District 1, Betty Shelton. District 3,
17 Victoria Rothman. District 6 correction to Susan
18 Casto. District 11, Sheila Pate. District 14,
19 Barbara Davis. District 30, Barbara Shelley.

20 I so move to ratify these presidents for
21 their districts.

22 [Seconded]

23 PRESIDENT CAPAZZI: It's been moved and
24 seconded to ratify the district president-elects.
25 Is there any discussion?

All those in favor, "aye."

Opposed, "no."

You have ratified the election of
district presidents.

[Applause]

PRESIDENT CAPAZZI: Madam Secretary,
please read the list of district first vice
presidents-elect.

SECRETARY-TREASURER KILKENNY: First

1 vice-presidents. District 1, I have none.

2 PRESIDENT CAPAZZI: Marialice, would you
3 come to the mike, please.

4 A DELEGATE: Marialice Canclini is the
5 vice president.

6 SECRETARY-TREASURER KILKENNY: Thank
7 you.

8 District 3. I'm sorry. District 2 is
9 Judy Henderson.

10 District 3.

11 DELEGATE SANCHEZ: Faye Sanchez,
12 secretary. Martha Curtis, first vice.

13 SECRETARY-TREASURER KILKENNY: Thank
14 you.

15 District 4, Kristi McFee. District 5,
16 Norma Harrison. District 6, Vickie Giles. District
17 7, Sarah Bruno. District 8, Veronica Spence.
18 District 9, Leslie Scudero. District 10, Cherie
19 Galvin. District 11 --

20 A DELEGATE: Laura Barghoorn.

21 SECRETARY-TREASURER KILKENNY: Thank
22 you. District 12, Lisa Stewart. District 13, Joyce
23 Greer. District 14, Edna -- is that correct? Edna
24 Rowell? District 15, Karen Herrera. District 16,
25 Carol Rombough. District 18, Carol Velasquez.
District 19, Dorothy Ann Chavez. District 20, Maria
Castrellon. District 21, Linda Olson. District 22,
Midge Farrar. District 23, Wantu Robinson.
District 24, Suzie Johanson. District 25, Shannon
Mendez. District 26, Nancy Brown Park. District
27, Charlotte Collins. District 28, Geri Anne
Simmons. District 29, Karen Karanickolas. And
District 30 --

28 A DELEGATE: Belen Telford.

29 SECRETARY-TREASURER KILKENNY: What was
30 the name, again?

31 A DELEGATE: Belen, B-e-l-e-n,

1 T-e-l-f-o-r-d. Do you need the secretary also?

2 PRESIDENT CAPAZZI: Geri.

3 DELEGATE FITZPATRICK: Due to a conflict
4 of interest, we had to change our first vice. Our
5 first vice is now Sherry Morehouse from District 4.

6 SECRETARY-TREASURER KILKENNY: Thank
7 you.

8 SECRETARY-TREASURER KILKENNY: Madam
9 President, I move for the ratification of the first
10 vice presidents of the districts.

11 PRESIDENT CAPAZZI: It has been moved
12 and seconded to ratify the election of the district
13 first vice presidents. Is there any discussion?

14 All in favor, "aye."

15 Opposed, "no."

16 You have ratified the election of the
17 district first vice presidents.

18 [Applause]

19 PRESIDENT CAPAZZI: Madam Secretary,
20 please read the list of the district second vice
21 presidents-elect.

22 SECRETARY-TREASURER KILKENNY: District
23 1.

24 A DELEGATE: Meredith Bliss.

25 SECRETARY-TREASURER KILKENNY: Meredith
Bliss, District 1. Thank you.

District 2, Pat Carey.

District 3.

A DELEGATE: Lola Ramey, R-a-m-e-y.

SECRETARY-TREASURER KILKENNY: Lola?

A DELEGATE: Yes, Lola.

1 SECRETARY-TREASURER KILKENNY: Lola
Ramey, District 3.

2 District 4.

3 A DELEGATE: We will have to change that
4 to Rosemary Bluett.

5 SECRETARY-TREASURER KILKENNY: Rosemary
6 Bluett.

7 A DELEGATE: B-l-u-e-t-t.

8 SECRETARY-TREASURER KILKENNY: Thank
9 you.

10 A DELEGATE: You're welcome.

11 SECRETARY-TREASURER KILKENNY: District
12 4 is Rosemary Bluett. District 5, Sandy Paxton.
13 District 6, Faina Abaya. District 7, Julie Slater.
14 District 8, Jamie Lopez. District 9, Dolly Rios.
15 District 10, Leonarda Estigoy. District 11.

16 A DELEGATE: Joan Cannon.

17 SECRETARY-TREASURER KILKENNY: District
18 11, Joan Cannon.

19 District 12, Suzie --

20 A DELEGATE: Our second vice president
21 withdrew.

22 SECRETARY-TREASURER KILKENNY: Can you
23 hold on Jane. I'm doing district --

24 A DELEGATE: She is District 12. She
25 withdrew her name.

26 SECRETARY-TREASURER KILKENNY: It's not
27 Suzi?

28 A DELEGATE: She withdrew her name.

29 SECRETARY-TREASURER KILKENNY: I'm
30 sorry. There is no second vice for District 12 at
31 the current time.

32 District 13, Carolyn Ruck. District 14,

1 Martha Sweeney.

2 A DELEGATE: District 6, the second vice
3 president that went in is Wendy O'Brien.

4 SECRETARY-TREASURER KILKENNY: You are
5 correct. I stand corrected. Wendy O'Brien for
6 District 6.

7 District 14 was Martha Sweeney.
8 District 15, Michelle Wiggins. District 16, Vicki
9 Crow. District 18, Kathy Pipkin. District 19,
10 Diana O'Donnell Morena. District 20 is Linda Hayes.
11 District 21, Berta Hardquist, District 22, Gigi
12 Manno. District 23, Denise Coleman. District 24,
13 Rebecca Stewart-Wilson. District 25, Donna Mattox.
14 District 26, Diane Houlihand. District 27, Jean
15 Winkler-Ring. District 28, Renee Yucklaub. I'm
16 sure I said that incorrectly. District 29, Connie
17 Davis Foley.

18 District 30.

19 A DELEGATE: Mary Liken, L-i-k-e-n.

20 SECRETARY-TREASURER KILKENNY: District
21 30 is Mary Liken.

22 Madam President, I move to ratify the
23 second vice presidents for the districts.

24 [Seconded]

25 PRESIDENT CAPAZZI: It's been moved and
26 seconded that we ratify the election of the district
27 second vice presidents. Is there any discussion?

28 All those in favor, "aye."

29 Opposed, "no."

30 You have ratified the election of the
31 district second vice presidents.

32 [Applause]

33 PRESIDENT CAPAZZI: Ladies, please. The
34 Department Secretary will now call up five districts
35 at a time by voting strength to pick up their ballot
boxes. The district presidents and district member

1 of elections committee should come together to get
2 the box. The Department Secretary will again call
3 up five districts when it is time for the box to be
4 returned. The district president and district
5 elections committee member should return it
6 together.

7 Madam Secretary.

8 SECRETARY-TREASURER KILKENNY: District
9 25, 22, 29, 18, and 19.

10 PRESIDENT CAPAZZI: Please come to the
11 stage to get your ballot box.

12 Ladies, if you visit, could we do it
13 quietly. Thank you.

14 Remember, ladies, that no one can leave
15 the room during the voting process. Unless you have
16 an arm or leg falling off and there is an emergency,
17 everyone needs to stay in the room.

18 SECRETARY-TREASURER KILKENNY: Excuse
19 me, ladies. The next five districts to come to the
20 stage for ballot boxes. District 21, 23, 16, 5, and
21 15.

22 Ladies, the next five districts that I'm
23 going to call, I'm going to ask you to line up here
24 in the center aisle. District 20, 27, 28, 10 and 6.

25 Okay. Ladies in the center aisle, you
can move over to the left of the stage.

PRESIDENT CAPAZZI: When you have cast
your ballot, ladies, fold them one time and put them
in the box.

SECRETARY-TREASURER KILKENNY: The next
five districts, District 13, 14, 11, 12, and 26.

I'm sorry. The ladies, the ones I just
called, please stay in the center aisle until we
tell you to move over. District 13, 14, 11, 12, and
26. If you will wait in the center aisle, please.
You need to be in the order that I call you. 13,
14, 11, 12, and 26. Thank you.

You can move over to the left side of

1 the stage now.

2 The next five districts -- ladies,
3 please, so you can hear me. District 24, District
4 4, District 30, District 7, and District 1.

4 Ladies in the center aisle should be
5 District 24, 4, 30, 7, and 1.

5 I'm going to call the last four
6 districts. Please line up in the center aisle
7 behind these ladies. District 2, District 9,
8 District 3, and District 8.

8 PRESIDENT CAPAZZI: Ladies, do not bring
9 your box back up until you are called.

9 All right, ladies, my error to tell you
10 ahead of time that you had nominated two ladies for
11 that office, Susan Tozier and Pamela Hicks, which,
12 of course, you have noticed by your ballots. But
13 anyway, I neglected to say that, so I needed to do
14 so now.

13 Has everyone voted who wished to vote?

14 [Cries of "no"]

15 PRESIDENT CAPAZZI: All right. Then you
16 will have more time. We will call you back up when
17 we are ready for the box. Thank you.

17 Ladies, if I could have your attention,
18 please. Our convention co-chairman Estella just
19 told me that those of you who will be helping to
20 count the votes don't worry about lunch. Lunch is
21 going to be provided for those ballot counters. You
22 will not starve this afternoon.

20 I believe we are ready. If you listen,
21 please, carefully. We're going to start with those
22 that were called first. They were one of the first
23 ones? 18 was one of the first ones? Okay. For
24 those of you that are in distress, keep those legs
25 crossed a few more minutes.

24 SECRETARY-TREASURER KILKENNY: Madam
25 President, that includes me, so I hope they fold
those papers quickly.

1 Madam President, are we ready?

2 Okay, ladies, we're ready. I want
3 District 8, District 3, District 9, District 2 to
4 please bring your ballots to the stage.

5 The next group is District 1, District
6 7, District 30, District 4, and District 24.

7 District 26, 12, 11, 14, 13.

8 The next group can line up in the center
9 aisle. District 6, District 10, 28, 27, and 20.

10 PRESIDENT CAPAZZI: Center aisle on that
11 last group she just called.

12 SECRETARY-TREASURER KILKENNY: Stop in
13 the center aisle, please.

14 PRESIDENT CAPAZZI: They're not
15 listening. Ladies, center aisle, the group she just
16 called. Thank you.

17 SECRETARY-TREASURER KILKENNY: The
18 ladies who are going to help the Election Committee
19 count ballots, please remain at the stage when you
20 come up. Bring your belongings because you are
21 going to be leaving the room.

22 The next group is District 15, 5, 16,
23 23, and 21. Please stay in the center aisle.

24 Ladies in the center aisle can move to
25 the left of the stage.

26 District 19, 18, 29, 22, and 25, come to
27 the center aisle.

28 Okay. Center aisle, you can move to the
29 left of the stage.

30 Madam President, that completes the
31 re-call to the stage.

32 PRESIDENT CAPAZZI: Ladies, I need your
33 attention, please. Have all voted who wanted to
34 vote?

35 [Cries of "yes"]

1 PRESIDENT CAPAZZI: Are all the ballots
2 in?

3 [Cries of "yes"]

4 PRESIDENT CAPAZZI: Remember, once we
5 open the doors you do have to come back.

6 [Laughter]

7 PRESIDENT CAPAZZI: You do have to come
8 back in the event there is a tie, you know. We do
9 not want to have to count the voting strength again.
10 All of you need to return.

11 The Election Committee, you are ready to
12 go and count? You may be excused, Election
13 Committee. Good-bye, ladies.

14 Nobody else leaves until the Election
15 Committee is safely out the door.

16 All right. The doors are now open, and
17 we will continue with our chairmen reports, so
18 please move quietly while there is someone speaking
19 on the floor.

20 Will those chairmen who were on the
21 stage before we began our elections please come
22 forward again. And all of our officers can please
23 return to the stage. I'm missing a few chairmen who
24 were up here earlier.

25 Ladies, please give us your attention
because our next chairman, our Junior Activities
Chairman, Jean Winkler-Ring, will come to the
podium.

Ladies, please. I know that you want to
hear the report and those who are receiving an
award. Thank you.

We will hear from our Junior Conference
Director at this time.

JUNIOR CONFERENCE DIRECTOR ESTES:
Aarrg. Where are all my Juniors at? I want to hear
the aarrg back there. You keep your neck still.
Okay.

1 Good afternoon, ladies. As you know, I
2 was the Junior Conference director.

3 PRESIDENT CAPAZZI: You will have to
4 talk into the microphone.

5 JUNIOR CONFERENCE DIRECTOR ESTES:
6 Sorry. I thought I was louder than that. Can you
7 hear me now? Okay, good. You're right, you can't
8 see your paper if you do that.

9 As my mom and I set off on our pirate
10 adventure, we soon decided that if anyone should
11 rear-end us, they would be covered in pirate
12 supplies. Stopping at Denny's to stretch our sea
13 legs, it occurs to me that this is going to be one
14 of my greatest adventures. Later that night in the
15 hotel room amidst all of the pirate booty and
16 treasure maps, the excitement is almost
17 overwhelming.

18 Captain's Log. April 3rd, 2009. We set
19 out the next morning harboring the sea of roads and
20 pastures of Fresno. We make our morning breakfast
21 stop and head out. Of course, because of the cursed
22 Mapquest, we take a detour, eventually ending up at
23 the beautiful Wonder Valley Ranch & Resort. We are
24 greeted by Lauren and start to set up our
25 pirate-themed camp.

As the Juniors started to arrive, we
moved into action, getting the girls and counselors
checked in and into their rooms. After a short
counselors' meeting, the Juniors were off to their
annual campfire for s'mores and a flag-burning
ceremony.

Then it's back to their quarters for
some bonding time and to get to bed early because
morning comes early at Wonder Valley.

22 Captain's Log. April 4th, 2009.
23 Speaking of getting up early, it was comforting to
24 know that the counselors were awake and ready with
25 coffee by the time I was supposed to be waking
everybody up.

After the prayer and Pledge of
Allegiance, it's off to breakfast. The day is

1 filled with programs and activities teaching the
2 Juniors about the Auxiliary. The incentive to this
3 is that a lot of the information that was given was
4 related to the clues involved in the treasure hunt.
5 At this time, I would like to give thanks to the
6 chairmen who contributed to the program fair, as it
7 was very, very successful.

8 The morning ends with the Juniors
9 getting read the conference code and election rules,
10 and then the girls broke out into their district
11 caucuses.

12 After lunch, we hear the reports from
13 the National delegate, Priscilla Perry, and National
14 alternate, Chantel Muro.

15 Finally after all of the programs and
16 activities, its free time for the girls to play, do
17 crafts and campaign. This was all put on a halt
18 because of the wedding that was in progress. You
19 could hear a pin drop, a cow moo or whatever. My
20 hats off to the Juniors for showing exceptional
21 behavior during the ceremony.

22 We head off to dinner where Bonnie
23 Christner handed out the ballots for the election.
24 After the election was over, the rules for the
25 treasure hunt were read. The election results were
26 read by Bonnie. The following were elected to
27 Honorary Junior officers. President, Amandria
28 Gates; vice president, Erinisha Hicks; secretary,
29 Alonia Guterrez; chaplain, Briana Whipple;
30 sergeant-at-arms, Semantha Alexander; and our little
31 marshal Ashland Almacy, who was a first-timer at
32 Junior Conference and she blossomed into this very
33 awesome person. You will get to meet her. She is
34 running around her as a page.

35 After dinner and all that, it was
36 straight to their quarters with their room mom and
37 the door closed to await for their treasure map and
38 a list of clues to get them to their next stop. The
39 treasure hurt consisted of four stops with a
40 question and four stops with a clue, all the cabins
41 having different maps. That was a task in itself.
42 Each age group had a winner with the winning cabins
43 coming up with their own pirate booty. Meanwhile,
44 the whole camp got their "gold" Hershey bars,
45 because they all won the knowledge of the Auxiliary.

1
2 We went back to the main dining hall
3 patio for the luminary ceremony for the Daffodil
4 Days For Cancer that Norma DuVall had explained to
5 the Juniors for the Community Service program. Then
6 watched a movie. Of course, it's "Pirates of The
7 Caribbean" starring the hot Johnny Depp. We handed
8 out candy and snacks to the girls and Ben-Gay and
9 Advil to the counselors. The night ended on quite a
10 high note, and we all headed back to the cabins for
11 lights out.

12
13 Captain's Log. April 5th, 2009. The
14 morning starts out with me waking up the cabins.
15 This time I set a very obnoxious alarm clock that
16 woke me and everybody else up on that side the
17 cabin. We go to the main dining hall to start the
18 ending ceremonies. The Memorial Service was
19 performed by Pat Alvarez and four girls from her
20 cabin. Madam President LuAnn performed the
21 graduation ceremony for five Juniors. Vice
22 President Norma and other senior counselors
23 conducted the installation of Honorary Department
24 Junior officers for 2009-2010.

25
26 The Delegate and Alternate to National
27 Convention were announced. The delegate is Taylor
28 Chambers, Unit 291, District 29. And the alternate
29 is Demme Carter, Unit 252, District 23. The first
30 ever Betty Steuhower Award, the Betty Bear, was won
31 by Zaina Hewitt, District 23, for exceptional
32 behavior and overall good attitude about the
33 conference.

34
35 The girls loaded up their ships and
36 departed for home. This ends our pirate adventure.

37
38 Thank you, Madam President, for this
39 appointment. This scalawag has pulled into port.

40
41 [Laughter and applause]

42
43 PRESIDENT CAPAZZI: Thank you very much,
44 Stacey.

45
46 JUNIOR CONFERENCE DIRECTOR ESTES: I
47 want to introduce my committee.

48
49 PRESIDENT CAPAZZI: Yes, you may.

1 JUNIOR CONFERENCE DIRECTOR ESTES: Thank
2 you. And I have a little something.

3 Did I lose Jackie? Okay. Jackie
4 Cleveland, she is out on the election? My committee
5 is Carol McChesney, Cherie Galvin, Jackie Cleveland.
6 And the most knowledgeable of this was Veronica
7 McGough.

8 [Applause]

9 JUNIOR CONFERENCE DIRECTOR ESTES: Thank
10 you so much, ladies. I couldn't have done it
11 without all your help.

12 May I approach for a presentation?

13 PRESIDENT CAPAZZI: Yes, you may.

14 JUNIOR CONFERENCE DIRECTOR ESTES: Here
15 is some more booty for you, Madam President. I'm
16 glad you came, and I'm glad we had such a good time.

17 PRESIDENT CAPAZZI: We had a wonderful
18 time. We had an increase in girls this year. I
19 believe last year we were like at 42. This year we
20 had 55 girls in attendance.

21 [Applause]

22 PRESIDENT CAPAZZI: So this is a
23 wonderful weekend for the girls and for the
24 counselors, too. We had a great time with them.
25 But I'm hoping that next year each year each one of
those who attended this year who has not graduated
will bring a friend with them and we will continue
to grow so that as an Auxiliary we continue to grow
by bringing our Juniors forward.

[Applause]

JUNIOR CONFERENCE DIRECTOR ESTES: Thank
you.

PRESIDENT CAPAZZI: My very own pirate's
frame. I have a feeling there is someone out there
who has a picture they're dying to put in this
frame. "You're going to get a whipping."

[Laughter]

1 PRESIDENT CAPAZZI: A quick short note
2 because we don't have another chairman up here.
3 They disappeared on me.

4 Americanism. Anita Biggs, are you in
5 the room?

6 AMERICANISM COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN BIGGS:
7 I'm right here, Madam President.

8 PRESIDENT CAPAZZI: Okay, thank you.

9 AMERICANISM COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN BIGGS:
10 Madam President. Good morning, ladies.

11 The convention committee on Americanism
12 met on June 18, 2009, in the Regency Salon 1
13 Ballroom of the Marriott Hotel in Riverside,
14 California. The statistical report of this chairman
15 appears on Page 15 of the Book of Reports. Michelle
16 Soares of District 28 was appointed secretary. Sue
17 Hooker of District 15 was appointed chaplain and
18 offered prayer. Doris Dokes of District 23 was
19 appointed sergeant-at-arms and led the Pledge of
20 Allegiance. A total of 20 district delegates
21 answered roll call, and there were eight visitors
22 present.

23 The committee agreed on the following
24 report. The Department Code was read, and there
25 were the following code changes. Code 1 currently
reads, "The allowance of the Department Americanism
Chairman shall be as adopted as in the annual
budget. The chairman shall submit an end-of-year
statement of the expenses incurred and proposed
recommendations affecting the program budget for the
next year to the Finance Committee by May 1st."

With the proposed change, Code 1 would
now read, "The allowance of the Department
Americanism Chairman shall be as adopted in the
annual budget. The chairman shall receive half
allowance of annual budget. The chairman shall
submit a statement of expenses incurred by December
31st prior to receiving the second half of
allowance. The chairman shall submit an end-of-year
statement of the expenses incurred and proposed
recommendations affecting the program budget for the
next year to the Finance Committee by May 1st."

1
2 Madam President, by the direction of the
committee, I move the acceptance of this code
3 change.

4 [Seconded]

5 PRESIDENT CAPAZZI: It's been moved and
seconded to accept the Code Change No. 1 which would
6 read, "The allowance of the Department Americanism
Chairman shall be as adopted in the annual budget.
7 The chairman shall receive one-half of the allowance
of annual budget. The chairman shall submit a
8 statement of expenses incurred by December 31st
prior to receiving the second half of the allowance.
9 The chairman shall submit an end-of-year statement
of the expenses incurred and proposed
10 recommendations affecting the program budget for the
next year to the Finance Committee by May 1st."

11 Is there any discussion?

12 PAST PRESIDENT KAPSALIS: Yes. Madam
Department President, Ruby Kapsalis, Past Department
13 President. In accordance with the Finance Code, if
a chairman gets a hundred dollars or less, that is
14 sent to them in one lump sum. And in the proposed
budget of the Americanism chairman, it is less than
15 100, so I suggest you postpone the vote on this code
until after the budget is passed.

16 PRESIDENT CAPAZZI: One moment, please.

17 The postponement is denied due to the
18 lack of a second.

19 [Seconded]

20 PRESIDENT CAPAZZI: Okay. It has now
21 been seconded. Is there any discussion on this
postponement?

22 AMERICANISM COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN BIGGS:
Madam Department President, Anita Biggs, Americanism
23 Chairman. With regard to the postponement, the
budget has not been presented to the body. Only in
24 written form. It has not passed. So at this time
the budgeted amount is \$125 for the Americanism
25 Chairman. I would be opposed to decreasing that
allowance as the expenses for this program exceed

1 that amount for several reasons. At this time I'm
2 against the postponement of this code change.

3 PRESIDENT CAPAZZI: Is there any other
4 discussion?

5 We will vote on the postponement. All
6 those in favor, "aye."

7 "No."

8 A standing vote is going to be needed,
9 ladies. All those in favor of the postponement,
10 please stand.

11 DELEGATE KAPSALIS: Madam Department
12 President, may I just remind the delegation that if
13 we approve this code it's going to be in conflict
14 with the Finance Code.

15 PRESIDENT CAPAZZI: Right now we're
16 going to vote on the postponement. These are the
17 ayes that are standing, is that correct?

18 Thank you. You may be seated. Opposed,
19 "no."

20 Thank you, ladies. The postponement did
21 not pass.

22 Now we are voting on the code change.
23 Is there discussion on the code change?

24 All those in favor, "aye."

25 Opposed, "no."

The code change is approved.

No. Oh, no. Let's try this one again.

26 All those in favor of the code change,
27 "aye."

28 Opposed, "no."

29 The code change did not pass.

30 AMERICANISM COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN BIGGS:
31 Okay. Thank you.

1 Code 4 currently reads, "The Department
2 shall sponsor an Americanism Essay Contest.
3 Competition to be in the indicated box below with
4 prizes and citations for first- and second-place
5 winners in Group I, II, III and V, and first-,
6 second- and third-place educational grant winners in
7 Group IV."

8 With the proposed change, Code 4 would
9 now read, "The Department shall sponsor an
10 Americanism Essay Contest. Competition to be in the
11 indicated box below with prizes and citations for
12 first- and second-place winners in Group I, II, III
13 and V, and first-, second- and third-place
14 educational grant winners in Group IV. The amount
15 of prize money may be adjusted if funds are not
16 available."

17 Madam Department President, at the
18 direction of the committee, I move the acceptance of
19 this Code change.

20 [Seconded]

21 PRESIDENT CAPAZZI: It's been moved and
22 seconded to change Code 4 to read, "The Department
23 shall sponsor an Americanism Essay Contest.
24 Competition to be in the indicated box below with
25 prizes and citations for first- and second-place
winners in Group I, II, III, and V and first- and
second- and third-place educational grant winners in
group IV. The amount of prize money may be adjusted
if funds are not available."

Is there any discussion?

All those in favor, "aye."

Opposed, "no."

Code change 4 accepted.

AMERICANISM COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN BIGGS:
Codes 5-A, 5-B, and 5-C have a housekeeping change,
where Codes 5-A, 5-B, and 5-C read "The American
Essay Educational Grant Fund," they should read "The
Americanism Essay Educational Grant Fund." That's a
housekeeping change.

Code 6-E currently reads, "The unit

1 shall forward the winner in each group to her
2 district chairman by the fourth Friday in March.
3 The district chairman shall forward the winner in
4 each group to the Department chairman for final
5 judging by the third Friday in April."

6 With the proposed code change, Code 6
7 would now read, "The unit shall forward the winner
8 in each group to her district chairman by the fourth
9 Friday in March. The district chairman shall ensure
10 the name and number of the unit and district number
11 are clearly written on the back of the essays. The
12 district chairmen shall forward the winner in each
13 group to the Department chairman for final judging
14 by the third Friday in April."

15 Madam Department President, at the
16 direction of the committee, I move the acceptance of
17 this code change.

18 [Seconded]

19 PRESIDENT CAPAZZI: It's been moved and
20 seconded to change Code 6. It will read, "The unit
21 shall forward the winner in each group to her
22 district chairman by the fourth Friday in March.
23 The district chairman shall ensure the name and
24 number of the unit and district number are clearly
25 written on the back of the essays. The district
26 chairman shall forward the winner in each group to
27 the Department chairman for final judging by the
28 third Friday in April."

29 Is there any discussion?

30 All those in favor, "aye."

31 Opposed, "no."

32 The code change has been accepted.

33 AMERICANISM COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN BIGGS:
34 Code 10 has a housekeeping change. The code
35 currently reads, "Units desiring to sponsor a
36 teacher to Freedoms Foundation Seminar shall contact
37 Freedoms Foundation direct for application. The
38 Department Chairman shall include the address of
39 Freedoms Foundation in her bulletin."

40 The change is the word "direct" should

1 be "directly." That's a housekeeping change.

2 Under Code 12, awards that pertain to
3 the Veronica Spence Award, Code 12 b(2) currently
4 reads, "All other rules apply as printed for
5 Department Americanism Essay Contest with one
6 exception: Junior member essay shall be written at
7 a unit meeting under the direction of the unit
8 president or unit Americanism chairman."

9 With the proposed code change, Code 12
10 b(2) would now read, "Junior member essay may be
11 written under the direction of her classroom
12 teacher, unit president, or unit Americanism
13 chairman."

14 Madam Department President, at the
15 direction of the committee, I move the acceptance of
16 this Code change.

17 [Seconded]

18 PRESIDENT CAPAZZI: It's been moved and
19 seconded to change Code 12 b(2) to read, "Junior
20 member essay may be written under the direction of
21 her classroom teacher, unit president, or unit
22 Americanism chairman."

23 Is there any discussion?

24 All those in favor, "aye."

25 Opposed, "no."

Code Change 12 has been accepted.

AMERICANISM COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN BIGGS:
Thank you.

Madam President, the committee
recommended the essay titles should not count toward
the total word count, and this will be referred to
the incoming chairman for review.

The second- and third-place essay
contest winners in all categories were given prizes.
The total of 25 100 percent reporting and Spirit of
Youth certificates were presented. Several
first-place, all second- and third-place unit and
district awards were also presented. The meeting

1 closed with prayer at 11:10 a.m.

2 Madam President, may I continue with my
3 supplemental report and my first-place essay winners
4 and awards?

4 PRESIDENT CAPAZZI: Yes, you may.

5 AMERICANISM COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN BIGGS:
6 Thank you. Madam President, your theme of charting
7 a course to new horizons was eagerly embraced by our
8 members. As Captain America, this chairman had the
9 privilege of serving with the "Defenders of
10 America," our unit and district chairmen who are
11 dedicated to their never-ending pursuit of
12 patriotism, freedom, and the American way.

13 As superheroes, our members performed
14 superbly and heroically at deeds that have been
15 quite amazing. The excitement and the love of
16 America is hard to contain, as is evident by the
17 great number of supplemental reports that were
18 received by this chairman. Our members donated over
19 \$42,000 directly in support of military families
20 while spending over 3,600 hours of assistance. More
21 than half of our units showed their love of red,
22 white, and blue by displaying flags at many
23 ceremonies and patriotic holidays, presenting
24 certificates of appreciation to businesses,
25 homeowners, and organizations that flew flags.

17 One unit chairman presented a flag
18 program to an elementary school, and distributed
19 many Pledge of Allegiance school supplies, along
20 with flags to the students and teachers. The
21 students recited the Pledge of Allegiance and were
22 taught the importance of the Pledge and flag.

20 This unit Americanism chairman proudly
21 stated that she was 84 years old and, quote, it's
22 great to be alive and teaching young children about
23 the importance of Americanism.

23 Unit members distributed over 7,200
24 pocket flags to our troops, with one unit sending
25 4,791 pocket flags alone. That unit did win first
place. Camarillo Unit 741, District 16.

25 [Applause]

1 AMERICANISM COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN BIGGS:
2 Unit members had Boy Scouts assist them by folding
3 the pocket flags, and several units included the
4 pocket flags in their "Hugs From Home" support to
5 the troops care packages.

6 This year's historical presidential
7 election had many more units involved with
8 get-out-the-vote activities. Units hosted candidate
9 forums, drove veterans to the polls, published
10 articles encouraging voting, held kids votes
11 instructions at school. And one unit, Jackie
12 Robinson Unit 252, even held a celebrate-the-vote
13 dance. And they won first place for the best
14 get-out-the-vote program.

15 These members held a voters registration
16 drive and celebrated women and minorities' right to
17 vote. There were many units that held special
18 observances of all the patriotic holidays.

19 There is a unit that participates with a
20 local elementary school's patriotic assembly. The
21 school colors were changed from blue and gold to
22 red, white, and blue after 9-11. This annual
23 assembly finds the entire school in red, white and
24 blue, carrying small American flags and singing
25 "Proud to be an American" while the school flag is
26 raised. The unit president, post commander and
27 other veterans then give a presentation. What a
28 great way to keep Americanism in the minds of the
29 community through the Legion family.

30 There were several new initiatives this
31 year. Operation Military Kids and National Guard
32 activities had many units as partners. Our members
33 donated \$4,000 and spent 577 hours on different
34 projects. One unit, working with the National
35 Guard, gave over 200 backpacks filled with school
36 supplies, gifts, and cameras to children of active
37 duty military personnel.

38 Through Operation Military Kids we had a
39 participant in the Americanism youth conference at
40 Valley Forge. OMK and the National organization
41 paid for all the travel expenses. Our Juniors are
42 very involved with Americanism as well, such as
43 leading the Pledge of Allegiance, singing the
44 National Anthem, advancing colors, and even working
45 at the polls during elections.

1
2 While there was limited participation in
3 the National Essay Contest, there were over 1,700
4 Department Essay Contest submissions. And it was my
5 pleasure to read those essays -- well, not all of
6 those, the ones I got -- and have them judged.

7
8 We also have five outstanding Girls
9 Scout Achievement applications. One was forwarded
10 to National. There were many new ideas and great
11 success stories shared, proving that the course we
12 charted has shown us the new horizon of Americanism.

13
14 Madam President, may I present the
15 first-place essay contest winners and awards?

16
17 PRESIDENT CAPAZZI: Yes, you may.

18
19 AMERICANISM COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN BIGGS:
20 At this time, Madam President, I would like to have
21 at your direction Past Department President Veronica
22 Spence to present the Veronica Spence Award for the
23 Junior Essay winner. I think she's here.

24
25 [Applause]

26
27 PAST PRESIDENT SPENCE: Thank you,
28 Anita. Many of you I know don't know that I myself
29 am a former Junior member. That's why this award
30 was started in the Department of California. It is
31 for Junior members only. Get your Juniors going.

32
33 The winner this year, first place, is
34 Ashley Valentich from Bakersfield Unit 26 in
35 District 15.

36
37 [Applause]

38
39 PAST PRESIDENT SPENCE: And I just
40 realized that when I was Department President this
41 gal was my district president from District 15. My
42 Rose. Please present this to Ashley. Here is the
43 citation and here is the check for \$50.

44
45 [Applause]

46
47 AMERICANISM COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN BIGGS:
48 Thank you so much, Veronica.

49
50 The first place Department Essay Contest

1 winners are -- I should have these out. Group I,
2 prize is \$100, goes to Kayley Shugart from District
15. Congratulations.

3 [Applause]

4 AMERICANISM COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN BIGGS:
5 Group II, prize is \$100, goes to Natalie Shin,
District 27.

6 [Applause]

7 A DELEGATE: My baby unit, I think I'm
8 going to promote her to adolescence.

9 AMERICANISM COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN BIGGS:
10 Ditto. They had some great essays from that baby
unit.

11 Group III, \$200 award, goes to Hannah
King, District 18. Congratulations.

12 [Applause]

13 AMERICANISM COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN BIGGS:
14 Group V award is \$200, goes to Christian Dominguez,
District 22.

15 [Applause]

16 AMERICANISM COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN BIGGS:
17 And our big winner from Group IV, \$2,500 educational
18 grant -- she gets a check immediately for \$500 with
the remaining grant going toward her school. That
is Madison Zylestra from District 18.

19 [Applause]

20 AMERICANISM COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN BIGGS
21 Come back. I'm sorry. As a matter of fact, I need
22 you to come back, the rest of you, 15 and 25. Come
back to the stage if you're gone. And 29. Is 29 up
here? 29, 25, and 15 should be up here.

23 This is the big winner from the 18th
24 District, Madison Zylestra. Great job.

25 [Applause]

AMERICANISM COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN BIGGS:

1 Now for our first-place American Legion Auxiliary
2 winners. The Best Unit Supplemental Award goes to
3 Tina Bauer, chairman, Huntington Beach Unit 133,
4 District 29. Tina did a great job.

5 [Applause]

6 AMERICANISM COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN BIGGS:
7 Best District Supplemental Report goes to Pat
8 Gracey, chairman, District 15.

9 [Applause]

10 AMERICANISM COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN BIGGS:
11 She did a great job, too.

12 Best Overall Americanism Program goes to
13 Chino Unit 299, Tami Bell, chairman, District 25.

14 [Applause]

15 AMERICANISM COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN BIGGS:
16 This is Tami. She is fantastic.

17 The Eliza Shepherd Best Youth Betterment
18 Program. This report has been forwarded to National
19 for further competition for the Dorothy Pearl
20 Plaque, and it goes to Chino Unit 299, Tami Bell,
21 chairman, District 25.

22 [Applause]

23 AMERICANISM COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN BIGGS:
24 Madam President, I cannot tell you how much fun I
25 had this year with Americanism. Thank you so much
for this appointment. It has been an amazing
experience.

May I approach your station?

PRESIDENT CAPAZZI: Yes, you may.

AMERICANISM COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN BIGGS: I
had to take my shoes off so I could reach the
microphone.

PRESIDENT CAPAZZI: This is a great
book. Thank you. Oh, my goodness. What a
beautiful star pin. Red, white and blue, of course.
And some blue bracelets. Thank you so much.

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AMERICANISM COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN BIGGS:
Happy birthday.

Madam President, that concludes my
report. Thank you.

PRESIDENT CAPAZZI: Thank you, Anita.
Great job.

[Applause]

PRESIDENT CAPAZZI: Ladies, this morning
we designated the doors that we would like you to
use to enter and exit this hall. They are over here
to my right. Please try to remember that as you're
coming and going.

Communications officer, do we have any
messages from the fleet?

SECRETARY-TREASURER KILKENNY: Okay,
ladies, I'm going to do this rather quickly. I'm
going to go back over everyone who is supposed to
meet for the Past Department Presidents lunches,
since it's going to be momentarily.

Sue's Lighthouses and Melanie's Balloon
Pilots will meet for lunch today at the Olio
Restaurant in the Marriott Hotel.

Margaret's Dreamcatchers, Jerry's Cards,
Goldie's Golden Links and Ruby's Allstars will meet
today for lunch in the Marriott Hotel, 702.

Sandy's Colonels will meet for lunch
today in Room 714.

Shelby's Actresses will meet in the
Marriott Hotel, Room 610.

Linda's Workmen, Joyce's Nuggets, and
Park's Patriots will meet for lunch today at Gram's
Barbecue directly across the street from the
convention center.

Betty's Bears and Bonnie's Prom
Princesses will meet in Room 725 at the lunch break.

Linda's Racers will meet -- Oh, done?

1 You guys did it already? Tomorrow morning. Okay.

2 The Peachy Performers and Classy
3 Penguins will meet at the Marriott Hotel in Odette's
4 room, 219.

4 Bev's Stars and Madeline's Love-a-Lot
5 Princesses will meet today for lunch at the Marriott
6 restaurant.

6 I also have a delegate card. Mary
7 Dugan, please see me later so you can pick it up.

7 I'm going to make one more plea, ladies,
8 for the pink camera that was missing. It was taken
9 from the ladies restroom. The reason we're making
10 the plea again is because there are pictures on it
11 from Madam President's convention. Those pictures
12 are very important for her historian's book. If you
13 don't wish to turn it in to anyone at the Ways and
14 Means, there is an address on the camera. No
15 questions asked. Please just send the camera or the
16 memory card in it to that address. No questions
17 asked. If you know where it is or if you know
18 someone that might have picked it up and doesn't
19 know where to return it, please get ahold of our
20 office. Thank you.

15 PRESIDENT CAPAZZI: Remember, ladies, we
16 will have our sailing fleet parade right after
17 lunch, so districts that are going to participate in
18 the parade if you will line up back there when you
19 come back from lunch. Also make sure that all of
20 you have your budget report with you because we will
21 be discussing that this afternoon. We will now be
22 in recess.

20 SECRETARY-TREASURER KILKENNY: Madam
21 President, excuse me. I also have several people
22 who have banquet tickets for sale or are in need of
23 them. Do you want me to go through that list?
24 District 18 needs two banquet tickets. District 28
25 has banquet tickets for sale. District 1 has two
26 banquet tickets for sale. I'm going to ask you to
27 please contact those districts on your own to get
28 them. District 16 has one for sale. District 20
29 had one for sale. And also Past Department
30 President Nancy Brown Park has one.

PRESIDENT CAPAZZI: We are now in recess

1 for lunch, and we will reconvene at 1:45.

2 [Luncheon recess]

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1 SATURDAY, JUNE 20, 2009 AFTERNOON SESSION

2 ---o0o---

3 PRESIDENT CAPAZZI: Ladies, we're going
4 to have the election results and then the parade, so
5 please take your seats.

6 Ladies, this session is now reconvened.
7 Please find your seats or your chairs. We have
8 reconvened for this session.

9 This morning when our Election Chairman
10 gave the rules, we omitted her report, so at this
11 time Pat Carey will bring her report to the podium.
12 Thank you. Please listen quietly. Thank you.

13 ELECTION COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN CAREY:
14 Madam Department President LuAnn, thank you for this
15 appointment. It has been my honor serving you as
16 your Election Chairman. This concludes my committee
17 report, and I move for its acceptance. Oh, I didn't
18 read up here. Sorry.

19 We met -- and I didn't put the room down
20 -- at 11:20 until 12:00. Since I was running late,
21 I omitted the opening. We had 18 district
22 delegates, two visitors. There were no code
23 changes, no resolutions, and no recommendations.

24 Now I move for its acceptance.

25 [Applause]

ELECTION COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN CAREY: And
I already read the rules before we had the election.

Madam Department President LuAnn, this
concludes my election rules.

PRESIDENT CAPAZZI: Go ahead with
election results, Pat.

ELECTION COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN CAREY:
Madam Department President LuAnn, the results of the
election for Junior Member of Finance 2009-2010.
Suzie Tozier, 378; Pam Dixon-Hicks, 232. We had
three blank votes. It was 613.

PRESIDENT CAPAZZI: Thank you, Pat.

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[Applause]

PRESIDENT CAPAZZI: The election results are: Suzie Tozier, 378; Pamela Dixon-Hicks, 232, three blank ballots, for a total of 613. You have elected Susanne Tozier Department Junior Member of Finance.

[Applause]

ELECTION COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN CAREY: Madam President, I have the ballots here. They are supposed to be destroyed by you.

PRESIDENT CAPAZZI: Our secretary will take charge of them.

[Laughter]

PRESIDENT CAPAZZI: Would the newly elected Department officers please come to the stage for presentation.

Ladies, your Department officers for 2009-2010. Norma DuVall, President. Pilar Reyes, Vice President. Susanne Tozier, Junior Member of Finance.

[Applause]

PRESIDENT CAPAZZI: Ladies, for those participating in our fleet sailing parade, please move to the back and get ready for the Sergeant-at-Arms and Marshal to lead you around. Quickly. Quickly, ladies, the music is going to begin. Music, maestro, please.

[Parade]

PRESIDENT CAPAZZI: Thank you, ladies. What a great parade. You looked lovely.

[Applause]

PRESIDENT CAPAZZI: At this time we will continue with our reports with our Junior Activities Chairman, Jean Winkler-Ring. Let's give the chairman your attention because I know you want to hear those award winners.

1 JUNIOR ACTIVITIES CHAIRMAN WINKLER-RING:
Madam President, may I please ask the Distinguished
2 Guest Chairman to escort our Honorary Past Junior
President, Private Laura Clendenin, and Lance
3 Corporal Benny Chupo to the podium.

4 [Applause]

5 PRESIDENT CAPAZZI: For those of you who
don't know, she was our Honorary Junior Department
6 President last year, Laura Clendenin. And now she
is PFC Clendenin.

7 [Applause]

8 PAST HONORARY JUNIOR DEPARTMENT
9 PRESIDENT CLENDENIN: Thank you. I'm glad to be
here. It's been awhile since I've been able to say
10 hi to all these ladies I have known since I was ten
years old. Thank you so much for having me. And
11 this is Lance Corporal Chupo, one of my best
friends. As you all know, I'm the daughter -- I
12 always have to do this, embarrassing my stepmother.
I'm the daughter of Harriet Clendenin. Say hi.

13 Well, thank you so much, and I hope you
14 have a wonderful convention.

15 [Applause]

16 PRESIDENT CAPAZZI: Thank you.

17 JUNIOR ACTIVITIES CHAIRMAN WINKLER-RING:
Madam President, if I may ask the Distinguished
18 Guest Chairman, would you please escort Amandria
Gates, our Honorary Junior President for 2009-2010
19 to the President's podium.

20 [Applause]

21 JUNIOR ACTIVITIES PRESIDENT GATES: Good
afternoon. My name is Amandria Gates. I'm very
22 honored to have the position for next year's Junior
Conference. I'm looking forward to more girls. So
23 I'm excited. I have been going to Junior Conference
for ten years. I will be a senior member next year,
24 graduating. I'm looking forward to it. I'm very
excited. Thank you.

25 [Applause]

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JUNIOR ACTIVITIES CHAIRMAN WINKLER-RING:
Madam President, the Convention Committee on Junior Activities/Junior Conference met on 18 June 2009 in the Regency Salon 2 of the Marriott, Riverside, California. The statistical report of this Chairman appears on Page 18. Norma Hahn was appointed secretary and offered prayer. Sharlotte Collins was appointed sergeant-at-arms. A total of 17 district delegates answered the call. There were eight visitors present.

The Committee agreed upon the following report. The code was read, and the following change proposed. "Junior Conference Code Appendix A Code No. 2. The Junior Conference shall be self-supporting, and the current income from the fund-raising projects and contributions shall be used for the following year's conference. The Department Junior Activities Chairman will be responsible for the promotion of the conference and all fund-raising efforts in support of the conference. (1988)"

The proposed change would read: "The Junior Conference shall be self-supporting, and the current income from the fund-raising projects and contributions shall be used to support the current Junior Conference. The Department Junior Activities Chairman will be responsible for the promotion of the Conference, all fund-raising efforts in support of the Conference."

Madam Department President, by direction of the convention committee, I move the adoption of this code change.

[Seconded]

PRESIDENT CAPAZZI: It's been moved and seconded for Appendix A, Code 2, to read: "The Junior Conference shall be self-supporting, and the current income from the fund-raising projects and contributions shall be used to support the current Junior Conference. The Department Junior Activities Chairman will be responsible for the promotion of the conference, all fund-raising efforts in support of the conference."

Is there any discussion?

1 All those in favor, "aye."

2 Opposed, "no."

3 Code adopted.

4 JUNIOR ACTIVITIES CHAIRMAN WINKLER-RING:
5 During this committee meeting all certificates and
6 acknowledgements were presented. All eligible
7 entries have been forwarded to National. Committee
8 meeting adjourned in prayer at 10:55.

9 Madam President, this concludes the
10 report of the Junior Activities/Junior Conference
11 Committee meeting, and I move for its acceptance.

12 Madam President, may I continue with the
13 supplemental?

14 PRESIDENT CAPAZZI: You may continue.

15 JUNIOR ACTIVITIES CHAIRMAN WINKLER-RING:
16 Thank you. What an exciting year this has been for
17 our Seniors embracing our Juniors in their guidance,
18 leadership skills, and teaching them all about our
19 great organization. The success of our Juniors was
20 reflected in their dedication, commitment, and
21 endless hours of volunteering within their
22 community. I can be very proud to say that 5900
23 hours were reported for their dedication.

24 Our Juniors participated in visiting
25 veterans homes, preparing food baskets, tutoring,
26 taking part in beautifying their communities and
27 serving in programs to our military and their
28 families. They are a positive impact on how all of
29 us can be justly proud of their accomplishments this
30 year and in years to come.

31 Junior Conference was held at Wonder
32 Valley in Sanger, California, and they rocked the
33 camp. What a fantastic gathering of our Juniors
34 enjoying themselves by making new friendships,
35 learning about Flag etiquette, membership, community
36 service, VA&R, and participating and working so
37 diligently in the Patch Program with great
38 eagerness. They worked tirelessly and shared in
39 friendship that they will carry with them forever.

1 A memorial service was held. Five
2 graduating Juniors were welcomed into our Senior
3 ranks. Installation was held, and it was very
4 moving with a lot of emotions filling the room. How
5 proud each of us can be that we have so many
6 talented Juniors who will be stepping up and
7 becoming our future in this great American Legion
8 Auxiliary.

9 Thank you Junior Conference Committee,
10 Department officers, chairmen and all the
11 units/districts with their donations of gifts for
12 the Junior Conference store, making this year's
13 conference another huge success.

14 Madam President, it's my pleasure at
15 this time to present our first-place winners. May
16 I?

17 PRESIDENT CAPAZZI: Yes, please do.

18 JUNIOR ACTIVITIES CHAIRMAN WINKLER-RING:
19 Best Supplemental first place goes to Unit 277.

20 [Applause]

21 JUNIOR ACTIVITIES CHAIRMAN WINKLER-RING
22 First place Unit Award Overall goes to Unit 348,
23 District 20.

24 [Applause]

25 JUNIOR ACTIVITIES CHAIRMAN WINKLER-RING:
26 Best District Supplemental, first place, District
27 23.

28 [Applause]

29 JUNIOR ACTIVITIES CHAIRMAN WINKLER-RING
30 It's really my honor now to present the Junior
31 Member of the Year, Chantel Muro, District 29, Unit
32 777. Thank you, Chantel.

33 [Applause]

34 JUNIOR ACTIVITIES CHAIRMAN WINKLER-RING:
35 Now I would like to announce the \$500 scholarship
36 award to Unit 820, District 22, April Smitley. I
37 already informed their district, so please make sure
38 and get the word back. Where is their district?

1 There they are.

2 [Applause]

3 JUNIOR ACTIVITIES CHAIRMAN WINKLER-RING:
4 Madam President, it was an honor serving as your
5 Junior Activities Chairman. Our unit and district
6 are so proud of the way you have fulfilled your
7 obligation as our Department President. We wish you
8 fair winds and following seas.

9 PRESIDENT CAPAZZI: Thank you, Jean.

10 JUNIOR ACTIVITIES CHAIRMAN WINKLER-RING:
11 Could I have all former Honorary Junior Presidents
12 serving the Department as of the time of their
13 election to please stand, if there is anyone here.
14 Oh, my gosh.

15 [Applause]

16 PRESIDENT CAPAZZI: Thank you, Jean.

17 Would the Sergeant-at-Arms and Marshal
18 with the Distinguished Guest Chairman please present
19 Patricia Sharp, District 14, to the stage, please.

20 PAST PRESIDENT BURKE: Well, I'm here
21 this time, and you're really wide awake after all
22 that wonderful marching you did. Hello. I get to
23 have you two times. How about that.

24 When I gave my report and I gave our
25 Mary Sinopoli her beautiful certificate, I didn't
26 have this one in my hands at the time when I was
27 supposed to do this.

28 This is a certification of appreciation.
29 This certificate of appreciation is presented to
30 Patricia Sharp, District 14, in recognition and
31 sincere appreciation of outstanding service and
32 assistance by contributing to the advancement of the
33 American Legion Auxiliary programs and activities
34 dedicated to God and country. This comes from the
35 Cavalcade of Memories of California, signed by
36 Secretary Doris Kilkenny and our Department
37 President, LuAnn Capazzi.

38 She has put a beautiful book together
39 and a beautiful supplemental report. We are very

1 proud of her, and I know she has done -- does this
2 quite often and is going to do it again for somebody
3 that's maybe going to be a lucky one again. Thank
4 you for a wonderful job.

5 [Applause]

6 DELEGATE SHARP: Thank you.

7 PRESIDENT CAPAZZI: At this time we will
8 hear from our budget committee.

9 Are there budget copies in the audience
10 for each district? We have some up on the stage.
11 If there is a group who doesn't have any, and enough
12 to spread around there in the back. Maria has some
13 over here on the side of the stage if you will come
14 around.

15 All right, ladies, let's give this
16 Budget Committee your attention, please. Lucille,
17 the floor is yours.

18 FINANCE COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN TAYLOR:
19 Thank you, Madam President. Good afternoon
20 everyone. The Convention Committee on Finance met
21 on June 18th in the Grand Ballroom Salon A of the
22 Marriott Hotel, Riverside, California. Linda Diebel
23 was appointed chaplain. Terry Mikesell was
24 appointed secretary. C. J. Reyes was appointed
25 sergeant-at-arms. A total of 24 delegates answered
roll call. There were four guests.

The committee agreed upon the following
report. The first order of business presented to
the committee was a request to increase the cost of
Poppies due to National raising the cost of Poppies.
Terry Mikesell moved to accept the increase of three
cents per Poppy, bringing the total cost of each
Poppy to be 18 cents. It was seconded and carried.
The sergeant-at-arms hand-carried the approval to
the Poppy chairman.

The code was read. Diane DeLashmit
moved the following code addition to be numbered 9.
"Upon completion of the budget by the Girls State
Committee for the ensuing year, said budget shall be
sent to the Department Secretary-Treasurer and
Finance Committee for review and approval of the
Finance Committee no later than November 15th. The

1 budget shall be recorded on the form provided by the
2 Finance Committee."

3 Linda Workman moved to have Girls State
4 and Junior Conference budgets for approval at DEC
5 midyear. It was seconded and passed.

6 Several budget changes were recommended
7 and will be covered when we review the budget.

8 Ruby Kapsalis moved to leave lines 410 A
9 and line 410 as presented and corrected next year
10 when we have a better understanding of the ten
11 percent distribution and adjustments next year. It
12 was seconded and passed.

13 Linda Workman moved to accept the budget
14 as corrected. Seconded and passed.

15 Chaplain offered closing prayer. The
16 meeting adjourned at 11:05 a.m.

17 Madam President, this concludes the
18 report. I move for its acceptance.

19 PRESIDENT CAPAZZI: Lucille, we needed
20 to vote in there. Hold on just a moment.

21 FINANCE COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN TAYLOR:
22 Madam President, I'm trying to rush because I know
23 we're going to have a lot of work ahead.

24 PRESIDENT CAPAZZI: Okay. One moment,
25 please.

26 PARLIAMENTARIAN DELASHMIT: Diane
27 DeLashmit, Parliamentarian. First off, I wasn't the
28 one making that motion. I don't know who did. We
29 do need to vote on that. We also had another motion
30 later that was rejected, and that needs to be in the
31 minutes.

32 FINANCE COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN TAYLOR:
33 Madam President, I move the addition of Code 9,
34 which reads, "Upon completion of the budget by the
35 Girls State Committee for the ensuing year, said
36 budget shall be sent to the Department
37 Secretary-Treasurer and Finance Committee for review
38 and approval of the Finance Committee no later than
39 November 15th. The budget shall be recorded on the

1 form provided by the Finance Committee."

2 [Seconded]

3 PRESIDENT CAPAZZI: It's been moved and
4 seconded to add Code 9, which reads, "Upon
5 completion of the budget by the Girls State
6 Committee for the ensuing year, said budget shall be
7 sent to the Department Secretary-Treasurer and
8 Finance Committee for review and approval of the
9 Finance Committee no later than November 15th. The
10 budget shall be recorded on the form provided by the
11 Finance Committee."

12 Is there any discussion?

13 All those in favor, "aye."

14 Opposed, "no."

15 Code 9 has been added.

16 FINANCE COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN TAYLOR:
17 There was another code change from the Poppy
18 Committee, which was Poppy Code No. 4. That was
19 declined. Do you want me to read that one? Okay.
20 It now reads, "Poppies may not be ordered on
21 consignment but may be ordered on credit and must be
22 paid for immediately after distribution. Units
23 shall forward ten percent of the net proceeds of
24 Poppy receipts to the Department office with a
25 financial report made in" -- can't even read, ladies
-- "quadriple. One copy sent to the Department
office with checks, copy to the district chairman,
Department chairman, and retain one copy in the unit
files. Each unit not distributing Poppies must file
a Poppy financial report whether or not profit was
made. Failure to comply should disqualify a unit
from convention representation."

26 PRESIDENT CAPAZZI: And that was
27 declined?

28 FINANCE COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN TAYLOR: This
29 one was declined.

30 Madam President, there was another
31 correction on the Finance Code No. 8, which reads,
32 "Authorization travel for meetings and conferences
33 held outside of the State of California not covered

1 in the Department Constitution and Bylaws shall be
2 based on the rate established by the Department
3 Finance Committee subject to approval by the
4 Department President and Finance Chairman. \$800
5 will be budgeted annually and placed into the
6 general fund convention expense line item G 624 by
7 the Finance Committee to cover a maximum of \$400
8 each for the Department President, Junior Past
9 Department President plus plane fare, economy if
10 possible, while serving as delegates in attending
11 National Convention."

12 The Code change has been changed to read
13 as follows: "Authorized travel for the meetings and
14 conferences held outside the State of California and
15 covered in the Department Constitution and Bylaws
16 shall be based on the rate established by the
17 Department Finance Committee subject to approval by
18 the Department President and the Finance Chairman.
19 \$1200 will be budgeted annually and placed into the
20 general fund convention expense item line G 624 by
21 the Finance Committee to cover a maximum of \$400
22 each for the Department President, Junior Past
23 President, Secretary-Treasurer plus plane fare,
24 economy if possible, while serving as delegates in
25 attending National conference." This was defeated.

Madam President, may we move forward
with the budget?

PRESIDENT CAPAZZI: Yes, you may.

FINANCE COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN TAYLOR:
Ladies, I hope everyone has a copy of the budget.
Get your pencils out because we might have some
changes. You notice I said "might."

Before I start reading the budget, I
would like to introduce the other members of the
committee who will be assisting this afternoon. Our
Senior Member, Linda Diebel. Our Junior Member,
Terry Mikesell.

[Applause]

FINANCE COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN TAYLOR:
Thank you, ladies. We will read the column that
says "Budget 2009-2010."

Line G 401, \$242,027.

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G 402, \$8,700.

G 404, \$21,387.

G 410, \$3,500.

G 401, \$7,000.

G 415, 0.

G 416, \$15,000.

G 421, \$1,500.

G 425, \$10,000. I'm sorry. 426. Thank
you, ladies.

G 440, 11,000.

G 441, 6,000.

G 445, 15,000.

G 446, \$900.

G 451, 8,595.

G 452, \$9,900.

G 453, 1,000.

G 491, \$600.

For a total income in your general fund
of \$362,109.

General fund administrative expenses.

G 501, \$101,005.

G 502, 8,683.

G 503, 2,000.

G 504, 3,000.

G 505, 10,000.

G 506, 2,500.

1 G 506-A, \$120.
2 G 507, \$2,000.
3 G 507-A, 1,600.
4 G 509, \$1,000.
5 G 510, 8,595.
6 G 511, \$12,000.
7 G 512, 0.
8 G 513, \$3,000.
9 G 514, \$11,000.
10 G 515, \$2,000.
11 G 516, \$50.
12 G 517, 20,250.
13 G 520, \$50.
14 G 549, \$200.
15 G 550, 200.
16 G 591, 350.
17 G 660, \$300.
18 Your total administrative expenses,
19 \$189,903.
20 Executive expenses in the general fund.
21 G 601, 7,500.
22 G 602, 200.
23 G 604, 4,500.
24 G 605, 2,500.
25 G 606, 25. I'm sorry.

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SENIOR MEMBER OF FINANCE DIEBEL: Excuse me. That is a correction in the committee meeting. It was changed from \$50 to 25. There were several accounts affected in that way. We're going to make those changes here on the floor, taking the money from there and moving it into other chairman expense. It's just a wash, transfer from one chairman to another.

FINANCE COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN TAYLOR: I forgot you have the first budget and I have the second one, so change yours from 50 to 25.

G 607, \$1,000.

G 608, \$7,000.

G 609, 400.

G 611, 2000.

G 612, 250.

G 613, 0.

G 614, 1,500.

G 616, 1,500 -- 800. I'm sorry. That changes your total to read 28,675.

Convention expenses.

G 620, \$12,000.

621, \$600.

622, 4,550.

623, 200.

624, 2,500.

Your total convention expenses, \$19,850.

SENIOR MEMBER OF FINANCE DIEBEL:
General fund committee expense.

G 630, \$50.

1 G 631, \$75.

2 This is a change, ladies.

3 G 632 is \$175 now.

4 G 634, \$150.

5 G 635 is \$50.

6 The next one is another change, ladies.

7 G 637, \$375.

8 G 639, \$50.

9 G 640 has another change. G 640 is
\$150.

10 G 641, \$50.

11 G 642, \$50. Excuse me. \$500. My thumb
12 was in the way. G 642, \$500.

13 G 643, 350.

14 G 644, \$500.

15 G 645, \$750.

16 G 646, \$250.

17 G 647, \$50.

18 G 647-A, \$150.

19 G 649, \$50.

20 G 650, \$50.

21 G 651, 0.

22 G 653, 0.

23 For a total committee expense of \$3,775.
24 3,775.

25 General fund other expenses.

G 690, \$112,906.

1 G 692, \$2,500.

2 G 693, \$1,500.

3 G 695, \$3,000.

4 For a total other expense of \$119,906.

5 General fund summary. Everyone there?
6 Total projected income, \$362,109. Total
7 administrative expense, \$189,903. Total executive
8 expense, \$28,675. That's a change, ladies. Total
9 convention expense, \$19,850. Total committee
10 expense -- another change, ladies -- \$3,775. Total
11 other expense, \$119,906. Total expense, \$362.09.
12 We have an even budget, ladies. Excuse me. Nine
13 dollars. Excuse me. \$396,109. We have a balanced
14 budget. Three-six-two-one-zero-nine. Sorry. A
15 balanced budget.

16 [Applause]

17 SENIOR MEMBER OF FINANCE DIEBEL: Okay.
18 Poppy Production Fund.

19 P 410-A, \$72,000.

20 P 410, Poppy Distribution/Sales, \$3,500.
21 For a total income of \$75,500.

22 Expense, Administrative.

23 P 505, \$3,000.

24 P 549, 0.

25 P 550, \$7,200.

Other Poppy production costs.

P 701, 40,000.

P 702, 24,000. Let me pause this. On
your budget it says 24,000. On the budget that we
had in committee it was changed to 32,000 because we
were under the impression that the Poppy cost was
increased from six cents each to eight cents. That
is incorrect. The Poppy cost is only six cents per
Poppy, so we're changing it back to 24. Those who
were in the committee meeting and changed their

1 budgets to 32,000, you need to change it back to 24
2 because everybody else has it correct. We try,
ladies. We try.

3 P 705, \$300.

4 P 730, \$150.

5 Total Poppy Expense -- I'm sorry? Total
6 Poppy Expense is \$74,650. We have a surplus of \$850
in the Poppy Fund.

7 JUNIOR MEMBER OF FINANCE MIKESELL:
8 Hello, ladies.

9 Children and Youth Welfare Fund, line
10 550, \$8,000. Excuse me. I've got off here. You
know, when you get old and you can't see. Total
income for Children and Youth, \$8,000.

11 Line 550, \$2,000.

12 Line 901, \$3,000.

13 Line 930, \$150.

14 For a total Children and Youth expense,
15 \$5,150.

16 Next category, Welfare Fund Education.
Excuse me. Expense over/under, positive \$2,850.

17 Okay, now I'm going to Welfare Fund
18 Education.

19 Line 423, \$8,718.

20 Line 423-A, 0.

21 Line 456, \$1,679.

22 Total income, \$10,397.

23 The expense, line 550, \$2,180.

24 Line 906, you're going to have a
25 correction in your budget. It shows \$5,000. We
moved it to \$6,000. Your correct figure there is
\$6,000.

1 Line 911, \$1,000.

2 Line 930, \$150.

3 Line 931, \$1,000. So your total --
4 another change -- is \$10,330.

5 So the net income, which is another
6 change, will be \$68.

7 Okay, the next page. Welfare Fund Past
8 Presidents Parley.

9 Line 423, \$9,000.

10 Line 423-A, 0.

11 Total income, \$9,000.

12 Past Presidents Parley expense.

13 Line 549, 0.

14 Line 550, \$2,250.

15 Line 907, \$6,600.

16 Line 930, \$100.

17 For a total expense of \$8,950. We have
18 a positive income of \$50.

19 Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation,
20 next page.

21 Line 423, \$20,000.

22 Line 423-A, 0.

23 Line 425, \$17,000.

24 Total income, \$37,000.

25 The expense, line 550, \$5,000.

26 Line 900, which should read TFA, is
27 \$4,000.

28 Line 901, \$6,000.

1 Line 902, \$2,000.

2 The expense category.

3 905, \$13,537.

4 Line 909, \$4,000.

5 Line 910, \$2,000.

6 Line 912, \$4,000.

7 Line 913, 0.

8 Line 930, \$400.

9 For a total, \$40,937. Which leaves us a
10 negative of \$3,930. \$3,937.

11 PAST PRESIDENT SPENCE: Excuse me.
12 Veronica Spence. If you remember last year when the
13 budget was read when it came to -- I left my budget
14 back there. The line for the engraving, it had zero
15 in it, and I asked why. We found out that the
16 plaque that LaDon Hardman started was going to be
17 done away with. Nothing was said in the committee
18 meeting, nothing was said to us representatives. We
19 knew nothing of it. But I said I would not allow
20 that plaque to be done away with. Marge Shank
21 donated a hundred dollars. I donated a hundred
22 dollars. And we had two very delightful people in
23 the audience -- and I don't know who they are
24 because they were anonymous -- that also donated
25 \$60.

19 We bought the plaque. I had it
20 engraved. I sent it to the Department Chairman,
21 Pilar, for engraving for this year. We have a check
22 for \$45 to go in for the engraving, and we have a
23 check for \$100 to go into the general or whatever
24 you need some more money for VA&R.

22 We saved the plaque. For those who
23 don't know about the plaque, LaDon Hardman was a
24 Past Department President. She was also a
25 representative at Long Beach V.A. hospital. When
she worked with those volunteers, she knew that she
wanted to do something for the volunteers. She
brought her idea to the Department convention. They
accepted the plaque. It has been ongoing for 12

1 years now. It will go on for another 12 years.

2 [Applause]

3 JUNIOR MEMBER OF FINANCE MIKESELL:
4 Thank you. Veronica, I have a question for you.
5 Was the money that you raised last year turned into
6 the Department office, or did you pay the bill
7 directly?

8 PAST PRESIDENT SPENCE: I paid it
9 directly.

10 JUNIOR MEMBER OF FINANCE MIKESELL:
11 Thank you. Thank you very much, Veronica.

12 [Applause]

13 JUNIOR MEMBER OF FINANCE MIKESELL:
14 After that very moving presentation, I guess I
15 should continue, if I can find my place. I'm not
16 sure if I mentioned line 930, \$400. The total is
17 \$40,937, and we're still in the hole.

18 The next page is our Welfare Fund
19 summary. Total Children and Youth, \$8,000. Total
20 Education, \$10,397. Total Past Presidents Parley,
21 \$9,000. Total Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation,
22 \$20,000. Total Gift Shop, \$17,000. For a total of
23 \$64,397.

24 The Welfare Fund Summary Expense. Total
25 Children and Youth, \$5,150.

26 Your next line is a correction. Total
27 Education, \$10,330.

28 Past Presidents Parley, \$8,950. Total
29 Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation, \$27,400. Total
30 gift shop, \$13,537. Total expense -- and there is a
31 change there, so your total is \$65,367, which leaves
32 us to the negative of \$970.

33 Junior Activities and Girls State are
34 included in your budget for information only.

35 Are there any questions on this budget?

36 FINANCE COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN TAYLOR:
37 Hearing none, Madam President --

1 DELEGATE FARISS: Linda Fariss. I'm the
2 recorder. I should know better. Linda Fariss, Unit
3 314, District 19, Junior Past District President.

4 I have a question on the Americanism. I
5 see where the -- there is that little recap there.
6 It shows \$5,000 in the Americanism. They are not
7 numbered. I don't know. On the income. Just a
8 second. 040. I think it's the fifth page.

9 PRESIDENT CAPAZZI: Linda --

10 DELEGATE FARISS: Aren't you asking for
11 questions?

12 PRESIDENT CAPAZZI: Linda, we haven't
13 asked for the acceptance of the budget yet, so hold
14 your thought --

15 DELEGATE FARISS: Oh, I'm sorry. I
16 thought that's what you were calling for. I
17 couldn't believe no one else had a question.

18 PRESIDENT CAPAZZI: Hold on.

19 FINANCE COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN TAYLOR: I
20 move for the acceptance of the budget for 2009-2010.

21 PRESIDENT CAPAZZI: It's been moved and
22 seconded that we accept the budget as presented for
23 2009-2010. Is there any discussion?

24 DELEGATE FARISS: Yes, Madam President.
25 Linda Fariss, Unit 314, District 19. I have a
question on the Americanism donation. I think it's
our fifth page. Did you all find out?

SENIOR MEMBER OF FINANCE DIEBEL: It's
at the bottom of general fund committee expense,
right after the total.

DELEGATE FARISS: On the fifth page,
coming down after general fund committee expense,
you show a recap of the Americanism, 0470. It's
right after G 653. You show a \$5,000 donation. I
could only find an income report of ten percent in
the general stuff there of the income. Is the
\$4,000 somewhere else that I just didn't recognize
it? I'm trying to get us more money. Was this

1 donation noted somewhere else?

2 SENIOR MEMBER OF FINANCE DIEBEL: No.
3 Ladies, we have had several problems with the way in
4 the past few years the money has been booked into
5 our accounts. What we could find is a total of
6 donations that's shown in the budget. We cannot at
7 this time go back and tell you exactly where that
8 money came from. It is one of the things that we
9 are planning on working next year. Doris has
10 cleaned up -- and Wilson have cleaned up a lot of
11 account misbookings and transfers that needed to be
12 reversed or corrected. This is one of the ones that
13 we are going to work on. We were just so ecstatic
14 to get the budget in balance that we didn't want to
15 rock the boat, to be honest with you. But it is one
16 of the items we will be checking on. It's on the
17 plan of things to do with Doris in the office.

18 DELEGATE BIGGS: Madam Department
19 President, Anita Biggs, District 23, Americanism
20 Chairman. With regard to the same section, 631-A,
21 0631-A, for Americanism essay prizes. We are
22 actually going to go down from \$1,750 in essay
23 prizes to \$200? That would eliminate all of your
24 group awards. We spend \$1,750 annually on our essay
25 contest prizes.

1 JUNIOR MEMBER OF FINANCE MIKESELL: This
2 section here, I do believe, is based on 2008 -- wait
3 a minute, Anita. Get back up there. This
4 information here, we did not put in the information
5 from 2009. The information there is 2008 figures.
6 We didn't update that figure. It was just in the
7 last time's budget.

8 DELEGATE BIGGS: I'm sorry, but it
9 doesn't make sense to me that we were voting to only
10 pay out \$200 for essay prizes when we are -- it's in
11 our code. It's --

12 JUNIOR MEMBER OF FINANCE MIKESELL:
13 Anita, that's not what that means. That was for
14 information only. That was donations that were
15 donated for those things in the year 2008. It
16 didn't have anything to do with what we're doing
17 now. We should have deleted it out of here.

18 DELEGATE BIGGS: Okay. It should have
19 been deleted.

1 JUNIOR MEMBER OF FINANCE MIKESELL: I'm
2 sorry. All that information or little informational
3 things is based on 2008. We did not update it for
4 2009. We do apologize.

4 DELEGATE BIGGS: Thank you.

5 JUNIOR MEMBER OF FINANCE MIKESELL:
6 You're welcome.

6 DELEGATE CAREY: Madam Department
7 President, I just have a question. Are you removing
8 the line for the VISTO Award? Are they going to --
9 is Veronica going to be keeping up the plaque? Is
10 that the idea? So that we can remove the line on
11 the VISTO award? It's at zero. I'm wondering if
12 it's going to be removed.

10 FINANCE COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN TAYLOR: Pat,
11 is that question for us or Veronica or Madam
12 President?

12 DELEGATE CAREY: I don't know care who
13 answers the question. I just want to know.

14 PAST PRESIDENT SPENCE: We put in the
15 \$45 to start the engraving on the plaque after this.
16 The plaque is paid for. It's just the engraving
17 that has to be done every year. As a matter of
18 fact, to get back to the -- what came up last year,
19 Past Department President Bonnie offered to pay
20 engraving for five years. Now you will have to get
21 with Past Department President Bonnie and find out
22 how she wants to do that, but there is now \$45 on
23 that line to take care of engraving for the next
24 couple of years. It depends on where you have it
25 engraved, truthfully.

21 DELEGATE CAREY: Okay. So you're
22 leaving the line item in, correct, Veronica?

22 PAST PRESIDENT SPENCE: Sure.

23 DELEGATE CAREY: Okay. That's all I
24 want to know.

25 PRESIDENT CAPAZZI: Danielle.

DELEGATE WHITE: District 27, Danielle

1 White. On the second page, G 505, on the postage,
2 is there any way we can reduce it? \$10,000, that's
a lot of money.

3 PRESIDENT CAPAZZI: Which line item?

4 DELEGATE WHITE: On the second page on G
5 505.

6 PRESIDENT CAPAZZI: Ladies, please.

7 SECRETARY-TREASURER KILKENNY: In
8 regards to the postage, I requested to the Finance
9 Committee to change it from 16,000, to reduce it to
10 \$10,000. At the current time the postage rates have
11 gone up tremendously on first class. They are also
12 increased on the unit mailings because we use bulk
13 rate third-class mail. At the current time I don't
know if some of you know--and some of you don't know
this -- but the United States Postal Service has now
implemented where we have to have presorted
addresses, verifying confirmed deliverable
addresses. There are only three companies across
the nation that are doing it for them, so we must do
it.

14 Therefore, the increase in postage is
15 going to be tremendous. I have decreased it because
16 -- asked for it to be decreased because the common
17 goal of the Department office is to put most of your
18 information to be available immediately on the
website. Those units that cannot or have not access
to the website would be able to receive their mail
first class, but we are going to have to ask the
units to help pay for it.

19 This is the best way that I could come
20 up with that we could even decrease it from 16,000
21 to ten. We currently have a lease agreement with
22 the postage smart mailer we have to use. It's a
23 Catch 22. If we don't use it, we don't have the bar
codes and the presort, and we don't receive the
discount. However, if we do keep it, the lease is
\$4400 a year.

24 DELEGATE WHITE: Thank you.

25 DELEGATE GOSS: Carol Goss, District 29,
Orange Unit 132. I have a question regarding the
Poppy orders. Maybe I'm jumping here. I don't

1 know. But I'm seeing that we are ordering -- or
2 accepting 18 cents per Poppy coming in. As I
3 understand, down on P 702 that the cost of the
4 materials did not go up and remain the same. But we
5 are increasing what we are going to pay for our
6 Poppies next year? I'm on P 410-A, Poppy orders.
7 I'm reading 72,000 intake based upon 400,000 ordered
8 at 18 cents apiece.

9 PRESIDENT CAPAZZI: One moment, please.

10 PAST PRESIDENT TAYLOR: Madam Department
11 President, Melanie Taylor, Past Department President
12 and past Poppy Production Manager at Yountville.
13 The cost of the Poppies did go up, ladies. It went
14 from \$38 for a thousand to \$50 for a thousand.
15 Correct, Harriet? Absolutely correct. It did go
16 up. The Department is now paying \$50 for each 1,000
17 small Poppy kits.

18 A DELEGATE: Not only did the kits go
19 up, but the tags went up on it, too. The tags that
20 are on the Poppy, they went up to 450.

21 DELEGATE GOSS: So, actually when you
22 said the cost didn't go up on that six cents per
23 Poppy, that's incorrect, it did go up.

24 SENIOR MEMBER OF FINANCE DIEBEL: The
25 original costs last year on the Poppies was five
26 cents. It went up to six cents. We received a
27 request from the Poppy Chairman to do a code change,
28 which was passed in the Finance Committee. When we
29 read the code change, it said eight cents would go
30 to Department. We misunderstood it, interpreted it
31 as the cost of the Poppies went to eight cents
32 instead of six cents. We changed the numbers in
33 committee to reflect a \$32,000 cost instead of a
34 \$24,000. That's why your copy says 24, because that
35 six cents was correct. The ones that were in
36 committee changed it to eight cents, and they showed
37 32, which is why we said it on the floor and they
38 were questioning why the change.

39 DELEGATE GOSS: I got it.

40 SENIOR MEMBER OF FINANCE DIEBEL: Your
41 numbers are correct.

42 DELEGATE GOSS: Thank you.

1 PRESIDENT CAPAZZI: Yes, Marge.

2 PAST PRESIDENT SHANK: Marjorie Shank,
3 Past Department President, District 5. I commend
4 the committee for working so hard on this budget, in
5 making it look so good, and the balance that it
6 details.

7 I do want to point out one thing on the
8 first page. Everybody look where it says
9 "fund-raising." One of the reasons you're able to
10 have a budget like this is the sweepstakes. Be sure
11 and continue to donate in the sweepstakes. That's a
12 lot of money in the fund-raising line. \$12,000 that
13 they're talking about here, not counting what was
14 last year's balance. Let's remember when we get
15 those envelopes in the mail about the sweepstakes.
16 Put your money in, so we can benefit from it.

17 [Applause]

18 PRESIDENT CAPAZZI: Thank you, Marge.
19 Is there any other discussion?

20 All those in favor, "aye."

21 Opposed, "no."

22 The motion carried. The budget has been
23 accepted.

24 [Applause]

25 FINANCE COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN TAYLOR:
26 Madam President, may I have a point of personal
27 privilege?

28 PRESIDENT CAPAZZI: Yes.

29 FINANCE COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN TAYLOR:
30 Ladies, there are some people who I really have to
31 thank that are in this audience. These two and a
32 half years that I've been with the Finance Committee
33 I have learned a lot. But I am thankful for our
34 adviser that we had this year, Pat Sweeney. She has
35 been a great help to the Finance Committee.

36 [Applause]

37 FINANCE COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN TAYLOR: Ruby

1 Kapsalis, without you, I don't know what the Finance
Committee would have done.

2 [Applause]

3 FINANCE COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN TAYLOR: And
4 I must not forget the president who was in office
when I came into the Finance Committee, Sandy Jacob.

5 [Applause]

6 FINANCE COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN TAYLOR:
7 Shelby Hitch.

8 [Applause]

9 FINANCE COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN TAYLOR: And
each and everyone out there, thank you for this two
10 and a half years that I have served in the Finance
Committee. I know with everyone's help the next
11 team that is coming up will be much better. Thank
you again.

12 [Applause]

13 FINANCE COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN TAYLOR:
14 Madam President, can we approach your station?

15 PRESIDENT CAPAZZI: Yes, you may.

16 SENIOR MEMBER OF FINANCE DIEBEL: Madam
President, before you do that, Terry and I would
17 like to take a point of personal privilege.

18 Lucille, on behalf of Terry and myself,
we would like to thank you for your leadership and
19 your guidance and your understanding. When we have
had some disagreements over this damn budget --

20 [Laughter]

21 FINANCE COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN TAYLOR: It's
22 true. If you could see all the e-mails that we had
sent and received, you would know what we went
23 through.

24 SENIOR MEMBER OF FINANCE DIEBEL: We
would like to present this to you.

25 FINANCE COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN TAYLOR:

1 Thank you.

2 SENIOR MEMBER OF FINANCE DIEBEL: We
3 made it as difficult as possible for her to open.

4 FINANCE COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN TAYLOR:
5 Thank you.

6 PRESIDENT CAPAZZI: A little thank you
7 from our Finance Committee. A beautiful pair of
8 earrings, blue earrings. They're beautiful. Can
9 you see? Sapphire blue earrings.

10 [Applause]

11 PRESIDENT CAPAZZI: We need to remind
12 our color bearers at the end of our session today we
13 will be retiring the unit and district colors, so be
14 prepared for that at the end of the day.

15 DELEGATE DIXON-HICKS: Excuse me, Madam
16 Department President.

17 PRESIDENT CAPAZZI: Yes, ma'am.

18 DELEGATE DIXON-HICKS: Excuse my remiss,
19 but people were talking to me at the time, but I
20 would like to congratulate Susanne Tozier for her
21 win.

22 [Applause]

23 DELEGATE TOZIER: I would like to thank
24 Pam. Thank you very much. She was a wonderful
25 challenger.

26 [Applause]

27 PRESIDENT CAPAZZI: At this time can we
28 hear from our Legislative Chairman, Rebecca
29 Stewart-Wilson.

30 Would the Leadership Chairman and UD&R
31 also be on board.

32 LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN
33 STEWART-WILSON: There were slips given out, so
34 please be up front. Also to the platform, there
35 will be correction on the legislative committee
36 report.

1
2 PRESIDENT CAPAZZI: Ladies, could we
3 please give our attention to our speaker. Thank
4 you.

5 LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN

6 STEWART-WILSON: Because of a change that took
7 place. And also there will be a correction for the
8 platform on your Department of California
9 legislative awards. Those were done in committee.
10 I will give them to you as well.

11 The Convention Committee on Legislative
12 met at 11:00 a.m. on June 18, 2009, in the Imperial
13 Room of the Marriott Hotel, Riverside, California.
14 The statistical report of the Chairman appears on
15 some page of the Book of Reports. Denise Coleman,
16 District 23, was appointed secretary. Mary Chaba,
17 District 18, offered prayer. Glenda Smith, District
18 18, was appointed sergeant-at-arms. A total of 21
19 district delegates answered roll call. There were
20 four guests present.

21 By the direction of the committee, the
22 following report is submitted for acceptance by this
23 delegation.

24 The code was read, with no changes to
25 the code. There were no resolutions referred to the
26 Committee. By executive command, 24 districts
27 reported, and 14 received citations for 100 percent
28 reporting. Third- and second-place awards were
29 presented in Committee, with a listing included in
30 the district packets. Listings are also posted in
31 the Department convention office and attached with
32 this report.

33 Question and answer and discussions on
34 reporting and supplementals followed. With no
35 further business, the meeting was adjourned at 11:00
36 a.m.

37 For the platform, would you look at your
38 Book of Reports, the legislative award forms. 100
39 percent district reporting. District 28 should be
40 included in that 100 percent of districts reporting,
41 and they should be removed from units
42 nonparticipating. And as I said to the committee, I
43 will check on District 22's report, and I did have
44 every file sent to me, and I did not receive a

1 report from District 22.

2 This concludes the report of the
3 Legislative Convention Committee, and I move for its
4 acceptance.

4 [Applause]

5 LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN
6 STEWART-WILSON: Madam President, may I continue
7 with my supplemental and first-place awards?

7 PRESIDENT CAPAZZI: Yes, you may.

8 LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN
9 STEWART-WILSON: I will not read it in its entirety.

10 While cruising on the S.S. Lane Victory,
11 the Legislative Chairman for the Department of
12 California, aka the Colonel, charted a course to new
13 horizons in a joint effort with the district
14 chairmen, who were "radio operators," unit chairmen
15 who were "stewardesses," and unit members, our
16 respective crew members. All of us have the
17 responsibility to communicate by any means necessary
18 to convey the message.

19 This Colonel is proud to report that 22
20 "radio operators" have reported 268 personal visits
21 were made to U.S. representatives, Senators, various
22 state and local officials, And the White House. One
23 very lucky crew member met with Commander-in-Chief
24 President Obama upon his recent official visit to
25 California. Other "crew members" kept the wires
burning with 381 telephone calls, and seven
uninhibited Crew Members called the White House.

20 Additionally, 635 e-mails and 182 faxes
21 were transmitted, and a total of 616 letters were
22 written to U.S. representatives, Senators, various
23 state and local officials, and the White House.
24 Your Colonel along with some of the "radio
25 operators" received a total of 559 replies. Replies
were received from Senator Barbara Boxer and a
letter to the Colonel from Bob Filner, Chairman of
the House of Representatives Veterans' Affairs
Committee was received. Congresswoman Nancy Pelosi
sent a letter to one of our "radio operators"
thanking her for her views on protecting Social
Security benefits and giving her a brief explanation

1 of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of
2 2009.

3 One of the major issues communicated by
4 all on the S.S. Lane Victory was to get the word
5 throughout their communities of the importance of
6 supporting military absentee voting. Passage of
7 this legislation was vital to ensuring that every
8 registered voter currently serving in the United
9 States Armed Forces would be assured that his or her
10 vote counts. The members contacted elected
11 officials encouraging them to make sure that they
12 pushed the information out to their constituents.

13 Our members even sent absentee ballots
14 in packages to troops, passed out flyers, put up
15 posters in their communities and did letter writing
16 to inform others. The courageous men and women of
17 our armed services are willing to lay down their
18 lives to keep our country safe and free. We owe it
19 to them to have their voices heard.

20 Other members promoted the American
21 Legion Publication The Dispatch by displaying it on
22 information tables at veterans and nonveteran fairs,
23 they had it at meetings. They also provided
24 subscription forms in libraries so the community
25 could become aware of the magazine.

Some also started using "Firing Line."
"Firing Line" is a 37-page booklet on "Effective
Grassroots Lobbying." A lot participated in
veterans awareness rallies. They attended hearings
in our state capitol. One unit president in
District 21 was so adamant about political activity
she ran for a Council seat, and she won.

We signed and mailed letters to Senator
Harry Reid regarding pay raise for disabled
veterans. Members were invited to sit at roundtable
meetings with members of the House Committee on
Veterans' Affairs to discuss legislative priorities
for the 111th Congress. Other members met with
Speaker Pelosi's office to discuss collaboration on
events to improve services for veterans. We are
still fighting for the Flag Protection Amendment, so
continue the fight.

We attended civic and community
luncheons where Congressman McKeon and Assemblyman

1 Bill Maize as speakers to take advantage of
2 requesting their support for the Flag Protection
Amendment.

3 Since writing this report, much
4 legislation has been passed by the U.S. Congress and
signed into law. Restructuring of the VA
5 Administration with a special focus on the
implementation of the Post-911 G.I. bill,
6 improvement on the transition process from active
service member to veteran. The Senate Education
7 Committee has also heard three important Legion
supported bills. Those bills passed, SB 361,
8 Runner, public postsecondary education, priority
registration for armed forces and state military
9 reserve service. This bill will clarify that
National Guard and reserves are eligible for
10 priority registration for enrollment at a UC, CSU,
or community college.

11 Passed was Senate Bill 815 by Cogdill,
student financial aid program. California National
12 Guard Education Assistance Award Program. The
closure of the 2009 Legislative reporting year will
13 not end. The efforts of this Colonel, "radio
operators", the "stewardesses," and "crew members"
14 of the Department of California will continue after
the change-in-command to be alert to the issues that
15 affect our nation and support all measures necessary
for the welfare of our active duty military
16 personnel. Keeping all lawmakers informed about
issues that are important is our passion because our
17 views help shape the way lawmakers serve our nation
and our military personnel.

18
19 Madam President LuAnn, it has been an
honor and a privilege to serve as your Legislative
20 Chair, charting a course to new horizons while
cruising aboard the S.S. Lane Victory.

21 May I now make my presentations?

22 [Applause]

23 PRESIDENT CAPAZZI: Yes.

24 LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN
25 STEWART-WILSON: The District promoting "The
Dispatch" is District 18, Marie Chaba, 50
subscriptions.

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[Applause]

LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN

STEWART-WILSON: The district sending letters to U.S. Senators, first place, District 26. They sent out 62 letters.

[Applause]

LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN

STEWART-WILSON: And I would imagine now you will probably need to call the paramedics on this last one. I'll start from the bottom. The district sending letters to local officials, first place, they sent 72. The district sending letters to U.S. Representatives, they sent 37. The district sending letters to the President, they sent 38. And the Best District Supplemental, District 27, won in all those categories.

[Applause]

LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN

STEWART-WILSON: Madam President, may I have personal privilege to approach you?

PRESIDENT CAPAZZI: Yes. These are picture frames. These are so neat. Very nautical. Thank you, Rebecca. You did a wonderful job.

All of you who spent time writing those letters, sending those e-mails, and making those phone calls, keep them coming.

LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN

STEWART-WILSON: And to all of you, your ebony Statute of Liberty says farewell.

[Applause]

PRESIDENT CAPAZZI: We will hear from Leadership Chairman Alzora. You still have tickets left? Okay.

LEADERSHIP COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN CARTER:

Thank you, Madam President. The Convention Leadership Committee met on June 18, 2009, in the Embassy Room of the Riverside Marriott Hotel, Riverside, California. The statistical report of

1 this chairman appears on Page 18 of the Book of
2 Reports. Sharon Moore, District 23, was appointed
3 secretary. Linda Fariss, District 19, served as
4 chaplain. Pat Alvarez, District 29, appointed
5 sergeant-at-arms. A total of 20 district delegates
6 answered roll call. And eight visitors were
7 present.

8 The committee agreed on the following
9 report. The code was read, and the committee voted
10 on the following change to Code 3. Code 3 currently
11 reads, "Applications and a copy of the sign-in sheet
12 shall be provided to each unit and district with a
13 covering bulletin at the beginning of each
14 administrative year. Applications may be copied as
15 necessary by units and districts or may be obtained
16 from the Department Chairman."

17 Code 3 now reads, "Application for
18 certified and re-certified leadership instructors
19 and copies of sign-in-sheet are located on the
20 Department Website."

21 At the direction of the committee, I
22 move we accept the code change.

23 [Seconded]

24 PRESIDENT CAPAZZI: It's been moved and
25 seconded for a Code 3 change. "Application for
26 certified and recertified leadership instructors and
27 copies of sign-in sheet are located on the
28 Department website."

29 Is there any discussion?

30 All those in favor, "aye."

31 Opposed, "no."

32 Code 3 is accepted.

33 LEADERSHIP COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN CARTER:
34 There were no resolutions or recommendations.
35 Awards were presented to districts with 100 percent
36 reporting. Awards for Best Unit and District
37 Overall Leadership Programs for third and second
38 place were given in Committee. Honorable mention
39 and special awards were also given in Committee
40 meeting.

1
2 With no further business, the Leadership
preconvention meeting adjourned at 9:55 a.m.

3 Madam President, this concludes my
4 committee report. May I continue with my
supplemental report and first-place" award and along
5 with a special recognition award?

6 [Applause]

7 PRESIDENT CAPAZZI: Yes, you may.

8 LEADERSHIP COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN CARTER:
Thank you. Madam Department President LuAnn, the
9 Department of California motivators had quite a year
conducting leadership workshops all over our great
10 state. Per our Department President, this chairman
was asked not to hold a Department workshop due to
11 the economy and the high price of gas at the pump.
Our members did not have to travel north and south
12 to attend a Department workshop. Workshops were
offered in everyone's backyard. We, of course, had
13 many six hours certified leadership workshops and
four-hour mini workshops in our districts and units.
14 The motivators made sure that protocol in meetings
were taught to officers, chairmen and members. They
15 made sure members of their units and districts had
copies of bylaws, standing rules, unit handbooks and
16 the revised copy of Robert's Rules of Order.

17 Having these tools certainly help new
members as well as newly elected officers and
18 chairmen of our units and districts. Charting a
course to new horizons helped this chairman to be
19 more creative in writing bulletins for our district
and unit chairmen. That horizon taught many of our
20 chairmen to have confidence in providing the
resources they needed to present their workshops.

21 Leadership chairmen reported on how they
motivated, educated, inspired and mentored members
22 all over the state of California. They have taught
their members to have the confidence to stand alone,
23 the courage to make tough decisions, and the
compassion to listen to the needs of others.

24
25 One unit had members traveling from
different states to attend a workshop, having met
each other for the very first time, and that was

1 Unit 472. Several Districts had workshops comprised
2 of many Past Department Presidents and department
3 chairmen as the facilitators. Another District
4 invited the Congresswoman from California as the
5 guest speaker. Many units continue to use the Big
6 Sister, Little Sister mentoring program to help
7 nurture our new and seasoned members. Some of our
8 units have taken pride in our Juniors by teaching
9 the correct protocol on how to open and close their
10 meetings.

11
12 Units made notebooks, copies of
13 handbooks, manual of ceremonies for each new member
14 and a roundtable discussion with question-and-answer
15 period. Thanks to an early start, we received our
16 Blue Certified Leadership Instructors cards
17 from National. Due to National not having the White
18 Leadership Certificate, our Department
19 Secretary-Treasurer, Doris Kilkenny, made us cards
20 to give out to all attendees.

21
22 Leadership has been a very long task of
23 our commitment to excellence. We do not set out to
24 be leaders, but become one by the quality of our
25 actions.

26
27 Madam President, that concludes my
28 report. May I continue with my first-place awards?

29 PRESIDENT CAPAZZI: Yes, you may.

30 LEADERSHIP COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN CARTER:
31 First place award for the Best Overall Unit
32 Leadership Program goes to Placentia Unit 277,
33 District, 29, Pat Alvarez, chairman.

34 [Applause]

35 LEADERSHIP COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN CARTER:
36 First place award for the Best Overall District
37 Leadership Program goes to District 19, Linda
38 Fariss, Chairman.

39 [Applause]

40 LEADERSHIP COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN CARTER:
41 Madam President, last but not least, this chairman
42 would like to present a certificate of appreciation
43 to Stacey Estes, Junior Conference Director, for her
44 outstanding leadership in conducting Junior

1 Conference this year. This was one fantastic Junior
2 Conference.

3 [Applause]

4 LEADERSHIP COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN CARTER:
5 Accepting the award for Stacey is her mother.

6 Madam President, thank you for this
7 appointment, and thanks to all of the great Leaders
8 of this great state of California.

9 This concludes my report, Madam
10 President. May I approach your station for just a
11 second?

12 PRESIDENT CAPAZZI: Yes, you may. Oh my
13 God. Beautiful anchor pin. Thank you.

14 [Applause]

15 UD&R Chairman Barbara LaDoucer.

16 UD&R COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN LADOU CER: It
17 will probably be the shortest one you have today. I
18 want to apologize for the handwritten report
19 because, as you know, I do not do the computer or
20 type. So I want to apologize.

21 Madam President, officers, chairmen and
22 Auxiliary members and guests. This has been an
23 interesting, very interesting year, with the
24 National organization not having a UD&R chairmen
25 this year. There was nothing coming from them. I
was able to get information for the program from
First Vice President Norma DuVall and the procedure
books that I had from the past UD&R Chairman. This
is why the procedure books are so important. When
you don't have anything nothing coming out of
National, it's really hard to work the program.

This chairman and all three committee
members traveled hundreds of miles to help the
districts and units when needed. There was one UD&R
workshop. The reports that I received, seven units
were revitalized, three new units ready to be
chartered, one unit recruited 12 new members. There
was only -- this was from District 1. They really
are coming up.

1 There was only one midyear report
2 received, and that was from District 25. Out of 30
3 districts in the Department of California, I only
4 received ten district reports and reports from three
5 committee members.

6 There were certificates of commendation
7 to Carol -- I'm not going to pronounce your last
8 name because I'll mess it up, but you know who you
9 are.

10 [Laughter]

11 UD&R COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN LADOU CER: From
12 District 25. She was the only district chairman for
13 a midyear and district report with a supplemental.

14 There were ten certificates of
15 participation presented to the following districts
16 just for taking the time to send a report. They are
17 1, 4, 5, 8, 12, 13, 16, 22, 25 and 26. There were
18 three certificates of participation to the members
19 of this committee for all their hard work this year.
20 Dorothy Davis, District 16, and Jeannette
21 Richardson, District 8, and Susanne Tozier, District
22 22.

23 [Applause]

24 UD&R COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN LADOU CER: I
25 would also like to take the opportunity to introduce
26 my committee. They did a real outstanding job in
27 their areas this year.

28 I would also like to take this
29 opportunity to thank the Department
30 Secretary-Treasurer, Doris Kilkenny, for all her
31 help this year because every time I called, she was
32 there to answer the questions because, like I said,
33 as everyone in the Department knows that I got to
34 have snail mail. She was there to help me. And to
35 everyone else that helped me this year.

36 Thank you, President LuAnn, for this
37 appointment. This concludes my report.

38 [Applause]

39 PRESIDENT CAPAZZI: Thank you, Barbara,
40 for your work this year.

1
2 Madam communications officer, do we have
any messages from the fleet?

3 SECRETARY-TREASURER KILKENNY: Madam
4 President, we do.

5 Ladies, first of all, someone found this
6 earring in the courtyard area. Please see me. It
looks like either black pearl or hematite. I'm not
7 sure. I buy the cheap stuff, so I don't know which
is which.

8 The membership packets are available in
9 the Department office. They're still a few left. I
10 would really, really appreciate it if the district
11 president or the district membership chairman or
your unit could go upstairs and pick them you yet
12 today, before tomorrow, so we can get them all out
to everyone instead of having to mail them.

13 PRESIDENT CAPAZZI: Ladies, please
14 listen.

15 SECRETARY-TREASURER KILKENNY: The
16 National delegate and alternate packets will be
17 mailed. I still have some information coming from
18 National per an e-mail yesterday, so I would like to
19 have them complete when they are given out.

20 Everything needs to be picked up today
21 at the close of gavel. The scrapbooks, the Poppies
22 displays, and everything along the wall has to be
moved out of here today.

23 District 24 is looking for a black
24 leather Blackberry cell phone cover. It was lost
25 yesterday, Friday afternoon.

26 If anyone found a ring, please see
27 District 20. It has a lot of sentimental value.
28 Taken by mistake. It was a 147 percent membership
29 certificate. Please return to District 12.

30 I'm going to read for the very last time
31 all of the banquet tickets that are available and
32 needed. It's up to you ladies to contact these
33 districts.

34 District 28 has a banquet ticket for

1 sale. If you don't, please revise that and let that
2 person know if they ask you for it.

3 District 20 has one for sale.

4 District 18 needs two banquet tickets.

5 One banquet ticket is available from
6 District 16.

7 One extra ticket is for sale from
8 District 20.

9 I have one extra one. You can see me in
10 the Department office.

11 That's it, Madam President.

12 PRESIDENT CAPAZZI: I have been notified
13 by our Ways and Means Junior Member of Finance that
14 we still have some of those wonderful 50-50
15 opportunity drawing tickets. You know the prize is
16 going to be drawn tonight, and there's a lot of
17 bucks to be had, ladies. If you haven't purchased
18 your tickets yet, Terry is over there by the Ways
19 and Means table on your way out. Take advantage of
20 this.

21 Also, our color bearers should be at the
22 back of the room being ready to retire unit and
23 district flags. As quietly as possible.

24 Ladies, there will be a no-host cocktail
25 bar at the banquet this evening with entertainment,
so I hope to see many of you there.

Right outside the door here in the
corner of the foyer you're going to see a
photographer. He is an active-duty chief from Post
684, my post. He takes great pictures, and he's
donating 15 percent of all the sales to my special
projects this year. He will also be available
tomorrow for any installation pictures you would
like to have.

Ladies, if you will stay in your chairs
until the flags have been retired, please.

Sergeant-at-Arms and Marshal, will you
please have the color bearers in line to retire the

1 unit and district colors as well as Unit 684 in
2 District 27.

3 Could I have Ruby Kapsalis to the stage,
4 please, for a moment.

5 Ladies, please take your seats so we can
6 retire the colors.

7 Ladies, please remember that we do have
8 a few chairmanships left in the morning, so we hope
9 to see you all back here in the morning. We're
10 going to reconvene at 8:30 tomorrow morning.

11 SECRETARY-TREASURER KILKENNY: Ladies, I
12 have one more important announcement -- Ahh.

13 ["Horrible Death to Die" sung]

14 SECRETARY-TREASURER KILKENNY: Does that
15 count as a strike?

16 Margaret Quinones has asked me to state
17 these people need to stay immediately after the
18 session closes tomorrow for the installation. Linda
19 Workman, Nancy Brown Park, Bonnie Christner,
20 Madeline Lee, all color bearers for District 18, all
21 honor guards for District 18, all color bearers for
22 Unit 280, and Ruby Kapsalis.

23 PRESIDENT CAPAZZI: Thank you.
24 Sergeant-at-Arms and Marshal, are you ready?

25 SERGEANT-AT-ARMS RICHARDSON: We're
ready.

[Colors retired]

PRESIDENT CAPAZZI: Thank you for a
wonderful day, and a wonderful birthday.

The convention is now in recess until
8:30 tomorrow morning.

[Whereupon, the Annual Convention of the
Department of California was recessed at 4:00
o'clock p.m.]

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DEPARTMENT OF CALIFORNIA

AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY

90th Annual Convention

Sunday, June 21, 2009
8:35 o'clock a.m.

Riverside, California

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P R O C E E D I N G S

1
2 [The Annual Convention of the Auxiliary,
3 Department of California, was reconvened at 8:35
4 a.m.; President Capazzi, presiding]

5 PRESIDENT CAPAZZI: Ladies, we're going
6 to start at 8:30 this morning, so we have about five
7 minutes.

8 Ladies, please take your seats. This
9 session is now reconvened.

10 Ladies, the Chaplain, Donna Scott, will
11 offer the invocation.

12 CHAPLAIN SCOTT: This is a freedom
13 blessing for us all.

14 May you always have your life in God's
15 hands. May liberty surround you. May your pursuit
16 of happiness always come true. May you have health
17 and coins in your pocket. May the sun shine on your
18 life. May the rainbow always follow the rain. May
19 you always know a friend is near. May God fill your
20 heart, our country, and the world with peace. May
21 God bless America and place His love in your heart.

22 That's from Beverly J. Wolf. Amen.

23 PRESIDENT CAPAZZI: May we stand in a
24 moment of silence in honor of our dearly departed
25 veterans and members.

[Moment of silence]

26 PRESIDENT CAPAZZI: Madam Secretary,
27 will you please call the roll of Department
28 officers, chairmen, and district presidents.

29 SECRETARY-TREASURER KILKENNY: Good
30 morning, ladies. It's almost time to go home.

[Roll call]

31 SECRETARY-TREASURER KILKENNY: That's
32 your roll call.

33 PRESIDENT CAPAZZI: Thank you, Madam
34 Secretary.

1 Will the following chairmen please come
2 to the stage to be ready to give their reports.
3 Poppy, Membership, Girls State, National Security,
4 Ways and Means, and the Convention Commission.

5 Sergeant-at-Arms and Marshal with the
6 Distinguished Guest chairman, would you please
7 present our distinguished guest.

8 [Applause]

9 PRESIDENT CAPAZZI: Our guest, Commander
10 Rees Lloyd, ladies.

11 [Applause]

12 MR. REES LLOYD: Good morning. Thank
13 you very much for the opportunity to address you
14 briefly on a very important matter. It's a
15 wonderful thing to find myself in the midst on a
16 Sunday morning of duty graced by so much beauty.

17 Six years ago we started a fight in
18 California with the ACLU over their attacks on our
19 veterans' memorials. We said as veterans in the
20 Legion, as members of the Auxiliary, and as the Sons
21 of the American Legion that we were going to stand
22 and fight them to preserve our veterans memorials
23 where they are and how they are, even if it offends
24 every atheist in the country or agnostic or secular
25 cleansing fanatic in the ACLU who is offended by the
sight of the cross.

[Applause]

19 COMMANDER LLOYD: I'm proud to tell you
20 that today, because of the formation of the Defense
21 Of Veterans Memorials Project by the Department of
22 California, which is now a National American Legion
23 project -- I am proud to be the director of it for
24 California -- we are now in the United States
25 Supreme Court in the case of Mojave Desert Veterans
Memorial. If we win this case, we will have
established history and made constitutional law
defending the rights of 300 million Americans to
honor our war dead and our veterans as you choose as
American citizens and not as the ACLU chooses as an
anti-American organization.

1 [Applause]

2 MR. LLYOD: I bring to you today
3 greetings on this issue from two of America's
4 greatest living heroes who are thankful to you for
5 your support and asking all of us to continue that
6 support. The first is from Rear Admiral Jeremiah A.
7 Denton. You may recall he served seven years and
8 seven months as a POW in Vietnam. And it was
9 Admiral Denton who when they attempted to use him
10 for propaganda purposes blinked his eyes in Morse
11 Code, signaling torture, torture, torture, which
12 confirmed what was happening.

13 He writes, "To the American Legion, the
14 Auxiliary, and the Sons of the American Legion, I
15 want to thank you and the California American Legion
16 and the Auxiliary and the Sons of the American
17 Legion for their enthusiastic efforts on behalf of
18 the cause of preserving the cross at the veterans
19 memorials and cemeteries where our American service
20 personnel are interred. You are waging a critically
21 important war against the ACLU and others hostile to
22 the notion of one nation under God and to the
23 age-old tradition of placing crosses at the
24 memorials and cemeteries of our military personnel.

25 "In my own case, I testified freely that
26 in my particular stint as a Vietnam POW only God's
27 grace saved me from despair and from dishonoring
28 myself and my beloved country. How despicable to
29 deny our families the comfort that their memorials
30 and cemeteries would be monuments to their love of
31 God and their gratitude to Him. You are playing a
32 leading role to preserve us as a nation under God.
33 It is a survival war of our time. God bless you
34 all. Admiral Denton."

35 [Applause]

36 MR. LLOYD: This is from Major General
37 Patrick H. Brady, USA Retired, Medal of Honor
38 recipient. It's addressed again to the members of
39 the American Legion, Department of California, and
40 the California Auxiliary, and the Sons of the
41 American Legion.

42 "I write to thank each of you for your
43 continuing service to God and country. I have often
44 said that the ACLU is the advance guard for the

1 antichrist, so I want to thank you for all you have
2 done in California through your Defense Of Veterans
3 Memorials Project, and the Alliance Defense Fund to
4 fight the ACLU and like-minded organizations who are
5 attacking our veterans memorials because they are
6 offended by the sight of a cross honoring our
7 departed comrades who have given their lives in
8 defense of our country.

9 "It is amazing to me that anyone would
10 be offended by a cross. I wear the Medal of Honor,
11 which in an earlier form was shaped like a cross. I
12 also wear the Distinguished Service Cross. I have
13 six Distinguished Flying Crosses. Guess what? They
14 are all shaped like a cross. Do these metals
15 violate the First Amendment? They symbolize the
16 service and sacrifice, and so does every cross
17 erected in honor of the service and sacrifice of our
18 veterans.

19 "If anyone can win the battles which
20 must be fought with our domestic enemies, it is you,
21 the American veterans, the Auxiliary, and the Sons
22 standing together, as we did in service, and as a
23 new generation of military men and women today stand
24 together in Iraq and Afghanistan battling foreign
25 enemies of America who would destroy us all by
terrorism, to impose their ideology upon us. If we
stand for America at home as those troops are
standing for America on foreign soil, then by God
and with God's aide we shall win the ultimate
victory. General Brady."

[Applause]

MR. LLOYD: I thank you all for your
support. When we were founded, we were founded with
five words, "For God and country forever." I leave
you with those five and five more. "For God and
country forever. Surrender to the ACLU? Never.
Thank you.

[Applause]

PRESIDENT CAPAZZI: Mark Smith is here
to give greetings from the Sons of the American
Legion.

[Applause]

1 MR. MARK SMITH: Good morning. More
2 than greetings, it's actually a gift. My name is
3 Mark Smith. I'm the Area 1 Vice Commander for the
4 Sons of the American Legion. It is truly my honor
to be here. I have never been so fortunate. Up in
District 2 I'm known as Mr. Mollie because when the
phone rings, it's for Mollie.

5 [Laughter]

6 MR. SMITH: She is the incoming District
7 2 President.

8 In the Sons of the American Legion we
9 have an award for the Legionnaire of the Year, the
10 Junior Sons, Adult Sons, and we never had an award
11 for the Auxiliary members. So we made one this
12 year. I'm also the PR chairman. It was put forth
13 by, I believe -- and don't hold me to this --
14 District 25 because this was at a DEC long ago that
we came up with an award. It is called the Dottie
Sherard Award, in remembrance of a lady who really,
really helped this squadron. That's how this
started. The award -- I understand the lady is not
here. I'll read it anyway. This is what was put
forth to me, and it's a fax copy. It's rather hard
to read, but I'll go for it.

15 "This Auxiliary member has been a major
16 asset to our squadron since we started some seven
17 years ago. She has shown great support to SAL, and
18 has donated over 5,000 hours of service to promote
19 the principles and programs of the SAL. She has
signed up numerous members, including her two sons,
who were put on the executive board in the past six
years.

20 "She has been very active in Toys for
21 Tots and Friday night dances, dinners, Relay For
22 Life, and various community service events. We have
23 gained many friends, and honestly we would not be
24 known in the community if it wasn't for her service
25 and support for the programs." And this is signed
by a bunch of people.

[Laughter]

MR. SMITH: This is from the Vandenberg
squadron in Post 125. And she is a part of that
unit.

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[Applause]

MR. SMITH: Her name is Inga McCullough.

This is the inaugural award, and I don't want to get it dirty, but I'll read it real quickly. "The Dottie Sherard 2009 Auxiliary Member of the Year, presented to Inga McCullough in recognition of your outstanding leadership, service, and dedication to the principles of the Sons of the American Legion and for your efforts on behalf of the program of the American Legion family. Given by the Sons of the American Legion Detachment of California, June 2009."

[Applause]

MR. SMITH: Thank you, Madam President. It's an honor.

PRESIDENT CAPAZZI: Thank you for coming.

Girls State. May we hear from Delores Ryan and Vicki Crow at this time.

GIRLS STATE CHAIRMAN RYAN: Good morning. Madam President, the Convention Committee of Girls State met on Thursday, June 18 at 9:00 a.m. in the Imperial Room at the Marriott Hotel, Riverside, California. The statistical report of this chairman appears on Page 15 of the Book of Reports.

By general consent the following were appointed: Secretary, Gloria Sinopoli, District 14; chaplain, Dorothy Franceschi, District 28; sergeant-at-arms, Valarie Hardy, District 26. A total of 23 district delegates answered roll call, and there were 12 visitors.

The committee agreed on the following report. The Girls State Code was read and discussed. The committee agreed on the following changes.

Item 3 now reads: "Upon the completion of the budget by the Girls State Committee for the ensuing year, said budget will be sent to the

1 Department Secretary-Treasurer and Finance Committee
2 for review and approval not later than January 10th.
3 The budget shall be recorded on the form provided by
4 the Finance Committee."

5 Item 3 will now read in its entirety,
6 "Upon completion of the budget by the Girls State
7 Committee for the ensuing year, said budget shall be
8 sent to the Department Secretary-Treasurer and the
9 Finance Committee for review and inclusion in the
10 Department budget not later than October 10th. The
11 budget shall be recorded on the form provided by the
12 Finance Committee."

13 Madam President, I move the adoption of
14 this code change.

15 PRESIDENT CAPAZZI: It has been moved
16 and seconded for Code 3 change. "Upon completion of
17 the budget by the Girls State Committee for the
18 ensuing year, said budget shall be sent to the
19 Department Secretary-Treasurer and Finance Committee
20 for review and inclusion in the Department budget
21 not later than October 10. The budget shall be
22 recorded on the form provided by the Finance
23 Committee."

24 Is there any discussion?

25 PAST PRESIDENT SHANK: Marjorie Shank,
26 Past Department President. May I suggest that we
27 tell the chairman to say what the changes are. Most
28 of us are not looking at a code. It's difficult to
29 vote intelligently on something you're not sure what
30 was changed. In this case, it seemed it was only
31 the date, but often it's not quite that simple. If
32 she would just state what the change is we can vote
33 more intelligently.

34 GIRLS STATE CHAIRMAN RYAN: The change
35 is, the Finance Committee would like to have the
36 budget before their finance meeting in the fall so
37 that they can approve our budget at that time rather
38 than having it sent in January.

39 PRESIDENT CAPAZZI: Yes, the original
40 date was January 10th, and it was changed to October
41 10th. Is there any other discussion?

42 DELEGATE MIKESELL: Madam President,

1 Terry Mikesell, District 2. We just changed the
2 Finance Code to receive that budget by November
15th, and so the dates are not going to match on
3 these two code changes.

4 Is that correct, Madam Parliamentarian?

5 PRESIDENT CAPAZZI: While she is
6 researching that lady's comment, I believe I heard a
cell phone. Cha-ching. Please turn them off,
7 ladies. Thank you.

8 Just give us a moment, please, ladies.

9 DELEGATE SOARES: Madam President,
10 Michelle Soares from District 28. It seems to me
11 the code that they changed in finance says by
November 15th. That means by November 15th. It
12 doesn't mean on November 15th. If they wanted to do
it in October, it would seem to make sense to me
13 they could do it early if they wanted to.

14 PRESIDENT CAPAZZI: Thank you.

15 PARLIAMENTARIAN DELASHMIT: We need to
16 kind of listen to both of these to see if there is a
17 conflict here. What was in the Finance Committee
18 was upon completion of the budget and Girls State
19 committee -- just a second. I think all we were
doing on this, if I remember correctly, was just
20 moving that code to the Finance Code. We weren't
21 really changing it, correct? Because it was not
22 included in the Finance Code. We were just moving
23 it to be part of the Finance Code. If we change it
24 in the Girls State Code, we can ask that it be
changed in the Finance Code. Because we weren't
25 really changing it in the Finance Code.

26 PRESIDENT CAPAZZI: Thanks, Diane. Is
27 there any further discussion?

28 All those in favor, "aye."

29 Opposed, "no."

30 The code is accepted.

31 GIRLS STATE CHAIRMAN RYAN: Code Item 4
32 will now read in its entirety -- and then I will
33 tell you what the change is. "Authorization for

1 purchases shall be requested by the Girls State
2 Director through the use of voucher requests for
3 purchases. The request shall be sent to the
4 Department Secretary-Treasurer for approval before
5 the expenditure is made. If funds are available,
6 the Secretary-Treasurer shall approve the request
7 and the purchase may be made by the Director."

8 The change is that last sentence where
9 you get the approvals before you buy it. That way,
10 if you don't have funds, then you don't buy it.
11 That's the change.

12 Is there a second?

13 [Seconded]

14 PRESIDENT CAPAZZI: It's been moved and
15 seconded for item 4 to read, "Authorization for
16 purchases shall be requested by the Girls State
17 Director through the use of voucher requests for
18 purchases. The request shall be sent to the
19 Department Secretary-Treasurer for approval before
20 the expenditure is made. If funds are available,
21 the Secretary-Treasurer shall approve the request
22 and the purchase may be made by the director."

23 Is there any discussion?

24 PAST PRESIDENT PARK: Madam President,
25 Nancy Brown Park, District 26, Past Department
President. I have a question about this code
change. If we need to order T-shirts, and we have
to order those, say, six months out to get them
produced, but we don't have anything in reserve to
pay for them and we don't have money until the money
comes in from the fees, how are we going to order
the shirts? We don't pay for these shirts until --
we receive the shirts, say, what -- Vicki, you can
tell me. What? Six weeks before or a month before
the session. We have 30 or 45 days to pay for them.
I think using the voucher system, we need to be able
to order some of that product early. I do agree
with the voucher system. I think it's important
that we have a voucher so the Secretary-Treasurer
knows what is in the budget and we compare that with
what we're spending. But I really disagree that we
need to pay for it ahead of time or have that money
in there ahead of time. I don't think we can do
that.

1 PRESIDENT CAPAZZI: Is there further
2 discussion?

3 All those in favor, "aye."

4 Opposed, "no."

5 The code is not accepted. Rejected.
6 That's the word. Thank you.

7 GIRLS STATE CHAIRMAN RYAN: Okay. Item
8 15-B now reads, "Previous Girls State citizens shall
9 not be eligible as a candidate. The Department
10 chairman may accept or reject any applicant."

11 Item 15-B will now read in its entirety,
12 "Previous Girls State citizens shall not be eligible
13 as a candidate. The Department chairman may reject
14 any applicant if the applications are not complete."

15 Madam President, I move the adoption of
16 this code change.

17 [Seconded]

18 PRESIDENT CAPAZZI: It's been moved and
19 seconded for Code change to 15-B. "Previous Girls
20 State citizens shall not be eligible as a candidate.
21 The Department chairman may reject any applicant if
22 applications are not complete."

23 Is there any discussion?

24 DELEGATE DENSCH: Judy Densch, District
25 16. I'm Girls State chairman in my unit. Do these
two tie together? Is this referring just to
previous Girls State candidates or -- I mean,
citizens. If their applications are not complete?
Or is it any application that's not complete that
you can veto.

GIRLS STATE CHAIRMAN RYAN: What it is,
when we get the Girls State applications, if there
is a line on there, it means that line needs a
signature. Probably out of the 480 some that I got,
I probably sent over a hundred back because either
the parents didn't sign it in the right place, the
school didn't sign it, the girl didn't sign it, or
the doctor didn't sign it. We're trying to cut the

1 postage going back and forth because people are not
2 reading. I still have three girls who are bringing
me paperwork at Girls State. To me this is a little
bit late when it is supposed to be in by March 12th.

3
4 PAST PRESIDENT TAYLOR: Madam President,
Melanie Taylor, Past Department President. I think
what the question here -- and it's a little
5 confusing -- is going to state that a previous Girls
State citizen shall not be eligible as a candidate
6 because her application is not complete where, in
fact, a previous Girls State citizen is not eligible
7 to be a Girls State citizen. It needs to be two
separate code items.

8
9 GIRLS STATE CHAIRMAN RYAN: The two
sentences were in the original code. Actually, all
we're adding is if applications are not complete
10 because the first sentence in that code says
"previous Girls State citizens shall not be eligible
11 as a candidate." That means they can't go two years
in a row. Then the second sentence in that code
12 says, "The Department chairman may reject the
applicant if the applications are not complete."

13
14 PAST PRESIDENT HITCH: Madam President,
Shelby Hitch, Past Department President. Delores, I
think we need clarification on this. Why in the
15 world would a previous Girls State citizen even
receive an application?

16 [Applause]

17 PRESIDENT CAPAZZI: Susanne.

18
19 DELEGATE TOZIER: Susanne Tozier,
District 28. One of the comments that I think
people should be aware of, your unit chairman should
20 be looking at these applications because if they
reject it, they're not going to be getting their
21 money back, the units, so you're going to lose \$350.
You should be ensuring that these applications are
22 complete and she doesn't have to spend -- the
Department chairman doesn't have to spend the time.
23 The unit cannot afford to lose \$350.

24 [Applause]

25 PAST PRESIDENT HITCH: Madam President,
Shelby Hitch, Past Department -- what am I? Past

1 Department President. I would like to amend the
2 motion to remove the sentence "Previous Girls State
citizens shall not be eligible as a candidate."

3 [Applause]

4 PRESIDENT CAPAZZI: Ladies, there is an
5 amendment to the motion on the floor. We've had a
6 second to that amendment, that we remove the first
sentence "Previous Girls State citizens shall not be
eligible as a candidate."

7 Is there any discussion?

8 All those in favor, "aye."

9 Opposed, "no."

10 The amendment to the motion is accepted.

11 Now, then, we will -- is there any
12 further discussion on the original motion as
13 amended, which will read "The Department chairman
may reject any applicant if applications are not
complete"?

14 PAST PRESIDENT SHANK: Madam President,
15 Marjorie Shank, Past Department President, District
5. I'm concerned about the Girls State applicant
16 herself. I know it's terrible to have to send
postage back and forth, but to deny her because some
17 secretary or some president did not sign something
-- I think we ought to think carefully about saving
18 a nickel and losing a kid. I'm worried for fear
that applicants will be left out for some mistake
19 that a unit chairman made. I don't think that's
fair

20 [Applause]

21 PRESIDENT CAPAZZI: Vicki.

22 GIRLS STATE DIRECTOR CROW: Vicki Crow,
23 Girls State Director. This is addressing the
problem we're having with -- it is what, four or
24 five days before Girls State, and I still have
applications that are incomplete. I can't get them.
25 Now, we've tried. We've called the unit. We've
called the girl. Where does that leave us? I would
rather have them send an alternate where everything

1 is correct if we can't get it from the delegate.
[Applause]

2 PRESIDENT CAPAZZI: Any further
3 discussion?

4 All those in favor, "aye."

5 Opposed, "no."

6 The Code change has been accepted as
7 amended.

8 GIRLS STATE CHAIRMAN RYAN: For the
9 people at the head table, now you go to the single
sheet. That was an addition to the meeting.

10 At our committee meeting, Vicki Crow
11 presented the bids for colleges for 2010. Claremont
12 McKenna, where we're going this year, gave us a bid,
13 a complete-cost bid. This includes housing, food,
all the extra rooms that we need to use, picking up
our storage and bringing it in and taking it back,
picking up the girls at the airport and taking them
back, everything that we need for \$182,746.

14 University of the Pacific gave us a bid
15 of food and housing, \$174,650. Facilities such as
the auditorium, meeting rooms, and so forth totaled
\$20,010, for a total of 194,660.

16 Fresno State gave us a bid of the
17 residence halls and food for \$173,000. The
auditorium that we use up there is \$150 per hour.
18 Or if it's used more than once a day, they charge us
19 eight for a whole day, which is \$1800. That would
be a minimum cost at Fresno of 178,700.

20 Sacramento State, we got a bid only on
21 the residence halls because they have a different
office that handles each one of the parts. But we
22 did get a bid for the residence halls, which was
\$107,525. They didn't pursue the other.

23 Discussion followed. A motion was made
24 to remain at McKenna for 2010. The motion carried.
By the direction of the committee, I move the
25 acceptance of this motion.

PRESIDENT CAPAZZI: Is there any

1 discussion?

2 All those -- OOPS. I see her walking.
3 Okay. The motion on the floor is to remain at
4 Claremont McKenna for the year 2010.

5 PAST PRESIDENT KAPSALIS: Madam
6 Department President, I'm sorry, I was moving chairs
7 around. I did not hear all the information that
8 Delores was presenting. However, did she present
9 the costs that were involved? Were they the costs
10 that were in committee, the 182,000, and that is
11 just for housing and food.

12 GIRLS STATE CHAIRMAN RYAN: At McKenna
13 that is everything.

14 PAST PRESIDENT KAPSALIS: That does not
15 include the additional expenses that you have,
16 supplies, approximately \$32,000, that you spend on
17 stipends and the other things you need, is that
18 correct?

19 GIRLS STATE CHAIRMAN RYAN: That's
20 correct, that includes everything that we pay the
21 college, and their bill.

22 PAST PRESIDENT KAPSALIS: Okay. All
23 right. If you add the \$182,745 plus the \$32,147
24 that's in the budget under the Girls State budget,
25 that brings you a total of \$214,892. And if my
information is correct, that 182 is only five days,
is that correct?

GIRLS STATE CHAIRMAN RYAN: That would
be for six days. That's for next year.

PAST PRESIDENT KAPSALIS: I believe it
was for five days. Okay. Is Girls State going to
be held for five or six days?

GIRLS STATE CHAIRMAN RYAN: At McKenna,
it would be for five days.

PAST PRESIDENT KAPSALIS: So you're
proposing to shorten the Girls State session to five
days?

GIRLS STATE CHAIRMAN RYAN: Vicki, would
you like to come up. That's for 2010.

1
2 PAST PRESIDENT KAPSALIS: For 2010, five
3 days. Okay. That's a total cost of 214,892 with a
4 projected budget of your other expenses, right?

5 GIRLS STATE CHAIRMAN RYAN: Probably.
6 All I figured, Vicki, what the college bill would
7 be. Because the other expenses is where we can cut,
8 like we have this year, by having the supplies -- a
9 lot of the supplies are being donated and all of
10 that, and we can cut those expenses. This is an
11 expense we cannot cut because that's the bill we're
12 going to get from the college.

13 PAST PRESIDENT KAPSALIS: Okay. My
14 point is. If you look at the cost per day that
15 we're spending on this program, it's \$35,301 per
16 day. I just think the members need to think about
17 this. The amount of money -- this program is a
18 tremendous program, but I really, truly feel we need
19 to go to an avenue of reviewing our expenses.
20 We're spending in one day at Girls State almost our
21 entire VA&R program for the year, \$40,000. I think
22 we seriously need a committee to start reducing
23 these expenses. It's moving up almost \$8,000 per
24 year. It goes up just for food and lodging almost
25 \$8,000 a year. We're going to budget ourselves out
of this program.

GIRLS STATE CHAIRMAN RYAN: I agree.

PAST PRESIDENT KAPSALIS: That's it.

[Applause]

PRESIDENT CAPAZZI: Is there further
discussion?

Madam Chairman, the other figures you
gave us for the other campuses, are they five-day or
six-day figures?

GIRLS STATE CHAIRMAN RYAN: Five days.

PRESIDENT CAPAZZI: All the figures she
gave you are for five days for 2010.

PAST PRESIDENT LEE: Madam President,
Madeline Lee, Past Department President. I know
that we need to focus on our veterans, but the Girls

1 State program is a premier program and one of our
2 most important programs also. Costs are going to go
3 up. However, I think we need, on the one hand, to
4 look at what we have and start thinking future-wise
5 in terms of how we can keep this program. Not using
6 money here. Maybe find some outside sources to help
7 us to support the program rather than look at
8 eliminating the program. That's the only thing I
9 have to say.

10 [Applause]

11 PRESIDENT CAPAZZI: Thank you, Madeline.
12 Is there any further discussion?

13 All those in favor, "aye."

14 Opposed, "no."

15 Motion carried.

16 GIRLS STATE CHAIRMAN RYAN: Okay. As
17 the discussion followed on how to balance our
18 budget. A motion was made to increase the 320 the
19 unit pays to 350 and increase the parent fee to 500.
20 Excuse me. Well, I need glasses. To \$50. Motion
21 carried.

22 By direction of the committee, I move
23 the acceptance of this motion.

24 A DELEGATE: Repeat the motion.

25 PRESIDENT CAPAZZI: I cannot hear up
here.

GIRLS STATE CHAIRMAN RYAN: A motion was
made to increase the 320 the unit pays to 350, and
the parents fee that they pay from 30 to 50. Motion
carried.

By direction of the committee, I move
the acceptance of this motion.

[Seconded]

PRESIDENT CAPAZZI: Is there any
discussion?

All those in favor, "aye."

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Opposed, "no."
The "ayes" have it. The motion passed.

[Applause]

GIRLS STATE CHAIRMAN RYAN: The committee came up with another idea that I like.

PRESIDENT CAPAZZI: Ladies, please listen.

GIRLS STATE CHAIRMAN RYAN: A motion was made in committee to have an opportunity drawing with cash prizes. The tickets to be sold by the units throughout the year. Motion carried.

By direction of the committee, I move the acceptance of this motion.

[Seconded]

PRESIDENT CAPAZZI: Is there any discussion?

All those in favor, "aye."

Opposed, "no."

Motion carried.

GIRLS STATE CHAIRMAN RYAN: Now we go back to the regular report. The certificates for 100 percent reporting was awarded to 19 districts. The second- and third-place awards were presented in committee. A list has been posted. And a special award was presented to Geraldine Shippee, District 12. And I loved her note on this. She has her first computer at the age of 84.

[Applause]

GIRLS STATE CHAIRMAN RYAN: We're never too old to learn.

This completes the report of the Girls State Committee meeting. By direction of the committee, I move adoption of this report.

[Applause]

1
2 GIRLS STATE CHAIRMAN RYAN: Madam
3 President, may I continue with a short supplemental
4 and first-place awards?

5 PRESIDENT CAPAZZI: Yes, you may.

6 GIRLS STATE CHAIRMAN RYAN: The
7 Department of California's theme this year is
8 "Charting A Course To New Horizons." The 188 unit
9 crews of the "USS Spaceship Future" prepared to
10 blast off and proceed on the voyage to select 487
11 young ladies to attend the 2009 session of
12 California Girls State, at "Space Station
13 Education." Twenty-nine crews found 34 new schools
14 to add to the program. We had ten new crews this
15 year selecting twelve new schools. Thirteen of our
16 own Junior Members were selected to attend.

17 Our crews worked hard on projects to
18 raise funds throughout the year. Some of the ideas
19 were fashion shows, bake sales, rummage sales,
20 opportunity drawings, breakfasts, lunches, dinners,
21 and other ingenious ways of earning funds for the
22 program. They spread the word to other sources to
23 aid in the cost of sending a delegate. The total
24 donated from other sources was \$30,010 from the
25 American Legion posts, schools, other units,
organizations, individual members and private
donations. 31 units reported donating a total of
\$1140 to the Department office for the Girls State
program.

The district crews held orientation
teas, luncheons, and dinners where the delegates,
alternates, and their parents were able to learn
about the program. Girls State staff members and
former Girls State citizens spoke at many of the
orientations. The news was spread through newspaper
articles, school newsletters, post and unit
bulletins and just talking about the program.

At this time I would like to present my
first-place awards. First place for the Unit
Supplemental goes to Scotti Davis and Lynne Clarke,
Unit 133, District 29.

[Applause]

GIRLS STATE CHAIRMAN RYAN: Since you're

1 the same district -- I guess these ladies aren't
2 here.

3 DELEGATE TAYLOR: I'm sorry. They
4 couldn't make it.

5 GIRLS STATE CHAIRMAN RYAN: You might as
6 well stay here, Joan. The first place District
7 Supplemental goes to District 29, Joan Taylor,
8 chairman.

9 [Applause]

10 GIRLS STATE CHAIRMAN RYAN: And I have
11 to say this. For years Joan came to Girls State as
12 a house mom. Grandma.

13 At this time I would like to have
14 Valarie Hardy run up here, please. While she is
15 coming, I will tell you this is Valarie's last year
16 as chief counselor. She has been coming to Girls
17 State and has been our chief counselor for the last
18 five years. I would like to introduce her to the
19 audience. She is a joy to work with.

20 [Applause]

21 GIRLS STATE CHAIRMAN RYAN: She lives,
22 breathes, and sleeps Girls State.

23 The last two years she has come from
24 Colorado to be our chief counselor. This is her
25 first convention. She walked into the meeting and
got put to work. Val, thank you.

26 [Applause]

27 GIRLS STATE CHAIRMAN RYAN: Is there any
28 of the Girls State committee still in the audience?
29 Girls State committee. I didn't see any of them.
30 Oh, there is Kate over there, our nurse. I missed
31 her this morning. And Zana Chaney.

32 [Applause]

33 GIRLS STATE CHAIRMAN RYAN: Madam
34 President, that concludes my report.

35 PRESIDENT CAPAZZI: Thank you, Delores.
May we hear from our director, Vicki Crow, at this

1 time.

2 GIRLS STATE DIRECTOR CROW: Good
3 morning. Madam President, may I take a moment of
4 personal privilege?

4 PRESIDENT CAPAZZI: I'm sorry.

5 GIRLS STATE DIRECTOR CROW: May I take a
6 moment of personal privilege?

6 PRESIDENT CAPAZZI: Yes.

7
8 GIRLS STATE DIRECTOR CROW: I want to
9 thank every one of the units and districts for their
10 support to Girls State. You lowered our budget
11 beyond belief by your donations and the items you
12 brought for Girls State. Don't stop. Thank you.

10 [Applause]

11
12 GIRLS STATE DIRECTOR CROW: The 2009
13 session of Girls State will be held at Claremont
14 McKenna college from June 27th to July 2nd. The
15 session was shortened one day to accommodate the
16 needs of McKenna. The 2009 chief counselor, Valarie
17 Hardy, who you just met, and her counselors did an
18 amazing, really amazing job of rewriting the entire
19 program to accommodate the loss of one day. Can we
20 have a hand for her, applause for her, please.

16 [Applause]

17
18 GIRLS STATE DIRECTOR CROW: The
19 counseling staff has also elected to donate their
20 stipends back to the program, which is a savings of
21 approximately \$3500. Thank you, Valarie.

20 [Applause]

21
22 GIRLS STATE DIRECTOR CROW: Now you will
23 find this interesting. To date I have 489 delegates
24 and 60 staff. Somebody just said 487, so I think
25 Doris and I need to get together. This year the
cost will be \$33 per person for room, no linen, and
27.50 for food. That's \$60.50 a day per person. In
addition to the room and board, we also are charged
for the auditorium and additional room usage. The
approximate cost of the program, with that room
usage, will be \$175.715.

1
2 The regular rate at McKenna is \$45 a day
3 for housing and 31.50 for meals, which is 76.50 per
4 day. Add to that the facilities usage at \$20 an
5 hour for classrooms and \$60 an hour for auditoriums
6 and other lecture halls.

7
8 To give you an idea of the cost, we use
9 the auditorium about 38 hours a week. The reason we
10 were able to get lower rates is because McKenna had
11 two conferences cancel, and they were willing to
12 decrease their room and board and give a flat rate
13 for the usage of their outbuildings.

14
15 I have given a certificate of
16 appreciation in committee to those I'm aware donated
17 items and/or monies. Thanks to all of you for
18 helping making 2009 Girls State successful.

19
20 I copied the revised Girls State needs
21 list and attached it to everyone. If you want a
22 copy from me, just e-mail me. It was handed out in
23 committee. I think it will give everyone a better
24 idea what you need to ask when you're checking
25 colleges. Please don't quit checking colleges. You
might want to go on the internet and check Unique
Venue. Let your fingers do the walking. They have
all the colleges and conference sites in the state.

Madam President, this concludes my
report. It has been a pleasure to serve as your
2009 Girls State Director.

PRESIDENT CAPAZZI: Thank you, Vicki.

[Applause]

PAST PRESIDENT PARK: Madam President,
Vicki, can I just take a minute to, as a previous
Girls State Director, to thank you, and I'm sure we
all want to thank you, for your years of dedicated
service to this program. Sleepless nights, a lot of
hard work. It is a full-time job. So, Vicki, thank
you very much for what you have done for our Girls
State program. Thank you.

[Applause]

PRESIDENT CAPAZZI: We will now hear
from our Poppy Chairman, Harriet Clendenin.

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POPPY COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN CLENDENIN:

Good morning. Can you all hear me fine? No? I'll try to speak up.

The Poppy Convention Committee met on June 18, 2009, in the University Room at the Marriott, Riverside. The statistical report of this program is not listed in the Book of Reports due to the closing date of statistics for this program. I will now list the statistics.

Number of units ordering Poppies, 283.

Number of Poppies ordered, 393,663.

Number of units increasing Poppy orders over last year, 72.

Number of units decreasing Poppy orders over last year, 52.

Number of units sponsoring Poppy poster contests, eight.

Number of certificates of appreciation presented, 180.

Number of units contacting the media, 71.

Number of units sending a Poppy to elected officials, 46.

Total contributions from Poppy distribution, \$181,462.

Number of units selecting Miss Poppy 6 to 12 years old, eight.

Number of units selecting Miss Poppy 12 to 18 years old, three.

Number of Poppies made by our veterans, 405,000.

Total amount earned by Poppy makers, \$40,500.

The following were appointed, Melanie

1 Taylor District 5, was appointed secretary. Loretta
2 Marsh; District 16, was appointed chaplain. Judie
3 Tabacchi, District 18, served as sergeant-at-arms.
24 Districts answered roll call, and there were
4 seven guests.

4 Due to waiting for a note from the
5 Finance Committee, 100 percent reporting
6 certificates went to 23 districts. Second- and
7 third-place awards were presented for unit
8 supplementals, district supplementals, and Poppy
9 Poster Contest winners.

7 The code was read, and the following
8 changes were approved. We have some proposed code
9 changes. Under Poppy Code No. 2, it currently
10 reads, "Units shall pay the Department office 15
11 cents per Poppy. Veterans making the Poppy shall
12 receive ten cents per Poppy. The balance of five
13 cents shall be designated to cover expenses of
14 materials and administrative."

12 Due to the price increase from National
13 on the Poppy kits, the new code, if approved, will
14 read, "Units shall pay the Department 18 cents per
15 Poppy. Veterans making the Poppy shall receive ten
16 cents per Poppy. The balance of eight cents shall
17 be designated to cover expenses of materials and
18 administrative."

16 On behalf of the convention Poppy
17 Committee, I move for the acceptance of this change.

18 PRESIDENT CAPAZZI: It's been moved and
19 seconded for this code change. "Units shall pay the
20 Department 18 cents per Poppy. Veterans making the
21 Poppy shall receive ten cents per Poppy. The
22 balance of eight cents shall be designated to cover
23 expenses of materials and administrative."

21 Is there any discussion?

22 All those in favor, "aye."

23 Opposed, "no."

24 Code change accepted.

25 POPPY COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN CLENDENIN:
Thank you. Under Poppy Code, we would like to add

1 Code 13. This is directly from the Finance Code.
2 "An administrative fee of ten percent shall be
3 transferred to the general fund from the cost of the
4 Poppies purchased from the units."

5 On behalf of the Poppy committee, I move
6 for the acceptance of this addition.

7 PRESIDENT CAPAZZI: It has been moved
8 and seconded to add Code 13 from the Finance Code to
9 read, "An administrative fee of ten percent shall be
10 transferred to the general fund from the cost of the
11 Poppies purchased from the units."

12 Is there any discussion?

13 All those in favor, "aye."

14 Opposed, "no."

15 Code change added.

16 POPPY COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN CLENDENIN:
17 Thank you. We also would like add a Code No. 14,
18 also from the Finance Code. "Unit donations to the
19 welfare funds of ten percent of the Poppy proceeds
20 shall be used for the Children and Youth, Education,
21 Past Presidents Parley Nursing Scholarship, and
22 Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation budgets. The
23 balance from the previous year may be used, and the
24 proposed budget should clearly reflect the use of
25 the previous year's balance."

On behalf of the convention Poppy
committee, I move for the acceptance of this
addition.

[Seconded]

PRESIDENT CAPAZZI: It's been moved and
seconded to add Code 14 from the Finance Code to
read, "Unit donations to the welfare funds of ten
percent of the Poppy proceeds shall be used for
Children and Youth, Education, Past Presidents
Parley Nursing Scholarship, and Veterans Affairs and
Rehabilitation budgets. The balance from the
previous year may be used, and the proposed budget
should clearly reflect the use of the previous
year's balance."

1 Is there any discussion?

2 All those in favor, "aye."

3 Opposed, "no."

4 Code 14 added, accepted.

5 POPPY COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN CLENDENIN:
6 Thank you. Under Production Code 6, the code now
7 reads, "Two shipment lists shall be sent to the
8 production managers indicating the number of Poppies
9 for each order and the individual's name and address
10 of the recipient. An amount based on the previous
11 year's allocation shall be advanced to the managers
12 for shipment of Poppies to the units by Parcel Post
13 with tracking receipt, with cost charged to the
14 Poppy expense."

15 The code, if approved, will now read,
16 "Two shipment lists shall be sent to the production
17 managers indicating the number of Poppies for each
18 order and the individual's name and address of the
19 recipient. An amount based on previous year's
20 allocation shall be advanced to the managers for
21 shipment of Poppies to the units by the most
22 cost-effective means and charged to the Poppy
23 expense account."

24 On behalf of the convention Poppy
25 committee, I move for the acceptance of this code
change.

[Seconded]

19 PRESIDENT CAPAZZI: It's been moved and
20 seconded to change Poppy Production Code 6 to read,
21 "Two shipment lists shall be sent to the production
22 managers indicating the number of Poppies for each
23 order and the individual's name and address of the
24 recipient. An amount based on previous year's
25 allocation shall be advanced to the managers for
shipment of Poppies to the units by the most
cost-effective means, and charged to the Poppy
expense account."

24 Is there any discussion?

25 All those in favor, "aye."

1 Opposed, "no."

2 Code 6 change accepted.

3 POPPY COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN CLENDENIN:
4 Thank you very much. Under Poppy Production, No.
5 11, the code now reads, "Annual report forms shall
6 conform with standard time frames. Unit report
7 forms are to be sent to the district chairman by the
8 fourth Friday in April. District report forms are
9 to be sent to the Department chairman by the second
10 Friday in May. Poppy reports are to be sent to the
11 district chairman by May 28th and to the Department
12 chairman by June 5th."

13 To comply with National's requirements,
14 the new code, if approved, will read, "Unit Poppy
15 and financial report forms shall be sent to the
16 district chairman no later than two days following
17 Memorial Day. Copies of the Poppy financial report
18 shall be sent immediately to the Department office
19 with checks and Department chairman. District
20 reports are due to the Department chairman by June
21 5th."

22 On behalf of the convention Poppy
23 Committee, I move for the acceptance of this code
24 change.

25 [Seconded]

26 PRESIDENT CAPAZZI: It's been moved and
27 seconded to change this code to comply with National
28 requirements, and it will read, "Unit Poppy and
29 financial report forms shall be sent to the district
30 chairman no later than two days following Memorial
31 Day. Copies of the Poppy financial report shall be
32 sent immediately to the Department office with check
33 and Department chairman. District reports are due
34 to the Department chairman by June 5."

35 Is there any discussion?

36 All those in favor, "aye."

37 Opposed, "no."

38 Code change accepted.

39 POPPY COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN CLENDENIN:

1 Thank you. Having no further business and no more
2 time, that concludes the report of the committee
meeting. I move for its acceptance.

3 [Applause]

4 POPPY COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN CLENDENIN Madam
President, may I go on with my supplemental?

5 PRESIDENT CAPAZZI: Yes, you may.

6 POPPY COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN CLENDENIN:

7 Thank you. While charting a course to new horizons,
8 the Department of California has a strong tradition
9 of working the Poppy program successfully. This
10 year is no exception, with every viable unit in the
11 Department ordering poppies. More units increased
12 orders over last year, but we did show a slight
13 decline in the number ordered. Ports of call
included Yountville Veterans Home, Fresno VA, Long
14 Beach VA, Chula Vista Veterans Home, the WAVE
15 Clinic, San Diego VA, and Barstow Veterans Home.
16 Everywhere we went praises were sung over our
17 fantastic depts and reps.

18 In January I revisited the Long Beach VA
19 to talk about becoming a Poppy production facility,
20 and little did I know that they would begin
21 production immediately.

22 In Barstow we have begun the task of
23 finding out if they have interested Poppy producers,
24 and my hope is that they will join the other four
25 facilities in producing Poppies.

As the Department chairman I had the
26 opportunity to travel the state, and at many area
27 and district meetings I requested time to address
28 the Legion and SAL members about the importance of
29 their help and participation during Poppy Week.
30 Units reported 200 Legion and SAL members helped
31 distribute and offer our Poppies. Juniors were also
32 a big help. At Junior Conference this chairman gave
33 instruction about the poem "In Flanders Field," a
34 history lesson of the Poppy, and encouraged to
35 participate in Miss Poppy contests and aid their
unit when offering Poppies.

The Juniors that participated with their
units totaled 121. Many units reported that they

1 had planned for Poppy Week months in advance,
2 getting permission to offer our Poppies in front of
3 stores and post offices. They also arranged for
4 interviews with radio and television stations, and
5 many wrote a press release for their local
6 newspapers. Two units reported that they had
7 successful interviews with television stations, and
8 many more reported articles printed in their
9 newspapers.

10 All reported the same thing, educating
11 the public on the significance of the red crepe
12 Poppy flower, relating who makes the Poppy, and
13 drawing attention to our units and the positive
14 impact we have on our veterans and our communities.
15 The ability to offer the public for many units is a
16 challenge, not being able to stand in stores or any
17 other place has forced the units to put on their
18 thinking caps.

19 Many units report sending out letters to
20 the entire Legion family, others to businesses in
21 their communities. One unit reported they have a
22 Pennies for Poppies Program to encourage everyone to
23 participate. They report that many came in with
24 rolls or bags of pennies. "It all spends the same,"
25 was the comment. While most units offered during
Poppy Week, several request and get permission
during their local Memorial Day events.

26 Until this year, I called the Poppies
27 leftovers, but in my house leftovers go into the
28 refrigerator, then tossed in the trash in about a
29 week. I have learned to call them un-offered.
30 There have been some creative ways units are using
31 the un-offered Poppies. One Unit reported punching
32 holes in Styrofoam cups and covering them with
33 Poppies. Out of the top of the cup lays a light
34 box. Another made leis that were made of ribbons,
35 Poppies, and straw pieces in between. While
36 corsages and boutonnieres are not unusual, it's a
37 good thing that one unit had un-offered Poppies
38 lying around. They were asked to make 290 corsages
39 and boutonnieres for a naturalization ceremony.

40 On Mother's Day one unit reports making
41 corsages but adds a ribbon to them. If their mom is
42 alive, they get a red ribbon. And if their mom is
43 deceased, they are given one with a white ribbon.
44 Thank you notes to returning OEF and OIF veterans

1 have Poppies inside from a unit. Displays and
2 memorial wreaths adorn many units and posts all year
3 long and are brought out or made anew for
4 celebrations, fund-raisers, and Girls State
5 luncheons and teas, not just at post halls or
6 displays on show. Units report putting display and
7 educational materials in libraries, museums, and
8 schools where the public can see and learn at their
9 leisure.

6 At this time there are four special
7 people I need to thank for their tireless efforts in
8 getting the Poppies made and distributed. Please
9 hold your applause until all four have been
10 introduced. Melanie Taylor from Yountville, Trish
11 Holmberg from the WAVE Clinic, Lois Cornish from
12 Chula Vista, and Trish Laundry from Long Beach.

10 [Applause]

11 POPPY COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN CLENDENIN:
12 These wonderful ladies have worked very hard.

13 Thank you, Madam President, for giving
14 me the opportunity to be the Department Poppy
15 Chairman. It has been fun traveling with you, and a
16 huge learning experience for me.

15 Now, Madam President, may I give out my
16 first-place awards?

17 PRESIDENT CAPAZZI: Yes, you may.

18 POPPY COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN CLENDENIN:
19 Okay. The first place Supplemental goes to Unit
20 197, Judy Gama, District 2.

19 [Applause]

20 DELEGATE MIKESELL: Ladies, the lady
21 receiving this award, this is her second year as
22 Poppy chairman. And in Redding, California, she
23 took in \$4,709.06 cents.

23 [Applause]

24 POPPY COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN CLENDENIN: Her
25 supplemental was beautiful.

My first place District Supplemental

1 goes to District 23, Christine Trombley.

2 [Applause]

3 POPPY COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN CLENDENIN: She
4 is not here? Or anybody? I did call them out. I
5 know it was sent.

6 I would also like to give out the first
7 place Poppy Display awards. And the first place in
8 the President's Theme went to District 14, Cecil
9 Cox.

10 [Applause]

11 POPPY COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN CLENDENIN: It
12 was a ship. I have here a certificate.
13 Okay?

14 And the first place in the Display
15 Contest Viewers Choice went to Karen Munt. I'm
16 sorry. Loretta Wine.

17 [Applause]

18 POPPY COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN CLENDENIN:
19 Free form. And very quickly, Loretta is a
20 three-month member, and she was calling me and
21 asking me what a display even looks like. She ended
22 up with first place.

23 [Applause]

24 POPPY COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN CLENDENIN: In
25 the Poppy Poster, the first place in the Class 6
went to Sarah Scott also from District 14.

26 [Applause]

27 POPPY COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN CLENDENIN: Her
28 poster did go to National.

29 In the Class 2, it went to Kathleen
30 Delsid, District 24, Unit 43. And hers also went to
31 National.

32 [Applause]

33 POPPY COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN CLENDENIN: In
34 the Display Contest President's Choice, this cool

1 ribbon went to Sharon Bert-Walker.

2 [Applause]

3 POPPY COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN CLENDENIN: The
4 Display Contest Viewers Choice went to Karen Bunch,
District 16.

5 [Applause]

6 PRESIDENT CAPAZZI: Would the
7 Sergeant-at-Arms and Marshal with the Distinguished
8 Guest chairman please present our very special
9 guest.

10 [Applause]

11 PRESIDENT CAPAZZI: Ladies, our young
12 little Miss Poppy is Alyssa Hope LoDuca.

13 [Applause]

14 MS. ALYSSA HOPE LoDUCA: Good morning.
15 I would like to read my essay to you. As a Junior
16 member of the American Legion Auxiliary, I was happy
17 to hand out the memorial Poppy to children, mothers
18 and fathers on May 12th, 2009. I collected \$45 in
19 donations at pavilions in Madera Ranch. I met a
20 World War II veteran, a current soldier in the Army,
21 and his father was a veteran, and a woman whose
22 husband who had been a patient in the veterans
23 hospital. They shared their stories with me, and I
24 felt glad to have more information. It was a
25 privilege to honor the veterans and to be a part of
this. Thank you.

[Standing ovation]

MS. LoDUCA: I would like to present
this award to Madam President.

[Applause]

PRESIDENT CAPAZZI: We want to thank
you, Alyssa, for your dedication to our program and
for your spirit for our veterans and coming here
today and sharing your moments with us, and we hope
you continue and share your story with some of our
classmates, too. Thank you so much. We are very
proud of you.

1 [Applause]

2 POPPY COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN CLENDENIN: May
3 I approach your station?

4 PRESIDENT CAPAZZI: She is seven years
5 old, ladies.

6 [Applause]

7 POPPY COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN CLENDENIN: I
8 had been requesting that people send me stuff for a
9 Poppy book in memory of our year.

10 PRESIDENT CAPAZZI: Well, thank you. A
11 Poppy book from various pictures taken around the
12 Department, people working the Poppy program, making
13 Poppies, and she put this book together for me.
14 Thank you, Harriet.

15 [Applause]

16 POPPY COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN CLENDENIN:
17 Ladies, we collected \$164 off the Viewers Choice
18 Award. Here is the money.

19 [Applause]

20 PRESIDENT CAPAZZI: Thank you, Harriet,
21 for your hard work this year. I will pass this on
22 to the Secretary-Treasurer.

23 Lucille, all the delegates who were in
24 the Finance Committee need to go with the Finance
25 Committee outside to discuss the changes from the
26 Girls State Committee. Outside the doors, please.
27 Lucille will find a place for you to discuss. If we
28 could move quietly and quickly. Thank you. Those
29 are the delegates that were in the Finance
30 Committee.

31 At this time we will hear from our
32 National Executive Committee Woman, Shelby Hitch.
33 I'm sorry. But she is also National Security
34 Chairman, and that's the report she is going to
35 give.

36 NATIONAL SECURITY COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN
37 HITCH: Maybe. Good morning, ladies. Did we have a
38 good time at the banquet last night?

1
2 Madam Department President, the
3 convention committee on National Security met on
4 June 18th in the Regency Salon 1 meeting room at the
5 Marriott Hotel in Riverside, California. The
6 statistical report of this chairman appears in the
7 Book of Reports. Michelle Soares of District 28 was
8 appointed secretary. Marge Shank of District 5 was
9 appointed chaplain and offered prayer. Alma -- I'll
10 mispronounce her name -- Jarquin of District 21 was
11 appointed sergeant-at-arms and led in the Pledge of
12 Allegiance. We had a total of 21 district delegates
13 answer roll call, and there are four visitors
14 present.

15
16 It wasn't a long committee meeting. I
17 think it took us a total of 20 minutes. The
18 Department Code was read, and the following
19 recommendation was made. But it's only a
20 housekeeping, and it's a change to Code 6.

21
22 Code 6 reads, "The Annual report form
23 shall conform with the standard time frames. Unit
24 report forms are to be sent to the district chairmen
25 by the fourth Friday in April."

26
27 The next sentence is where we are making
28 the change. It states now "District unit reports
29 are to be sent to the Department chairmen by the
30 second Friday in May."

31
32 We are doing the housekeeping change and
33 removing the word "unit." "District unit," it
34 states now. We want to change it to strictly
35 "District reports."

36
37 Madam President, this concludes the
38 committee report. May I continue with my
39 supplemental?

40 [Applause]

41 PRESIDENT CAPAZZI: Yes, you may.

42
43 NATIONAL SECURITY COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN
44 HITCH: The Department of California's National
45 Security team are the "spies in the skies," keeping
46 our eyes and ears open for National, God or man-made
47 emergency. Our units and districts have done an
48 outstanding job in all phases of the program. The

1 units within the districts embrace the National
2 Security Program just as strongly as their
3 dedication to our Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation
4 Program. They worked as a team with the American
5 Legion, The Sons of the American Legion, and the
6 Legion Riders.

7 Many hours were spent in hosting,
8 welcome home ceremonies, having picnics for the
9 troops and their families, giving gifts, toys and
10 flags to all that attended.

11 Lest we not forget the families of those
12 men and women who are deployed, the units and
13 districts have been supportive in many ways,
14 attending funerals, providing food, flowers and
15 monetary donations when the need arose.

16 We babysat, cleaned up yards, mowed the
17 grass and edging, assisted in any way they could.

18 Our POW/MIA flags were on display at
19 every meeting, and some members fly the flags at
20 their own homes along with the American Flag.

21 One member had an uncle who passed away
22 when he was a POW during World War II. He was a
23 prisoner for three years, being captured at 19 years
24 of age. This member was asked to speak at his
25 funeral. Many units had a recognition day honoring
those who are still in captive or missing in action.

Units spent 40,204 hours clipping
coupons and sending them to the commissaries in
Germany, South Korea, Japan, Okinawa, the
Netherlands, Italy, Turkey, Spain, and to the United
Kingdom. Many letters of appreciation were received
thanking the American Legion Auxiliary for their
support.

Some units provided newborn infants
clothing and donated them to the Navy/Marine Corp.
Relief. Also prepared baskets at Christmas time and
on Mother's Day.

Many units participated in educating
their members and their communities on how to be
prepared if a national or man-made emergency
occurred. We handed out fliers. We worked with the
law enforcement and fire departments. Some units

1 sponsored a blood donor program. As some of know,
2 our blood supply is low in California.

3 Some units have collected cell phones
4 and ink jet cartridges to help offset the cost of
5 shipping boxes and items overseas. They have also
6 purchased sweat suits for the veterans returning
7 home so they have something warm to wear
8 to the clinics. Many members have made Toasty Toes,
9 comfort quilts, and shipped packages to the troops
10 overseas to let them know they are not forgotten.

11 We have adopted ROTC/JR, ROTC units,
12 giving out certificates and medals.

13 We have given to the USO, with monetary
14 donation along with games, books and food, making a
15 comfort zone for our military returning home, giving
16 them a place to rest and relax until the time comes
17 for them to depart.

18 We have also honored the Gold Star
19 Mothers and the Gold Star wives at various events,
20 especially on Veterans Day and Memorial Day,
21 presenting them with our banners, which they display
22 with honor.

23 Our "spies in the skies" are keeping a
24 close eye on the communities, and we are prepared to
25 come to the front to aide in any way we can. This
Department chairman is very proud of the National
Security chairmen for all they do.

Will all National Security Chairmen
please stand for recognition.

[Applause]

NATIONAL SECURITY COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN
HITCH: Madam President, this concludes my report.
May I continue with the awards?

PRESIDENT CAPAZZI: Yes, you may.

NATIONAL SECURITY COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN
HITCH: Second- and third place was given in
committee. First place Overall District Report goes
to District 18, Norma DuVall.

[Applause]

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NATIONAL SECURITY COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN

HITCH: First place Best Overall Unit Report, that has gone on to National, goes to Dorothy Franceschi, Monterey Cypress Unit 694.

[Applause]

NATIONAL SECURITY COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN

HITCH: Madam President, I have one more thing that I need to take care of. I was remiss when I gave my NEC report the day before yesterday. I have been reminded that when I attended the post-NEC meeting at National last year that when I gave my report I omitted a very important item. Shame on me. But at National convention this year there will be a price increase for our per capita. We don't know until it comes to the convention floor, but National is asking for a two- to four-dollar increase. I know that's going to make it very difficult on some of our units, but I felt like our body needed to know so that when you're preparing for your upcoming year with your budgets and so forth, you really need to consider because we don't know if it's going to be two dollars 2 or if it's going to be four until Madam President returns as NEC from convention.

Thank you very much, Madam President. I have a appreciated this.

PRESIDENT CAPAZZI: Thank you, Shelby.

[Applause]

PAST PRESIDENT KAPSALIS: I want you to know we have a young lady and young man here, and they are charting a course to new horizons and a new venture.

PRESIDENT CAPAZZI: How wonderful. They have their new nightwear T-shirts on.

[Applause]

PRESIDENT CAPAZZI: Thank you. Two new recruits.

We are now going to hear from our Membership Chairman, Norma DuVall.

1 Ladies, please listen. Would the
2 district presidents and their membership chairmen
3 please quietly go to the back of the room. District
4 presidents and their membership chairmen quietly
5 make their way to the back of the room. Thank you.

6 Okay, ladies, if you will please listen
7 while Norma gives her report.

8 MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN DuVALL:
9 Madam Department President, the convention committee
10 on Membership and Unit Development and
11 Revitalization met on June 18th, 2009, in the
12 Orangecrest Room of the Marriott Hotel, Riverside,
13 California. The statistical report of this chairman
14 appears on Page 19 of the book of reports. There is
15 a correction for the number of units qualifying for
16 Department Citation. The correct number is two
17 instead of 41. I think that was explained in
18 committee, the reason for that correction.

19 Diana Moreno, District 19, was appointed
20 secretary. Anette McKendry, District 16, offered
21 prayer. Connie Jarvis, District 26, was appointed
22 sergeant-at-arms. A total of 19 district delegates
23 answered roll call. There were seven visitors
24 present.

25 Unit Development and Revitalization
26 Chairman, Barbara LaDoucer, introduced -- well, she
27 didn't have any committee members there, but she was
28 present and gave a short report and presented her
29 awards.

30 The Department Membership Code was read,
31 and the following changes were made. Department
32 Awards B, Department Citation now reads, "Department
33 Citation awarded to units attaining goal into the
34 Department office by postmarked date of March 31st,
35 and joint participation in the following programs:
36 Americanism, Children and Youth, Education,
37 Legislative, Poppy, Veterans Affairs and
38 Rehabilitation, and filing a unit activity report
39 with the district president by the deadline date."

40 We have a proposed change to this Code
41 and, with its adoption, Department Awards B,
42 Department Citation, will now read, "Department
43 Awards B Department Citation awarded to units
44 attaining goal into the Department office by April

1 1st and showing participation in the following
2 programs: Americanism, Children and Youth,
3 Education, Legislative, Poppy, Veterans Affairs and
4 Rehabilitation, and filing a unit activity report
5 with the district president by May 30 and a copy of
6 the unit activity report forwarded by the district
7 president to the Department Membership chairman by
8 June 5."

9 Madam Department President, by direction
10 of the convention committee, I move the adoption of
11 this code change.

12 [Seconded]

13 PRESIDENT CAPAZZI: It has been moved
14 and seconded to change Department Awards B,
15 Department Citation to read, "Awarded to units
16 attaining goal into the Department office by April 1
17 and showing participation in the following programs:
18 Americanism, Children and Youth, Education,
19 Legislative, Poppy, Veterans Affairs and
20 Revitalization, and filing a unit activity report
21 with the district president by May 30, and a copy of
22 the unit activity report forwarded by the district
23 president to the Department Membership chairman by
24 June 5."

25 Is there any discussion?

All those in favor, "aye."

Opposed, "no."

Code change accepted.

MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN DuVALL:
Department Awards F, the Colleen Award, Marjorie
McDonald, now reads, "A Citation plus \$100 to be
used to promote the program of Education. This
award will be under the jurisdiction of the
Department Membership Chairman with the following
rules:

"1. Unit must have received a
Department Membership citation.

"2. Unit must have filed an activity
report with district president.

1 "3. Activity report must show
2 participation in the following programs:
3 Americanism, Children and Youth, Education,
4 Legislative, Poppy, Veterans Affairs and
5 Rehabilitation.

6 "4. Unit shall attach a written
7 supplemental report which shows activities in each
8 program, hours spent, and dollars spent."

9 We have a proposed change to this Code.
10 With its adoption, Department Awards F, the Colleen
11 Award, Marjorie McDonald, will now read, "Department
12 Awards F, the Colleen Award, Marjorie McDonald. A
13 citation plus \$100 to be used for multiprogram of
14 Education. This award will be under the
15 jurisdiction of the Department Membership Chairman
16 with the following rules:

17 "1. The unit must have received a
18 Department Membership citation.

19 "2. The unit must have filed an
20 activity report with the district president.

21 "3. Activity report must show
22 participation in the following programs:
23 Americanism, Children and Youth, Education,
24 Legislative, Poppy, Veterans Affairs and
25 Rehabilitation."

 Madam Department President, by direction
of the convention committee, I move the adoption of
this code change.

[Seconded]

PRESIDENT CAPAZZI: It's been moved and
seconded to change Department Awards F, the Colleen
Award, to read as follows: "A citation plus \$100 to
be used to promote the program of Education. This
award will be under the jurisdiction of the
Department Membership chairman with the following
rules.

"1. Unit must have received a
Department Membership citation.

"2. Unit must have filed an activity
report with their district president.

1 "3. Activity report must show
2 participation in the following programs:
3 Americanism, Children and Youth, Education,
4 Legislative, Poppy, Veterans Affairs and
5 Rehabilitation."

6 Is there any discussion?

7 All those in favor, "aye."

8 Opposed, "no."

9 Code change accepted.

10 MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN DuVALL:
11 There were no resolutions or recommendations. 100
12 percent reporting certificates were presented to 23
13 districts. The second- and third-place award
14 certificates of recognition and membership promotion
15 drawings were presented in committee or later, with
16 the list included for the districts. The list is
17 also posted in the Department convention office and
18 attached to this report.

19 Since Target No. 5 was 101 percent on
20 Saturday, the winning unit and district were drawn
21 at that time. That information has been sent out to
22 the units. It is also attached to this report.

23 Question and answer and discussion
24 followed. With no further business, the meeting
25 adjourned at 10:25 a.m.

26 This completes the report of the
27 Membership Committee, and I move its acceptance.

28 [Applause]

29 MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN DuVALL:
30 Madam Department President, may I continue with a
31 short supplemental and the Membership awards?

32 PRESIDENT CAPAZZI: Yes, you may.

33 MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN DuVALL:
34 Santa Ana force winds, torrential monsoon rains,
35 golf ball size hail, brutal sea waves. Sound like
your membership year? Yes, there were many
challenges to be met on our voyage charting a course

1 to new horizons for 2008-2009.

2 Madam Department President, I am pleased
3 to report that like the U.S. Postal Office, neither
4 wind, rain, hail, or rough water could stop this
5 California membership team. Although the Department
6 of California has not met any of the National
7 targets, your cruise directors, your district
8 membership chairmen, and assistant cruise directors,
9 the unit membership chairmen, and their passengers,
10 all of your Department members, have done an
11 outstanding job facing these challenges. The
12 decrease in membership from last year as of the
13 close of books was 84 compared to 1,103 last year.

14 Four new charters this year compared to
15 three last year. Units reported 261 more new Senior
16 members than they did last year. There were 51 more
17 Junior members signed up this year compared to last
18 year. Four members were eligible for the Silver
19 Brigade Award compared to only one last year.

20 Yes, there are challenges, but the
21 enthusiasm, love and passion supporting our
22 veterans, their children, and our communities is
23 stronger than ever. Knowledge, information,
24 mentoring, promotion, support, all of these key
25 elements are present within the Department of
26 California. Membership growth increased program
27 activities in healthier units are all the result.

28 Madam Department President, I would like
29 to conclude my report by presenting a very special
30 award. The following is the information that was
31 sent to me.

32 "She is an extraordinary woman who
33 managed to make her job as first vice and membership
34 chairman a mission in her life. She is a new member
35 to the Auxiliary, but has become a most valued and
36 loved member of her unit and district. She has gone
37 above and beyond what the spirit of the American
38 Legion Auxiliary stands for. She is always ready to
39 help anyone in need, tirelessly giving 100 percent
40 of herself.

41 "Everywhere she goes she talks to women
42 and Juniors about the Auxiliary and all the
43 wonderful programs that we have. She has shown us
44 that with guts and determination you can do

1 anything. This has been an extraordinary year for
2 our unit. We have overcome many obstacles that many
3 thought could not be done. We mentioned membership
4 at every meeting and it is the very first thing we
5 put in our newsletter. Because of this I believe as
6 a unit we have recruited 45 new Seniors and seven
7 new Junior members. We initiated three Junior
8 members and 20 new Senior members, something never
9 done before in our district.

10 "What is truly amazing is that we are a
11 unit that started the new year with a brand new
12 board that only just recently became members
13 themselves. We are a board that is learning on the
14 job. While Chris is our first vice and our
15 membership chair, she took this job on with a smile
16 and the gusto we as a unit are so thankful for.
17 Knowing Chris, I know that she would give Bobbie
18 Estes, first vice for the 20th District, all the
19 credit. Bobbie is the one who lit a fire of
20 membership into her heart."

21 Madam Department President, it is with
22 great pride on the recommendation of Maria
23 Castrellon, second vice for the 20th District, that
24 I present Christine Alaya from San Fernando Unit 176
25 a certificate of appreciation and the Spirit Award
26 Ribbon. She did not know this was coming, either.
27 Chris.

28 [Applause]

29 MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN DuVALL:
30 Her award says, "American Legion Auxiliary,
31 Department of California, Award of Excellence
32 presented to Christine Alaya, San Fernando Unit 176,
33 District 20 in recognition of outstanding
34 achievement and excellence in the Membership program
35 2008-2009."

36 DELEGATE LEYA: Thank you.

37 [Applause]

38 MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN DuVALL:
39 We need lots of people like that out there.

40 Madam Department President, if they're
41 ready, it is with great pleasure that I will present
42 your captains, your district presidents, and the

1 cruise directors, the district membership chairmen.

2 [Applause]

3 PRESIDENT CAPAZZI: Sergeant-at-Arms and
4 Marshal with the Distinguished Guest chairman,
5 please present our district presidents and
6 membership chairmen.

7 MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN DuVALL:
8 Hopefully they are going to coming in in rank.

9 District 29 was No. 1 with 98.12
10 percent. District 28, 96.36 percent. District 1
11 was No. 3, 95.38 percent. District 21, 94.57
12 percent. 26, No. 5, 92.81 percent. District 16 was
13 No. 6 with 92.79 percent. District 27 ranks seven,
14 92.25 percent. District 22, No. 8, 92.23 percent.
15 District 10 came in ninth, 91.53 percent. District
16 24 was the tenth, 91.30 percent. District 12 came
17 in 11th place, 90.67 percent. District 23, 12th
18 place, 90.65 percent. District 13 came in 13th with
19 90.45 percent. District 25 was 14th place, 88.84
20 percent. District 18 came in 15th place with 88.17
21 percent. District 2 with 87.84 percent. District
22 19 with 87.73 percent. District 9 was 18th with
23 86.81 percent. District 20, 85.93 percent.
24 District 5, 85.74 percent. District 15, 85.40
25 percent. District 3 was 22nd place, 83.90 percent.
District 8, 82.93 percent. District 30, 82.89
percent. District 11, 81.25 percent. District 7,
79.29 percent. District 6, 78.16 percent. District
4, 77.82 percent. District 14, 29th rank, 74.15
percent.

19 Congratulations and thank you for your
20 hard work on membership. Some of you came very,
21 very close to making goal.

22 [Applause]

23 MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN DuVALL:
24 Now for the presentation of the awards. For the
25 Unit Best Overall Membership Supplemental, Group A,
10 to 700 members, first place goes to Chula Unit
92, District 2, Nancy Johnson, chairman. Come up
and get your award.

[Applause]

1 MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN DuVALL:
District 2.

2 Group B for 701 to 1500 members, first
3 place goes to Jackie Robinson Unit 252, District 23.

4 [Applause]

5 MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN DuVALL:
Group C, 1501 and over members, first place goes to
6 Richard O. Reed Unit 777, District 25.

7 [Applause]

8 MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN DuVALL:
The District Best Overall Membership Supplemental,
9 Group A, 10 to 700 members, first place -- there
weren't any entries. You've got to write the
10 supplementals.

11 Group B, 701 to 1500 members, first
place goes to District 20, Bobbie Estes, chairman.

12 [Applause]

13 MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN DuVALL:
14 Group C, 1501 and over members, first place,
District 29.

15 [Applause]

16 MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN DuVALL:
17 Rita Johnson, chairman.

18 The Silver Brigade Award is presented to
the member who goes above and beyond to recruit 25
19 new Senior Auxiliary members. There were four
entries. The California Silver Brigade recruiter,
20 that has been forwarded to National, is Christine
Alaya, Unit 176, District 20.

21 [Applause]

22 MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN DuVALL:
23 The National President's Top Recruiter Award is
presented to the member who has earned the most
24 points recruiting new Senior and Junior members.
There were 15 entries. The California Top
25 Recruiter, forwarded to National, is Charlotte
Collins, Unit 684, District 27.

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[Applause]

MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN DuVALL:
The Ethel Flynn Award is presented to the unit with the greatest numerical gain over goal as of the close of books. The 2008-2009 award goes to San Fernando Unit 176, District 20. They had a gain of 41 members.

[Applause]

MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN DuVALL:
They had 41 members over goal.

The Estella Hannell Memorial Award is presented to the district with the largest numerical increase from the previous year's close of books to the Book of Reports for the current year. The 2008-2009 award goes to District 29 with an increase of 161 members.

[Applause]

MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN DuVALL:
The Colleen Award and \$100 to be used to promote the program of Education is presented to the unit that has received a Department Membership citation and has filed a unit activity report with the district president and shows participation in Americanism, Children and Youth, Education, Legislative, Poppy, and Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation.

Past Department President Pat Sweeney will present the Colleen Award.

PAST PRESIDENT SWEENEY: It's an honor for me to present this award to Unit 83, District 12.

[Applause]

PAST PRESIDENT SWEENEY: Before I leave the microphone, I would like to say no, I did not go in for district commander of District 14.

MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN DUVALL:
The Josie Melgard Award, a special lapel pin, is presented to each unit president whose unit attains its membership goal plus two members on or before

1 Department close of books.

2 Past Department President Josie Melgard
3 will present her Josie's Angels.

4 The recipients are District 1, Unit 205,
5 Walker-Bailey.

6 [Applause]

7 MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN DuVALL:
8 District 2, Unit 369, Willis Hollenbeak.

9 [Applause]

10 MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN DuVALL:
11 District 5, Unit 550, Mare Island Navy Yard.

12 [Applause]

13 MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN DuVALL:
14 If the unit -- I think for ease of speed of getting
15 this through, if the district president could come
16 up and pick them up and then present them, it will
17 go a little bit faster. Is there someone from
18 District 2? They are already up here. District 5?
19 District 8.

20 PRESIDENT CAPAZZI: There isn't anyone
21 here from District 8.

22 MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN DuVALL:
23 District 8 was 911, The Next Generation of Heroes.
24 District 9, Unit 202, Roy Frerichs. District 11,
25 Unit 108, Amador and Unit 376, Calaveras. District
26 12, Unit 83, Merced. District 13, Unit 858,
27 Northside. District 14, Unit 110, Oakhurst.
28 District 15, Unit 221, Tehachapi. District 16, Unit
29 432, Cambria. District 18, Unit 280, East Pasadena,
30 Unit 755, Charter Cove and Unit 830, Duarte.
31 District 19, Unit 560, Houghton Park and Unit 833,
32 Lincoln Village. District 20, Unit 176, San
33 Fernando. District 21, Unit 428, San Geronio Pass,
34 Unit 595, Perris, Unit 739, Herman Granados, Unit
35 84, San Jacinto. District 22, Unit 6, San Diego,
36 Unit 310, Dennis T. Williams, Unit 460, Albert J.
37 Hickman, Unit 619, Warner Springs. District 25,
38 Unit 426, Yucaipa Valley, Unit 650, Phillip
39 Marmolejo. District 28, Unit 31, Salinas, Unit 694,
40 Monterey Cypress. District 29, Unit 291, Newport

1 Harbor, Unit 716, Los Alamitos, Unit 856, Seal
2 Beach. District 30, Unit 135, Calipatria.

3 [Applause]

4 MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN DuVALL:
5 Okay. A little built of confusion up here. Sorry.
6 We're now going to have a presentation by June
7 Coatney and Rita Johnson. The Fifth Area.

8 DELEGATE COATNEY: Good morning, ladies.

9 PRESIDENT CAPAZZI: Ladies, please
10 listen.

11 DELEGATE COATNEY: My name is June
12 Coatney of District 22. This year I have been the
13 coordinator for the Fifth Area membership
14 get-together. We get together every month. Would
15 all the members of the Fifth Area from District 21,
16 22, 25, 29, and 30 please stand.

17 [Applause]

18 DELEGATE COATNEY: Each meeting we hold
19 a raffle for gifts, donations by the district
20 president. The funds are won by the district who is
21 in No. 1 place of the Fifth Area. At the last
22 meeting in June, today it is my pleasure to present
23 the first vice president and membership chairman of
24 the 29th district, Rita Johnson.

25 [Applause]

DELEGATE JOHNSON: Hello. My name is
Rita Johnson, District 29. I'm quite proud to
announce that the 29th District voted at our May
30th district meeting to present all of the \$563 won
at our Fifth Area meetings to the Department's
Education fund to be used for scholarships only.
Thank you.

[Applause]

MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN DuVALL:
We're almost done. I did not even know these units
were getting these next awards until I got here this
weekend. It's a presentation of the National
President's Unit Achievement Award. I knew I
submitted it, but I didn't know they were actually

1 going to give it.

2 The first one is Walker Bailey Unit 205.

3 [Applause]

4 MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN DuVALL:
5 There are no districts on here, so if you could come
6 up and get your award.

6 Willis Hollenbeak Unit 369.

7 [Applause]

8 MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN DuVALL:
9 Mare Island Navy Yard, Unit 550.

9 [Applause]

10 MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN DuVALL:
11 Roy Frerichs, Unit 202.

12 [Applause]

13 MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN DuVALL:
14 Calaveras Unit 376.

14 [Applause]

15 MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN DuVALL:
16 Merced Unit 83. I know that's District 12.

17 [Applause]

18 MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN DuVALL:
19 Northside Unit 858.

19 [Applause]

20 MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN DuVALL:
21 Lemoore California Unit 100.

22 [Applause]

23 MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN DuVALL:
24 Houghton Park, Unit 560.

24 [Applause]

25 MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN DuVALL:

1 Lincoln Village Unit 833.

2 [Applause]

3 MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN DuVALL:
4 San Fernando Unit 176.

5 [Applause]

6 MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN DuVALL:
7 San Jacinto 846.

8 [Applause]

9 MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN DuVALL:
10 Warner Springs Unit 619.

11 [Applause]

12 MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN DuVALL:
13 Phillip Marmolejo, Unit 650.

14 [Applause]

15 MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN DuVALL:
16 Los Alamitos, Unit 716.

17 [Applause]

18 MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN DuVALL:
19 Seal Beach, Unit 857.

20 [Applause]

21 MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN DuVALL:
22 Madam Department President, this concludes my
23 report. I thank you for this very challenging
24 appointment.

25 PRESIDENT CAPAZZI: Norma, I want to
thank you and all the members who worked so hard to
let us preserve and just barely squeeze by the
Legion side of our family.

MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN DuVALL:
But we did it.

[Applause]

PRESIDENT CAPAZZI: If we could quickly

1 and quietly get back to our chairs. Ladies, if we
2 could quickly get back to our chairs.

3 Ladies, I have two very wonderful pieces
4 of paper to present. I'm sure you want to hear
5 about it. I have a charter for Lucern Valley of
6 High Desert Post 879, Department of California,
7 District 25. I have your charter. Would you come
8 forward. One of our new units this year, ladies.

9 [Applause]

10 PRESIDENT CAPAZZI: Helen, it is my
11 privilege to present to you your charter for Lucern
12 Valley, and I wish for you a successful year and
13 many, many successful years. We're just proud to
14 have you as a new baby unit. Thank you.

15 [Applause]

16 PRESIDENT CAPAZZI: The second new unit,
17 Oceanside Post 146, Department of California,
18 District 16.

19 [Applause]

20 PRESIDENT CAPAZZI: District 22. I'm
21 very proud to present this to you.

22 I knew I had another one. This is Paso
23 Robles Unit 50, District 16.

24 [Applause]

25 PRESIDENT CAPAZZI: Okay. The unit
member could not make it, but we are very proud to
present the district president at this time with
this charter for them, and I'm sure they will have a
special ceremony. Thank you.

Would the finance -- Linda, are you the
only one over at the finance table? You can come up
and give the report.

SENIOR MEMBER OF FINANCE DIEBEL: Good
morning, ladies.

PRESIDENT CAPAZZI: Ladies, please
listen.

1 SENIOR MEMBER OF FINANCE DIEBEL: I
2 apologize for Lucille not being here, but she had to
3 check out before they charged her another night.

4 Since Girls State changed their Code, we
5 had a meeting outside of the Finance Committee, and
6 the results are, by the direction of the convention
7 Finance Committee, I move that Finance Code No. 9 be
8 corrected to match Code No. 3 of the Girls State
9 Committee Code.

10 [Seconded]

11 PRESIDENT CAPAZZI: It has been moved
12 and seconded that the Finance Committee, by
13 direction of the Finance Committee, that Finance
14 Code No. 9 be corrected to match Code No. 3 of the
15 Girls State committee.

16 Is there any discussion?

17 All those in favor, "aye."

18 Opposed, "no."

19 It is passed.

20 SENIOR MEMBER OF FINANCE DIEBEL: Thank
21 you, ladies.

22 [Applause]

23 PRESIDENT CAPAZZI: Could we hear from
24 Bev Sparks on the Convention Commission, please.

25 CONVENTION COMMISSION MEMBER SPARKS:
26 Are we awake? If you're awake, I'll tell up a funny
27 story first before I give my report because I want
28 to have you more than awake, all right? Are you
29 ready for this?

30 It's called three ladies in a sauna.
31 Three women, two younger and one senior citizen,
32 were sitting naked in a sauna. Suddenly there was a
33 beeping sound. The young woman pressed her forearm,
34 and the beep stopped. The others looked at her
35 questioningly. "That was my pager," she said. "I
36 have a microchip under the skin of my arm."

37 A few minutes later a phone rang. The

1 second young woman lifted her palm to her ear. When
2 she finished, she explained "That was my mobile
phone. I have a microchip in my hand."

3 The older woman felt very low tech. Not
4 to be outdone by the others, she decided she had to
do something just as impressive. She stepped out of
5 the sauna and went to the bathroom. She returned
with a piece of toilet paper hanging from her rear
6 end. The others raised their eyebrows and stared at
her. The older woman finally said, "Will you look
at that, I'm getting a fax."

7 [Laughter and applause]

8 CONVENTION COMMISSION MEMBER SPARKS: I
9 bet we have all gotten faxes at one time or another.

10 Now, Madam President, I would like to
11 give the Convention Commission report for Barbara
Carlson, the chairman. It's my pleasure to give
12 this report for Chairman Barbara. She is
recuperating at home. According to her doctor's
13 report, all restrictions are now released. She is
doing great, but is resting and enjoying all the
14 pampering she is getting from her family and
friends.

15 The American Legion Convention
16 Commission Chairman, Jack Kidd, reports that an ad
hoc committee is still investigating the possibility
17 of absolving the Convention Corporation and instead
making the Department organization responsible for
18 all convention contracts. The reasoning for this is
that the Department will have more control over the
conventions.

19 The locations for our future Department
20 conventions have tentatively been approved as
follows. All the dates have not been confirmed at
21 this time. 2010, Fresno. 2011, Ontario. 2012,
Redding. 2013, Riverside or Palm Springs. And
22 2014, Santa Clara or Fresno.

23 However, I do have a report from Jack
24 Kidd. He gave it to me yesterday. I will read a
little bit of what he had to say. "We had two
25 cities make presentations for the opening in 2014,
Santa Clara and Fresno. After the presentation and
discussion and question and answers, a vote by the

1 district representation recommended Santa Clara as
2 the best city for hosting for 2014. This would be
3 subject to inspection and also to the approval of
4 commander." He said to me that 2014 is certainly
5 going to be Santa Clara.

6 The locations for the future National
7 conventions are as follows. 2009, Louisville, 8-21
8 to 8-27. 2010, Milwaukee, Wisconsin, 8-27 to 9-2.
9 2011, Minneapolis, Minnesota, 8-26 to 9-1. 2012,
10 Indianapolis, Indiana, 8-24 to 8-30. 2013, Houston,
11 Texas, 8-23 to 8-29.

12 Thank you, Madam President. It's been
13 fun giving this report. It's short and sweet. I'm
14 glad to be of help.

15 PRESIDENT CAPAZZI: Thank you, Bev, for
16 reporting for Barbara.

17 [Applause]

18 PRESIDENT CAPAZZI: Madam Secretary,
19 will you please read the minutes of the
20 preconvention Executive meeting held on June 18th
21 here in Riverside.

22 SECRETARY-TREASURER KILKENNY: Riverside
23 California, Marriott Hotel, Thursday, June 18th,
24 2009. Actions taken. The preconvention Department
25 Executive Committee meeting was called to order by
26 President LuAnn Capazzi at 7:30 a.m. Roll call was
27 read. Actions of the district presidents were
28 presented and will be listed immediately following
29 this report.

30 Minutes from the DEC meeting January
31 10th through the 11th, 2009, were read and approved.
It was moved by Ruby Kapsalis, Past Department
President, to have a fund-raising drawing for the
purpose of restoring an antique memorabilia cabinet
located in the Cavalcade of Memories at the National
headquarters in Indianapolis and containing
memorabilia from Past National Presidents. Seconded
and passed.

32 With no further business, members not
33 eligible to vote were excused for old business
34 regarding the past Secretary-Treasurer. Roll call
35 of voting members was taken. Department President

1 LuAnn Capazzi reported on the actions taken
2 regarding the past Secretary-Treasurer for
3 reimbursement or review of credit card charges.
4 Further correspondence between the Department
5 President and previous Secretary-Treasurer resulted
6 in the indication that the issues would be
7 addressed. The Department President told her that
8 some needed receipts were possibly found in the
9 Department office and that she should contact the
10 Department office for assistance.

11 A motion was made by Past Department
12 President Ruby Kapsalis to send a certified letter
13 on Monday to the former Secretary-Treasurer
14 regarding the outstanding charges for response in 30
15 days or within five days legal action would be
16 pursued. Motion was seconded, and discussion
17 ensued.

18 A motion to amend was made by Terry
19 Mikesell, seconded by Linda Diebel to send a letter
20 today requesting full payment or explanation to
21 substantiate charges or legal action to be pursued.
22 After discussion on amendment, the amended motion
23 was defeated.

24 Additional questions were asked and
25 answered, followed by a request for a call for the
vote. The original motion was then passed. The
meeting was adjourned at 9:00 a.m.

Following actions were moved by the
respective district presidents, seconded, and
carried. District 3, Harry Doble, Unit 664,
surrendered charter. District 6, Magellan, Unit
604, removed from probation. District 8, Next
Generation of Heroes, Unit 911, remain on probation
until January 2010. District 10, Albany, Unit 292,
charter surrendered. District 12, Elijah B. Hayes,
Unit 168, to remain on probation until January 2010.
District 13, West Valley Memory, Unit 99, placed on
probation until January 2010. District 13, Willow
Glen, Unit 318, removed from probation. District 15
Visalia, Unit 18, charter surrendered. District 18,
Chilelli Memorial, Unit 888, to remain on probation
until January 2010. District 19, Rivera, Unit 411,
placed on probation until January 2010. District
20, Burbank, Unit 150, charter surrendered.
District 20, Van Nuys, Unit 193, charter revoked.
District 23, Community, Unit 46, placed on probation

1 until January 2010. District 25, Yucaipa Valley,
2 Unit 426, to remain on probation until 2010.
3 District 27, Rosamond, Unit 490, charter was
4 revoked.

5 Madam President, I move the acceptance
6 of the Department Executive Committee minutes.

7 [Seconded]

8 PRESIDENT CAPAZZI: Moved and seconded
9 to accept the minutes of the pre-convention DEC
10 meeting minutes. Is there any discussion?

11 DELEGATE SCOTT: Madam Department
12 President, Evone Wright Scott, 16th District
13 president. District 18, I believe 475 was taken off
14 probation. I did not hear that read.

15 SECRETARY-TREASURER KILKENNY: My error.
16 Thank you.

17 PRESIDENT CAPAZZI: Any other
18 discussion?

19 All those in favor, "aye."

20 Opposed, "no."

21 The minutes accepted with correction.

22 SECRETARY-TREASURER KILKENNY: Thank
23 you.

24 PRESIDENT CAPAZZI: Madam Secretary is
25 going to read minutes from the post-convention
26 Executive meeting June 2008 and the Executive
27 Committee meeting held in Ridgecrest in January
28 2009.

29 SECRETARY-TREASURER KILKENNY: Post
30 convention DEC meeting held at the Holiday Inn
31 Select, Bakersfield, California, Sunday, June 22nd,
32 2008. Department President LuAnn Capazzi called the
33 meeting to order. Officers, chairmen, and district
34 presidents were in attendance. President Capazzi
35 appointed the acting convention secretary, Past
36 Department President Melanie Taylor, to step in as
37 the interim Department Secretary-Treasurer while the
38 position was being advertised and until such time as

1 a new secretary could be hired. Department Vice
2 President Norma DuVall met with the district
3 presidents going over the new year's membership
4 program.

5 There being no further business, the
6 meeting was adjourned.

7 Madam President, I move the acceptance
8 of these minutes.

9 [Seconded]

10 PRESIDENT CAPAZZI: It's been moved and
11 seconded to accept the minutes of the postconvention
12 Executive meeting. Is there any discussion?

13 All those in favor, "aye."

14 Opposed, "no."

15 Minutes accepted.

16 SECRETARY-TREASURER KILKENNY:

17 Department Executive Committee meeting, Ridgecrest,
18 California, January 10-11, 2009. Actions taken.
19 Moved by Finance Chairman Lucille Taylor, seconded
20 and carried, to continue to use the accounting firm
21 of Lee Ho and Company, LLP, for the 2009-2010 fiscal
22 year.

23 Moved by Barbara Carlson, Past
24 Department President, to use local California
25 reporting service for convention. Discussion
regarding current reporting services performance
noted that it was in good standing. Motion tabled
until Department convention June 2009.

Moved by Melanie Taylor, seconded and
carried, to use Dick Adams Reporting for the current
2009 convention in Riverside, California, and
Department office to find someone local prior to
convention June 2009 for the 2010 convention.

Moved by Americanism Chairman Anita
Biggs, seconded and carried, the following as
American essay titles for 2009-2010. Group I,
grades four and five, "My American Hero." Group II,
grades six and seven, "An American I Admire." Group
III, grades eight and nine, "What Makes America

1 Great." Group IV, grades 10, 11, and 12, "My
2 Responsibility To My Country." Group V, "Children
With Exceptional Needs, My Favorite President."

3 Announcement of candidates for
4 2009-2010. President, Norma DuVall, Unit 280,
5 District 18. Vice President, Pilar Reyes, Unit 598,
6 District 10. Junior Member of Finance, no
7 announcements.

8 The following changes were made to the
9 personnel policies. Motion made by Finance
10 Chairman, Lucille Taylor, that permanent part-time
11 employees will now read, "The work week for
12 permanent part-time employees shall be five days,
13 Monday through Friday, for a maximum of 30 hours."
14 It was seconded and passed.

15 Motion made by Finance Chairman, Lucille
16 Taylor, that all staff be permanent part-time
17 employees effective immediately. Amendment two to
18 motion to remove effective immediately seconded and
19 passed. Amendment one to motion to add immediately
20 or as required by state law regarding full-time to
21 part-time status and reduction of benefits to be
22 confirmed by Secretary-Treasurer. It was seconded
23 and passed.

24 Motion made by Anita Biggs that due to
25 economic times affecting the Department office
income, that no salary increases be granted until
office transition and questionable budget items get
resolved.

Other motions. Made by Ruby Kapsalis,
Past Department President, seconded and carried,
directing Department President LuAnn Capazzi to
write a letter to former Secretary-Treasurer to
resolve charges on the Department credit card by
March 1, 2009.

The following actions were moved by the
respective district presidents, seconded and
carried. District 6, Magellan, Unit 604, to remain
on probation until June of 2009. District 8, Next
Generation Of Heroes, Unit 911, to be placed on
probation until June 2009. District 10, Albany,
Unit 292, placed on probation until June 2009.
District 12, Elijah B. Hayes, Unit 168, placed on
probation until June 2009. District 12, Manual M.

1 Lopes, Unit 240, to be removed from probation.
2 District 13, Willow Glen, Unit 318, to remain on
3 probation until June 2009. District 13, Las Animas,
4 Unit 669, charter was surrendered. District 14, Lee
5 E. Doyal Bicentennial, Unit 159, charter revoked.
6 District 18, San Dimas, Unit 457, remain on
7 probation until June 2009. District 18,
8 Chilelli Memorial, Unit 888, placed on probation
9 until June 2009. District 20, Van Nuys, Unit 193,
10 placed on probation until June 2009. District 20,
11 Newhall-Saugas, Unit 507, removed from probation.
12 District 21, Idyllewild, Unit 800, removed from
13 probation. District 21, San Jacinto, Unit 848,
14 removed from probation. District 23, Community,
15 Unit 46, removed from probation. District 25,
16 Yucaipa Valley, Unit 426, remain on probation until
17 June 2009. District 27, Rosamond, Unit 490, remain
18 on probation until June 2009. District 29 Brea,
19 Unit 181, charter surrendered.

20 Madam President, I move for the
21 acceptance of these minutes.

22 PRESIDENT CAPAZZI: It's been moved and
23 seconded to accept the minutes as read. Any
24 discussion?

25 All those in favor, "aye."

Opposed.

Motion carried. Minutes accepted.
Thank you, Doris.

Could we have the Ways and Means
Chairman, please, Judie Tabacchi.

WAYS AND MEANS COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN
TABACCHI: Madam Department President, the Ways and
Means committee were very active, selling our wares
at last year's convention in Bakersfield. We
continued to promote and sell at the DEC meeting in
Ridgecrest and actively continued to sell here in
Riverside. To date -- well, up until this weekend,
we had realized \$7,422 in the sale of T-shirts,
badges, pins, charms, and bears. With the sale this
weekend totaling \$2,713, the total for all sales
this year is \$10,135.

[Applause]

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WAYS AND MEANS COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN

TABACCHI: This isn't in my report, but ladies, we still have T-shirts we can sell you, so we'll see you in the back.

Madam President, thank you for this appointment. I really enjoyed it, I think.

[Laughter]

WAYS AND MEANS COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN

TABACCHI: May I take this opportunity to introduce my committee member?

PRESIDENT CAPAZZI: Yes, you may.

WAYS AND MEANS COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN

TABACCHI: Wantu. Thank you, Wantu. This concludes my report, Madam President.

[Applause]

PRESIDENT CAPAZZI: Thank you for your all your help, ladies. You have done a wonderful job. I was traveling salesman this year with my visits to the districts, and it was most fun. So thank you for your participation, for purchasing all the goodies that we have had.

Our Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation Chairman, Pilar Reyes, had a 50-50 opportunity drawing for all of you, and she would like to draw the winner at this time. With the proceeds going to the Creative Arts Festival. And the other to those lucky people holding a ticket. Quickly. Not between the flags.

DELEGATE REYES: I would like to thank you all for supporting this fund-raising because the Creative Arts Festival needs money. I would like to announce the prizes. We have nine prizes. The first prize is \$300. The second prize is \$200. The third prize, 100. There are two \$50 and four \$25. A total of nine prizes. I hope you all win.

PRESIDENT CAPAZZI: Pilar, which end would you like to start with? The low end?

DELEGATE REYES: We will start with the

1 first prize.

2 PRESIDENT CAPAZZI: The winner is Sandy
3 Smead, Unit 125, District 16.

4 [Applause]

5 DELEGATE REYES: First prize, \$300.

6 [Applause]

7 DELEGATE REYES: You will not get the
8 check today because we don't have the checks here.
9 It will be mailed to you. \$300 will be mailed to
10 you

11 PRESIDENT CAPAZZI: The second prize is
12 --

13 DELEGATE REYES: \$200.

14 PRESIDENT CAPAZZI: Goes to Robert Dias,
15 District 21, Post 428.

16 DELEGATE REYES: Robert Dias, District
17 21. You don't have to come here to get the prize.

18 PRESIDENT CAPAZZI: The next prize
19 amount?

20 DELEGATE REYES: The next prize is \$100.

21 PRESIDENT CAPAZZI: And that goes to
22 Katina Garner, District 27. That's not right.
23 District 24, Unit 43.

24 DELEGATE REYES: District 24. That's
25 \$100.

26 PRESIDENT CAPAZZI: The next prize is?

27 DELEGATE REYES: The next prize is \$50.
28 There are two \$50 prizes.

29 PRESIDENT CAPAZZI: The first \$50 goes
30 to James McDermott, District 11, Unit 172.

31 DELEGATE REYES: District 11, Unit 172.
32 The check will be in the mail.

1 PRESIDENT CAPAZZI: This is a 50. And
one more 50.

2 DELEGATE REYES: One more 50.

3 PRESIDENT CAPAZZI: Goes to Trish Ladre.

4 DELEGATE REYES: See, I told you. The
5 next prize is \$25.

6 PRESIDENT CAPAZZI: \$25 goes to
Auxiliary Unit 028, District 28, Unit 28?

7 A DELEGATE: 694.

8 PRESIDENT CAPAZZI: That's not what it
9 says here. Anyway, goes to District 28.

10 DELEGATE REYES: District 28. There are
units and then districts tickets. District 28.

11 PRESIDENT CAPAZZI: So we have a couple
12 more \$25 ones?

13 DELEGATE REYES: Three more.

14 PRESIDENT CAPAZZI: Post 471, District
10. Joy Saunders, District 7.

15 DELEGATE REYES: And one more \$25.

16 PRESIDENT CAPAZZI: One more for \$25.
17 Peggy Bengée, District 29.

18 DELEGATE REYES: That concludes the
drawing. Thank you very much, ladies. Trust me,
19 the checks will be in the mail.

20 PRESIDENT CAPAZZI: The total going to
our Creative Arts Festival to National is --

21 DELEGATE REYES: We will send \$980 to
22 National.

23 PRESIDENT CAPAZZI: Thank you, Pilar.

24 DELEGATE REYES: This is on behalf of
our Department, President LuAnn. Thank you. Thank
25 you.

1 [Applause]

2 PRESIDENT CAPAZZI: Would the Advisory
3 Board like to report. No? It's either very good or
4 very bad when they're so quiet.

5 PAST PRESIDENT HOOKER: Madam President,
6 your anchors, your old salts, whatever you would
7 like to call us, have been at your beck and call
8 this year, and you have not asked us too many times
9 to help you, which is a good sign. That means you
10 are a good president.

11 At this time I would like to introduce
12 my cohorts, Odette Cucarro, Past Department
13 President, and Past Department President Willie
14 Burke. And it has been a pleasure to serve you,
15 Madam President.

16 [Applause]

17 PRESIDENT CAPAZZI: Thank you so much
18 for your help and guidance this year.

19 May we have the courtesy resolutions at
20 this time.

21 RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN TAYLOR:
22 Madam President, the Resolutions convention
23 committee was called to order on Thursday, June
24 18th, 2009, in the Regency 1 Room of the Marriott
25 Hotel, Riverside, California at 11:10 a.m. LuAnn
26 Johnston of District 26 was appointed secretary.
27 Anita Biggs of District 20 offered prayer. Sue
28 Becker of District 25 was appointed sergeant-at-arms
29 and led the Pledge of Allegiance. A total of 13
30 district delegates answered roll call, and there
31 were no visitors present.

32 The committee agreed upon the following
33 report. The Department Code was read, and no
34 additions or deletions were recommended. With no
35 further business, the meeting adjourned at 11:20
36 a.m.

37 Madam President, may I continue with the
38 courtesy resolutions?

39 PRESIDENT CAPAZZI: Yes, you may.

1 RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN TAYLOR:
May they be accepted by consent?

2 PRESIDENT CAPAZZI: Yes, they may.

3 RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN TAYLOR:
4 At this time I would like to thank my helpers, Anita
5 Biggs with District 23 and LuAnn Johnston with
6 District 26, in the reading of these resolutions.
LuAnn.

7 RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE MEMBER JOHNSTON:
WHEREAS, the management and staff of the Riverside
8 Marriott hotel has been most efficient and
courteous; and

9 WHEREAS, they have made our stay in
10 Riverside truly enjoyable, comfortable, and
convenient

11 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that we
12 express our thanks and gratitude for their
outstanding services; and

13 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that we extend
14 our appreciation to the Marriott's convention
15 Services Manager, Melody Ortega, and to the general
manager for their professionalism and dedication to
the hotel industry.

16 [Applause]

17 RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN TAYLOR:
18 WHEREAS, the Department Convention Committee under
19 the direction of Chairman Phyllis Jordan have done
an outstanding job providing for our comfort and
enjoyment during the meeting; and

20 WHEREAS, they have worked many long
21 hours to ensure that President LuAnn had a very
successful convention

22 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED we
23 express our sincere appreciation to Phyllis and her
24 committee and the members of the 21st District for a
job well done by giving them a big round of
applause.

25 [Applause]

1 RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN TAYLOR:
2 WHEREAS, a number of distinguished guests have
3 scheduled their time in order to visit our
4 Department convention, and it was an honor to
5 welcome them, to receive their greetings, and hear
6 their friendly and informative remarks.

7 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that we
8 convey to the following our grateful thanks and
9 sincere appreciation for their attendance at this
10 Department convention: Robert Lewis, six-time Gold
11 Medal winner 2009 Creative Arts Festival; Mike
12 Gardner, Councilman, City of Riverside; Andy Mendez,
13 Mayor Pro Tem, City of Riverside; Gigi Manno,
14 Departmental Chapeau, 8 and 40; Steve Weber,
15 American Legion Riders President; Bill Siler, III,
16 the American Legion Department Adjutant; Cheryl
17 Palsrock, the American Legion Vice Commander
18 Representing Women; Fred Walton, National Executive
19 Committeeman; and

20 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that we give them
21 an Auxiliary thank you with a big round of applause.

22 [Applause]

23 RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE MEMBER BIGGS:
24 WHEREAS: Ashley Miller served as Honorary
25 Department Junior President and has represented the
26 Juniors of our Department with dignity and poise;
27 and

28 WHEREAS: She has attended this
29 convention to extend the greetings of the Juniors to
30 our Department President LuAnn and guests

31 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED we
32 express our sincere appreciation for Ashley for her
33 service and contribution to our great organization.

34 [Standing ovation]

35 RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE MEMBER BIGGS:
36 WHEREAS: The Past Department Presidents of the
37 American Legion Auxiliary, Department of California,
38 not only served their year in office but have
39 continued to serve this organization and have added
40 much by their presence to this Department
41 convention; and

1 WHEREAS: Their representative, Odette
2 Cucarro, graciously extended greetings for them

3 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that we
4 pay tribute to these special ladies for their
5 dedication and continued service to our organization
6 by giving them a standing ovation to show our
7 gratitude.

8 [Standing ovation]

9 RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE MEMBER BIGGS:
10 WHEREAS: The Department of California takes pride
11 in our members who have been recognized by the
12 National organization and who are giving of their
13 time, effort, and talent in service to the American
14 Legion Auxiliary, we ask them to stand and remain
15 standing until the list is called; and

16 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that we
17 express our thanks and appreciation to Mrs. Robert
18 Melgard, Josie, who brought honor to this Department
19 by her service as National President, and who
20 continues to serve the National organization as a
21 member of the National Advisory Committee.

22 [Applause]

23 RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE MEMBER BIGGS:
24 Mrs. James Park, Nancy, who is serving as National
25 Constitution and Bylaws Chairman.

26 [Applause]

27 RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE MEMBER BIGGS:
28 Mrs. Shelby Hitch, National Executive Committeewoman
29 and member of the National Leadership Committee.

30 [Applause]

31 RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE MEMBER BIGGS:
32 Mrs. Diane DeLashmit, Natural Strategic Planning
33 Committee.

34 [Applause]

35 RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE MEMBER BIGGS:
36 Mrs. R.T. Lee, Madeline, National Security
37 Committee, Western Division Chairman.

1 [Applause]

2 RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE MEMBER BIGGS:
Mrs. Ralph Jacob, Sandy, National Public Relations
Committee, Western Division Chairman.

3 [Applause]

4 RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE MEMBER BIGGS:
5 Mrs. Robert Taylor, Melanie, National Human
Resources and Personnel Committee member; and

6 [Applause]

7 RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE MEMBER BIGGS: BE
8 IT FURTHER RESOLVED we thank them for their services
and dedication by giving them a standing ovation to
9 show our warm appreciation for their service.

10 [Standing ovation]

11 RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN TAYLOR:
12 WHEREAS: The American Legion Commander, Alan
Lennox, has exemplified his capable leadership,
dedication, and valuable contributions as he
13 represented the American Legion family throughout
our great state; and

14 WHEREAS: He has provided an opportunity
15 for us to work together in harmony with a deeper
commitment of services in all programs as well as
16 for others

17 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that we
express to Commander Lennox our deep appreciation
18 for his courtesy and many kindnesses extended to our
Department President during their travels throughout
19 the Department of California; and

20 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of
this resolution be sent to the Department Commander
21 and to the American Legion Department office.

22 [Applause]

23 RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN TAYLOR:
24 WHEREAS: During the month of April National
President Desiree Stoy of Belleville, Ohio, has
honored us by her visit to the Department of
25 California; and

1 WHEREAS: President Desi, a most capable
2 and gracious lady, inspired us with her warm and
3 sincere message of her experiences as she
4 represented the American Legion Auxiliary during her
5 travels; and

6 WHEREAS: Her theme "HOPE, Honoring Our
7 Promise Every Day" gave us inspiration to work
8 diligently to support our veterans and to keep our
9 promise to these brave men and women to be there
10 always and to support them on their return home and
11 during their road to recovery

12 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the
13 Department of California express to our National
14 president Desi Stoy our deep and sincere
15 appreciation for her outstanding leadership and for
16 her many years of service to our organization by
17 sending her a copy of this resolution.

18 [Applause]

19 RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN TAYLOR:
20 Madam President, at this time I would ask the Vice
21 President to please assume the Chair.

22 WHEREAS, our Department President,
23 Admiral LuAnn Capazzi, has given a year of
24 outstanding service to the American Legion
25 Auxiliary; and

26 WHEREAS, her theme "Charting A Course to
27 New Horizons" has given us the opportunity to sail
28 the high seas as we continue to serve our veterans,
29 their children, and our communities

30 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that we
31 show our appreciation to President LuAnn for all of
32 her hard work and dedication during her year and

33 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that we wish for
34 her fair winds and following seas, as she sets sail
35 for the home harbor, and that we give President
36 LuAnn a standing ovation for a job very well done.

37 [Standing ovation]

38 RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN TAYLOR:
39 Madam President, thank you for this appointment. I
40 has been a pleasure, and this concludes my report.

1 PRESIDENT CAPAZZI: Thank you, Melanie,
2 and your committee.

3 Is there any unfinished business?

4 Any new business?

5 We will now have the presentations by
6 our Past Department Presidents.

7 Ladies, would you please line up over
8 here.

9 PAST PRESIDENT CUCCARO: Madam
10 Department President, it's customary for the Past
11 Department Presidents to meet with their district
12 presidents, and at that time they either have lunch
13 or breakfast, and they make their donations for a
14 special project or program with the American Legion
15 Auxiliary.

16 Linda Caples had her Racers, and they
17 voted to give \$150 to the Junior Conference.

18 [Applause]

19 PAST PRESIDENT CUCCARO: She was unable
20 to stay for the morning. We thank her.

21 If there are any Peaches, Peachy
22 Performers, and Classy Penguins, please stand. We
23 have decided at our meeting to give the VA&R program
24 \$125. And for a new program or a line item, we are
25 giving \$25 for the Honorary Junior President's
allowance.

[Applause]

PAST PRESIDENT CUCCARO: We are also
purchasing a set of standards for the Girls State
colors. Thank you, Madam President.

PAST PRESIDENT MELGARD: Good morning.
I happen to be in charge of three groups, and we're
very minimal by this day and age. We are presenting
California Girls State with \$100 and Junior
Activities \$100 for this year. Thank you.

[Applause]

1 PAST PRESIDENT SHANK: If you can
2 imagine for a moment I'm Veronica Spence. Veronica
3 had to catch a train. Veronica's Roses met, and
4 they are giving \$10 to the Past Department
Presidents Junior Scholarship and \$100 to the
Education program.

5 [Applause]

6 PAST PRESIDENT SHANK: Now I'm Marge.
7 Margie Shanks' Magic Chefs and Willie Burke's Drum
8 Majors, in memory of Magic Chef 20, Geneva Aguilar,
9 donate today \$50 to the Past Department junior
10 Scholarship and \$290 to the Education Scholarship
11 Department.

12 [Applause]

13 PAST PRESIDENT HOLMBERG: Madam
14 Department President, Phyllis's Musicians, LaDon's
15 Owls, and Marion's Gypsies are very happy to donate
16 \$150 to the VA&R Rehabilitation Program and \$50 to
17 the Department Junior Fund.

18 [Applause]

19 PAST PRESIDENT SPARKS: Do we have any
20 Bev's Stars in the audience? I have to say thank
21 you, ladies. We normally meet at lunch time at
22 convention. This year elections kind of took care
23 of that. My poor Stars had to meet with Madeline.
24 I thank you, Madeline, for handling my Stars.
25 Anyway, this is our 20th year. I can't believe 1989
in Palm Springs we were there in all of our glory.

It's our pleasure to donate to the
Honorary Junior Department Presidents Allowance Fund
of \$100, to the Past Department Presidents Junior
Scholarship \$35, and to the Education program \$100.
Thank you very much.

[Applause]

PAST PRESIDENT SWEENEY: Are there any
Marge's Colleens at all in the audience today? I
didn't think so. Are there any of Pat's Charmers?
There's one. Two of them. Marge's Colleens and
Pat's Charmers wish to donate \$50 to the Junior
Scholarship and \$50 to the Honorary Department

1 Presidents Junior Department President's allowance.

2 [Applause]

3 PAST PRESIDENT KAPSALIS: Would all the
4 Ruby's Allstars and Goldie's Golden Links please
5 stand. We are donating \$100 to the National Junior
6 Alternate for her to attend the National meeting
7 wherever it's going to be held in Kentucky, I
8 believe -- Philadelphia? Okay. And then we are
9 donating \$25 to the Honorary Junior Department
10 President's allowance.

11 [Applause]

12 PAST PRESIDENT QUINONES: Do we have
13 Margaret's Dreamcatchers? Jerry's Cards? Are there
14 any Dreamcatchers that are not Past Department
15 Presidents? See what glorious girls I had.

16 On behalf of these two groups, we're
17 presenting \$100 to the National Junior alternate for
18 her trip to Philadelphia, and \$25 for the Honorary
19 Junior Department President's allowance.

20 [Applause]

21 PAST PRESIDENT WORKMAN: Are there any
22 Linda's Workmen or Joyce's Nuggets? Please stand.
23 Hi, girls. We will be donating \$100 to the Girls
24 State program.

25 [Applause]

26 PAST PRESIDENT DELASHMIT: Virginia
27 Gandy's Engineers please stand. Judy Lloyd's
28 Editors please stand. Diane's Circus Acts please
29 stand.

30 Our donations are made in memory of
31 Janet Hynes, the 25th District editor and Mary Lou
32 Mehas, 25th District Trapeze Artists. We are
33 donating to Girls State \$136; Junior Conference,
34 \$85; Past Department Presidents Junior Scholarship,
35 \$25; Gift Shop/Patient Remembrance \$30, and VA&R
36 \$240. A total of \$516. Thank you very much,
37 ladies.

38 [Applause]

1 PAST PRESIDENT HOOKER: The Lighthouses
2 and Melanie's Balloonists met together. We're
3 introducing the other Lighthouses. I thought they
4 were going to perform. Anyway, we met together
5 because Melanie is one of my Lighthouses. I have
6 been very fortunate. I have Madam President
7 currently, who was a Lighthouse, and Melanie and
8 Sandy Jacob as well. So I am very proud of these
9 ladies. However, we met yesterday with our two
10 groups, and we will present to the Education program
11 \$205 and to the VA&R program \$210. Thank you.

12 [Applause]

13 PAST PRESIDENT LEE: Any Queen
14 Love-A-Lot Princesses here? Anyway, we're going to
15 donate \$100 to Fisher House West Los Angeles and \$60
16 to the Junior President's authorized travel.

17 [Applause]

18 PAST PRESIDENT PARK: Are there any
19 Park's Patriots here? Oh, boy. Park's Patriots are
20 happy to donate \$120 to the Girls State fund.

21 [Applause]

22 PAST PRESIDENT TAYLOR: I was showing my
23 beacon of light as one of Sue's Lighthouses. I did
24 not see. Are there any Melanie's Balloon Pilots out
25 here? Thank you.

As secretary this year for the Past
Department Presidents, we met Friday night for our
wonderful dinner, and we are giving a memorial
donation in memory of B.J. Gracely, our Past
Department President, to the Education Scholarship
Fund in the amount of \$25.

[Applause]

PAST PRESIDENT TAYLOR: The Past
Department Presidents are also donating to the
Honorary Junior President's authorized travel
account in the amount of \$85.

[Applause]

PAST PRESIDENT TAYLOR: And our
wonderful, supportive, loving, handsome -- what else

1 can I say about our husbands -- Gophers, Past
2 Department Gophers visited us at our dinner, and
3 they gave Madam President LuAnn \$220 to go to her --
4 240. I have been corrected -- \$240 to her VA&R
5 program project.

6 [Applause]

7 PAST PRESIDENT CHRISTNER: First, I
8 would like to ask if we have any Betty's Bears out
9 there? Betty's Bears have decided to donate \$80 to
10 the Junior Activities fund. That was my mother's
11 special project.

12 [Applause]

13 PAST PRESIDENT CHRISTNER: She loved our
14 Juniors.

15 Any Bonnie's Prom Princesses out there?
16 Where are you at, Anita. There you are. We are
17 going to donate to the Gift Shop/Patient Remembrance
18 \$90; Education, \$90.

19 I hope you don't mind, ladies. We got
20 two more donations. We are going to donate the \$40
21 I received to Junior Conference.

22 [Applause]

23 PAST PRESIDENT JACOB: Are there any of
24 Sandy's Colonels out there? Oh, lots of you.
25 Wonderful. I want to thank these ladies. They were
extremely generous. We're going to donate \$90 to
the Junior President authorized travel fund to help
her with her expenses as she travels through our
state, \$100 to Creative Arts, and \$70 to Junior
Conference.

26 [Applause]

27 PAST PRESIDENT HITCH: Last but not
28 least, are there any Actresses among us? When we
29 met, the Actresses decided that they would give \$122
30 to the Junior Honorary President's travel allowance
31 and \$122 for Junior Conference. Thank you.

32 [Applause]

33 PAST PRESIDENT MELGARD: I'm back

1 because I failed to ask Josie's Angels to stand.

2 [Applause]

3 PAST PRESIDENT MELGARD: How about
4 Peggy's Pixies? There's one. One more. Great.
5 That's two. Jan's Balloonists.

6 [Applause]

7 PAST PRESIDENT MELGARD: We have one of
8 each. And momma. Thank you.

9 [Applause]

10 PRESIDENT CAPAZZI: As you know, we will
11 be having installation shortly after we close this
12 business session. Our President-elect Norma has
13 said you have about 40 minutes. Margaret Quinones
14 has a few more instructions for you before we rush
15 out of the building.

16 PAST PRESIDENT QUINONES: You can rush
17 out, but you have to be back in 30 minutes. I would
18 like to ask the installing team to stay. The 18th
19 District and Unit 280 color bearers, please stay.
20 The District and Department officers who are going
21 to be installed in about 20 minutes line up outside
22 that door or meet outside that door, with Linda
23 Workman so she can get you ready for installation.
24 Thank you.

25 PRESIDENT CAPAZZI: We still have two
26 items that were found and not -- the owner has not
27 come forth. We have a pair of glasses, a pink case
28 with a pair of sunglasses. Our Parliamentarian is
29 still missing her glasses. And that's it. And the
30 pink camera, as far as we know, is still missing.

31 We are now in recess for the next --
32 whoops. The Finance Committee would like you to
33 pick up your checks, ladies.

34 Pages, please turn in your badges to our
35 Sergeant-at-Arms.

36 [Whereupon, the Annual Convention of the
37 Ladies Auxiliary, Department of California adjourned
38 at 12:07 o'clock p.m.]