



84th Annual DAV Department of Michigan State Convention
June 5-7, 2009 in Sault Ste. Marie, Michigan

Daniel S. Mulcahey, Commander

Rolly D. Lee, Sr., Adjutant



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1 84th Annual Disabled American Veterans
2 2009 Department of Michigan State Convention
3 Executive Committee Meeting
4 Friday, June 5, 2009
5 About 9:00 o'clock, a.m.

6 (Call to Order by Department Commander Mulcahey.)

7 COMMANDER MULCAHEY: I request all delegates and
8 visitors to please take their seats in the rear, leaving only members of
9 the State Executive Committee in the front. We will now be led in prayer
10 by the chaplain. All rise. Uncover.

11 CHAPLAIN KNUTSON: Eternal and loving God, we thank
12 you for this day. Let us live this day without fear, jealousy or being
13 ashamed for deeds or thoughts now or in the past. We thank you that
14 you are with us to enjoy this day. We earnestly pray that we will do no
15 harm to anyone, but we will only do those acts of kindness and
16 goodness that we have the opportunity to do. Let us discharge our
17 duties calmly, with clear thinking and in a friendly manner. Let us not
18 bemoan our weaknesses, but be happy in our strengths. Remind us, oh,
19 God, to behave ourselves and to leave the rest to you. Amen.

20 COMMANDER MULCAHEY: Cover. Post the Colors.
21 VFW 3676.

22 COMMANDER MULCAHEY: Cover.

23 Comrades, ATTENTION! Those wearing uniform caps,
24 please give the hand salute, all others, please place your right hand
25 over your heart for the pledge of allegiance. Attention!

1 (Pledge of Allegiance.)

2 ADJUTANT LEE: The following rules will
3 govern this Executive Committee Meeting:

4 1. "Robert's Rules of Order, Revised, will govern
5 except as hereinafter specifically stated.

6 2. When an Executive Committeeman desires to
7 be heard, he or she shall rise and address the chair as
8 Commander Mulcahey, state his name and his chapter, and
9 be recognized by the chair before proceeding.

10 3. Debate shall be limited to three (3) minutes
11 for each speaker. Additional time may be granted by a two-
12 thirds vote of the Executive Committee members present. No
13 speaker in a disorderly condition and considered so by the
14 majority vote, shall have a voice on the floor.

15 4. Discussion of personal grievances, local
16 conditions or claims concerning one individual only, with
17 respect to his or her personal interest, shall not be in order
18 before the Executive Committee meeting, but may be
19 discussed before the proper committee, with the approval of
20 such committee.

21 5. Only officially seated Executive Committee
22 members may participate in any discussion before the
23 Executive Committee. Only officially seated Executive
24 Committee members may vote. Guests may not participate in
25 any discussions unless given permission by a two-thirds

1 majority vote of all Executive Committee members present.

2 6. Voting shall be by voice except when a roll
3 call is requested by a majority of the voting members present."

4 We will now do the roll call:

5 State Commander Dan Mulcahey.

6 COMMANDER MULCAHEY: Here

7 ADJUTANT LEE: Dan Mulcahey here.

8 Immediate Past State Commander Duane Getzmeyer.

9 Absent.

10 ADJUTANT LEE: Senior Vice Commander John

11 Lamphere.

12 SR. VICE COMMANDER LAMPHERE: Here.

13 ADJUTANT LEE: John Lamphere here.

14 1st Jr. Vice Commander Frank Shepherd, Jr.

15 1st JR. VICE COMMANDER SHEPHERD: Here.

16 ADJUTANT LEE: Frank Shepherd, Jr. here.

17 2nd Jr. Vice Commander Christopher M. Sardo.

18 2nd JR. VICE COMMANDER SARDO: Here.

19 ADJUTANT LEE: Christopher M. Sardo here.

20 3rd Jr. Vice Commander Garry Henshaw.

21 3rd JR. VICE COMMANDER HENSHAW: Here.

22 ADJUTANT LEE: Garry Henshaw, here.

23 State Administrative Board Chairman Joseph Connelly.

24 STATE AD BOARD CHAIRMAN CONNELLY: Here.

25 ADJUTANT LEE: Joseph Connelly, here.

1 State Judge Advocate Ron Schrieber.

2 STATE JUDGE ADVOCATE SCHRIEBER: Here.

3 ADJUTANT LEE: Ron Schrieber, here.

4 State Treasurer, Roger Jansen.

5 STATE TREASURER JANSEN: Here

6 ADJUTANT LEE: Roger Jansen, here

7 Chapter 1 Executive Committeeman, Douglas Marble.

8 Alternate Edward House.

9 E.C. HOUSE: Here.

10 ADJUTANT LEE: Edward House, here.

11 Chapter 2, Richard Straub.

12 E.C. STRAUB: Here.

13 ADJUTANT LEE: Richard Straub, here.

14 Chapter 3, Ken Bakos. Ken Bakos. Ken Bakos, absent.

15 Alternate Robert Robinson.

16 E.C. ROBINSON: Here.

17 ADJUTANT LEE: Robert Robinson, here

18 Chapter 4, John Demorest.

19 E.C. DEMOREST: Here

20 ADJUTANT LEE: John Demorest, here.

21 Chapter 6, Robert Reynolds.

22 E.C. REYNOLDS: Present.

23 ADJUTANT LEE: Robert Reynolds, here.

24 Chapter 7, Thomas Lightbody.

25 E.C. LIGHTBODY: Here.

1 ADJUTANT LEE: Thomas Lightbody, here.
2 Chapter 8, William Higgins.
3 E.C. HIGGINS: Here
4 ADJUTANT LEE: William Higgins, here.
5 Chapter 9, Jamie Davis.
6 E.C. DAVIS: Here
7 ADJUTANT LEE: Jamie Davis, here.
8 Chapter 10, Kenneth McGaugh.
9 E.C. McGAUGH: Here.
10 ADJUTANT LEE: Kenneth McGaugh, here.
11 Chapter 11, Albert Hekkema.
12 E.C. HEKKEMA: Here.
13 ADJUTANT LEE: Albert Hekkema, here.
14 Chapter 12, Robert Thomas.
15 E.C. THOMAS: Here.
16 ADJUTANT LEE: Robert Thomas, here.
17 Chapter 13, Gregg Weaver.
18 E.C. WEAVER: Here.
19 ADJUTANT LEE: Gregg Weaver, here.
20 Chapter 14, Roger Jansen.
21 E.C. JANSEN: Here.
22 ADJUTANT LEE: Roger Jansen, here.
23 Chapter 16, James Wiles.
24 E.C. WILES: Here.
25 ADJUTANT LEE: James Wiles, here.

1 Chapter 17, Fred R. George, Jr.
2 E.C. GEORGE: Here.
3 ADJUTANT LEE: Fred R. George, Jr., here.
4 Chapter 18, Louis Houtekier. Louis Houtekier, no here.
5 Alternate Dave Waldron.
6 E.C. BENZING: Dave also is not here. Ben Benzing will
7 be taking his place, Chapter 18.
8 ADJUTANT LEE: Ben Benzing, Chapter 18, here.
9 You will have to get recertified with the Credentials
10 Committee, Ben, okay, when this is over.
11 Chapter 19, George Jones.
12 E.C. JONES: Here.
13 ADJUTANT LEE: George Jones, here.
14 Chapter 20, Robert Polhamus.
15 E.C. POLHAMUS: Here.
16 ADJUTANT LEE: I'm sorry if I butchered your name.
17 Robert Polhamus, here.
18 Chapter 22, Erich Schwanke.
19 E.C. SCHWANKE: Here.
20 ADJUTANT LEE: Erich Schwanke, here.
21 Chapter 23, Joseph Goniea.
22 E.C. GONIEA: Here.
23 ADJUTANT LEE: Joseph Goniea, here.
24 Chapter 24, Joseph Stier. Joseph Stier.
25 Alternate Morris Cole.

1 E.C. COLE: Here.
2 ADJUTANT LEE: Morris Cole, here.
3 Chapter 25, Jim Uecke.
4 E.C. UECKE: Yo.
5 ADJUTANT LEE: Jim Uecke, here.
6 Chapter 26, Bob Blevins.
7 E.C. BLEVINS: Here.
8 ADJUTANT LEE: Bob Blevins, here.
9 Chapter 30 suspended.
10 Chapter 38, Jack Miller. Jack Miller. No alternate.
11 Chapter 39, David Rooks. David Rooks. Alternate
12 Gregory Burk.
13 E.C. BURK: Here.
14 ADJUTANT LEE: Gregory Burk, here.
15 Chapter 42. Anybody from Chapter 42? Chapter 42 is
16 absent.
17 Chapter 43, James Stringham.
18 E.C. STRINGHAM: Here.
19 ADJUTANT LEE: James Stringham, here.
20 Chapter 44, Jeff Badalow.
21 E.C. BADALOW: Here.
22 ADJUTANT LEE: Jeff Badalow, here.
23 Chapter 51, John Ruselowski.
24 E.C. RUSELOWSKI: Here.
25 ADJUTANT LEE: John Ruselowski, here.

1 Chapter 52, James Shogren.
2 E.C. SHOGREN: Here.
3 ADJUTANT LEE: James Shogren, here.
4 Chapter 60, Don Adams.
5 E.C. ADAMS: Here.
6 ADJUTANT LEE: Don Adams, here.
7 Chapter 61, Terry Marek.
8 E.C. MAREK: Here.
9 ADJUTANT LEE: Terry Marek, here.
10 Chapter 63, David E. Hein. David E. Hein. Alternate Les
11 Schneider.
12 E.C. SCHNEIDER: Here.
13 ADJUTANT LEE: Les Schneider, here.
14 Chapter 64, Phil DeMaris. Phil DeMaris. No alternate.
15 Chapter 66, Thomas A.
16 E.C. DECARLO: Here
17 ADJUTANT LEE: Thomas A. DeCarlo, here.
18 Chapter 67, James Kirk.
19 E.C. KIRK: Here.
20 ADJUTANT LEE: James Kirk, here.
21 Chapter 68, Ronald Truitt.
22 E.C. TRUITT: Here.
23 ADJUTANT LEE: Ronald Truitt, here.
24 Chapter 69, Ronald Davis. Chapter 69, Ronald Davis.
25 Absent. No alternate.

1 Chapter 73, John Selesky. John Selesky. No alternate.
2 Chapter 75, John D. Johnson.
3 E.C. JOHNSON: Here.
4 ADJUTANT LEE: John D. Johnson, here.
5 Chapter 83, Gary D. Nosis.
6 E.C. NOSIS: Here.
7 ADJUTANT LEE: Nosis, present.
8 Chapter 93, Billie Clark.
9 E.C. CLARK: Here.
10 ADJUTANT LEE: Billie Clark, here.
11 Chapter 94, Ken Cummins.
12 E.C. CUMMINS: Here.
13 ADJUTANT LEE: Ken Cummins, here.
14 Chapter 96, suspended.
15 Chapter 100, Donald Rashotte. Donald Rashotte. Alternate Nick Schlicht.
16 No one from Chapter 100.
17 Chapter 102, suspended.
18 Chapter 105, Richard LaRonde.
19 E.C. LaRONDE: Here.
20 ADJUTANT LEE: Richard LaRonde, here.
21 Chapter 106, Charles Zilch. Charles Zilch. No alternate
22 for 106.
23 107, no E.C., no alternate.
24 Chapter 113, Douglas K. Wells, Jr.
25 E.C. WELLS: Here.

1 ADJUTANT LEE: Douglas K. Wells, Jr., here.
2 Chapter 114, Pat Adams.
3 E.C. ADAMS: Here.
4 ADJUTANT LEE: Pat Adams, here.
5 Chapter 115, John Manninen.
6 E.C. MANNINEN: Here.
7 ADJUTANT LEE: John Manninen, here.
8 Chapter 116, David R. Van Hill.
9 E.C. VAN HILL: Here.
10 ADJUTANT LEE: David R. Van Hill, here.
11 Chapter 117, Alfonso Todd. Alfonso Todd. James
12 Gezequel.
13 E.C. GEZEQUEL: Here.
14 ADJUTANT LEE: I know I butchered that, but he's here.
15 Chapter 119, no one. No one from 119?
16 Chapter 122, Norm Korpi.
17 E.C. KORPI: Here.
18 ADJUTANT LEE: Norm Korpi, here.
19 Chapter 125, Dan Hines.
20 E.C. HINES: Here.
21 ADJUTANT LEE: Dan Hines, here.
22 127, Steve Spranger.
23 E.C. SPRANGER: Here.
24 ADJUTANT LEE: Steve Spranger, here.
25 Chapter 129, Bill Dezur.

1 E.C. DEZUR: Here.
2 ADJUTANT LEE: Bill Dezur, here.
3 Chapter 130, Robert Champine.
4 E.C. CHAMPINE: Here.
5 ADJUTANT LEE: Robert Champine, here.
6 Chapter 135, Eugene Corwin.
7 E.C. CORWIN: Here.
8 ADJUTANT LEE: Eugene Corwin, here.
9 That concludes the role call, Commander.
10 COMMANDER MULCAHEY: Thank you.
11 At this time, I call for approval of the minutes of the last
12 Executive Committee meeting held in Sault Ste. Marie, Michigan, June
13 6th to June 8th, 2008, as printed and distributed. One copy of the
14 Executive Committee and Convention minutes were mailed to each
15 chapter earlier in the year.
16 I'd like a motion.
17 E.C. STRAUB: Straub, makes the motion.
18 COMMANDER MULCAHEY: Please use the mikes.
19 We have a motion by PDC Richard Straub and a second
20 by Pat Adams.
21 All in favor?
22 BODY OF EXECUTIVE COMMITTEEMEN: Aye.
23 COMMANDER MULCAHEY: Opposed?
24 Passed.
25 In as much as the annual Convention reports of our

1 Department officers are printed in our newspapers, it will not be
2 necessary to take the time to hear them on the floor unless the authors
3 so desire.
4 Any communications, Adjutant Lee?
5 ADJUTANT LEE: PDC Billie Clark, would you come to
6 the podium, please?
7 As most of you know, Billie lost Gene last year. And one
8 of the things that she didn't have that she held dear to her heart was
9 Gene's medals. And so our chaplain was nice enough to make sure that
10 we could give that to her at this time. On behalf of the State Commander
11 and the Line Officers and the Membership, Billie, we would like to
12 present to you those medals for Gene. Billie says she don't want to say
13 anything, so we'll let her go.
14 COMMANDER MULCAHEY: No other communications.
15 Do we have any unfinished business? Seeing none, we
16 will move on to new business.
17 As there is no new business, I will go to the committee
18 appointments.
19 I'm making the following committee appointments:
20 **Credentials Committee:**
21 James T. Wiles, Chapter 16.
22 Fred George, Chapter 17.
23 Al Hekkema, Chapter 11, Chairman.
24 David Spencer, Chapter 52.
25

1 **Rules Committee:**

2 David Van Hill, Chapter 116, Chairman.

3 Ronald Truitt, Chapter 68.

4 Robert Champine, Chapter 130.

5 Joseph Goniea, Chapter 23.

6 Would those committees come to the rostrum to pick up
7 their folders.

8 I'd like to entertain a motion to approve the above
9 committees.

10 E.C. KIRK: Kirk, Chapter 67, so moves.

11 E.C. ADAMS: Adams seconds.

12 COMMANDER MULCAHEY: Motion and a second.

13 All approve?

14 BODY OF EXECUTIVE COMMITTEEMEN: Aye.

15 COMMANDER MULCAHEY: Opposed?

16 Motion passes.

17 The Rules Committee and the Credentials Committee
18 must report at the opening business session that begins at one p.m. this
19 afternoon.

20 Do we have anything for the Good of the Order?

21 Announcements. Adjutant Lee.

22 ADJUTANT LEE: The National 10th District Conference
23 will begin here at 10 a.m., followed by the Joint Opening Session with
24 the Auxiliary that we expect to start at 11 a.m. here in the Dream
25 Maker's Theatre.

1 Travel vouchers for the Department Executive Committee
2 will be distributed for signatures following adjournment. The vouchers
3 must be signed and turned back in.

4 That's all I've got, Commander.

5 COMMANDER MULCAHEY: Thank you, Adjutant.

6 I would like to entertain a motion at this time to adjourn.

7 E.C. STRAUB: Straub, Chapter 2, so moves.

8 E.C. WILES: Wiles, 16, seconds.

9 COMMANDER MULCAHEY: We have a motion and a
10 second. All approved?

11 BODY OF EXECUTIVE COMMITTEEMEN: Aye.

12 COMMANDER MULCAHEY: Opposed?

13 Before we adjourn, it is fitting and proper that we again
14 render honor to the flag of our country. All rise. Comrades, Attention! by
15 the numbers. Two!

16 Chaplain Knutson. Please uncover.

17 CHAPLAIN KNUTSON: Gracious and eternal God, few
18 words were spoken and sometimes that is best. Go in peace. Amen.

19 COMMANDER MULCAHEY: Thank you. Before we
20 adjourn, these meetings will start on time, so please be early.

21 (E.C. Meeting adjourned at 9:30 a.m.)

1 84th Annual Disabled American Veterans
2 2009 Department of Michigan State Convention
3 NEC 10TH District Conference
4 Friday, June 5, 2009
5 About 10:00 o'clock, a.m.

6 DAV NEC BOOZER: Good morning. Aww, you're
7 awake. You're awake and got your pockets full of money, right? I
8 apologize for being a little bit late, so, we'll get this thing going right
9 away if we can have our chaplain open it with a prayer. Mike.

10 CHAPLAIN KNUTSON: Please stand and uncover.

11 We praise you, creator of our life, our liberty and our
12 happiness. Let us sing out in celebration. We raise our voices to the
13 heaven in gratitude and joy for we are Americans living in this great
14 land. Sing out for the cities that pulse with ideas and opportunities. Sing
15 out for the country where life bursts forth in bold colors. Sing for the
16 prairies where the big sky reigns. Sing for the seashores, the beaches
17 and the lakes. Sing for the communities where people build homes and
18 dreams. Sing for the neighborhoods where children laugh and play. Sing
19 for the men and women who protect and defend our country. Sing out,
20 America. Sing out loud and free and clear. Let our voices ring from sea
21 to shining sea. God bless America. Amen.

22 DAV NEC BOOZER: At this time, would all rise?
23 We'll pay respect to our flag with the pledge of allegiance. Those with a
24 uniform, a hand salute; those without, place your hand over your heart.

25 (Pledge of Allegiance.)

1 Do we have any business to come before the
2 meeting of the day? Any new business, old business? If not, we'll go on
3 to our guest speaker. I'd like to introduce Tim Dolen. He's the northern
4 tier points of contact for prosthetics. He serves four hospitals in
5 Michigan and I think one in Ohio. At this time, give a warm welcome to
6 Mr. Tim Dolen.

7 TIM DOLEN: DAV, I'm glad to be here this morning
8 and my boss, Michael Rylenge from the VISN 11, we thank you for
9 inviting us. If you have any questions at any time, just yell them out and
10 I'll answer your questions. We have booklets today, "Forward Together,"
11 and we also have handouts called, "What to Expect from your VA . . ."
12 services. And these are pretty complete and you can get a lot of
13 information from them. I have about 300 copies of "What to Expect from
14 your VA," I have another maybe 50 or 75 copies of, "What to Expect
15 from Orthotic and Prosthetic Laboratories," if you would need an artificial
16 limb or something. And they're up here on the front table. And so, I just
17 want you to know that. And I also have about 300 copies of Points of
18 Contact. So, if you ever have any problems with the VA, you could get
19 ahold of me or get ahold of my supervisor and we'll try to fix it. Because
20 we're trying to have a little culture change in our hospitals and make
21 sure that we serve you and take care of your needs. In fact, we're
22 getting ready to put out a big survey and we want you to know what we
23 are doing right and wrong, and that will be coming out fairly shortly. And
24 it's real important to us, and it will be indirectly very important to you that
25 we know what's going on.

1 And just an overview of what VISN 11 is. VISN 11,
2 we cover about three states; Lower Peninsula of Michigan, northwestern
3 Ohio, most of the State of Indiana, and all of Central Illinois. And my
4 territory is the Lower Peninsula of Michigan; Battle Creek, Saginaw,
5 Detroit, Ann Arbor and Toledo, Ohio. As far as funding, the prosthetics
6 is the fastest growing part of all the VA, and our budget increased about
7 40% this year. And our budget's just about 30 million dollars just in the
8 State of Michigan. So, we are a big money spender and we basically,
9 we spare no expense and we're not always looking for the cheapest
10 products. Don't let someone say that to you. We're looking for high tech
11 items. And we do get great deals on things, though, so that doesn't
12 mean it's cheap. We can get a \$17 cane that might cost someone else
13 \$89, so we get really good prices. And again, our management, Michael
14 Rylenge is my boss and my counterpart in Indianapolis is Stephen
15 Frank. The Orthotic Lab Manager is Lupe Bravo, and you may have
16 seen Lupe around. Tom Granger is the eyeglass factory manager. We
17 make our own eyeglasses, make about 60 thousand pairs a year. And
18 we supply all the eyeglasses for VISN 11, which is what I just explained,
19 but also VISN 12, which is Chicago, Wisconsin, that area. So, we
20 actually, instead of paying \$300 a pair, we make them for about \$38 a
21 pair. And so, if you ever have any problems with that, we're trying to
22 improve that process, too. We're improving a lot of processes. And I'll
23 just read a few things. Our mission statement is,

24 "The Mission of Prosthetics and Sensory Aids Service is to
25 provide specialized quality patient care by furnishing properly

1 "prescribed prosthetic equipment, sensory aids and devices in
2 the most economically and timely manner in accordance with
3 authorizing laws, regulations, and policies. Prosthetics serves
4 as the provider of assistive aids and as the case manager for
5 prosthetic equipment needs of the disabled veteran."

6 And basic eligibility. Basic eligibility is that you need to
7 enroll in the VA healthcare system and your VA provider, that is, your
8 primary care doctor, usually, but it could be your physical therapist,
9 could be your occupational therapist, they have to write us a prescription
10 and then we fill it. But quite often, you could just walk in to a prosthetic
11 service, whatever your local one is, and if they have a current
12 prescription – let's say something breaks or you need a battery or you
13 need a repair or anything like that, just walk in to your local VA and if the
14 prescription is less than a year old, we'll take care of it right there. If it's
15 two or three years old, we can't because things could have changed,
16 your situation, your medical situation could change, and we're mostly
17 purchasing agents that take care of these things, so, we don't make the
18 medical decision. But we try our best to take care of you as fast as we
19 can.

20 Artificial limbs, just want to give you a quick story about a
21 returning Iraqi vet. I was down in Indianapolis and I was just seeing the
22 vets come in and taking off their artificial legs and they'd inspect the
23 stump and they'd do these sorts of things. After a while, this young guy
24 walks in, and I thought he was lost. But he walks in real fast and sits
25 down and he took off his leg, that surprised me. It shouldn't have

1 surprised me too much, because that was the clinic doing that. So, he
2 takes off his leg and he says that, "This leg binds when I'm up on the
3 roof doing my roofing." And he said, "I rode over on my motorcycle from
4 Illinois." So, he was like a 23 or 24 year old and we provided him with
5 about three different legs and one of them was to do work up on the
6 roof. Another was to run. And then he had one leg – we have these legs
7 now that basically keeps track of the other leg. And they cost about 60,
8 70 thousand dollars. And it keeps track of the other leg. And it has a
9 sensor in it that watches the other foot, and if you are going upstairs, it
10 will even point the toes upward automatically, and so the way you would
11 walk with the new devices is totally different from the way you used to
12 walk. So, it's getting to the point where you can't tell that someone's
13 ever had the accident. In the past, you could tell, and they did the best
14 they could. But the new technology is just amazing. And our leader from
15 Washington, D.C., his name is Fred Downs, and he wears an old
16 device. He was in Viet Nam and he lost his arm. And he's got the device
17 with the hook and he is used to that, and so he doesn't want to change
18 or anything. But he was on 60 Minutes, maybe a month ago, not more
19 than a month ago, and he was demonstrating this new device. This
20 company called DEKA, the guy that developed the segue, that machine
21 you stand up on, the fellow who developed that, he was asked by the
22 VA, could you produce a new arm with a hand that could pick up an
23 egg? Blindfold the guy and pick up an egg or a grape, pick up a grape or
24 an egg, and not break them and know the difference without looking.
25 And he basically did this, this guy who developed the segue. He's an

1 amazing scientist and it's called the DEKA arm. The guy thought it was
2 an impossible project because our hands and our arms are amazing
3 instruments; lots of different types of movement. And he developed this.
4 So, we now have this arm where if you would wear it, you basically don't
5 know and it looks the same and it's just like that old show, the Six Million
6 Dollar Man. It's getting to that point where we can do – it's really
7 expensive, but I'm sure the price will come down with the technology,
8 how computers have come down, that sort of thing. So, we're to the
9 point where we really can provide the vet and the returning vets just
10 amazing technology.

11 So, prosthetics, we have a lot of different parts. I'll just go
12 over this part rather briefly here. Wheeled mobility is your manual
13 wheelchairs and your electric wheelchairs. We do give backups, so if
14 you would go in to your local center, we'd make sure you have a
15 backup. But we give out – I mean, if you need a sip and puff wheelchair,
16 we could do that, we could do anything in between.

17 And we have respiratory care, that's home oxygen. I'm
18 not sure if you're aware of that, but if you need it and you get a
19 prescription, we could take care of you there. And a lot of these services
20 I'm talking about – I'll go back to wheeled mobility for just a second, we
21 have a specialist in Detroit and he is there because he is a seating
22 specialist. We're actually a service line. I want to make sure you know
23 that. Prosthetics is not – even though we're in every hospital – for
24 instance, I'm in four hospitals. That's kind of the story for most of us. We
25 work across hospital lines in prosthetics. And our budget's the same.

1 For instance, Ann Arbor is going to be two million dollars short, but the
2 other hospitals are going to be over. It's probably my fault, because I'm
3 the budgeting guy, so I didn't get it quite right. But we can move the
4 money around and take care of shortfalls. And it's not the hospital's
5 money, it's prosthetics' money, and so, we'll take care of that. But in the
6 wheeled mobility, we've got the seating specialist and in respiratory care
7 we have a home oxygen specialist for the whole three states, and she
8 makes sure that the quality of the care is the same all over. And so we
9 deliver oxygen services to probably, in the whole VISN, about three
10 thousand, but it's probably about 300 for Ann Arbor, 650 for Detroit.
11 Even though Ann Arbor has more business than Detroit, believe it or
12 not, they have more home oxygen patients. I'm not quite sure why that
13 is. But Saginaw has about 400 patients who have home oxygen. And
14 Battle Creek probably has 300 and something. So, Ann Arbor, even
15 though it's the biggest medical center in the state, it has the lowest
16 home oxygen – it might be the practices of the doctors and how
17 aggressive they are and how they prescribe it.

18 Aids for the blind and visually impaired, we give out a lot
19 of hearing aids and eyeglasses, and I think I started off and I told you
20 we do like 60 thousand pairs a year. Well, this is our quickest growing
21 area, because the eligibility has been relaxed and so we're – if in the
22 past you didn't qualify for eyeglasses or a hearing aid, odds are you will
23 now. There are still eligibility requirements, but our business has
24 increased about 40% this year. It's our fast growth area. And as far as
25 the blind go, when we give out technology for the blind – for instance,

1 the CCTV, it's a large device that, for instance, I saw one vet out in
2 Battle Creek, and he really hadn't seen his grand daughter's wedding
3 pictures or read the Sunday paper, or anything like that. You could just
4 take your article and just slide it underneath the machine, and it
5 becomes like a great, big picture of your grand daughter's wedding, or
6 something. And so, he could see. And so a lot of these devices do
7 require computers, there's computer technology and that sort of thing.
8 So, if you're prescribed something that you're uncomfortable with, your
9 doctor can send a consult to Battle Creek, and Battle Creek takes care
10 of the whole north. And they will, they'll put you in a 12 person unit, and
11 for like four days, they will teach you how to use the new TV, your new
12 computer and help you become comfortable with what you're doing. And
13 so, that's called a blind rehab center. But if you would even need a
14 guide dog or something that takes you a lot longer to get used to, like
15 you want to get used to your dog, they might send you to Chicago to
16 Hines Hospital, and you might be there for a month to become familiar
17 with your new guide dog and that sort of thing. So, the VA does move
18 resources around and they could take care of you a lot of different ways.

19 I have recreational equipment here and we make sure
20 that if you want to have a racing wheelchair, we'll get you a racing
21 wheelchair, if that's what you want to do. And you want to go to the
22 different types of events, or you just want to, you know, go out and get
23 exercise in the park and need a racing wheelchair, we could probably do
24 that. But you need to go to your physician first and make sure it's a good
25 idea.

1 If you need restoration services, like something bad
2 happened and you need – or a person comes back from the war and is
3 missing part of something – we have a center out in St. Louis. We could
4 do artificial noses and artificial ears and that sort of thing. So, we
5 basically – it's almost unlimited what, as far as our technology goes. The
6 VA basically has the best prosthetic service. I would put us up against
7 any hospital in the whole world, basically. I don't think I'm reaching
8 there. We're putting the money into it and we have the certified
9 technicians and physicians and we take this pretty far for you.

10 And just the last three things I'm going to wrap up with is
11 we have some programs – we work with the Veterans Benefit
12 Administration, the people that do the GI bill and the college loans and
13 college support and that sort of thing. And one of the things they do is
14 special housing. If, for instance, we have one person in Battle Creek
15 and it's an 80 thousand dollar – I mean, it costs as much as the house
16 to do some of the rework. But that's a rare thing. So, mostly what we do
17 is we have a program called HISA, Home Improvement Structural
18 Alterations. And if you're service-connected, we'll give you \$4,200 and
19 you could make your bathroom accessible and that sort of thing. And if
20 you're non-service connected, we'll give you \$1,200.

21 And another program we have in conjunction with the
22 VBA is an automobile adaptive program. If you get a consult that, for
23 instance, let's say you don't have any arms, even, we could still make it
24 so you can drive. You can drive with your feet, basically. But we will
25 outfit your automobile to take care of that. And we basically have 600

1 files right now in the State of Michigan in helping vets out in that regard.

2 And I'll wrap up with the clothing allowance. And if your
3 device wears your clothes out or stains them, and you pass the eligibility
4 requirements, we'll sign you up for a clothing allowance. It's a once a
5 year program and it's paid, I believe, August or September, something
6 like that.

7 So, if you have any questions, I could take your
8 questions now.

9 QUESTION: What I would like to know, why did they quit
10 making the four-way ankle. I had a four-way ankle at one time and that
11 was real nice, walking up hill and everything. Now I have to walk up hill
12 sideways, sidestepping because the ankle is stiff.

13 TIM DOLEN: Okay. You want to know why they're not
14 making the four-way ankle now. Well, okay, without trying to dodge your
15 question here, we had some of the highest tech – go back to your
16 medical center and see your primary care and get a consult to your
17 rehabilitation specialist, your Physical Medicine physician. We have
18 several specialists throughout the State of Michigan. One is Dr. Robert
19 Werner in Ann Arbor. He's really up there in that field. And if you need to
20 be prescribed something that's the new high tech – they've gone high
21 tech, basically, and these things have infrared sensors and it's all high
22 tech stuff now. And he could get you the appropriate ankle, I'm sure.

23 If you have no more questions, I really appreciate being
24 here today. Okay. One more.

25 QUESTION: I'd like you to pass on this to VISN 11 for us.

1 The new visual impaired program that we have at the Saginaw
2 VA is one of the leading visual impaired programs in the state. And I
3 want to thank VISN 11 for introducing it to Saginaw VA. And pass that
4 on to your upper group. Thank you.

5 TIMOTHY DOLEN: I sure will. Thank you.

6 (Applause.)

7 DAV NEC BOOZER: Thank you, Dan.

8 Well, I guess we all know what our leg is worth today
9 now, don't we? 60 to 70 thousand dollars. Pretty good. I guess we better
10 get insurance on them, huh? Yeah.

11 Okay. At this time I'd like to introduce my alternate, 10th
12 District NEC, David Van Hill.

13 (Applause.)

14 I'd like to introduce the Auxiliary for 10th District,
15 AlmaMarie Taylor. Her alternate is Loraine Connelly. AlmaMarie, do you
16 want to say a word?

17 DAVA NEC TAYLOR: Good morning. I want to thank all
18 of you for coming and I want to introduce some special people in our
19 audience. I would like to introduce Sandy Dobmeier, our National
20 Commander of the Disabled American Auxiliary.

21 (Applause.)

22 And her husband Mike, Past National Commander.

23 (Applause.)

24 And we have one of our own, Past National Commander
25 Carol Gray.

1 (Applause.)

2 And I want to thank Tim for letting us know all this. It's
3 very gracious of you to come. Thank you.

4 DAV NEC BOOZER: Okay. At this time, I'd like to have
5 Ron Schrieber, our Legislative Chairman, to come up and update us on
6 any legislative that he's got on hand. We promise you it won't take too
7 long. Isn't that right, Ron?

8 RON SCHRIEBER: At least an hour.

9 DAV NEC BOOZER: I'll give you 45 minutes.

10 RON SCHRIEBER: Good morning. I'm going to give you
11 a little update on what I have received recently from National on the VA
12 budget. Primarily, the budget for this year was passed and it is a good
13 budget. Next year's budget is looking very well. It looks like it's going to
14 be a good budget. We should be seeing a lot more veterans ask to
15 come in for treatment or allowed in to the VA system for treatment now
16 due to the increased funding for healthcare. There was supposed to be
17 an additional 500 thousand veterans admitted into the system over the
18 next 18 months, I think it is. So, a lot of those folks that had applied that
19 were denied healthcare before are now being sent letters asking them to
20 reapply and come in and update their income information to get back
21 into the healthcare system. If you were previously denied and you
22 haven't heard anything, you might want to contact your local VA clinic or
23 hospital.

24 The advance funding effort is moving forward and it looks
25 like that's probably going to happen. So if that does, if that law gets

1 passed, or that gets passed, it will put the VA in a much better position
2 as far as knowing what their budget's going to be from one year to the
3 next and they won't have to wait until the middle of the year before they
4 can start planning for the next year's budget.

5 There are a couple of things that are going on that
6 probably would be of interest to most of us would be the Compensation
7 and Cost of Living and Adjustment Act which is – and that would include
8 the DIC, and they're shooting for that to become effective the first of
9 December. That hasn't passed yet, but it's moving through the House
10 and Senate.

11 Michiganwise, there are several things going on with the
12 State Legislature, but one thing I want to bring up is Carl Poest out of
13 Chapter 14 sent me a letter and asked me to write a resolution on this,
14 but I didn't get it in time to get the resolution put together for the State
15 Convention, but I'll give you a bill number and you can write to your
16 representatives and ask them to support this. It's Senate Bill 1154. and
17 I'm going to read it for you. It's concerning taxation of veterans that get
18 the pecuniary award from the VA. As you know, they are all entitled to
19 apply for a tax exemption. Well, this bill – rather than read it, I'll just give
20 you – anyone who is rated 100% total and permanent would be entitled
21 to get the tax relief in the State of Michigan, not only those that get the
22 adapted housing grant. It makes sense for them to do that. If a person is
23 rated 100% and they're permanent and total and they can't work, then I
24 don't know why they wouldn't be able to get the tax allowance just like
25 the other folks do. Anyway, that's Senate Bill 1154 and you can call your

1 representatives and ask them to support that. It's to change the tax laws
2 under Public Law 97-3542 USC 9902. And that's the subtitle under one
3 of the property taxation laws.

4 Just a brief rundown on what this year's budget should
5 be doing. It should be – well, as I said, they increased the funding for VA
6 healthcare. They should be getting a lot more mental health care
7 available, because there was quite a large increase in that. The
8 President has committed to expanding that healthcare program to try to
9 stop some of these gaps that we have in the mental healthcare systems
10 around the nation. There was some money that was thrown in there for
11 ensuring seamless transition from military service to the VA as far as
12 healthcare. And there was a lot of money that was put in to meeting the
13 needs of women veterans, which we've been kind of lax in over the
14 years. So, hopefully, that program will get some much needed funding.
15 There was some money to put more clinics in the rural areas to bring
16 more healthcare to veterans in those rural areas. And there was some
17 increased funding for long term healthcare, which is of interest to most
18 of us in this room. And technology increases in the way of doing
19 business in the VA as far as claims processing and that sort of thing.
20 And Dave's telling me my time is up, so I'll let you go.

21 Thank you.

22 (Applause.)

23 DAV NEC BOOZER: Thank you, Ron. I wish we had
24 more time, but you know they cut the district down from eight hours to
25 one hour, so we're trying to cram everything in to one hour. So, bear

1 with us, okay?

2 At this time, I want to call forward Tom Wendel, our
3 Service Director. He's got a few words he wants to say. And I promise
4 you, it's only a few words.

5 TOM WENDEL: I'll be brief, but right now I just wanted to
6 address a few things that are going on within the state. Right now, a lot
7 of you may know about the Governor's executive order which basically
8 cut 187 thousand dollars from our budget for the Department Service
9 Officer program. And what that basically did was that took away all of
10 our funding for the last quarter of this year. So, that basically means
11 right now we have no money to support our Department Service Officer
12 program out there. We're working hard trying to figure out some other
13 avenues, trying to work with National about trying to get some
14 emergency funding to help us out. We're checking on a couple of things
15 there. But right now, the way this is looking is – you know, there is a lot
16 of things going on in the State with the executive order, Senate Bill 250.
17 you know, there's a lot that's happening right now with this. Right now,
18 the way it's looking, all of our Department Service Officers, I've already
19 taken them from full time to part time, and that went into effect on May
20 15th. Right now I can only hold them until June 12th, with the money that
21 we currently have. So, what's going to happen is you're going to have –
22 they're going to be up here, Rolly's going to be basically offering the
23 chapters and everybody an opportunity to come up on this stage and to
24 donate money, you know, for the Rehabilitation Fund. And what I'm
25 looking at is if anybody – if you're out there, your chapter, you as an

1 individual, you as an auxiliary, if you believe in the mission of the DAV,
2 which our mission is service, then you will continue to support this
3 program, give us some funding to get out there and keep these people
4 on at least until we can figure out what's going to happen with SB 250
5 October 1. So, right now, for us to survive from now until October 1, you
6 know, just to keep them on part time, we're looking at 60 thousand
7 dollars. To keep them on full time, we're looking at 121 thousand
8 dollars. So, I'm calling on everybody, if you believe in this mission to
9 service our veterans, then I'm calling on you know, when Rolly puts that
10 call out to come and march up on this stage and to donate money, that
11 you support this program. And I didn't want to take up too much of
12 Dave's time. I know they've got other things that are going on, but Dave,
13 I appreciate you giving me the opportunity to speak up here and I'm
14 speaking from the heart that one, these individuals do an excellent job.
15 You know, since we've started this fiscal year they've all interviewed
16 between six and seven thousand veterans, so there's a lot of veterans
17 that would not be served if they weren't out there. When you talk about
18 the workload that comes into the National office, the Department
19 Service Officers submit 65 to 70 percent of those claims. So, our
20 Department Service Officers do an excellent job out there. And we need
21 your support to keep them out there. And remember, they also serve as
22 our HSCs which also controls our transportation network. So, we need
23 to also think about that angle of it as well. So, again, I thank you very
24 much and I'll look forward to your support. Thank you.

(Applause.)

1 DAV NEC BOOZER: Thanks, Tom.

2 Well, you heard the bad news. We don't want to lose any
3 service officers if we can help it. We need 60 thousand dollars to keep
4 them going for the rest of the year, that's part time. 120 thousand dollars
5 to keep them on full time. We all know the dedication they give us, the
6 hard work they do, so I'm asking you, each and every one of you here,
7 pass it on to your friends who are not here, that we do need this money.
8 I'm sure most of us, if not all of us, has hit the floor out there and put
9 money in those machines. Save a few bucks to give to the Department
10 to keep the service officers working. Pass it on to your friends and be
11 prepared – search your heart because this is very important for our
12 mission. We're here to service veterans. If they're not there working, it's
13 going to be a big hurdle serving veterans. So, please, search your heart
14 and give.

15 At this time, I'll call on Mike for our closing prayer.

16 CHAPLAIN KNUTSON: Before the prayer, I'm going to
17 say a couple of things. I am the recipient of one of those 60 thousand
18 pairs of glasses. And I was at the VA getting my glasses and I went to
19 the opticians to marry up the glasses and I said, "Make me look good. I
20 need a good pair of glasses." So, this is the pair that they gave. And I
21 said, "As long as they make me look like a stud, I'll take them."

22 This month, many of us are going to be receiving \$250
23 from the VA because of the National Recovery Act or whatever we are
24 getting. I have not received mine. But it was money I was not prepared
25 for and probably do not deserve. I am pledging my \$250 to the State for

1 this act.

(Applause.)

2 DAV NEC BOOZER: Thank you, Mike.

3 CHAPLAIN KNUTSON: I challenge those who can to
4 give a portion. Religiously we call it a tithe, ten percent. We have about
5 50 thousand veterans in this State. If only 20 percent, 10 thousand of
6 them tithe 10 percent of that \$250 that we are getting, we will have more
7 than enough money to cover our service officers.

8 One other thing. A neighbor of mine lost his leg in Viet
9 Nam and one Saturday afternoon he was sitting in his chair watching
10 some football games and he was not feeling so good. He took off his leg
11 and his three year old grand daughter came by and for the first time saw
12 grandpa without a leg. She said, "Grandpa, what happened?" In the way
13 that he tried to explain to a three year old this is what happened, the
14 little three year old just put her hands around grandpa's neck, gave him
15 a kiss and said, "Grandpa, it's going to be okay because I love you."
16 America needs to say it to our veterans, "It will be okay because we love
17 you."

18 Please stand for the benediction.

19 Gracious God, there is much work to be done. Remind us
20 the purpose of this organization is to serve our fellow veterans. Amen.

21 DAV NEC BOOZER: Thank you, Mike.

22 Please remain standing. We will close this 10th District
23 meeting with the honor of our flag once more. By the numbers, one, two.
24 I now declare the 10th District Meeting for 2009 closed.
25

1 84th Annual Disabled American Veterans
2 2009 Department of Michigan State Convention
3 Joint Opening Session
4 Friday, June 5, 2009
5 About 11:00 o'clock, a.m.

6 COMMANDER MULCAHEY: Please stand; we will now
7 be led in prayer by our Chaplain. Uncover.

8 CHAPLAIN KNUTSON: Eternal Spirit, the God who is the
9 creator of all life, the creator of our freedom and liberty and the creator
10 of our happiness. We come together once again from the four corners of
11 this great state and our nation. Unite us as one DAV family as we
12 deliberate the important business of this organization. Impress upon our
13 minds and hearts that until we are at peace with you, we can be at
14 peace with no one else. That freedom can exist nowhere unless it exists
15 everywhere. That the strength of this nation does not lie in armies or
16 navies, but in the integrity of its people. That peace is borne out of
17 righteousness and nothing else. That the trouble with our world is still
18 people. That peace is not possible until our hearts and the direction of
19 our wills are changed. As you have made and preserved us as a nation,
20 so now mold us into a people more worthy of a great heritage. In your
21 strong name we make these prayers. Amen.

22 COMMANDER MULCAHEY: Cover. Comrades,
23 Attention! Those wearing uniform caps, please give the hand salute, all
24 others, please place your right hand over your heart for the pledge of
25 allegiance. Attention!

1 (Pledge of Allegiance.)

2 COMMANDER MULCAHEY: Two! Please be seated.
3 Officer of the Day, is the mayor here?

4 We will now have our opening remarks by our Mayor,
5 Anthony Bosbous.

6 JEFF STEFANSKI: Good morning. My name is Jeff
7 Stefanski, City Commissioner, and I'm here to represent Anthony
8 Bosbous, Mayor of Sault Ste. Marie.

9 Commitment to God, community and country are this
10 nation's greatest strengths. They have enabled us to rise, to pass
11 challenges, and they will make us able to rise to meet the challenges we
12 confront today. Most of you here know exactly what is needed to meet
13 great adversity and what it means to do your duty while faced with the
14 loss of family, friends, the destruction of your surroundings, and the
15 threat of personal danger. You face the unthinkable with courage and
16 determination. From our nation's soldiers, we have learned the true
17 qualities of heroes. We also learned from them the importance of shared
18 purpose, selfless dedication to duty and a strong sense of community
19 during hard times. To all the veterans who are here, I extend my
20 warmest welcome and my deepest gratitude. I also want to extend a
21 thank you to the DAV organization for their many services. Your
22 services go well beyond disabled veterans of our community to benefit
23 the many non-disabled veterans as well. The breadth of services your
24 organization provides is impressive; from tracking and lobbying national
25 legislative initiatives, to helping veterans and their families submit

1 claims, to disaster relief for veterans following disasters like floods and
2 tornadoes. Your organization truly puts the needs of our veterans first.
3 One of the most visible examples of your outreach is the DAV transport
4 service. The vans that travel throughout our communities to bring
5 disabled veterans to the various veterans medical facilities where
6 needed medical care is available for outpatient service as well as
7 hospital care. For so many of our veterans, the DAV vans represent the
8 only means of transport from their home to a medical facility. Our
9 veterans are not just nameless faces. You are our friends, our
10 neighbors, our parents and our children.

11 On behalf of the City of Sault Ste. Marie, I thank you for
12 your service and your courage and extend to you our warmest welcome
13 and our deepest gratitude. And thank you for reminding us that we need
14 heroes and that those heroes are all around us. Thank you. God bless.

15 (Applause.)

16 COMMANDER MULCAHEY: Before our next speaker,
17 we're going to watch a short film, so please look up above you.

18 (Film played.)

19 ADJUTANT LEE: Before we bring up our next guest, I
20 would like to read his bio. It's Mr. Richard V. Briggs, Jr., he's a major in
21 the United States Air Force, Retired. He's a manager of the Brain Injury
22 Association of Michigan veterans program. Major Briggs is responsible
23 for managing the Program's primary goals of raising TBI awareness
24 among veterans and their families, facilitating a working relationship with
25 the Veterans Administration and the Michigan Department of Military

1 Affairs. The program also has a goal of establishing a public/private
2 partnership and reaching out to private TBI healthcare providers for the
3 treatment of returning veterans.

4 Prior to working with the Brain Injury Association of
5 Michigan, Major Briggs was introduced to the world of brain injury
6 advocacy through his role as Promotions Director for the Michigan
7 affiliation Operation Helmet. The non-profit organization goal was to
8 raise funds for Ballistic Liner Upgrade Kits and help reduce the impact of
9 explosive shock waves on a combatant's brain.

10 Major Briggs is from a four generation career family who
11 enlisted in the United States Air Force in 1972 during the Vietnam War.
12 As a sergeant, he left the Air Force after four and a half years to pursue
13 his Bachelor of Art degree from Michigan State University. He garnered
14 his commission in 1980 through the ROTC program. While an officer, he
15 earned a Master of Arts degree from Central Michigan University. Major
16 Briggs held positions as an Air Command Combat Aircrew member, an
17 Instructor Navigator, a Wing Navigation Officer, Operations Officer,
18 Flight Commander, Chief of Current Operations and Bomb Group
19 Executive Officer. Major Briggs retired from the Air Force in 1994,
20 shortly after serving in Operation Desert Shield.

21 Advocacy for veterans continues to be a passion for
22 Major Briggs, not only through the BIAMI Veteran's Program, but also
23 through his service for the State of Michigan Department of Natural
24 Resources Disability Accessibility Council. The Military and Veterans
25 Affairs Council, the Department of Veterans Affairs VISN 11 Traumatic

1 Brain Injury Council and an advisor for the Michigan Veterans service
2 organizations, and Congressman McCotter's Veterans Affairs Panel.

3 Major Briggs also serves as the Co-chairman of the
4 Communications and Public Affairs sub-committee for the Traumatic
5 Brain Injury Resource Optimization Center Advisory Group for JBS
6 International of Bethesda, Maryland, and is a director of the Invisible
7 Wounds national awareness campaign for Operation Never Forgotten.

8 Major Briggs is married 30 years to his wife Pamela and
9 has three children Jeremy, Brittany and Allen. His son, Sergeant Jeremy
10 Briggs, just graduated from OCS and is the fourth Mustang in the family
11 to go from enlisted to the commissioned ranks.

12 COMMANDER MULCAHEY: It is with great honor I
13 introduce Rick Briggs.

14 Officer of the Day, please escort him up.

15 MAJOR BRIGGS: Normally, I like to start my comments
16 out by recognizing the dignitaries in the audience. But I think you all will
17 agree with me when you're talking to the DAV and their families, they
18 are all dignitaries. Thank you for what you have done and continue to do
19 today.

20 (Applause.)

21 I want to talk very briefly about a few things. I want to do
22 it from a military perspective and a civilian perspective because this is
23 going to be a joint effort nationally to make sure our troops, that we ask
24 to go into combat, get the care they need and deserve when they come
25 home. So, we do need your help. And the message that was on just

1 before me is a very poignant one and it's right on target.

2 I want to ask a couple of questions up front of the
3 audience to see where your baseline reference is. How many of you
4 know somebody with breast cancer, HIV AIDS, Multiple Sclerosis or a
5 spinal cord injury. Please raise your hands. Look around the room a
6 moment. All right. Thank you.

7 How many of you know somebody with a traumatic brain
8 injury, please raise your hands. As I expected. This is nearly double,
9 almost triple the percentage that we normally get when we raise the
10 hands on TBI. But I want to tell you, if you took HIV AIDS, Multiple
11 Sclerosis, spinal cord injury and breast cancer and combined them and
12 multiplied that total number by six, that's how many Americans are
13 affected every year by traumatic brain injury. That's not counting shaken
14 babies and it's not counting our veterans. The DOD and the Rand
15 reports were within 20 thousand of each other and both of them
16 estimate more than 300 thousand veterans are going to come home
17 from Operations Iraqi and Enduring Freedom with a traumatic brain
18 injury. More than two-thirds of them who have sustained another injury
19 are also going to sustain a traumatic brain injury. These are invisible
20 wounds. I typically have a sergeant come with me who talks to these
21 things. He was hit with a two thousand pound V-BIED, Sergeant Rob
22 Wentworth, and he gets up and he talks to the audience. And he talks
23 about everything but his wounds. You do not know by looking at him or
24 hearing him that he sustained a brain injury. He was hit with a two
25 thousand pound V-BIED at about 40 meters and the fact he's alive is a

1 miracle. Over 116 Iraqis were killed; men, women and children, from the
2 Vehicle Borne IED. And yet the DOD and the VA do not recognize his
3 TBI. For you who have been exposed to ballistic impacts, there's no way
4 at 40 meters with a two thousand pound bomb you'd even be walking
5 away, let alone not sustain that type of injury.

6 But the message I want to talk about today is a couple. I
7 want to make you aware of the assets we have in the State of Michigan
8 and what Michigan's role is in the country. There are 13 states that have
9 zero CARF accredited TBI neurocognitive rehabilitation facilities, none.
10 A bunch of states have one and two. California is very progressive, they
11 have the second most in the country. They have five. The State of
12 Michigan has 55 facilities, and that's just counting the CARF accredited
13 ones. We have 18 percent of the nation's total assets and we are doing
14 everything we can to ensure this government and the DOD knows they
15 have a need, they have injured soldiers, especially in those states with
16 no facilities, and we have the capabilities. It's insane that they are not
17 coming here to get their care. That's the message we have to deliver to
18 the national stage.

19 Neurocognitive rehabilitation facilitation is a very
20 specialized treatment. It needs to be done by professionals. The DOD
21 and the VA combined in the world have four, in the entire world, CARF
22 accredited facilities. We have more in one county. We should be proud
23 of the assets we have and we've got to do everything we can, working
24 with the VA, working with the DOD, to ensure that there's a direct
25 pipeline to these private sectors. So, for those of you who have seen the

1 Bob Woodruff story and the miraculous recovery he made, from the
2 NBC news anchor position to being back on the news after he was in a
3 coma for as long as he was, every troop out there deserves that same
4 level of care. It shouldn't be a matter of money. And in many cases, the
5 battle we fight isn't just getting the assets to the troops. It's getting the
6 troops to recognize that they need help.

7 Now, I want to talk a little bit about the invisible wounds.
8 I'm the campaign director nationally for Operation Never Forgotten.
9 You'll see the electronic billboards. We've had them in Times Square,
10 Las Vegas, Chicago-O'Hare, all over the country. We have gold star
11 families, wounded warriors, and invisible wounds campaigns. There are
12 six total campaigns. And they are putting them up for free for our
13 veterans. Keep an eye out for those messages. But the two main
14 issues, post-traumatic stress disorder and traumatic brain injury are
15 invisible wounds. PTSD is a normal response to an abnormal situation.
16 You can get PTSD on the street downtown here in Sault Ste. Marie if
17 you see a horrific car accident or something like that. It's not a combat-
18 only injury. Our civilians deal with it. The leading cause amongst women
19 is rape. PTSD is a psychological reaction to an abnormal situation. A
20 TBI, a traumatic brain injury, is an injury, it's a physical assault to the
21 body. It affects the neuron and sub-neuron level. Everything we do, we
22 think, we feel, everything how our body reacts, is driven by the brain. I
23 had a TBI vet tell me that his favorite meal when he came home, his
24 wife prepared it, didn't taste the same. He didn't even like it anymore.
25 Her perfume smelled differently. Think of all the other things that

1 normally happen. Word retrieval problems. You know, the cognitive
2 processing, what we call sequencing. For those of you who play chess
3 or checkers or strategy-type games, the ability to say, "I'll move here,
4 he'll move there, I'll take his queen." To think, two, three, four, five
5 moves ahead. That is a significant impact.

6 What is happening right now is, we've got 23,440,000
7 veterans in the country. And you know they're dying at a rate faster than
8 1800 a day. Our newest generation is enrolling in the VA at about 15
9 percent higher than the national average, but it's still not enough. They
10 have to get into the system. And if you have a young man or a young
11 lady in your neighborhood that you know is struggling, they cannot self-
12 diagnose this. They know something is different. And for the guard and
13 reserved they come back to their civilian jobs, the job that used to be so
14 easy before is now very difficult for them. They're forgetting things. They
15 need iPods, they need memory devices. They need to get in and get the
16 rehabilitation that they need. That's where we can get involved.

17 I don't see – do we have any OIF/OEF veterans here in
18 the audience? Raise your hands, please. We have a couple. Thank you
19 very much. You guys look pretty old for going over there, I want to tell
20 you that, okay? Where's the young men and women that are injured?
21 How come they're not in this organization? We've got to work on them.
22 And I say the same thing to the VFW and the American Legion, we've
23 got to get this newer generation in. There is a wealth of knowledge and
24 experience in advocacy, legislative VA sitting in this room. Those kids,
25 and I call them kids out of respect, they don't have a clue what even to

1 ask. I was the only attendee out of the Northeast two weeks ago in
2 Boston. I was invited up to the TBI conference up there, five states. We
3 had all the military affairs directors, veterans affairs, VA, DOD,
4 everybody was there. They had two young men, a Marine and an Army
5 Military Police got up with their families and talked about how tough it
6 was. One of the families lived in a hotel room in Florida for over two
7 years. Out of a hotel room. Lost their job, was in the process of losing
8 their home because they had to get their son down to get care because
9 they couldn't get it through the VA because the VA wouldn't outsource it
10 then. March 27th of this year, the VA put a memo out that says they are
11 mandated, they will outsource neurocognitive behavioral therapy. That
12 is a wonderful victory for us. And by us, I mean our veterans.

13 TRICARE, a year ago, did not have neurocognitive
14 rehabilitation as a coded treatment, they wouldn't even authorize it. The
15 signature wound of the war on terror wasn't even getting treated. When
16 the VAIG put out a report one year ago last month, I called up the IG
17 national. I says, "You put out a report that was mandated by Congress.
18 You do a random sample of vets who have returned, two year later
19 follow-up. Out of the eight that you picked, you said, 'five of them are
20 getting their care through TRICARE, two of them are in the VA system,
21 one of them they lost track of.'" I said, "Do you know that TRICARE
22 does not approve neurocognitive behavioral treatment?" And the
23 medical chief of staff was there and the IG was there, and there was a
24 big pause on the end of the line. They had no idea. They just knew that
25 somebody else was handling it. So, that was a big victory, to get

1 TRICARE to start doing that.

2 Those are the types of things that your organization and
3 the voice that you have, especially as the DAV, need to send that
4 message that no matter what the wound is, these young men and
5 women need help. And General Faussone is going to talk to you a little
6 bit later. And I don't know if she's going to go into the suicide thing, but I
7 want to tell you, more of our troops committed suicide in January of
8 2009 than were killed in combat in Iraq and Afghanistan combined. The
9 fastest growing homeless population are 21 to 29 year old veterans. The
10 guys are coming back from combat and they're struggling. You got the
11 homeless, you got suicide, divorce, the jobless rate, everything that
12 these young men and women are facing, they need you and your
13 expertise. You have your battles, and I understand that. But they need
14 what your experience has been for the last 30, 40 years. They really
15 need you. And I want to tell you something, I have seen it firsthand,
16 when these Iraq and Afghanistan vets meet you, the Vietnam vet, the
17 Korea vet, the World War II vet, every single time it's a reunion for them.
18 They admire you for what you did, what you went through and for their
19 freedom and all they're doing is carrying on your legacy, and they hope
20 they can do as honorable a job as you did. Every one of them expresses
21 that. Reach out to these young men and women. Don't think that they're
22 a different generation. They're going through what you went through
23 many years ago, some cases, decades ago. They need you. They want
24 to hear from you. And when they come and meet with you, don't buy
25 them a drink. If I have one thing that Rick Briggs, and I'm not speaking

1 for the Brain Injury Association, but if there's one thing that we could
2 change, it is how our VSOs do their social gatherings. You walk into an
3 American Legion, VFW, any hall around, and the bar is open and that is
4 the social gathering place. It's legal and it's socially acceptable to drink
5 alcohol. But if you've sustained a brain injury, that old joke back in the
6 college days, "Hey, I'm going to go out and kill some brain cells," it's not
7 a joke. It severely impedes their progress in the rehabilitation process.
8 We are here for you. I hope every one of you will look me up if you need
9 help or you know somebody who needs help.

10 And I want to invite every one of you to a picnic next
11 Saturday on June 13th down at Kensington Metro Park. It's free. We
12 have a bass fishing tournament, a pig roast, barbecue, two bands, a DJ,
13 36 passenger pontoon boat with disability access. We have magicians
14 and all kinds of face painting and special care dog handlers, all kinds of
15 stuff going on there. You are all invited. Bring your families and friends.
16 It's an opportunity for us to gather and say thank you to all the veterans
17 who have served, and it's an opportunity for the public to come and
18 meet you and say thank you for your service.

19 Are there any questions? Sir.

20 QUESTION: (No microphone.)

21 RICHARD BRIGGS: OIF and OEF veterans. How do you
22 get ahold of them?

23 COMMANDER MULCAHEY: Excuse me, sir, please use
24 the mike when you are commenting, please.

25 RICHARD BRIGGS: One of the absolute key ways that

1 you can get ahold of these young men and women – I want to talk a little
2 bit about military infrastructure. One of the wonderful things of working
3 with the National Guard is, their hierarchy is entirely in the State. We
4 have control over that. They put out the Wolverine Magazine and you
5 can easily throw an ad in there, you know, "Call Major Dancer" and fire it
6 off and say, "please contact us." Go to – a lot of the local State
7 legislators hold town hall meetings. That is a wonderful place that if you
8 can't get a staff member to go down or a service officer to attend, get a
9 member to attend. At least shake a hand and hand out a membership
10 application, you know, that type of thing. The reserves and the active
11 duty obviously are much more difficult. Their command might be in, you
12 know, Rock Island, Illinois, or, you know, Pittsburgh, for some of the
13 Marines and, you know, that type of thing. So, they're a lot more difficult.
14 But go up to the armory, go to the armory in your community. We've got
15 probably 70 different counties sitting here. Have you gone up and
16 knocked on their door and said "Hi, I'm from the DAV and we're here to
17 help. The next time you hold a weekend drill, or a family gathering, we
18 would like to be a part of it." We've got to be proactive. You know, I hate
19 this think outside the box thing, because to me there is no box. We have
20 got to be there for each other, especially veteran to veteran. These
21 young men and women with PTSD and I don't want to get in to all the
22 suicide phone calls that are going on right now. You have no idea.
23 These young men and women don't even know where to turn, even
24 though I'll tell you, we're so far ahead of where we ever were in
25 Vietnam. There's more, almost three times as many people committed

1 suicide as there are names on the wall. We were horribly prepared for
2 the post-Vietnam era. We can't let that happen again. But these young
3 men and women do not want to talk to civilians. They don't get it.
4 Civilians don't understand what they've been through. That's where you
5 come in. and these vets know you've been there, "You've been in my
6 shoes. You probably had it harder than I did. You didn't have the Kevlar
7 helmets and the ballistic liner upgrade kits. You didn't have the 45
8 pounds of bullet-proof everything. The wonderful news is they're
9 surviving at an enormous rate, their injuries, four times over what it was
10 in Vietnam. But the bad news is we've got to care for them when they
11 come home.

12 Does that give you a few ideas? Any other questions?

13 Sir.

14 QUESTION: What time does that picnic start at
15 Kensington Metro Park?

16 RICHARD BRIGGS: If you want to go fishing, you've got
17 to get up early because we're going to have you there at 6:30.

18 QUESTION: No, not fishing.

19 RICHARD BRIGGS: We're going to pair a veteran up
20 with a pro fisherman in a bass boat. Some of these boats are like
21 \$40,000.

22 QUESTION: No, I don't want to go fishing.

23 RICHARD BRIGGS: If you just want to come to the
24 picnic, be there at 9:30, 10 o'clock. Bring the family and friends.

25 QUESTION: Okay. That's next Saturday the 13th, right?

1 RICHARD BRIGGS: Right. And we have a couple of
2 posters I've handed out. They're up at your registration table.

3 QUESTION: So, I can get information on that, right?

4 RICHARD BRIGGS: Yes. Tips-up.com is the web site.
5 Register if you're coming so we can plan for you. We're only planning on
6 600 people.

7 QUESTION: That's down south, right?

8 RICHARD BRIGGS: No, it's at Kensington Metro Park,
9 it's just east of Brighton, Michigan, right on 96.

10 QUESTION: So, if you want us to go to the armory, what,
11 do we get ahold of the commander there, or whatnot?

12 RICHARD BRIGGS: For me, being prior service, I'd talk
13 to an NCO, somebody who knows what's going on.

14 (Applause.)

15 QUESTION: So, just talk to the 1st Sergeant, right, most
16 likely?

17 RICHARD BRIGGS: You know, you get in there, they'll
18 get you the right guys. I've walked into some of these armories and it's
19 like nobody ever goes and talks to them other than official business.
20 They would love to hear from you guys and gals.

21 QUESTION: Well, there's another one by my house. It's
22 not an armory, but it's, you know, a reserve station.

23 RICHARD BRIGGS: Yeah, some of the Navy reserve
24 stations, the corpsmen have some facilities scattered around. You think
25 about what our Navy corpsmen are going through. My dad was Navy. I

1 was in the Air Force. My brother who is Army told me I should have
2 joined the military instead of going in the Air Force. I always said why.

3 QUESTION: I know what you mean. My dad was Air
4 Force and my brother and everybody else and I went Army, so.

5 RICHARD BRIGGS: Great question. Does that answer
6 it?

7 QUESTION: Yes, sir. Thank you.

8 RICHARD BRIGGS: Well, hopefully we'll see some of
9 you down at the picnic.

10 Any other questions?

11 RON SCHRIEBER: Ron Schrieber, I'm the DAV State
12 Legislative Chairman. And I'm wondering what kind of support are we
13 getting out of our senators and legislators in Washington, D.C.? I'm
14 trying to get some of these treatment centers moved in to Michigan. I
15 mean, I don't hear too much coming out of there, but it seems to me like
16 if we have the most and the best, they would be taking advantage of
17 that. So, maybe we need to try to do something to get our legislators to
18 work to get some of those VA things moving.

19 RICHARD BRIGGS: Well, I don't want to make it sound
20 like nobody's doing anything, because if you really look at the last four
21 years, five years, there's been a lot done. Congressman McCotter and
22 Candace Miller are both on the Congressional Brain Injury Task Force.
23 And we have their ear, seriously. And they are spreading the word.
24 There have been some things adopted nationally because of the State
25 of Michigan. We're heading in the right direction. I don't mean to send a

1 signal that we're hopeless, but we're at the point where the biggest
2 concern I have is getting the message as young men and women who
3 are injured, who are worried about their security, their promotions,
4 staying in the military. They don't want their boss to know that they've
5 sustained a brain injury. If you had somebody working for you at your
6 civilian firm who said they had a brain injury, what are you going to do?
7 How are you going to react to them? Do you understand that it's
8 treatable? Being treatable is the most important component of that. And
9 that is the message that we're trying to get across. In fact, if you see our
10 billboard, it says "PTSD/TBI invisible, treatable." We have got to get rid
11 of the stigma associated with these issues, these health issues, so that
12 people can get on with their lives. As far as the legislative thing, you
13 know, just keep your eyes out, guys. The Brain Injury Association of
14 Michigan is actually leading the way nationally in a lot of campaigns and
15 right now the biggest thing we have is really not a legislative issue as
16 much as it is getting the young men and women to ask for help. There's
17 320 thousand combatants who are coming home according to both the
18 Rand and the DOD reports with TBI. Where are they? If you check with
19 the VA, we've got 17 hundred of them in the system. Now, a lot of mild
20 TBIs will improve over time, you know, like concussion, the more mild
21 stuff. The very severe ones are getting phenomenal care. You
22 remember the actress who just fell on the bunny slope? And I apologize,
23 I can't remember her name, just like two months ago? I guarantee if she
24 was in Iraq, she'd be alive today because our military doctors would
25 have done a cranioplasty on her and she would have been, you know,

1 going through rehab. But you have to have that knowledge and the
2 access to it. We can't pull these troops into the system, they have to
3 want to get help. And that's where keeping an eye in your neighborhood
4 -- if you hear somebody say, you know, "Sergeant so and so got back
5 three months ago and he's just not right. He's not the same. He's
6 struggling. He doesn't have a job." Have you knocked on his door and
7 asked him how he's doing? You don't have to get personal. You know
8 what it was like when you guys came back. You don't want somebody
9 digging in your stuff. But if you tell them who you are and say, "If you
10 ever need anything, call me," it will not go unnoticed. And maybe that
11 call will come at the right time and prevent one of these suicides.

12 QUESTION: Thank you.

13 RICHARD BRIGGS: I know I didn't give you a direct
14 answer, but right now I don't have -- if you asked me, I got my dream
15 when the VA said we'll outsource TBI care. So, right now there's nothing
16 really we need to do other than get these young men and women to
17 step forward and ensure that the senior leadership does not nail these
18 guys professionally on their careers when they do ask for help. Because
19 hopefully in six months they'll be back on the job.

20 COMMANDER MULCAHEY: Excuse me. We have time
21 for one more question over here and then you'll be here afterwards for
22 more questions. So, we'll take one more question right here.

23 RICHARD BRIGGS: And we will be around, we won't be
24 leaving until tomorrow morning, so you can -- if you see me in the hall or
25 whatever, flag me down, I'd love to chat with you. Especially if you have

1 any issues that need to be addressed or whatever. Yes, ma'am
2 DEBORAH EMERY: Deborah Emery, 129. You
3 mentioned the abbreviations OIF.

4 RICHARD BRIGGS: Operation Iraqi Freedom.

5 DEBORAH EMERY: And that was associated to the TBI
6 that you were speaking of, correct, not a separate thing?

7 RICHARD BRIGGS: Well, TBI is the signature wound of
8 the war on terror. It's been recognized just by the sheer volume. OIF
9 and OEF, Operation Iraqi Freedom and Operation Enduring Freedom,
10 Enduring Freedom being Afghanistan.

11 DEBORAH EMERY: I just wanted to make sure it wasn't
12 a separate injury.

13 RICHARD BRIGGS: That's amazing. I was ready for that
14 one.

15 DEBORAH EMERY: Okay. Thank you.

16 RICHARD BRIGGS: Thank you so much, it's an honor to
17 be here. Thank you for your service and what you've done for our
18 nation. You will not be forgotten. Thank you.

19 (Applause.)

20 COMMANDER MULCAHEY: Our next guest is the
21 National Judge Advocate, Michael Dobmeier.

22 (Applause.)

23 NJA DOBMEIER: Thank you, Commander and good
24 morning, everyone. General Briggs, very well said.

25 I bring you greetings from National Commander Ray

1 Dempsey and National Adjutant Art Wilson, and I can tell you that we
2 are aware of the situation here in Michigan. We're also aware of the
3 situation all around the country. We had our board meeting earlier this
4 week and I can tell you that our reserves are down about 25% mostly
5 because of the non-performance of the stock market. We're still doing
6 fairly well with support from the American public because they believe
7 that we don't waste their money, and that's a good thing. Our 14 senior
8 managers of the DAV actually waived their leadership bonuses this
9 year, and that saved the organization about \$600,000, and we put
10 \$500,000 of that into the Life Fund, which we've done for the past five
11 years to guarantee that the organization will be there in the future. And I
12 was very impressed with your chaplain's donation of his \$250 stimulus
13 money, and I know you understand that he's a little bit eccentric, and I
14 understand why he's a little bit eccentric, because I'm from North
15 Dakota. But I thought that was a very good gesture, so I, too, am going
16 to donate my \$250 stimulus fund to the Department of Michigan Service
17 Foundation.

18 (Applause.)

19 COMMANDER MULCAHEY: Our next guest is the
20 Disabled American Veterans Auxiliary National Commander Sandra
21 Dobmeier.

22 (Applause.)

23 DAVA NC DOBMEIER: Good morning, everyone.
24 Officers, delegates, guests of this convention, it's my pleasure to bring
25 greetings to you today on behalf of the National DAV Auxiliary and

1 National Adjutant, Judy Heslop, as well as all of our officers and the
2 entire staff at headquarters.

3 As we travel as a national officer, we meet so many
4 people. As we travel, the DAV family gets bigger and bigger and
5 everyone is so wonderful that we meet. And we always have trouble
6 remembering all the names and where everyone is from, but the faces
7 usually stick with us. And I was looking forward to coming to Michigan
8 and I'm thinking, "Yeah, I know a few people there." And it's so nice to
9 get here and realize, "Oh, I forgot they were from Michigan." And you
10 see so many friendly faces. And so it's nice to see all of you again and
11 I'm looking forward to meeting many more of you while we're here.
12 You're off to a great start with your convention, the hospitality has been
13 wonderful, and you have a great facility here to hold it in. And I know
14 there's a lot of work to be done in a short period of time, but I know
15 you'll get it done and I know you won't forget to have a little bit of fun
16 along the way. So, I'll quit with that and thank you very much and have a
17 great day.

18 (Applause.)

19 COMMANDER MULCAHEY: Our next speaker, my
20 cohort, DAV Auxiliary State Commander Brenda Ott.

21 (Applause.)

22 DAVA COMMANDER OTT: Thank you. Can you hear
23 me? No. Okay. First off, I want to say it has truly, truly been an honor to
24 be the Auxiliary commander. I didn't - I knew I was Auxiliary
25 commander, but I don't think it really struck me that I was until I started

1 doing all the things. I so appreciated being commander with Dan. He
2 was a great person to travel with and he's truly a dedicated person. I
3 know that along with me, he will not forget, when our year's done, that
4 we still need to keep helping our veterans and doing everything that we
5 can. But I want to say, when I filled out my first resume to be a line
6 officer, it said on there, "How can you benefit the State of Michigan by
7 being a line officer?" And I thought about it and I thought it would give
8 me a lot more opportunity to meet different people to help. And it truly
9 has. Our own unit auxiliary has opened a bingo this year. And we're
10 bringing in money quite well. And as I've traveled around the State of
11 Michigan, there have been a lot of people, by being the State
12 Commander, that I have been able to help through other units and
13 chapters and everything. And I really do appreciate the honor of being
14 the State Commander. Thank you.

15 (Applause.)

16 COMMANDER MULCAHEY: Thank you, Brenda.

17 This has been a wonderful year, but I have to start at the
18 beginning. As many of you know, I'm a Gulf War vet. I used to be a
19 bomb builder. When I first got out and I filed my claim, I was politely told
20 I was never there, even though I had all my orders and all that stuff, I
21 was never there. Went to open my medical records and said, "Well, I got
22 x-rays from Saudi Arabia, so you mean to tell me I flew from Alaska all
23 the way to Saudi to get my x-rays and come back?" In this process of
24 them getting their head out of their backside, and acknowledging I was
25 there, I found out what the DAV is. Because when I was up for three

1 months for physical therapy back and forth, to Milwaukee, Iron
2 Mountain, living on that van, I found out what the Auxiliary is, and they
3 don't get half the credit they should, because they're just amazing. And
4 when I first went on the line, I used to say, and I mean this until the last
5 breath I take, if the ladies ain't happy, no one's happy. And it's true. I
6 have some family here today; my mom's in the back, and Barb, and my
7 stepdad and Heather.

8 (Applause.)

9 COMMANDER MULCAHEY: What does this organization
10 mean? It means a great deal to me personally. It means even a higher
11 honor when I work my way up the line. And I was humbled the day I
12 raised my hand and you elected me. And I am still humble today. I have
13 travelled like a nomad all over this state, back and forth. I have slept on
14 couches, floors, spare bedrooms all over this state. I'm actually closer to
15 North Dakota than I am to Detroit because Iron Wood, Michigan, up
16 there by Minnesota and Wisconsin. It has been a great honor.

17 To my line officers, communication is a key. This state is
18 very vast and we must continuously improve communication. But there
19 is something personal that I need to share with all of you. When I'm
20 going back and forth to Milwaukee and we just had a guest speaker up
21 here who talked a little bit about it, and one other person - well, a few
22 other people know about this. Many of you don't know what EEGs are
23 for headaches and stuff. Well, I used to be a bomb builder. And the
24 vehicle accident, the hurricane evacuation I was in basically ended my
25 military career. And when I was going back and forth to Iron Mountain,

1 they used to put me on Coumadin. My heart's fine. What it is, is the
2 main artery that feeds my brain blood is kinked. They couldn't put me on
3 Coumadin, so they had to use other blood thinners to deal with this.
4 That is one reason why this backpack here weighs about 40 tons,
5 because when you speak, you want to know what you are talking about.
6 Because once a month I go up there for a memory test. They sit there
7 and they talk about - they ask you orange, apple and all this other stuff.
8 There are hidden disabilities just as visual disabilities. This organization
9 has given a lot to me. It has just truly, without question, been an honor. I
10 have made friends throughout this entire state. And I tried. People have
11 asked, "Have you had a great year?" I've had not only a year, but ever
12 since I was first appointed and then elected, it has been amazing. And I
13 thank all of you.

14 To the Auxiliary, again, thank you, Brenda. To all of the
15 Auxiliary past state commanders, I have a simple and humble request,
16 some time today or before this convention ends, I'd like to get a photo of
17 all of you together with me. It would be an honor. To all of the DAV past
18 commanders, it would be the same thing for a group photo.

19 In closing, I said and I mean the ripple effect. When you
20 toss a rock in the water, it goes out and touches everything. Everybody
21 feels the effects of it. There is no "I" in "team." I thank all of you. I thank
22 my line officers. I thank my adjutant, but most of all, I thank you for your
23 support because we are here for each other. We have ups and downs
24 and back and forths. When I was explaining to Heather what I was doing
25 this last year, all she said was real simple, "Do what you have to do." I

1 just don't want to hear in July or August, I shoulda, coulda, maybe,
2 whatever. Do it now as you've been doing. And when I would call home
3 and we got a couple feet of snow, a little water in the basement and the
4 four wheeler's stuck in a snow bank, she goes, "Oh, we're fine."

5 In closing, to my mom, thanks for everything. Thank you
6 all.

7 (Applause.)

8 COMMANDER MULCAHEY: Officer of the Day, could
9 you bring the Chapter 18 commander up here, please. Sir, it is with
10 great honor that I award you the 75 years that your chapter has been
11 chartered. It says, "Big Rapids, Chapter 18, Department of Michigan,
12 December 18, 1933."

13
14 CHUCK RATHBUN: Thank you, sir.

15
16 (Applause.)

17 COMMANDER MULCAHEY: Before we adjourn, it is
18 fitting and proper that we again render Honor to the Flag of our Country.
19 Comrades, please stand. Attention: by the numbers, hand salute. Two.

20 Chaplain Knutson, the benediction, please

21 CHAPLAIN KNUTSON: Uncover, please.

22 In You, oh, God, we are not promised freedom from.
23 Instead, we are promised that if we follow your guidance, we are free to
24 find what we long for, the fulfillment and meaning of life. Following You,

1 oh, God, we become truly free to serve our nation and our veterans.
2 Amen.

3 COMMANDER MULCAHEY: Thank you, Chaplain. I now
4 declare this joint meeting adjourned.

5 (Joint Session adjourned @ 12:00 o'clock p.m.)
6
7
8
9

1 84th Annual Disabled American Veterans
2 2009 Department of Michigan State Convention
3 1st Convention Business Session
4 Friday, June 5, 2009
5 About 1:14 o'clock PM

6 (Call to order by Department Commander Mulcahey.)

7 COMMANDER MULCAHEY: Please stand. We will now
8 be led in prayer by our chaplain. Uncover.

9 CHAPLAIN KNUTSON: God of hope, help us to be a
10 hopeful people. When things don't go as we expect, give us optimism
11 for the future. When we feel discouragement, give us encouragement.
12 When all we can see is darkness around us, show us the light. When
13 times get rough, give us courage. When we feel sorrow, let us also no
14 joy. In all things and at all times, let us know your spirit and feel your
15 love. Amen.

16 COMMANDER MULCAHEY: Cover.

17 Comrades, ATTENTION! Persons wearing uniform caps
18 will give the hand salute and all others place your right hand over your
19 heart. Please join me in giving the Pledge of Allegiance. Attention

20 (Pledge of Allegiance.)

21 COMMANDER MULCAHEY: Two!

22 Please be seated.

23 With the consent of this Convention, the roll call will not
24 be called again except for voting purposes, thus saving considerable
25 time. I would like to entertain a motion on that. Use the mikes, please,

1 so we can hear because we have a court reporter in the back and she
2 has to hear all this..

3 DELEGATE SCHUBPACK: Art Schupback, Chapter 9, so
4 moves.

5 COMMANDER MULCAHEY: We have a motion.

6 DELEGATE VAN HILL: Dave Van Hill, Chapter 116,
7 supports.

8 COMMANDER MULCAHEY: Second.

9 All in favor.

10 BODY OF DELEGATES: Aye.

11 COMMANDER MULCAHEY: Opposed?

12 Passes.

13 Roll call. Adjutant Lee.

14 ADJUTANT LEE: Commander Daniel Mulcahey.

15 COMMANDER MULCAHEY: Here.

16 ADJUTANT LEE: Mulcahey here.
17 Senior Vice Commander John Lamphere.

18 SENIOR VICE COMMANDER LAMPHERE: Here.

19 ADJUTANT LEE: John Lamphere here.

20 1st Jr. Vice Commander Frank Shepherd

21 1st JR. VICE COMMANDER SHEPHERD: Here.

22 ADJUTANT LEE: Frank Shepherd here.

23 2nd Jr. Vice Commander Christopher Sardo.

24 2nd JR. VICE COMMANDER SARDO: Here.

25 ADJUTANT LEE: Christopher Sardo here.

1 3rd Jr. Vice Commander Garry Henshaw
2 3rd JR. VICE COMMANDER HENSHAW: Here.
3 ADJUTANT LEE: Garry Henshaw here.
4 State Chaplain Michael Knutson.
5 CHAPLAIN KNUTSON: Present.
6 ADJUTANT LEE: Michael Knutson here.
7 Ad Board Member J. David Boozer.
8 AD BOARD MEMBER BOOZER: Here.
9 ADJUTANT LEE: J. David Boozer here.
10 Ad Board Member Gregory Burk.
11 AD BOARD MEMBER BURK: Here.
12 ADJUTANT LEE: Gregory Burk here.
13 Ad Board Member Bruce Douglas.
14 AD BOARD MEMBER DOUGLAS: Here.
15 ADJUTANT LEE: Bruce Douglas here.
16 Ad Board Member William C. Ford. William C. Ford is
17 excused.
18 Ad Board Member Fred R. George.
19 AD BOARD MEMBER GEORGE: Here.
20 ADJUTANT LEE: Fred R. George here.
21 Ad Board Member Roberta Ignatowski.
22 AD BOARD MEMBER IGNATOWSKI: Here.
23 ADJUTANT LEE: Roberta here.
24 Ad Board Member Thomas Lightbody.
25 AD BOARD MEMBER LIGHTBODY: Here.

1 ADJUTANT LEE: Thomas Lightbody here.
2 Ad Board Member Peter A. Sardo.
3 AD BOARD MEMBER SARDO: Here.
4 ADJUTANT LEE: Peter A. Sardo here.
5 Ad Board Member David Spencer. Ad Board Member
6 David Spencer. David Spencer not here.
7 Ad Board Member David R. Van Hill.
8 AD BOARD MEMBER VAN HILL: Here.
9 ADJUTANT LEE: David R. Van Hill here.
10 Past Department Commander Duane Getzmeyer. Duane
11 Getzmeyer. Not here.
12 Past Department Commander Gerald N. Cool. Gerald
13 Cool. Gerald Cool not here.
14 Past Department Commander Rolly D. Lee, Sr. here.
15 Past Department Commander Billie Clark. Past
16 Department Commander Billie Clark. Billie Clark not here.
17 Past Department Commander Dennis N. Emery.
18 PDC EMERY: Here.
19 ADJUTANT LEE: Dennis Emery here.
20 Past Department Commander Alfonso Todd, Jr. Alfonso
21 Todd, Jr. not here.
22 Past Department Commander Joseph Connelly.
23 PDC CONNELLY: Here.
24 ADJUTANT LEE: Joseph Connelly here.
25 Past Department Commander Ben Benzing. Past

1 Department Commander Ben Benzing not here.
2 Past Department Commander Robert Anderson. Robert
3 Anderson not here.
4 Past Department Commander Lowell McKeehan.
5 PDC MCKEEHAN: Here.
6 ADJUTANT LEE: Lowell McKeehan here.
7 Past Department Commander Richard A. Straub, III.
8 PDC STRAUB: Yes, sir, here.
9 ADJUTANT LEE: Richard A. Straub, III here.
10 Past Department Commander William McNeal. William
11 McNeal not here.
12 Past Department Commander Henry Rose. Henry Rose,
13 not here.
14 Past Department Commander John McCullough. John
15 McCullough is in the hospital.
16 Past Department Commander Russ Spalding.
17 PDC SPALDING: Here.
18 ADJUTANT LEE: Russ Spalding, here.
19 Past Department Commander George Zoscsak. George
20 Zoscsak, not here.
21 Past Department Commander Benzing, are you here?
22 PDC BENZING: Yo.
23 ADJUTANT LEE: Past Department Commander Benzing
24 here.
25 Chapter 1. Anybody from Chapter 1 here?

1 CHAPTER 1: Here.
2 ADJUTANT LEE: Okay. Chapter 1 here.
3 Chapter 2.
4 CHAPTER 2: Here.
5 ADJUTANT LEE: Chapter 2 here.
6 Chapter 3.
7 CHAPTER 3: Here.
8 ADJUTANT LEE: Chapter 3 here.
9 Chapter 4.
10 CHAPTER 4: Here.
11 ADJUTANT LEE: Chapter 6.
12 CHAPTER 6: Here.
13 ADJUTANT LEE: Chapter 6 here.
14 Chapter 7.
15 CHAPTER 7: Here.
16 ADJUTANT LEE: Chapter 7 here.
17 Chapter 8.
18 CHAPTER 8: Here.
19 ADJUTANT LEE: Chapter 8 here.
20 Chapter 9.
21 CHAPTER 9: Here.
22 ADJUTANT LEE: Chapter 9 here.
23 Chapter 10.
24 CHAPTER 10: Here.
25 ADJUTANT LEE: Chapter 10 here.

1 Chapter 11.
2 CHAPTER 11: Here.
3 ADJUTANT LEE: Chapter 11 here.
4 Chapter 12.
5 CHAPTER 12: Here.
6 Port Huron, Chapter 12.
7 ADJUTANT LEE: Chapter 12 here
8 Chapter 13.
9 CHAPTER 13: Here.
10 ADJUTANT LEE: Chapter 13 here.
11 Chapter 14.
12 CHAPTER 14: Here.
13 ADJUTANT LEE: Chapter 14 here.
14 Chapter 16.
15 CHAPTER 16: Here.
16 ADJUTANT LEE: Chapter 16 here
17 Chapter 17.
18 CHAPTER 17: Here.
19 ADJUTANT LEE: Chapter 17 here.
20 Chapter 18.
21 CHAPTER 18: Here.
22 ADJUTANT LEE: Chapter 18 here.
23 Chapter 19.
24 CHAPTER 19: Here.
25 ADJUTANT LEE: Chapter 19 here

1 Chapter 20.
2 CHAPTER 20: Here.
3 ADJUTANT LEE: Chapter 20 here.
4 Chapter 22.
5 CHAPTER 22: Here.
6 ADJUTANT LEE: Chapter 22 here.
7 Chapter 23.
8 CHAPTER 23: Here.
9 ADJUTANT LEE: Chapter 23 here.
10 Chapter 24.
11 CHAPTER 24: Here.
12 ADJUTANT LEE: Chapter 24 here.
13 Chapter 25.
14 CHAPTER 25: Here.
15 ADJUTANT LEE: Chapter 25 here.
16 Chapter 26.
17 CHAPTER 26: Here.
18 ADJUTANT LEE: Chapter 26 here.
19 Chapter 30 suspended.
20 Chapter 38. Chapter 38 not here.
21 Chapter 39.
22 CHAPTER 39: Here.
23 ADJUTANT LEE: Chapter 39 here.
24 Chapter 42. Chapter 42. Not here.
25 Chapter 43.

1 CHAPTER 43: Here.
2 ADJUTANT LEE: Chapter 43 here.
3 Chapter 44.
4 CHAPTER 44: Here.
5 ADJUTANT LEE: Chapter 44 here.
6 Chapter 51.
7 CHAPTER 51: Here.
8 ADJUTANT LEE: Chapter 51 here.
9 Chapter 52.
10 CHAPTER 52: Here.
11 ADJUTANT LEE: Chapter 52 here.
12 Chapter 60.
13 CHAPTER 60: Here.
14 ADJUTANT LEE: Chapter 60 here.
15 Chapter 61.
16 CHAPTER 61: Here.
17 Chapter 61 here.
18 Chapter 63.
19 CHAPTER 63: Here.
20 ADJUTANT LEE: Chapter 63 here.
21 Chapter 64. Chapter 64. Chapter 64 not here.
22 Chapter 66.
23 CHAPTER 66: Here.
24 ADJUTANT LEE: Chapter 66 here.
25 Chapter 67.

1 CHAPTER 67: Here.
2 ADJUTANT LEE: Chapter 67 here.
3 Chapter 68.
4 CHAPTER 68: Here.
5 ADJUTANT LEE: Chapter 68 here.
6 Chapter 69. Chapter 69. 69 not here.
7 Chapter 73. Chapter 73. Chapter 73 not here.
8 Chapter 75.
9 CHAPTER 75: Here
10 ADJUTANT LEE: Chapter 75 here.
11 Chapter 83.
12 CHAPTER 83: Here.
13 ADJUTANT LEE: Chapter 83 here.
14 Chapter 88. Chapter 88. 88 not here.
15 Chapter 89.
16 CHAPTER 89: Here.
17 ADJUTANT LEE: 89 here.
18 Chapter 93.
19 CHAPTER 93: Here.
20 ADJUTANT LEE: 93 here.
21 Chapter 94.
22 CHAPTER 94: Here.
23 ADJUTANT LEE: Chapter 94 here.
24 Chapter 96 is suspended.
25 Chapter 100. Chapter 100. 100 not here.

1 Chapter 102 suspended.
2 Chapter 105.
3 CHAPTER 105: Here.
4 ADJUTANT LEE: 105 here
5 Chapter 106. Chapter 106. 106 not here.
6 Chapter 107. Chapter 107. 107 not here
7 Chapter 113.
8 CHAPTER 113: Here.
9 ADJUTANT LEE: 113 here.
10 Chapter 114.
11 CHAPTER 114: Here.
12 ADJUTANT LEE: Chapter 114 here.
13 Chapter 115.
14 CHAPTER 115: Here.
15 ADJUTANT LEE: Chapter 115 here.
16 Chapter 116.
17 CHAPTER 116: Here.
18 ADJUTANT LEE: Chapter 116 here..
19 Chapter 117.
20 CHAPTER 117: Here.
21 ADJUTANT LEE: Chapter 117 here.
22 Chapter 119. Chapter 119. 119 not here.
23 Chapter 122.
24 CHAPTER 122: Here.
25 ADJUTANT LEE: Chapter 122 here.

1 Chapter 125.
2 CHAPTER 125: Here.
3 ADJUTANT LEE: Chapter 125 here.
4 Chapter 127.
5 CHAPTER 127: Here.
6 ADJUTANT LEE: Chapter 127 here.
7 Chapter 129.
8 CHAPTER 129: Here.
9 ADJUTANT LEE: 129 here.
10 Chapter 130.
11 CHAPTER 130: Here.
12 ADJUTANT LEE: Chapter 130 here.
13 Chapter 135.
14 CHAPTER 135: Here.
15 ADJUTANT LEE: 135 here.
16 Past Department Commander Billie Clark, are you here?
17 PDC CLARK: Here.
18 ADJUTANT LEE: Billie Clark here.
19 For the record, Dave Spencer here.
20 COMMANDER MULCAHEY: At this time, I'd like to call
21 for the Rules Committee report.
22 DELEGATE VAN HILL: Rules Committee consisting of
23 myself, David Van Hill, Chairman; Ron Truitt, Chapter 68; Robert
24 Champine, Chapter 130; and Joseph Goniea, Chapter 23 met, reviewed
25 the rules, and based on our review, we would ask for adoption of those

1 rules as distributed.
2 COMMANDER MULCAHEY: Thank you.
3 I would like to entertain a motion we accept the Rules
4 Committee report.
5 DELEGATE STRAUB: Straub so moves.
6 COMMANDER MULCAHEY: Please use the mikes
7 because we have a court reporter in the back.
8 DELEGATE PEDDLE: Todd Peddle, Chapter 129, so
9 moves.
10 DELEGATE BOOZER: Dave Boozer, Chapter 20,
11 supports.
12 COMMANDER MULCAHEY: Motion is seconded. All in
13 favor?.
14 BODY OF DELEGATES: Aye.
15 COMMANDER MULCAHEY: Opposed?
16 Motion passes.
17 I would like to entertain a motion to dismiss the Rules
18 Committee with a vote of thanks.
19 DELEGATE SPALDING: Commander, Spalding
20 moves that we dismiss the Rules Committee with a vote of thanks.
21 COMMANDER MULCAHEY: We have a motion. Do we
22 have a second?
23 DELEGATE DAVIS: Davis, Chapter 9, seconds.
24 COMMANDER MULCAHEY: Motion and a second. All in
25 favor.

1 BODY OF DELEGATES: Aye.
2 COMMANDER MULCAHEY: Opposed?
3 DELEGATE SPALDING: Comrade Commander, we
4 should hear from the Credentials Committee.
5 COMMANDER MULCAHEY: Motion passes.
6 At this time, I would like to call for the preliminary report
7 from the Credentials Committee. Come on up here, please, come up to
8 the podium.
9 DELEGATE HEKKEMA: This is the first report of the
10 Credentials Committee; consists of myself, Al Hekkema, James T.
11 Wiles, Fred George and Dave Spencer.
12 First report finds 14 individual votes, 943 chapter votes
13 for a total of 957. 51 chapters are present and 13 are absent. Next
14 report will be tomorrow morning. Thank you.
15 COMMANDER MULCAHEY: Thank you.
16 At this time, would Jim Uecke please come to the podium
17 for the Membership Awards presentation.
18 DELEGATE UECKE: Good afternoon, ladies and
19 gentlemen. I'd like to congratulate the Zone 1, Dawn Bollis, for helping
20 out on the Membership Committee; Zone II, Joseph Schneider; Zone III,
21 Tim Bever; and Zone IV, William Dollar. Rolly Lee will name off the
22 names who were the winners and I'll present the trophies to them.
23 Thank you.
24 ADJUTANT LEE: The 2008/2009 Membership category
25 trophies. For the largest percentage gain by category based on size

1 over chapter total membership of July 15, 2008 to the present. In the
2 Category A, the Harcourt trophy, 500 or over members, the winner this
3 year was Robert King, Jr., Chapter 9.

4 (Applause.)

5 ADJUTANT LEE: Category B, the Aust Trophy for 150 to
6 499 members, Inland Lakes, Chapter 39.

7 Category C, the Friske Trophy for 10 to 149 members,
8 Standish Chapter 100.

9 Next are the Zone Trophies that are presented by the
10 zone for the largest percentage gain over Chapter total membership as
11 of July 15, 2008.

12 Zone I, Robert H. Cox Chapter 129, Commander Chris
13 Sardo.

14 (Applause.)

15 ADJUTANT LEE: Zone II, Shiawassee County Chapter
16 63, Zone Commander Shepherd.

17 (Applause.)

18 ADJUTANT LEE: Zone III, Haley Brothers Chapter 117,
19 Zone Commander John Lamphere. 117.

20 (Applause.)

21 ADJUTANT LEE: For Zone IV, Menominee Chapter 25,
22 Zone Commander Garry Henshaw.

23 (Applause.)

1 ADJUTANT LEE: Zone Membership Award for the
2 largest percentage gain over total membership as of July 15, 2008,
3 presented to Zone III, John Lamphere, Commander.

4 (Applause.)

5 ADJUTANT LEE: Membership Incentive Awards for
6 signing up 3 to 8 new members you will be getting a DAV cap: James
7 Uecke from 25, Carl Poest from 14, Richard LaRonde from 105, Fred R.
8 George, Jr. from 17, Les Schneider from 63, Raymond Suarez from
9 114, Robert D. Kraai from 14, Robert D. Robinson from 3, Todd Lindahl,
10 67, Thomas R. Jones from 117, J. "Dave" Boozer from Chapter 20,
11 James A. Linton from Chapter 3; Robert Blevins from 26; Gary J. Busch
12 from 114 and David Mims from 6. Congratulations.

13 (Applause.)

14 ADJUTANT LEE: For the people who are here, if you
15 want to get over there, we'll get you a quick picture with your hats so we
16 can get it in the paper.

17 For signing up 10 new members this year, you will also
18 be getting a DAV cap and a pen and pencil set. Patrick M. Adams from
19 114, John P. Lamphere from 39, and Garry Henshaw from Chapter 22.

20 Tom Wendel would like to thank the National Service
21 Officers, and on behalf of the Commander, we'd like to thank them for
22 the good job they did this year in their membership goals also.

23 For the Top State Membership Recruiter who signed up
24 34 new members, we present a DAV cap, a pen and pencil set and a
25 DAV desk set to Arthur W. Schupback from Chapter 9.

1 (Applause.)

2 DELEGATE SARDO: Commander?

3 COMMANDER MULCAHEY: What's your name and
4 chapter?

5 DELEGATE SARDO: Sardo.

6 COMMANDER MULCAHEY: So the court reporter can
7 hear it all, as she's in the back.

8 DELEGATE Sardo: All right. Commander, I'd like to
9 introduce to you the commander of Chapter 16 out of Pontiac. He would
10 like to present you with a check for \$500. Seeing as how we're giving
11 things away, we'd like to give you a check for \$500 for the Department. I
12 also have Steve Spranger from Chapter 127. He would like to present
13 the Department with a check and also a check for Mr. Tom Wendel's
14 people.

15 COMMANDER MULCAHEY: Thank you.

16 (Applause.)

17 COMMANDER MULCAHEY: Thank you. All of the other
18 presentations will be done tomorrow. Thank you.

19 In accordance with the Convention Rules, the following
20 committees are hereby provided as the Standing Committees of the
21 Convention. Committees can meet in the Birch Room.

22 Adjutant Lee.

23 ADJUTANT LEE:

1 PDC COOL: Commander, I am Past Department
2 Commander Gerry Cool. I am here. I understand they had roll call. I had
3 to go take my medicine. I'm here.

4 ADJUTANT LEE: For the record, Past Department
5 Commander Gerry Cool is here.

6 **Interim Constitution and Bylaws Committee:**

7 Donald Crull

8 J. David Boozer

9 Robin Ignatowski

10 State Judge Advocate Ron Schrieber, Advisor.

11 Would you please come up to the front and pick up your
12 folder, please.

13 **Additional members:**

14 Gary D. Nosis, Chapter 83

15 Thomas Lightbody, Chapter 7

16 Ed Reeves, Chapter 130

17 Dave Spencer, Chapter 52

18 **Interim General Resolutions Committee:**

19 Harold DeForest, Chairman, 129

20 Art Schupback, Chapter 9

21 Clyde Hishok, Chapter 60

22 **Additional members:**

23 Beth Gonzales, Zone I, Chapter 114

24 Flo Lopez, Zone II, Chapter 68

25 Louis Houtekier, Chapter 18

1 James Kirk, Chapter 67
2 Past Department Commander Ben Benzng, will you fill in
3 for Louis Houtekier?

4 DELEGATE BENZING: Yes, sir.

5 ADJUTANT LEE: Thank you, Ben.

6 **Department Interim Convention Committee:**

7 Dan Mulcahey, Chairman

8 John Lamphere

9 Frank Shepherd, Jr.

10 Christopher Sardo

11 Garry Henshaw

12 Rolly D. Lee, Sr.

13 **Additional Members:**

14 Patrick Adams, Zone I, Chapter 114

15 Roger Jansen, Zone II, Chapter 14

16 Thomas Stafford, Zone III, Chapter 11

17 Albert Ford, Zone IV, Chapter 22

18 **Rehabilitation Committee:**

19 Douglas K. Wells, Jr., Chapter 113, Chairman

20 David Martin, Chapter 7

21 Gregory Burk, Chapter 39

22 Joseph Goniea, Chapter 23

23 **Legislative Committee:**

24 Ron Schrieber, Chapter 135, Chair

25 John Ruslowski, Chapter 51

1 Robert Polhamus, Chapter 20

2 Todd Lindahl, Chapter 67

3 **Americanism Committee:**

4 Dennis Rogala, Chapter 114, Chairman.

5 Carl Poest, Chapter 14

6 Tom Stafford, Chapter 11

7 John Manninen, Chapter 115

8 **Employment Committee:**

9 Gregg Weaver, Chapter 13, Chairman

10 Rick Barenbrugge, Chapter 19

11 James Stringham, Chapter 43

12 James Provost, Chapter 22

13 **Drug Education and Child Welfare Committee:**

14 Bruce Douglas, Chapter 9, Chairman.

15 Dawn Bollis, Chapter 16

16 Bill Roush, Chapter 7

17 Bob Blevins, Chapter 26

18 **Public Relations and Awards Committee:**

19 Ken Cummins, Chapter 94, Chairman

20 Paul Klosterman, Chapter 44

21 Richard Straub, Chapter 2

22 Preston King, Chapter 22

23 **National and State Cemetery Committee:**

24 Jackie Carmichael, Chapter 7, Chairman

25 Peter A. Sardo, Chapter 16

1 Eugene Corwin, Chapter 135

2 James Shogren, Chapter 52

3 COMMANDER MULCAHEY: Thank you.

4 I'd like to entertain a motion to have all committees report
5 by the Saturday afternoon session with the exception of the Credentials
6 Committee.

7 DELEGATE SPALDING: Comrade Commander, I make
8 the motion to have the committees report by Saturday afternoon.

9 COMMANDER MULCAHEY: Thank you. We have a
10 motion.

11 DELEGATE PEDDLE: Todd Peddle, Chapter 129,
12 seconds.

13 COMMANDER MULCAHEY: Motion and second.

14 All in favor?

15 BODY OF DELEGATES: Aye.

16 COMMANDER MULCAHEY: Opposed?

17 Motion passes.

18 I'd like to entertain a motion needed to accept the
19 minutes as printed and distributed.

20 DELEGATE SPALDING: Commander, Spalding, so
21 moves, Chapter 20.

22 DELEGATE WELLS: Doug Wells, 113, supports.

23 COMMANDER MULCAHEY: Motion and support.

24 All in favor?

25 BODY OF DELEGATES: Aye.

1 COMMANDER MULCAHEY: Opposed?

2 Motion passes.

3 We will now recess this session in order for all the
4 committees to have plenty of time to meet. If you aren't serving on a
5 committee, you can stay here to attend the DAV and DAVA Computer
6 Workshop.

7 Communications. Adjutant Lee.

8 ADJUTANT LEE: The only communications I have
9 presently, if everybody will turn around and look at our court reporter,
10 who sits in the back, wave your hand, today is her 18th birthday, so
11 everybody wish her a happy birthday.

12 (Applause.)

13 ADJUTANT LEE: Any ECs that did not sign their
14 vouchers, please meet Bev in the back and make sure you do that just
15 as soon as we recess, okay?

16 DELEGATE WEAVER: Commander Mulcahey, Gregg
17 Weaver, Chapter 13. I'd like all the people on the Employment
18 Committee to meet immediately after the session here. Thank you.

19 COMMANDER MULCAHEY: Thank you.

20 ADJUTANT LEE: Tomorrow, Saturday afternoon,
21 all DAV chapters will have an opportunity to present a monetary
22 donation to State Commander Mulcahey to fund a Department budget
23 line item.

24 We will now recess this session.

1 COMMANDER MULCAHEY: Before we recess, if Tom
2 Wendel will stick around, Ron Schrieber, Roger Jansen, please stay in
3 this room.

4 Before we recess, it is fitting and proper that we again
5 render Honor to the Flag of our Country. Please stand. By the numbers,
6 hand salute. Two.

7 Uncover for our chaplain.

8 CHAPLAIN KNUTSON: When we work, oh, God, we
9 work. When we pray, oh, God, you work. As we depart, let us go to do
10 your work to serve our fellow veterans. This we pray in your holy name.
11 Amen.

12 COMMANDER MULCAHEY: I now declare this meeting
13 recessed until 9:00 a.m. Saturday, June 6, 2009.

14 (2nd Convention Session Adjourned.)
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7 84th Annual Disabled American Veterans
8 2009 State Convention
9 2nd Convention Business Session
10 Saturday, June 6, 2009
11 About 9:03 o'clock, AM

12 COMMANDER MULCAHEY: Call to order. Please stand.
13 We will now be led in prayer by our Chaplain. Please uncover.

14 CHAPLAIN KNUTSON: For the memorial service
15 yesterday, I was remiss in not thanking Chapter 20 for all they did to
16 participate in the memorial service, and for that I apologize, but I say
17 thank you.

18 Sixty-five years ago, Americans were waking up, turning
19 on their radios and hearing that the invasion of Europe had begun. The
20 churches opened up and they were flooded with people in prayer for our
21 soldiers on D-Day. Are there any veterans present who participated in
22 D-Day? Let us pray. Rejoice, America! Shout from the rooftop. We are
23 the brave ones, the keepers of the light of freedom. Shout to the
24 heavens. We are proud warriors for peace, the torch bearers of truth
25 and justice. Shout to the hills. We are the generous and charitable, the

1 kind and compassionate, the wise and understanding. Shout across the
2 flat lands. We are hope manifested in human form, love made real,
3 freedom expressed. Shout across the oceans. We are the guardians of
4 liberty, the soldiers of righteousness. Rejoice, America. Amen.

5 COMMANDER MULCAHEY: Comrades, Attention!

6 Persons wearing uniform caps will give the hand salute and all others
7 place your right hand over your heart. Please join me in giving the
8 Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

9 (Pledge of Allegiance.)

10 COMMANDER MULCAHEY: Two!
11 Communications, Adjutant Lee?

12 ADJUTANT LEE: Just as a reminder, we had a silent
13 bidding that was going on up in the registration area. That's going to be
14 brought down late this afternoon and set up. We continue to do that and
15 we would hope that you would bid on those items. That benefits not only
16 the Department, but Rehab.

17 COMMANDER MULCAHEY: I would also like to thank
18 Chapter 20 last night for that nice memorial service. It was very, very
19 nice. And I would like to thank the Chaplain again for doing an
20 outstanding job again last night. It really drives the point home. So,
21 thank you. And thank you, Chaplain.

22 CHAPLAIN KNUTSON: You are welcome.

23 COMMANDER MULCAHEY: Officer of the Day, could
24 you please escort General Faussone to the podium, please.

25 GENERAL FAUSSONE: Good morning.

1 BODY OF DELEGATES: Good morning.

2 GENERAL FAUSSONE: Wow, you know, in preparation
3 of being here this morning with you, when I looked at today's date, and
4 how historic it is and what it represents, that each day we need to be
5 thankful for what we have and what our great veterans have done for
6 this country. I want to thank each and every one of you from the bottom
7 of my heart for all that you have done to take care of our American
8 heroes as you yourself have been out there to protect this great country.

9 (Applause.)

10 GENERAL FAUSSONE: You know, over and over again,
11 you should be so proud. Commander, the Disabled American Veterans
12 have faced issues and have addressed issues. And, you know, together
13 I believe there is nothing, nothing that we cannot do to take care of our
14 American heroes. I want to share with you some facts that I think you
15 should be extremely proud of. Let's first start to talk about our Michigan
16 veterans homes. We have two outstanding veterans homes; one in
17 Grand Rapids and one in Marquette, the DJ Jacobetti. Do you know,
18 last year in Volunteer Services, between both homes, great
19 organizations like the Disabled American Veterans contributed to over
20 68,000 hours of volunteer service. Where could you get that anywhere
21 but from a veterans organization. That says to me that you want to
22 support our veterans and you will do anything possible to do that. In this
23 organization, you should be so proud, Commander and veterans. We
24 have hospital chairs at both organizations, and under the outstanding
25

1 leadership of two of your individuals in the room – and I would really like
2 to recognize them – and please acknowledge that recognition. At Grand
3 Rapids Veterans Home we have Rich Straub, and at the DJ Jacobetti
4 Home, Garry Henshaw. Can you please be recognized.

(Applause.)

6 GENERAL FAUSSONE: Countless hours, events.
7 Garry's getting ready for the golf outing. Grand Rapids had theirs
8 yesterday. Awesome, awesome support. We can't do it without you.

9 Are there any volunteers in the room from – any
10 volunteers who go to our Grand Rapids Veterans Home or the DJ
11 Jacobetti; could you please stand up at this time and be recognized so
12 we could say thank you.

(Applause.)

14 GENERAL FAUSSONE: You know, since I've been in
15 this position, speaking of veterans homes, I wrote a proposal six months
16 after being in this position to have a third veterans home in
17 Southeastern Michigan. And that hasn't been possible. I'm not giving up.
18 I'm going to keep, keep fighting that plight. I know we don't have State
19 funds, that's what is stopping us. But there might be other ways through
20 other foundations, other funding to go after it. And that's what we'll
21 continue to do. Another area of great responsibility – and before I leave
22 the veterans homes, we have a board of managers. And your DAV rep,
23 whom I would love to acknowledge and say thank you, I do not believe
24 the board of managers rep is here, but it's Harvey Slotman. And I would

1 like a round of applause for Harvey's attention and his service to the
2 Board.

(Applause.)

4 GENERAL FAUSSONE: Our Michigan Veterans Trust
5 Fund. You know, you hear 50 million dollars and I know you're going to
6 get an outstanding report from our Board of Trustees, and so I want to
7 thank Ron Schrieber – Ron, please stand – for his outstanding
8 deliberation, attention, everything he is doing on that trust.

(Applause.)

10 GENERAL FAUSSONE: He will give you a complete
11 report. Last year, close to 1.4 million dollars was distributed; whether it
12 went out for utilities, rent. The big factor that the Board is facing is
13 mortgages, veterans losing their homes. Whoever thought that we
14 would be faced with that. Every day is a new challenge. That Board is
15 vigilant. And all of you. There are quite a few agents, county counselors,
16 there are a lot of you in the room that start that process and you help us
17 out. You call the office if you're having trouble. I had some discussion
18 this morning, veterans not being able to be enrolled in the VA Medical
19 Centers, veterans not being able to get their allotments. Keep coming to
20 us. If we work as a team, we're going to make this better. As we launch,
21 very quickly, the 911, post 911 GI Bill, call the office if you're having
22 problems with getting one of our returning soldiers, sailors, airmen,
23 Marines and Coast Guards enrolled. We know what is going to be facing
24 them. Let us help you.

1 I want to leave just a little bit of time for your questions,
2 any of your concerns. You know we also oversee the Veterans Service
3 Organization grant money. That's another function, it's a pass-through.
4 And I am willing to address any issues, see if you have any concerns,
5 with what has just occurred with the Executive Order. I would like to tell
6 all of you, we could not be taking care of our veterans if we didn't have
7 you. We need to work at this together. As today we commemorate D-
8 Day, 65 years ago. The day, just recently, that the Executive Order was
9 announced, I was shocked. I did not know that was going to occur, did
10 not know that that was going to occur. So, as we celebrate or
11 commemorate today, June 6, 2009, 65 years ago, let's take each day,
12 working together to continue for many, many more years to help our
13 veterans.

14 I do want to do one other presentation, but I would love
15 to take questions first, please.

16 COMMANDER MULCAHEY: Please use the mikes so
17 everybody can hear this.

18 GENERAL FAUSSONE: Patrick, did you have a
19 question? Go ahead, I will repeat it. Patrick's question was, who actually
20 cut the VSO funding. It was a decision – well, theoretically, the Governor
21 signed the letter. Okay. But what needed to occur – as the Executive
22 Order – they were trying to find funds, GF, which is General Fund. And
23 in addressing that issue, to shrink the shortfall, each department was
24 asked which – everybody had a percentage. Now, this might not make
25 any sense. In GF for the State of Michigan, our department, our little

1 department has less than ten percent GF. Of our over one thousand
2 State employees, we only have 48, four-eight who are pure 100 percent
3 GF. We get a lot of federal funding, we've got restricted funds. Like our
4 Michigan Veterans Trust Fund is restricted. So, when you look at pure
5 GF, there are only 48 people in the department. So, over the last couple
6 of years as there have been cutbacks and, you know, a two percent, a
7 four percent, and eight percent reduction, and I believe it's been nine
8 years – I definitely know seven. But I was trying to research back how
9 many years that the VSOs were not touched entirely. With this recent
10 executive order, and you don't know this, but the department has been
11 taking little chunks away from their education fund. We've been taking
12 chunks from the special armory's fund. The VSOs had not been
13 touched, ever, the homes. So, this last time, when it came about, the
14 Executive Order, I fought for our homes. It looked like we were going to
15 have to let go 190, or lay off 190 people. That didn't happen, thank God.
16 The only place with the remaining four months that there was some GF
17 was the Veterans Service Organization grant. And I want to share this
18 with you, you weren't the only ones in the department. I know that's
19 what you're hearing, 25 percent. It is 25 percent that was given up. But
20 the Special Maintenance and the Armory Fund and the Education Fund
21 gave back 38 percent. That line item for our department is now zero.
22 There was no place else to take it from except the home. That's the
23 answer.

24 Yes, sir.

1 DELEGATE LAWTON: First of all, good morning, Ma'am,
2 and thank you for being here. Landis Lawton, Chapter 113. I've more
3 like got a statement.

4 I've heard that, just as you've just spoken, part of the
5 reason why the VSOs had the cut taken is because we have never been
6 touched before and, for lack of a better term, it was our turn. I think I
7 speak for every veteran in this room and every veteran across this
8 nation. We took our turn when we served in combat, we defended this
9 country. And without our NSOs, without the VSOs, when those young
10 men and young women come back from Iraq and Afghanistan, there's
11 not going to be anybody there to help them. I ask of you, Ma'am, to
12 keep doing as you're doing and help us fight in Lansing for what we
13 need to keep.

14 GENERAL FAUSSONE: Thank you for your comments. I
15 would like to make a couple of comments or clarify. Yes, the fact is the
16 VSOs haven't, for that period of time. When this Executive Order came
17 out and the crisis that our State is in, they looked for cash. And those
18 checks hadn't been distributed. That's why the VSOs were looked at,
19 there was real cash. Okay. Real cash. So, we had given up everything
20 else that we could. So, that's one answer or clarity. And you're
21 absolutely right. You know what, our veterans – and when I talk
22 veterans, I am talking our VSO grant, I'm talking the Michigan Veterans
23 Trust Fund and I'm talking the homes. That should be, next to public
24 safety, a priority that never gets touched.

25 (Applause.)

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1 GENERAL FAUSSONE: But that's not the reality, Ladies
2 and Gentlemen. We are struggling with where are we going to get the
3 cash. And I want to say something else because I've been doing it as
4 long as I can and even after I leave this position. I will be there to assist
5 and take phone calls at 11:30 at night, 11 o'clock, no matter what it
6 takes, to help these returning soldiers, sailors, airmen, Marines and
7 Coast Guards. And you know what I believe in my heart, you're going to
8 be standing with me. Because of what you have done, you are going to
9 be there. Because we're not going to give up the fight. We have a little
10 less money to operate with. There has been great comradeship. We've
11 been meeting. You should be so proud of your adjutant, and the
12 representative at the table right now with us is Doug Wells. We are
13 talking issues, we are trying to make this happen. I'm going to do what
14 I'm asked to do to protect and to take care of our veterans. And those
15 young men and women coming back right now really need us the most,
16 as you do. As you do.

17 Yes, sir.

18 DELEGATE SPALDING: Russ Spalding from Chapter 20.

19 How do the National Guard funds that come from
20 Michigan affect the State budget?

21 GENERAL FAUSSONE: The National Guard funds –
22 excellent question, Russ. Most of those are federal.

23 DELEGATE SPALDING: But don't we have some State
24 funds that go in to the National Guard funds?

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1 GENERAL FAUSSONE: No. See, that's where it gets
2 really fuzzy. The State gives some GF, general funds, to operate some
3 pieces of the armories, but the National Guard funds, thank God, those
4 are federal. See, even in our homes, to operate, we're not pure GF and I
5 thank God for that, too, because we're a third, a third, a third. I get – a
6 third of my funding is GF and that's what's always suspect. But I get a
7 third of my funding and I hope it keeps rising with the VA budget. And
8 I'm willing to do offsets if the VA budget keeps going up and we're cost
9 effective and we're taking care of our veterans, let that GF shrink. And
10 that's what's happening. I'm happy for that, but I need the operational
11 money for our homes. We need the operational money to take care of
12 our Michigan Veterans Trust Fund. You see, the problem that we're
13 trying to look at and make arrangements so this won't happen, that we
14 have a guaranteed funding is how the VSOs have been funded over all
15 these years, it's a grant. They have to come back to the table every year
16 and ask for that money. If the money's not there, they don't get the
17 grant. Think about your organizations. I got a call yesterday that a grant
18 that's out there, I work really well with the five VA medical centers, the
19 CBOCs, and we got notice yesterday that the University of Michigan has
20 teamed up to help our returning veterans and to help some of you with
21 the PTSD, the TBI that Rick spoke about, they got their grant renewed.
22 That's some of the issues. We've got to restructure it so that it's
23 protected.

24 Any more questions? Steve?

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1 DELEGATE UNKNOWN: Ma'am, I was thinking about
2 that house you wanted to build that you said you don't have the money
3 to build it. Can't you go to like the media or anything? They have that Ty
4 Pennington guy, he builds all those houses for veterans.

5 GENERAL FAUSSONE: Well, here's the issue. Great
6 question. Yeah, I think with a little persuasion I could probably almost
7 build anything. This falls under – our third veterans' home falls under the
8 State, falls under the VA Construction Grant Program. To build it, they
9 will give me 65 percent, but I have to get the 35 percent from the State.
10 That's not the issue to build it. The big issue is, is the operation of that
11 building for future years to come. The employees, the staff, the food, the
12 upkeep, that's the money that will need to be in the State coffers for
13 further years going out. Great question.

14 Yes, sir.

15 DELEGATE ROGALA: Dennis Rogala, Chapter 114.

16 I guess I'm not sure if I'm on the right track or not, but
17 what I was reading in the paper there, they want to establish a new
18 agency to handle the money or create a – I don't understand why we've
19 got to do that. I mean, we've got something that's been in the system
20 and has been working for years and now they want to come out and say
21 – am I right on that, or not?

22 GENERAL FAUSSONE: Sort of, yes, sort of, no. Let me
23 explain that.

24 As I indicated in the beginning, we're a pass-through right
25 now; 11 organizations. The VSOs get their appropriations. And in the

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1 Senate Bill 250 in the past, it is broken down that DAV would get, I think,
2 898,000, or whatever. And each is broken down with the 11 their
3 allotment. Once a quarter and then at the end of the year, I get a report.
4 Every quarter, our department administers, sends out to the 11
5 organizations their money. That's it. I have no responsibility, no
6 accountability. There is no plan to hire a director, an administrator, form
7 a new department. What Senate Bill 250 and Section 707 suggests is,
8 and I was asked – some of you were in the room and you heard me
9 testify. I was asked a question. "General, if you were asked to run this
10 grant, would you do it?" And the answer was, "Yes." So, the grant would
11 now be listed as we are responsible for the operation of the grant. So, a
12 new department's not forming, I have no intentions of hiring additional
13 people, administrative costs. And you're right, the VSOs out there, you
14 are the best. You know how to do this better than anybody.

15 COMMANDER MULCAHEY: We'll take one more
16 question. Over here from Joseph Goniea, you had a question.

17 DELEGATE GONIEA: I didn't really have a question. I
18 had one thing that was on my mind. I was debating whether or not I
19 wanted to speak about or ask about or put forward the clarification in
20 case some people did not know.

21 I consider myself kind of an average Joe, and for the
22 average man it's hard to understand some things that some people are
23 saying. I saw a copy of a letter from Senator Garcia he put out to
24 someone who was questioning what we're all talking about now. And
25 one of the general ideas of his letter was the VSOs in Michigan,

1 although they try very hard to do a good job, the system's not quite
2 working as well as it should. And, of course, that may be true about any
3 and all systems. But I think one place, and most of us here probably got
4 a letter from the VA on, I believe it was May 8, 2006, and that letter
5 explained to everyone that we were in one of six states that paid the
6 least compensation. And I looked at that letter and I was busy at work
7 so I didn't get to look at it much, and then I looked at the flyer that came
8 with it and it listed the numbers. And the numbers showed that Michigan
9 was the worst. I thought, how can that be? We have the best service
10 officers in the country. In the mid-20s they started a new program, done
11 differently in this State, and since then Michigan, frankly, has always
12 had the best service officers. And I looked and I looked as I had time for
13 the next couple of weeks. Couple of weeks later I looked at the flyer at
14 the other five states. And I saw in the other five states where the other
15 states, that over the last ten years or so have begun emulating us in
16 having accredited and more highly trained and educated service
17 officers. And I thought, oh, the other five states that are almost as bad
18 as us have the best service officers in the country except for us. I looked
19 closer at the letter, and this is what I think many people misunderstand
20 and possibly someone could give some clarification to me. Maybe I
21 misunderstand it. But what I see in that letter, the wording is, "the
22 average compensation paid." The average compensation paid – if ten
23 veterans go to a certain state, one veteran's missing both legs, he gets
24 his \$3,800 a month, or whatever that would be. I would have to figure
25 that out. And the other nine get told, "Sorry, you weren't in combat,

1 you're not eligible for any benefits." Those same ten veterans come to
2 the State of Michigan and they see the worst department service officer
3 for one of the organizations in this state, whoever that might be,
4 hopefully it's not me, and those ten veterans, the person that should get
5 \$3,800 a month gets his \$3,800 a month. The other nine that get
6 nothing in the other states around the country, seven or eight of those
7 nine pick up a 10% for tinnitus, or toe nail fungus or something, so the
8 average compensation paid in some other state is \$3,800 per veteran
9 receiving compensation. In the State of Michigan, it might be \$312
10 because so many people are given that 10%. With that minimal 10%
11 they get, many of them are no longer Category As for VA health care, so
12 they're receiving VA health care. They're receiving prosthetic
13 appliances. There's a little misconception, I think, that Michigan tries
14 hard but we need to fix the program a little bit. And there probably is
15 some fixing to be done, but I'm hoping I'm not the first one to point out
16 Senator Garcia. I believe he's talking about that letter that went out on
17 May 8, 2006 from the VA. And I hope I've made it clear and not made it
18 more convoluted.

19 GENERAL FAUSSONE: Thank you kindly for your
20 comments.

21 There is a lot of work to be done, and you gave a great
22 example. You know, Category 8s are opening up. We should be
23 sending out letters. We should be going back to all those individuals.
24 One of you this morning approached me and said, "Hey, can you help
25 me. Somebody was denied entrance into the VA." It makes common

1 sense. Absolutely. That's why we're there. That's what I've been doing
2 for the last six years. If you can't get through one door, let's open
3 another one. Let's keep doing it together.

4 And I'm really proud. I hope she doesn't mind, but that's
5 okay. I'm going to do it anyways. You know, I have one of my
6 employees sitting in the room, and she knows the way I operate. And I
7 know the way she operates. And if the door gets closed in one area –
8 because I heard her the other day say, "Well, you know, if you can't get
9 through this way, I'm going through that way." I'd like to recognize one
10 of our great employees in the Michigan Veterans Trust Fund, and a
11 member of the DAV, Dawn Bollis.

12 (Applause.)

13 GENERAL FAUSSONE: Ladies and Gentlemen, these
14 are tough times, and I want to say this again. With your outstanding – I
15 cannot tell you how fortunate you are – and they look pretty nice today,
16 don't you think? I think we need to give them a round of applause how
17 awesome they look in their Hawaiian attire. I cannot tell you the
18 leadership that you have up here. You need to be really proud. You
19 need to keep pushing them. You need to keep pushing me. I am going
20 to tell you I'm going to make the right decision. I will be fair. I will be
21 honest. And if I'm not, you need to tell me. I want to take care of our
22 American heroes. That is the only reason I am here. I have no other
23 agenda. And I want to work with your organization and the other
24 organizations to make that happen.

1 Commander, can you please join me? Several years ago,
2 our department, particularly the veterans homes, our members, said
3 they recognized the great job that our veterans service organizations do.
4 All your volunteer hours. And we try to give back a little bit and have
5 picnics and nights at the ballpark and banquets. But it's your leader who
6 sets the precedent. It's your leader who makes decisions. And as I listen
7 to Commander Dan talk about what this year meant to him, we designed
8 a little token of our thanks, and it's a watch. It's a watch that depicts
9 Michigan. And the mitten and the UP. And Commander Dan, we would
10 like to say thank you on behalf of our great men and women in Michigan
11 to say thank you for what you're doing, God bless you and keep up the
12 great fight.

13 (Applause.)

14 COMMANDER MULCAHEY: I hope everybody got their
15 questions answered and talked with her beforehand.

16 Officer of the Day, could you please escort Mr. Hendee
17 up to the podium, please. As he is approaching the podium, he is the
18 executive assistant from Saginaw representing the VISN 11 Network
19 Director Michael Finegan.

20 DAN HENDEE: Good morning, Ladies and Gentlemen.
21 Again, my name is Dan Hendee, I'm the Associate Director of the
22 Saginaw VA Medical Center. And it is certainly an honor and a privilege
23 to be here today as the Network Director's representative. Mr. Finegan
24 sends his sincere regrets for being unable to attend today. I also want to

1 say it is also most certainly a privilege and honor to be here at the DAV
2 State Convention on this 65th anniversary of D-Day.

3 On this day of commemoration, I would like to provide
4 you with an update on developments with Michigan-based VA care sites
5 in Network 11, plus some information regarding Iron Mountain. I am
6 distributing, with the help of my friends, some handouts that summarize
7 my remarks today so you can also follow along as well. Some of this,
8 I'm sure, will be familiar to you. In the beginning, as most of you I'm sure
9 know, there are four medical centers located in Lower Michigan, which
10 include Saginaw, Battle Creek, Ann Arbor and Detroit. These four
11 medical centers are part of VISN 11. One medical center in the Upper
12 Peninsula, Network 12, represents the Michigan-based VA facilities.
13 There are 18 community-based outpatient clinics located in Michigan
14 and one in Toledo. Just recently, I'll speak from Saginaw's standpoint,
15 we recently implemented two new community-based outpatient clinics in
16 the communities Alpena; that was in November 2008 that you'll recall,
17 and in Clare just last month.

18 Michigan-based hospitals have four pending community-
19 based outpatient clinics. And I refer to Saginaw because Saginaw is the
20 only medical center that will be implementing the four newly approved
21 community-based outpatient clinics. And those will be located in Bad
22 Axe, Cadillac, Cheboygan and Grayling. The establishment of the new
23 CBOCs is part of an overall effort to bring basic primary care and mental
24 health to veterans communities, to improve customer service and

1 patient satisfaction, and improve efficiency in the overall healthcare
2 system.

3 I want to say just a few words here with regard to our
4 great appreciation for the Disabled American Veterans. I certainly want
5 to express my gratitude for the valuable service that you folks provide.
6 You are an integral part of the VA's primary mission to provide the
7 highest quality care for our veterans and you definitely serve as a critical
8 link between the veterans and the VA healthcare system. And there are
9 numerous programs with the DAV and the DAVA which provide support,
10 too. The Michigan directors wish to express their appreciation to the
11 DAV and wish to thank you for the support and contributions. Some of
12 the programs that you've generously supported include the Gold Age
13 Games, Seamless Transition funds for our OEF and OIF, Operation
14 Enduring Freedom and Operation Iraqi Freedom, the Fathers Day Pig
15 Roast, recreational therapy, air rifle training competitions, you support
16 the Recreational Therapy Music program, the Patient Education Fund,
17 our patient admissions and coffee hour. Additionally, the DAV provides
18 thousands of hours to our Michigan facilities and thousands of dollars of
19 cash and income contributions and donations. We certainly are very
20 grateful for Mr. Frank Brown, our representative, and Dale Clark, and
21 also George Bennett.

22 We have locally 15 thousand volunteer hours and about
23 11 thousand dollars in cash and income contributions. When I talk about
24 - we have to talk about Saginaw in particular. And that's all across our
25 network. And also, of course, Iron Mountain.

1 Another example of truly value-added contributions from
2 the Disabled American Veterans, the Veterans Transportation Network
3 is certainly a vital part in providing a ride to those veterans who have no
4 other means of attending our clinics and making their visits. Without the
5 DAV's support through donated vans and thousands of volunteer hours,
6 many veterans' health would be jeopardized. The Saginaw VA with the
7 seven vans donated by the DAV, the Disabled American Veterans, is a
8 primary hub for seven counties that provide DAV hospital coordination
9 and dispatch for patients to contact. Again, we appreciate everything
10 your organization does in supporting this very important program.

11 You'll see in the handouts, I have some data that I've put
12 out. It gives you just a sense of perspective and proportion. It's 2009
13 data, October to March; four medical centers have shown an increase in
14 inpatient admissions over the past fiscal year. That is a little bit of a
15 different trend than what we've seen. Of course, we've seen this
16 transition from inpatient to outpatient. But we are starting to see an
17 uptick in inpatient care. Overall, the facilities in Michigan have admitted
18 356 more veterans in fiscal year '08 than in '07. Even though we've had
19 a slight increase of inpatients in the four or five Michigan facilities, our
20 inpatient workload has declined from previous decades. Therefore, we
21 have continued to shift resources toward outpatient care to service our
22 veterans in the most appropriate setting. In fact, I would just speak from
23 Saginaw's standpoint, we're starting to see where there are actually
24 more veterans served in our community-based outpatient clinics than at
25 the parent site, at the mother ship, so to speak. So, that's not quite

1 there, but we're getting close. So, you can see the shift in focus and
2 where the healthcare delivery is occurring.

3 With respect to outpatient visits, the workload data, it
4 continues to increase as the job market declines. General Carol
5 Faussonne had spoken a little bit about that. Certainly our veterans'
6 medical needs have increased as a result of the economic downturn.
7 For medical centers located in Michigan, combined total visits have
8 increased from 1.2 million in Fiscal Year 2007 to 1.3 million. So, this is
9 an increase in workload by about 4%. From the standpoint of budget
10 there is, of course, as an increase in demand continues to develop and
11 occur, certainly that continues to be a challenge for the VA to balance
12 those needs with the availability of resources in the future. And certainly
13 we're doing our very best to try and do that, to ensure that we maintain
14 high quality healthcare for all our veterans seeking care. For Fiscal Year
15 2007 Michigan sites, the operating budget was slightly over 690 million
16 dollars, and that was excluding our third party collections or what we call
17 MCCF collections. For Fiscal Year '08, Michigan sites operating budget
18 was over 900 million; again, excluding the third party payments. This is
19 an increase in the budget for the Michigan-based VA facilities by about
20 30%.

21 To improve efficiency, the VA is also harnessing
22 Information Technology to serve the clinical needs of our American
23 veterans as well.

24 I'll just say a few words about current trends. There has
25 certainly been a noted trend change in the veteran population over the

1 past few years. Michigan-based VAs have seen an influx of patients in
2 Network 11 healthcare system, anyway, due in part to the Michigan
3 economy that I alluded to earlier. Veterans are being negatively
4 impacted by the economic recession and specifically by the significant
5 changes that are occurring in the automobile manufacturing sector of
6 the economy. We're seeing more and more younger veterans accessing
7 the services at our VA facilities. According to the Bureau of Labor
8 Statistics web site, the national unemployment rate for March 2009 is
9 8.5 percent. That's the national one. However, the unemployment rate
10 for Michigan is 12.6 percent, the highest in the nation. The Bureau of
11 Labor Statistics provides focused information on veterans reports that
12 the unemployment rate for veterans who served in the military since
13 September 2001 is 7.3 percent. However, the employment rate for those
14 veterans between the ages of 18 to 24 years old was 14.1 percent in
15 2008.

16 I should mention also that the VA is a participant in the
17 economic stimulus package effort through funding construction projects
18 at VA facilities to address infrastructure improvements. In addition, a
19 number of initiatives are being implemented to improve access to health
20 care as more veterans turn to the VA system for treatment.

21 Many of these young men and women are often
22 unemployed, lack health insurance or other means to receive health
23 care. Michigan communities have relied on companies such as General
24 Motors and Delphi as the largest employers for our state. With the
25 uncertainty of jobs and the loss of healthcare insurance, naturally many

1 veterans are turning to the VA for their healthcare needs. And I might
2 also make a note that in addition, we are noticing an increase in the
3 female veteran population and also a higher demand in mental health-
4 related care.

5 I'll say a couple of things about our expansions. In
6 response to the healthcare needs and trends, Michigan-based facilities
7 have expanded services in many areas to include home-based primary
8 care and the Rural Health Initiative which we'll hear much more about
9 as some new funding is coming forth to provide access in rural areas.
10 Home-based primary care helps veterans return home sooner or remain
11 home longer and still have the care they need. The home-based primary
12 care team includes medical, nursing, occupational therapy, physical
13 therapy, social work and dietetic services. And the goals of primary
14 care, just quickly, is to provide a continuation of complete medical care
15 in a home-like environment to help veterans and their family manage the
16 veteran's care at the home as long as possible. To offer the veterans
17 and the family an alternative to hospital or nursing home care, to
18 promote dignity and comfort by allowing terminally ill veterans to remain
19 at their home and to work closely with the veteran and his caregivers to
20 develop an individual treatment plan for home care.

21 I know that many of you have also heard about the
22 investment in the mental health expansion. The mental health uniform
23 package includes - I'll just tick off a few of the programs just so you
24 know:

25 Substance Abuse Intensive Outpatient Program. That

1 was mandated November 2009, laying the ground work and requesting
2 positions right now for that new program. This is a three-day-a-week
3 program, minimum three hours a day, to provide veterans who need
4 more support and education than what the straight outpatient services
5 provide.

6 Another mental health expansion is our Family Support
7 and Education Group, also known as Recovery. That's in the throws of
8 implementation right now or in July. This is a program that helps families
9 to see the full picture of recovery and the potential of their family
10 member. They understand that the veteran is in control of their own
11 future and the mental health staff is there as sort of a support system to
12 assist them to achieve their goals.

13 There's also Evidence-based Treatment Therapies.
14 These programs have proven effectiveness. An example would be our
15 cognitive behavioral therapy, our PTSD and dual diagnosis, substance
16 use disorders. Here the psychologist is hired to facilitate the integration
17 and coordination of care, PTSD and substance use disorders. Both
18 have psychological and substance diagnoses.

19 There is a mental health treatment planner. That's kind of
20 an installation training or documentation standardization. That's
21 basically a software that standardizes our mental health treatment
22 plans.

23 We have Planned Primary Care/Mental Health
24 Integration. That's integration of primary care and mental health in our
25 primary care clinic areas.

1 And then, of course, last, we have the implementation of
2 a Mental Health Advocacy Veterans Council, and that meets monthly.
3 It's a situation where a group of veterans and their families with mental
4 health concerns form to give veterans the opportunity to express their
5 ideas for improving mental health services. And this is also connected to
6 something that's called the Recovery model. This is all included in the
7 new mental health uniform package, so I thought I would mention those,
8 since they are new.

9 I should mention also that in collaboration with the
10 Department of Defense and the VA departments, the VA provides the
11 seamless continuity of care services for returning service members and
12 their families as they transition from active duty to civilian life. The
13 Michigan facilities have seen 7,000 service members who have returned
14 to our network during Fiscal Year '09. So, again, 7,000 service members
15 have returned to our Network 11.

16 So, I will just mention the specific initiatives for VISN 11,
17 if I can just highlight, and that is the expansion of mental health services
18 to the community-based outpatient clinics. Veteran centered care. This I
19 should talk about here in terms of what we call the Plane Tree Initiative.
20 It's also called veteran centered care. The goal here is to increase the
21 focus on our VAs to be veteran centered, and through the changes in
22 the environment and increased emphasis on excellent customer service,
23 collaboration with other VAs. The Saginaw, for example, Medical Center
24 has entered into a partnership with the New Jersey VA Medical Center
25 for radiology services. X-rays are taken at the Saginaw VA and

1 immediately available through the computer system for interpretation
2 and communication to the orderer and provider. And this decreases the
3 time it takes to get results back to the veteran to make treatment
4 changes as needed. We have a number of systems redesign projects.
5 And, generally speaking, the purpose of these is to decrease waste and
6 to eliminate the duplication of efforts to make sure the delivery of care is
7 more efficient to veterans. Projects include improving blood pressure
8 and cholesterol controls, shortening the time it takes to hire needed
9 employees to improve veteran access to care. We have inter-facility
10 service agreements that's going on, streamlining the process when
11 referring patients to specialty clinics through VISN. Expansion of
12 services to our community-based outpatient clinics. We've expanded in
13 areas like physical therapy, home-based primary care, as I mentioned
14 earlier in our network to increase veteran access for needed care. And
15 this, of course, allows our veterans to stay at home and receive their
16 healthcare. MyHealthEVet, I know many of you are aware of that
17 program. We continue to promote the use of the computer for access
18 through MyHealthEVet. Veterans can access both their own data and
19 general medical information related to health promotion and disease
20 prevention. And I'll say something about wait times. The veterans
21 served in VISN 11 facilities are able to make an appointment within 30
22 days of the requested appointment day 98 percent of the time – I'll
23 speak for Saginaw on that particular one – so, we're particularly proud
24 of that. We've worked very hard on that.

1 With regards to Plane Tree, VISN 11 has taken great
2 efforts towards creating a more home-like environment for veterans in
3 hospice, palliative care, community living centers. This transformation
4 includes changes to the environment. I think you have a photo in the
5 handout, but this often involves new curtains, wallpaper, lamps,
6 recliners and the like. The environment is more homelike and would
7 support patient dignity and encourage family participation in our care.
8 Once implemented, it is VISN 11's expectation that patient and staff
9 satisfaction scores will increase, patient outcomes will improve over
10 time. Our employee turnover will also remain stable.

11 On the performance measure front, I would like to say a
12 few words about that since it is a barometer, a reflection of how well
13 we're delivering care to our veterans. For primary care and specialty
14 appointments, this means that when veterans call or need an
15 appointment, we can get them in within 30 days of their desired day.

16 The mental health performance measure means when
17 veterans call or need an appointment, we can get them in within 14 days
18 within their desired date.

19 PTSD, depression, alcohol, traumatic brain injury, we
20 screen for these conditions so we can identify them early and give the
21 veteran the treatment they need.

22 We also have our mental health services to meet these
23 needs; patient satisfaction. We perform pretty well with patient
24 satisfaction. We have several initiatives in place such as expanding our
25 community-based outpatient clinics, as I talked about earlier on.

1 Beautification of the grounds with Adopt a Garden program.
2 Appointments within 30 days within the desired date. Comp and pension
3 examinations within 30 days. We're ensuring all comp and pension
4 exams meet the highest quality standards. We're ensuring appointments
5 are given within 30 days. And then, of course, timely contact for the
6 severely injured. We have OEF and OIF case managers in place who
7 regularly follow up on our veterans. And any new veteran, including
8 those returning from combat, interested in applying for VA health care,
9 should contact 1-800-827-1000 or contact the Eligibility Clerk at the
10 facility of the veteran's choice. And I have left some numbers there on
11 the handouts. And also if they are interested in rolling electronically
12 through the internet. And finally, I just want to mention I have left you
13 with a number of booklets on federal benefits for 2009. It's located in the
14 back. It's in the box back there. So, by all means, I brought several, so
15 go ahead and take one, if you need it. And that concludes my prepared
16 remarks. Are there any questions?

17 DELEGATE SCHUPBACK: Art Schupback, Chapter 9,
18 Bay City. I'm the service officer in Bay County, and last week we had a
19 very touchy situation with a veteran who was homeless and suicidal. I
20 called Saginaw Mental Health right away. They got him in, he's down in
21 Battle Creek right now, has his own room and a better outlook on life. I
22 just want to thank you for that.

23 DAN HENDLEE: Thank you. I really do appreciate those
24 kind words. I should mention to you that we have implemented what we
25 call a Code Orange program, and I will tell you that we have put a lot of

1 time, effort and energy into this program. I'm very proud of this program.
2 We've actually, by the way, taken that program on the road and tried to
3 educate not only other medical centers in our network, but also we've
4 made presentations nationally in terms of our response to this. And by
5 the way, we critique every single episode at morning report. We go
6 through so it allows us to get better every time in terms of responding to
7 these situations. So, again, thank you. I appreciate those words.

8 Yes, sir.

9 DELEGATE ARTHUR: I have several issues. I'd like to
10 enumerate them.

11 DAN HENDLEE: Okay.

12 DELEGATE ARTHUR: Going from your prepared notes
13 here, one of them that I'd like you to address would be this one about
14 health insurance, how that enters into the veteran's treatment. The other
15 one is, or one of the others, is this letter down here on your third page
16 about new veterans applying for VA benefits. You have a phone number
17 there so they can bypass the service officers from the various veterans
18 groups and go directly to the VA where they can ultimately get their
19 refusal. And then they can come to us and have us try to get some
20 results from the people at the VA that sit there and say, "no, no, no, no,
21 no."

22 COMMANDER MULCAHEY: Excuse me, sir. Could you
23 please state your name and your chapter so the –

24 DELEGATE ARTHUR: My name is John Arthur. I'm
25 commander of Chapter 125.

1 COMMANDER MULCAHEY: Thank you.

2 DELEGATE ARTHUR: Another thing is, you may not
3 know this, but at the VA Hospital in Ann Arbor, there is a program going
4 where they will be eliminating the volunteers who man the desk and
5 they will replace them with paid employees. Now, if we are under such a
6 terrible crunch crisis here financially, why would they turn away veterans
7 who are volunteering their time and replacing them with paid
8 employees? And my other last thing here before I leave is the large
9 bonuses that you and other officials and administrators are receiving
10 when everybody else is taking cuts. Thank you for your time.

11 (Applause.)

12 DAN HENDLEE: Thank you. I appreciate you raising the
13 issues. With regard to health insurance, we do bill third party payers for
14 treatments that are given to veterans for non-service connected
15 concerns. So, that is, by law, what we're allowed to do. So, we do that.
16 And by the way, I would just mention that when we do receive those
17 dollars, it is actually reinvested into the VA. We keep those dollars which
18 allows us to provide care to veterans and is an integral part of the
19 budget that we have. So, we do that – when we receive those dollars,
20 we just use those dollars to serve veterans even further.

21 With regard to the new veterans and the phone number,
22 there are multiple ways to be able to access the system. There is
23 certainly no single way. I will say that there is certainly no intent to
24 bypass the service officers, by no means. I'd like to think, at least at my
25 facility, I can speak for that, that we have a very positive and favorable

1 relationship with our service officers. And we do meet on a monthly
2 basis to talk about concerns of common interest. And it's certainly not
3 our intent to bypass them. In fact, I see the service officer as a very
4 integral part of the healthcare delivery system as well as getting
5 information to veterans. In fact, I know I find myself interfacing with our
6 service officers regularly.

7 The question with regards to the VA Hospital, and I think
8 you talked about Ann Arbor actually letting go of some volunteers at the
9 desk and turning away veterans. In other words, we have paid people at
10 the desk rather than volunteers, was that what you meant? I don't know.
11 I can speak to Saginaw, and I'm not sure about the Ann Arbor facility,
12 whether they've done – I know there's been a lot of emphasis in creating
13 what we call Ambassador programs across the system to receive
14 veterans and actually have someone there who will direct veterans and
15 to receive the veterans as they walk in the front door as a front line. I
16 can tell you that actually volunteer slots have actually increased under
17 our chief of voluntary service. And we've done quite a bit of work in time
18 and energy trying to identify additional jobs when we peruse or survey
19 or poll our service chiefs and our department heads and identifying
20 volunteer roles. There are quite a number of them. And I would just say
21 that we have actually expanded the number of volunteer slots, at least
22 at the Saginaw VA Medical. I can speak to that. The Ann Arbor, I'm
23 really not sure. I could certainly talk to Bev Lenesi and actually get you
24 the chief of volunteer service there and get you more concrete answers
25 as far as how Ann Arbor is handling the program.

1 And there was a comment about the large bonuses for
2 administrators. I don't know about – you know, I can't speak for others. I
3 mean, I can tell you that certainly not in my case. I don't know what you
4 mean by the "large," but I can tell you that I, you know, certainly I am
5 recognized for my work, but I don't – I can speak for me only – I don't
6 know about others, but I wouldn't say there are large bonuses. I'm very
7 grateful to be working with the VA system, I will tell you that, and serving
8 our veterans.

9 Pardon me? I'm just saying that I'm very grateful to be
10 working with the VA system and serving our veterans.

11 DELEGATE BEAUDOIN: Beaudoin, Chapter 115.

12 I'm in a different VISN. The VISN I'm in is from here in
13 the UP and stuff like that. I got two things. We got a beautiful CBOC up
14 in the Hancock area, okay? Our doctor, Doc Lewis, doing an
15 outstanding job and everything, she's over worked.

16 DAN HENDLEE: This is Dr. Lewis?

17 DELEGATE BEAUDOIN: Dr. Lewis. She's outstanding.
18 She's seeing veterans from three different counties. She's overworked.

19 And then the other thing is –

20 DAN HENDLEE: Where is she located, again?

21 DELEGATE BEAUDOIN: Hancock CBOC.

22 DAN HENDLEE: Hancock. Okay.

23 DELEGATE BEAUDOIN: Outstanding job, you know. We
24 love her and everything.

1 And then the other thing is, I belong to the PTSD group
2 up there, okay? And it's being run out of CBOC. And we got VA people
3 that are running it now. Used to be private contractors. But the problem
4 we have is we've got 24 guys broken up into two different groups and
5 two small of a meeting room. You go ahead and have 12 to 15 veterans
6 with PTSD in a small area, you know, it's not very comfortable. And this
7 has been addressed to the director at Iron Mountain. And she, whoever
8 it is now, because it's basically – Tweeners I call them up there in Iron
9 Mountain. They're, you know, between jobs and stuff like that. You
10 know, that's the kind of stuff we get up north. You know, we need a
11 bigger area to hold our meetings. And these doctors need either more
12 doctors or something because they're overworked, they're over
13 stressed. She used to be able to spend a lot of quality time when you
14 came in there, and explain everything to you and address all your
15 matters and everything. Now you're a number, you know, in/out, in/out,
16 because she has so many people she's taking care of.

17 DAN HENDEE: What's your name again, sir?

18 DELEGATE BEAUDOIN: Dennis Beaudoin.

19 DAN HENDEE: I will pass this along to the officials in
20 Network 12.

21 COMMANDER MULCAHEY: Because of time
22 constraints, we will take one more question. And, sir, can you stay after
23 for any other individual questions or any other questions?

24 Go ahead, Ma'am.

25 DELEGATE PLUNKETT: Stacey Plunkett, Chapter 4.

1 Dan, I know we have a lot of veterans in here who utilize
2 the Saginaw VA and they probably have not gotten the information.
3 Would you mind giving them a brief idea about what is actually being
4 taken care of as far as the parking situations?

5 DAN HENDEE: Yes, thank you for raising that. Parking is
6 something that we have really grappled with at the Saginaw VA Medical
7 Center. I can tell you that we have just broken ground, just to get some
8 relief, in the back area. It's about 40 slots. But I think as you are alluding
9 to, we have such a difficult time, particularly on a day after a holiday or
10 on a Monday, or even a Tuesday, we're up, you know. In the beginning
11 of the week, in particular, we seem to have it jam packed full. So, I can
12 tell you that the latest is, is that we've taken down trees. We've just
13 taken down trees in the back and we're going to create about 40 more
14 slots, I understand, from a chief of Facilities Management, and we hope
15 to have that done this summer, maybe even next month. Although, don't
16 quote me on it. But anyway, we're certainly working very diligently to
17 create those slots, and then, of course, we're going to want to
18 reconfigure our parking so that we're being mindful of veterans slots and
19 creating, you know, cordoned off areas for veterans to park first and
20 then try to re-work it so that staffing, then, you know, after that. So, it will
21 provide a little bit of relief. I'll say also, too, we've looked at compressed
22 work tours and extension of hours and other things that would have
23 staggered tours so that it would maybe ease the impact a little bit on the
24 parking. So, we've been looking at that. We understand that there's a
25 really big problem. It affects our customer service scores, no doubt. So,

1 this is something we've been taking seriously and we've been doing
2 something about it. I will just say one other thing, too, we were trying to
3 negotiate with the city next door in the park, and that's still ongoing in
4 terms of trying to create some additional parking. So, we have been
5 working on it, and I thank you for raising the question.

6 COMMANDER MULCAHEY: Thank you, sir. Could you
7 stay after for a little bit, if you could, if anybody else had personal
8 questions? And if you could, please ask for their cards and I'm sure, you
9 know, they'll ask for a reply back.

10 DAN HENDEE: Sure. And I have cards here, too.

11 COMMANDER MULCAHEY: Well, thank you very much.

12 DAN HENDEE: I thank you all. Thank you very much.

13 (Applause.)

14 COMMANDER MULCAHEY: The annual reports of our
15 Department officers were printed in the June issue of the newspaper. If
16 any officer whose report was published has anything to add at this time,
17 please come forward.

18 DELEGATE HEKKEMA: Hekkema, Credentials
19 Committee. I just want to report that we have the very same as
20 yesterday; 943 chapter points, 14 individual points, for a total of 957. 51
21 chapters present, 13 are absent. That's it.

22 COMMANDER MULCAHEY: Thank you.

23 Any other committee reports? Please come up to the
24 podium to give them.

1 DELEGATE SCHRIEBER: Commander, Ron Schrieber,
2 Michigan Veterans Trust Fund Board of Trustees. I'd like to give you my
3 report.

4 COMMANDER MULCAHEY: Ron, would you come up
5 here, please? Thank you. Anybody who'd like to give a report, please
6 come up to the podium.

7 DELEGATE SCHRIEBER: Commander Mulcahey, line
8 officers, guests and members. I'll give you an update on the Michigan
9 Veterans Trust Fund.

10 The Board of Trustees is continuing to work on their long-
11 term goals to improve the viability of the Emergency Grant Program to
12 meet the needs of the various veterans heirs in this state. We continue
13 to do county site visits and training for new personnel coming in to the
14 program and updating those who have been there for many years. The
15 next training cycle will be in Fiscal Year 2010. they just finished some
16 training in the last couple of months in the UP. We are working with the
17 State Treasury Department to increase the value and the revenue of the
18 Trust Fund, but as you all know, with the current economic situation, it's
19 rather hard to expect any great returns from our investments. We met
20 with the Department of Treasury in March and reviewed our funds and
21 made some adjustments to the fund investments. We had to decrease
22 our projections for this year by \$200,000. We increased the number of
23 grants that were being given in 2007 and 2008 by over \$100,000. We
24 increased the emergency grants in the last two years by \$500,000. The
25 corpus value of the Trust Fund decreased by \$1,196,871 from

1 September 30th, 2007 to September 30th, 2008. The market value of the
2 Trust Fund as of March 31st, 2009 was \$45,837,683. The current state
3 of the volatile market will make it even harder for that fund to bounce
4 back to the 50 million that it's supposed to be at. We are not decreasing
5 our grant activities, although we have changed some of the rules as far
6 as how much the county can approve. We reduced that from \$1,500
7 down to \$1,000. Anything above \$1,000 has to come to the State Trust
8 Fund Board to be approved. However, our grants are not being reduced.
9 We are still doing grants as we have in the past and we will continue to
10 do so. We are taking some heat because of the reduction, but, you
11 know, like I said, with the market in the status it's in, we're doing the
12 best we can with it. We have about 14 and a half percent of our
13 investments into the stock market and the rest of it is in more safe areas
14 of investment. I do have some handouts over here that, if anyone wants
15 one, it gives more detail on what actually the status is of the Trust Fund.
16 I didn't hand them out because I probably don't have enough for
17 everybody to get one. But if you want one and you want to come pick it
18 up over here on the table when we go on break, you're more than
19 welcome to have one.

20 Could I have Adjutant Lee come forward, please? As
21 most of you know, Rolly was on the Trust Fund Committee in Clare
22 County for a few years, quite a few years. And we, the Board of
23 Trustees, have a certificate for Rolly. Says,

24 "Michigan Veterans Trust Fund, Board of Trustees. To whom
25 these presence shall come, greeting, know ye that we express

1 sincere gratitude and appreciation for the participation of Rolly
2 Lee, authorized agent, who has served the veterans of Clare
3 County by dedicated commitment to the Michigan Veterans
4 Trust Fund as authorized agent for his ten years of service.
5 His efforts have assisted countless men and women enjoy a
6 better and more comfortable life as a result of his individual
7 and collaborative effort. In witness thereof, I have set my hand
8 at Lansing this day, 7th day of April, 2009. James H. Lane,
9 Board of Trustees."

10 Thank you, Rolly.

11 (Applause.)

12 DELEGATE SCHRIEBER: That's my report. Thank you.

13 COMMANDER MULCAHEY: Thank you.

14 DELEGATE WEAVER: Commander, Gregg Weaver,
15 Chapter 13, ready to give the Employment report.

16 COMMANDER MULCAHEY: Go ahead.

17 DELEGATE WEAVER: Okay. The members on the
18 Employment Committee were myself, Chapter 13, Zone II; Rick
19 Barenbrugge, Zone I, Chapter 19; James Stringham, Zone III, Chapter
20 43; and James Provost, Zone IV, Chapter 22.

21 We have one resolution, No. 16. It has to do with the re-
22 establishment of Veterans preference in the State of Michigan hiring
23 practices. It was submitted by Karl H. Brown, National Service Officer.

24 **RESOLUTION NO. 16**

1 **Resolution Regarding the Re-Establishment of**
2 **Veterans Preference in the State of Michigan Hiring Practices.**

3 **Whereas:** Joint Resolutions have been introduced in
4 the State of Michigan legislative bodies calling for the amending
5 to the State of Michigan Constitution to provide for a veterans
6 preference in state hiring practices, and,

7 **Whereas:** The process of amending the State
8 Constitution is a long and arduous task that could take many
9 years to complete, and,

10 **Whereas:** The laws of the State of Michigan have
11 historically called for and established veterans and disabled
12 veterans preferences in state hiring practices and even
13 regarding appointments to serve the remaining terms of vacant
14 elected office, and,

15 **Whereas:** State hiring practices have been altered to
16 reduce the impact of veterans preference laws on state hiring,
17 including an Attorney General's opinion citing the adoption of
18 the current State constitution (1963) and the establishment of
19 the State Civil Service System for hiring by the constitution,
20 and,

21 **Whereas:** The use of Civil Service examinations
22 (tests) developed for State Civil Service hiring that allowed the
23 addition to test scores of 5 'points' for a veteran and 10 'points'
24 for a disabled veteran applying for Civil Service jobs have been

1 virtually eliminated for most Civil Service positions, again
2 circumventing the laws providing for veterans preference.

3 **Therefore be it resolved that the DAV, Department of**
4 **Michigan go on record as supporting legislation designed to**
5 **reestablish the intent of the citizens of the State of Michigan to**
6 **provide a preference in State hiring practices for wartime**
7 **veterans and disabled veterans.**

8 **Respectfully submitted,**

9 **Karl H. Brown, National Service Officer**

10 DELEGATE WEAVER: The Committee definitely
11 approves this, sir, and we'd like a motion for that. The reason for this is,
12 folks, in the last number of years when everything started going to
13 contracts, they quit doing tests and that's where the veterans preference
14 came in, 5 points for a regular vet, and for service connected disabled
15 veterans, a 10 point preference. So, if you got a 91 on a test and you're
16 a disabled vet, you'd have 101 points. It's kind of hard for a non vet to
17 beat you. Well, they've done away with that and the only areas that I'm
18 aware of where they still give vet preference is with the State Police,
19 Corrections, the local veteran employment representatives and the
20 Disabled Veteran Outreach workers. So, there's a whole lot more
21 departments out there and that's why I feel this is a good resolution,
22 Commander. I have something else to say, but if you could vote on that.

23 COMMANDER MULCAHEY: Go ahead with what you
24 are saying and we'll come back.

25 DELEGATE SCHUPBACK: Art Schupback, Chapter No.

1 9, I so move.

2 THOMAS MCGEE: Chapter No. 3, I'm a trustee. The
3 census has that 5 point –

4 COMMANDER MULCAHEY: Sir, what's your name?

5 THOMAS MCGEE: Thomas McGee.

6 COMMANDER MULCAHEY: Thank you.

7 THOMAS MCGEE: I don't know where the mike is. Is it
8 on or off? Can you hear me? Good.

9 I took the census test a couple of days ago and I flunked.
10 That's okay. They said, "You've got 5 veterans preference points. Not
11 bad."

12 DELEGATE WEAVER: Well, that's not bad.

13 COMMANDER MULCAHEY: Sir, this is just for a
14 second. This is not for –

15 THOMAS MCGEE: I understand, but I just want to tell
16 you, if you're going to go to work for the census, volunteer, they only
17 pay about 18, 20 dollars an hour.

18 COMMANDER MULCAHEY: Excuse me, sir.

19 THOMAS MCGEE: Thank you.

20 COMMANDER MULCAHEY: Thank you.

21 DELEGATE LAWTON: Landis Lawton, Chapter 113, you
22 asked for a second, Commander?

23 COMMANDER MULCAHEY: Yes.

24 DELEGATE LAWTON: I second that motion.

25 COMMANDER MULCAHEY: We've got a second.

1 All in favor?

2 BODY OF DELEGATES: Aye.

3 COMMANDER MULCAHEY: Opposed?

4 Motion passes.

5 DELEGATE WEAVER: Okay. If I may, Commander.

6 COMMANDER MULCAHEY: Go ahead.

7 DELEGATE WEAVER: Bear along with me on this one,
8 folks, it's a long one.

9 The local veteran employment representatives and the
10 disabled veteran outreach workers used to be with the old MESC, now
11 with the Michigan Works, they're under the Department of Energy,
12 Labor, Economic Growth, Bureau Workforce Transformation, Field
13 Service Division. They're being hit just like our service officers and our
14 Department is throughout the State of all the veteran organizations. And
15 they will be closed, they call it furlough days for six days this year. I will
16 give this to Kathy and Bev and they will probably get it in to our
17 newsletter later on. But it's June the 19th, July 6th, July 24th, August 7th,
18 August 21st and September 4th. The reason I'm saying that, you don't
19 want a veteran going to one of these offices, then, to see a vet rep
20 because they won't be there then. The ironic part and why I'm bringing
21 this up is that under this program that we have, this is 100% federally
22 funded monies. No state tax monies. And yet, they're cutting across the
23 board, as you heard the General say earlier, and they're cutting federal
24 program monies that's going through State. Okay. So, it's coming from
25 Washington, going through a department that's federal called VETS,

1 Veterans Employment and Training Service, and it allocated to the State
2 and then the State hires the VET reps to service us veterans. Okay?
3 When this money is not used, and it wasn't last year, \$300,000, it goes
4 back to Washington and they don't keep it and say, "Hey, we're going to
5 have this for next year," they give it to other states that want it. Well, this
6 year they're doing the same thing. They're cutting six days out here and
7 this money isn't going to be saved, it's going to go back to Washington
8 and then they're going to give it back to Ohio or Indiana or Illinois or
9 anybody and they can use it to help their vets while we're getting
10 shafted. I just thought you might want to know that.

11 That's the conclusion of my report, Commander.

12 COMMANDER MULCAHEY: Thank you.

13 (Applause.)

14 COMMANDER MULCAHEY: I'd like to entertain a
15 motion to accept the report and a motion to dismiss the committee with
16 a vote of thanks.

17 DELEGATE DAVIS: Davis, Chapter 9, so moves.

18 COMMANDER MULCAHEY: Motion.

19 DELEGATE MANNINEN: John Manninen, 115, seconds.

20 COMMANDER MULCAHEY: Second.

21 All in favor?

22 BODY OF DELEGATES: Aye.

23 COMMANDER MULCAHEY: Opposed?

24 Passes.

25 Next committee, Don Crull.

1 DELEGATE CRULL: Good morning. I'm going to give the
2 first reading to the amendments to the constitution and bylaws. We met
3 yesterday afternoon, the committee. It consisted of myself from Chapter
4 1; Dave Boozer out of Chapter 20; Robin Ignatowski out of Chapter 52;
5 State Judge Advocate Ron Schrieber was the advisor. We also had
6 Gary Nosis, Chapter 83; Thomas Lightbody, Chapter 7; Edward
7 Reeves, Chapter 130; and David Spencer out of Chapter 52.

8 We had five amendments to the Constitution and Bylaws
9 that came before our committee. We're recommending approval for all
10 five. This is the first reading, so there will be no discussion on these
11 amendments until the second reading, which will be this afternoon.

12 **RESOLUTION NO. 10 (FIRST READING)**

13 **Change to Department of Michigan Bylaws**

14 **Whereas, there is currently no provision in the**
15 **Department of Michigan Constitution and Bylaws for the**
16 **Administrative Board to make board decisions without a formal**
17 **meeting, and,**

18 **Whereas, it would be very advantage(ou)s and cost**
19 **effective for the Administrative (Board) to be able to do**
20 **business by electronic communication; NOW**

21 **Therefore, be it resolved that the Disabled American**
22 **Veterans, Department of Michigan, in State Convention,**
23 **assembled in Sault Saint Marie June 5 to June 7, 2009, change**
24 **the Department of Michigan Constitution and Bylaws as follows:**

25 **Article 11 Administrative Board.**

1 11.1 Administrative Board Meetings.

2 Add 11.1d.

3 The regular business of the organization requiring the
4 consideration of the State Administrative Board between
5 scheduled meetings shall be transacted through the office of the
6 State Adjutant by the use of the mail, telephone, email or
7 facsimile transmission. Whenever a vote is taken in this fashion,
8 the votes shall be printed listing the vote of each Administrative
9 Board Member as soon as possible following each vote and the
10 results communicated to the members.

11 Ronald R. Schrieber, Legislative Chairman.

12 The next resolution is Resolution is Resolution No. 11.
13 It's the resolution to change the Department of Michigan Constitution
14 and Bylaws.

15 RESOLUTION NO. 11 (FIRST READING)

16 Resolution to Change the Department of Michigan
17 Constitution and Bylaws.

18 Whereas, the Disabled (American) Veterans
19 Department of Michigan cannot maintain its excellent Service
20 and Transportation programs because the State of Michigan
21 reduced the state grant to the organization that was used for
22 that purpose; and,

23 Whereas, as these programs are very vital for the
24 Department of Michigan to carry out its mission to help make
25 better lives for all disabled veterans and their dependents; and,

1 Whereas, the Disabled American Veterans,
2 Department of Michigan must generate enough revenue to keep
3 these vital programs as well as others to help offset the state
4 budget cuts; NOW,

5 Therefore be it resolved that the Disabled American
6 Veterans, Department of Michigan in State Convention
7 assembled in Sault Saint Marie June 5 thru 7, 2009, change the
8 Department of Michigan Constitution and Bylaws as follows:

9 Article 13 Revenues and Expenditures

10 Article 13.3 Revenues

11 13.3b All fundraising activities conducted by the
12 Department, Chapters, Disabled American Veterans Auxiliary
13 and the National Order of Trench Rats will require written
14 approval of the Department and will be in compliance with the
15 National Bylaws, State Executive Committee and Administrative
16 Board regulation and policy now in effect or as might hereafter
17 (be) amended.

18 13.3b(a) Disabled American Veterans Chapters,
19 Auxiliary Units and National Order of Trench Rats conducting
20 any fundraising activities, including For(get)-Me-Not drives,
21 Bingos, Raffles or any other form of fundraising will remit ten
22 percent (10%) of any net profit to the Disabled American
23 Veterans Department of Michigan. Remittance will take place at
24 the end of the fundraising activity.

1 13.3b(b) Each subordinate body subject to the
2 provisions hereof shall hold the Department harmless from any
3 claims arising from approval granted or withheld by any
4 governing body hereunder, and the approval of such body is
5 specifically limited to project submitted as a means of
6 fundraising and may not be construed so as to make the
7 approving body a party to any contract or obligation, arising out
8 of the project.

9 Ronald R. Schrieber, Legislative Chairman.

10 DELEGATE CRULL: The next one is No. 12. This is a
11 resolution submitted by Roger Jansen.

12 RESOLUTION NO. 12 (FIRST READING)

13 Resolution.

14 Whereas, the financial picture of the DAV here in
15 Michigan is bleak, and,

16 Whereas, the DAV Department of Michigan's ability to
17 raise funds is limited, and,

18 Whereas, The DAV Department of Michigan cannot
19 continue to operate as it has been doing and must reduce costs,
20 wherever possible, and

21 Whereas, Quite a few chapters in the state are in
22 better shape financially than the Department.

23 Therefore be it resolved that the DAV Department of
24 Michigan assembled in State convention June 5, 6 and 7, 2009

1 go on record to amend and adopt Article 11, Section 11.2m of
2 the Department Bylaws to read:

3 11.2m, The State Administrative Board may, if funds
4 are available, provide annually in the Department budget an
5 appropriation of not less than \$600 for each Zone for the
6 purpose of holding Zone Meetings.

7 Respectfully submitted,

8 Roger Jansen, State Treasurer, Chapter 14.

9 DELEGATE CRULL: The next resolution is Resolution
10 No. 13. This one was submitted by Dave Van Hill.

11 RESOLUTION NO. 13 (FIRST READING)

12 Resolution.

13 Amend DAV Department of Michigan Constitution to
14 Decrease the Number of State Administrative Board Members.

15 Whereas, The income to the Disabled American
16 Veterans, Department of Michigan has been continually
17 decreasing over the years, and,

18 Whereas, It is imperative for the Organization to find
19 ways to cut expenses in order to preserve our existence, and,

20 Whereas, Each State Administrative Board Meeting
21 costs the Department an average of \$5,200 each time a Board
22 Meeting is called.

23 Therefore be it resolved that Article IV, Section 4.5a of
24 the Constitution which currently reads:

1 4.5a There shall be a State Administrative Board
2 composed of twelve (12) members elected by the State
3 Convention to serve three-year terms, the State commander and
4 the immediate Past State Commander. The State Vice
5 Commanders, the State Treasurer and the State Judge Advocate
6 shall serve as ex-officio members with voice, but no vote.

7 Be amended to state:

8 4.5a There shall be a State Administrative Board
9 composed of eight (8) members elected by the State Convention
10 to serve two-year terms, the State commander, and the
11 immediate Past State Commander,

12 And,

13 Be it further resolved that Article IV, Section 4.5b of
14 the Constitution which currently reads:

15 4.5b There shall be no less than two elected members
16 nor more than four elected members from each Zone.

17 Be amended to state:

18 4.5b There shall be no more than two (2) elected
19 members from each Zone.

20 Be it further resolved that in order to implement these
21 changes, pending approval of the National Judge Advocate, all
22 terms of the current twelve (12) member State Administrative
23 Board shall cease on Sunday, June 13, 2010, when a new eight
24 member Board is elected in accordance with the Constitution
25 and Bylaws as amended this date.

1 Be it further resolved that the DAV Department of
2 Michigan, assembled in State Convention June 5, 6 and 7, 2009,
3 go on record to adopt these cost-saving amendments for the
4 betterment of the DAV Department of Michigan,

5 Respectfully submitted by

6 David R. Van Hill (116), Administrative Board Member.

7 DELEGATE CRULL: The last resolution is Resolution No.

8 14.

9 **RESOLUTION NO. 14 (FIRST READING)**

10 To amend the DAV Department of Michigan Bylaws.

11 Whereas, The income to the Disabled American
12 Veterans, Department of Michigan has been continually
13 decreasing over the years, and,

14 Whereas, It is imperative for the Organization to find
15 ways to cut expenses in order to preserve our existence, and,

16 Whereas: Each State Administrative Board Meeting
17 currently costs the Department an average of \$5,200 each time a
18 Board Meeting is called and further cost savings measures need
19 to be taken.

20 Therefore be it resolved that Article 11, Administrative
21 Board, Section 11.1b in the Bylaws that currently reads:

22 11.1b The State Administrative Board shall meet at the
23 call of the Administrative Board Chairman, at the request of the
24 State Commander, or at the request of seven (7) members of the
25 State Administrative Board,

1 Be amended to state:

2 11.1b The State Administrative Board shall meet at the
3 call of the Administrative Board Chairman, at the request of the
4 State Commander, or at the request of five (5) members of the
5 State Administrative Board,

6 And,

7 Be it further resolved that a new Section be created
8 and named Section 11.1c to read:

9 11.1c Only the 8 Administrative Board members, the
10 State Commander, the immediate Past State Commander, the
11 Senior Vice Commander, the State Treasurer, the State Judge
12 Advocate and the State Adjutant shall be paid travel expenses
13 to attend the Administrative Board Meetings.

14 And that current Section 11.1c be renumbered Section
15 11.1d.

16 Be it further resolved that in order to implement these
17 changes, pending approval of the National Judge Advocate, all
18 terms of the current twelve member State Administrative Board
19 shall cease on Sunday, June 13, 2010, when a new 8 member
20 Board is elected in accordance with the Constitution and
21 Bylaws as amended this date.

22 Be it further resolved that the DAV Department of
23 Michigan assembled in State convention June 5, 6 and 7, 2009,
24 go on record to adopt these amendments to our Bylaws for the
25 betterment of the DAV Department of Michigan.

1 Respectfully submitted by,

2 David R. Van Hill (116), Administrative Board Member.

3 DELEGATE CRULL: That concludes my first reading of
4 the amendments to the Constitution and Bylaws.

5 COMMANDER MULCAHEY: Thank you.

6 Doug Wells.

7 DELEGATE WELLS: Comrade Commander, line officers,
8 Adjutant Lee, it was my pleasure to serve as the chairman of the
9 Rehabilitation Committee for this year's convention. On my committee
10 was Dave Martin, Gregory Burk and Joseph Goniea.

11 We had three resolutions before our committee.
12 Resolution No. 23, that's contained in your packet.

13 **RESOLUTION NO. 23**

14 To support a change in regulatory requirements under
15 section 4.115b of Title 38, Code of Federal Regulations to
16 provide for a 20 percent evaluation for loss or loss of use of a
17 creative organ.

18 Whereas, The current regulation provides a 20
19 percent evaluation only if the person has penis deformity, with
20 loss of erectile power, otherwise they are given a non-
21 compensable evaluation.

22 Whereas, The regulation currently allows for a 20
23 percent evaluation for ovaries, atrophy of both, complete.

24 Whereas, the emotional trauma a man suffers as a

1 result of erectile dysfunction is just as great as his female
2 counterparts.

3 Therefore, be it resolved that the DAV, Department of
4 Michigan at State Convention, assembled in Sault Sainte Marie,
5 Michigan June 4-7, 2009, supports changing the regulatory
6 requirements under Section 4.115b of Title 38, Code of Federal
7 Regulations to provide for a 20 percent evaluation for loss of
8 use of a creative organ.

9 Respectfully submitted,
10 Thomas E. Wendel, Director.

11 Commander, my committee recommends adoption of this
12 resolution and I would entertain a motion as such.

13 COMMANDER MULCAHEY: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

14 DELEGATE SCHUPBACK: Art Schupback, Chapter No.

15 9, so move.

16 COMMANDER MULCAHEY: Art, thank you.

17 Do we have a second?

18 DELEGATE PEDDLE: Todd Peddle from Chapter 129

19 seconds.

20 COMMANDER MULCAHEY: Motion and a second.

21 Any recommendations? Seeing none.

22 All in favor?

23 BODY OF DELEGATES: Aye.

24 COMMANDER MULCAHEY: Opposed?

25 Motion passes.

1 DELEGATE WELLS: Resolution No. 24.

2 **RESOLUTION NO. 24**

3 Provide a 10 year protection period for service
4 connected disability evaluations.

5 Whereas, Section 110 of Title 38, United States Code,
6 now provides for the protection of all disability compensation
7 evaluations that have been continuously in effect for 20 or more
8 years, and,

9 Whereas, permanency should be conceded for
10 disability compensation ratings which have been in effect for 10
11 years without change in evaluation with no further examination
12 scheduled.

13 Therefore, be it resolved that the DAV, Department of
14 Michigan, at Convention assembled in Sault Sainte Marie,
15 Michigan, June 4 to 7, 2009, supports amendment of Section 110
16 of Title 38, United States Code, to provide that disability
17 evaluations continuously in effect at the same evaluation rate be
18 protected after a period of 10 years.

19 Respectfully Submitted,

20 Thomas E. Wendel, DAV Chapter 51.

21 DELEGATE WELLS: The committee has recommended
22 adoption of this resolution.

23 COMMANDER MULCAHEY: Doug, could you go ahead
24 and read your whole report, please, and then we'll go through the
25 motions.

1 DELEGATE WELLS: I'm sorry?

2 COMMANDER MULCAHEY: Could you give your entire
3 report, please.

4 DELEGATE WELLS: Very well.

5 Resolution No. 26.

6 **RESOLUTION NO. 26**

7 Support H.R. 1230 Bone Marrow Failure Disease
8 Research and Treatment Act of 2009.

9 Whereas, this legislation would bring together the
10 resources of several Federal agencies to advance our
11 understanding of and treatments for Acquired Bone Marrow
12 Failure Diseases to include Myelodysplastic syndrome (MDS),
13 Aplastic Anemia, Paroxysmal Nocturnal Hemoglobinuria (PNH),
14 Pure Red Cell Aplasia, Acute Myeloid Leukemia that progressed
15 from Myelodysplastic syndrome, and Large Granular
16 Lymphocytic Leukemia.

17 Whereas, these diseases are becoming more and
18 more prevalent in Veterans from Vietnam and the Gulf War.

19 Whereas, a report submitted by Admiral (Ret.) E.R.
20 Zumwalt to the Secretary of Veterans Affairs and Congress on
21 May 5, 1990 states that they have failed to add these additional
22 diseases to the list of compensable conditions for Veterans.

23 Therefore be it resolved that the DAV, Department of
24 Michigan at State Convention, assembled in Sault Sainte Marie,
25 Michigan June 4-7, 2009, go on record to support H.R. 1230

1 **Bone Marrow Failure Disease research and Treatment Act of
2 2009.**

3 Respectfully Submitted,

4 Thomas E. Wendel, Director.

5 DELEGATE WELLS: And the committee moves for
6 adoption of all these resolutions, Commander.

7 COMMANDER MULCAHEY: Was that your last one,
8 Doug?

9 DELEGATE WELLS: That's the last one, sir.

10 COMMANDER MULCAHEY: I would like to entertain a
11 motion to approve the committee recommendations.

12 DELEGATE PEDDLE: Todd Peddle, 129, so moves.

13 DELEGATE DAVIS: Davis, Chapter 9, seconds.

14 COMMANDER MULCAHEY: Motion and a second.

15 All in favor?

16 BODY OF DELEGATES: Aye.

17 COMMANDER MULCAHEY: Opposed?

18 Motion passes.

19 I would like to entertain a motion to dismiss this
20 committee with a vote of thanks.

21 DELEGATE BENZING: Benzing, 18, so moves.

22 DELEGATE DAVIS: Davis, Chapter 9, seconds.

23 COMMANDER MULCAHEY: Motion and a second.

24 All in favor?

25 BODY OF DELEGATES: Aye.

1 COMMANDER MULCAHEY: Opposed?

2 Motion passes.

3 Thank you, Doug.

4 Ron.

5 DELEGATE SCHRIEBER: Thank you, Commander. The
6 Legislative Committee consisted of myself, John Ruslowski, Chapter 51;
7 Robert Polhamus, Chapter 20; Todd Lindahl, Chapter 67.

8 We had nine resolutions to consider and we
9 recommended approval on all of them. I will read each one of them
10 individually.

11 RESOLUTION NO. 2

12 Resolution to Support a Veterans' Bonus.

13 Whereas, The State of Michigan has traditionally
14 funded and paid bonuses to the military veterans of our
15 country's major conflicts and wars, and,

16 Whereas, The veterans of our country's military
17 operations in southwest Asia since August 2, 1990, including
18 Operation Desert Shield, Desert Storm, Operation Enduring
19 Freedom (OEF) in Afghanistan, and Operation Iraqi Freedom
20 (OIF) in Iraq and the joint operations in Bosnia-Herzegovina,
21 Kosovo, Somalia, have not yet received a veterans' bonus from
22 the people of the State of Michigan.

23 Therefore be it resolved that the Disabled American
24 Veterans, Department of Michigan, support legislation in the
25 State of Michigan legislature for the development of a program

1 to pay veteran' bonuses to the military veterans of southwest
2 Asian conflicts of Operation Desert Shield, Desert Storm,
3 Operation Enduring Freedom (OEF) in Afghanistan, and
4 Operation Iraqi Freedom (OIF) in Iraq and the joint operations in
5 Bosnia-Herzegovina, Kosovo, Somalia.

6 Respectfully submitted,

7 Rolly D. Lee, Sr., PDC.

8 RESOLUTION NO. 9

9 Disabled American Veterans Department of Michigan
10 Support for House Bill 5189.

11 Whereas, Totally Disabled Michigan Resident
12 Veterans that have been determined by the United States
13 Department of Veterans' Affairs to be Totally disabled as a
14 result of Military Service and entitled to Veterans' Benefits at the
15 100% rate must pay the State of Michigan to enter State Parks
16 and pay a Camping fee. Those same Veterans must also pay the
17 State of Michigan to Fish and Hunt.

18 Whereas, it would be more equitable if the proposed
19 House Bill 5189 was supported by the Senate as it was by the
20 House of Representatives (107-0) to provide that in such cases
21 the Veteran would be entitled to receive those privileges at no
22 cost.

23 Therefore, be it resolved that the Disabled American
24 Veterans Department of Michigan in State Convention
25 assembled in Sault Sainte Marie, Michigan, June 5-7, 2009

1 support this legislation and changes in applicable regulations
2 which would provide that the State of Michigan shall waive
3 Camping permit fees/Park Entry fees/Hunting and Fishing
4 License fees, for a resident who has been determined by the
5 United States Department of Veterans' affairs to be Totally
6 Disabled as a result of Military Service and entitled to Veterans
7 benefits at the 100% rate.

8 Bob Blevins, Commander

9 Manistique Chapter 26.

10 RESOLUTION NO. 15

11 Resolution to seek State Legislation Prohibiting the
12 use of Veterans Service-Connected compensation as countable
13 income for purposes of offsets to and Eligibility for Benefits and
14 Services under State of Michigan Programs.

15 Whereas, Currently under State of Michigan's (SOM)
16 long term disability and income protection plan, the state uses
17 VA compensation to reduce benefits payable to employees that
18 are in receipt of VA compensation, thereby placing a
19 disproportionate burden on disabled veterans, and,

20 Whereas, the SOM openly discriminates against
21 veterans that are state employees by allowing non-veteran
22 employees to exclude benefits received under personal policies,
23 and,

24 Whereas, Most veterans did not or would not

1 purchase personal policies from a private insurer because most
2 personal policies contain "war clauses" that virtually make the
3 product useless for military persons, and,

4 Whereas, Most veterans rely on the VA for disability
5 benefits; benefits paid by the VA to veterans suffering from the
6 ravages of war or service-connected injuries received by those
7 in support of the war fighter must not be treated any differently
8 than the benefits received by non-veterans from personal
9 policies, and,

10 Whereas, Governments that are complicit in sending
11 your men and women off to war must not build barriers to
12 programs and services for the same men and women when they
13 return home.

14 Therefore be it resolved that the Disabled American
15 Veterans, Department of Michigan, assembled in Convention in
16 Sault Sainte Marie, Michigan, June 4-7, 2009. go on record as
17 supporting legislation to prohibit the use of veterans service-
18 connected disability compensation as "other income" when
19 computing a veterans eligibility for all state benefits.

20 Respectfully submitted,

21 Rick L. Barenbrugge, National Service Officer.

22 RESOLUTION NO. 17

23 Resolution to Support a Veterans Bonus

24 Whereas, The State of Michigan has traditionally
25 funded and paid bonuses to the military veterans of our

1 country's major conflicts and wars, and,

2 Whereas, The veterans of our country's military
3 operations in Southwest Asia since August 2, 1990, including
4 Operation Desert Shield, Desert Storm, Operation Enduring
5 Freedom (OEF) in Afghanistan, and Operation Iraqi Freedom
6 (OIF) in Iraq and the joint operations in Bosnia-Herzegovina,
7 Kosovo, Somalia, have not yet received a veterans bonus from
8 the people of the State of Michigan.

9 Therefore be it resolved that the DAV, Department of
10 Michigan, assembled in Convention in Sault Ste. Marie,
11 Michigan, June 4-7, 2009, support legislation in the State of
12 Michigan legislature for the development of a program to pay
13 veterans bonuses to the military veterans of Southwest Asian
14 conflicts of Operation Desert Shield, Desert Storm, Operation
15 Enduring Freedom (OEF) in Afghanistan, and Operation Iraqi
16 Freedom (OIF) in Iraq and the joint operations in Bosnia-
17 Herzegovina, Kosovo, Somalia.

18 Respectfully submitted,
19 Kwan Tillman, National Service Officer.

20 RESOLUTION NO. 18

21 Resolution Calling for a Third State Veterans Home to
22 be Established in Southeast Michigan.

23 Whereas, There are more than 761,000 veterans in the
24 State of Michigan. These veterans are eligible to live and/or
25 receive care at the Grand Rapids Home for Veterans (GRHFV),

1 or the D.J. Jacobetti Home for Veterans (DJJHV), and,

2 Whereas, the widow, widower, spouse, former
3 spouses and parents of eligible veterans are also entitled to
4 reside and receive care at the GRHV or DJJHV, and,

5 Whereas, More than 388,000 of the 761,000 eligible
6 veterans live in Southeast Michigan, and to move the veterans
7 from Southeast Michigan to Grand Rapids or Marquette is a
8 hardship on the veterans, and especially on the veteran's family,
9 and,

10 Whereas, The maximum number of veterans and
11 dependents that can be cared for at the existing GRHV and
12 DJJHV are approximately 1000.

13 Therefore be it resolved that the DAV, Department of
14 Michigan, assembled at Convention in Sault Ste. Marie,
15 Michigan June 4-7, 2009, go on record to support and promote
16 the establishment of a State Veterans Home in southeast
17 Michigan, and the DAV, Department of Michigan, supports
18 legislation designed to establish a third State Veterans Home in
19 Southeast Michigan.

20 Respectfully submitted,
21 Todd Peddle, National Service Officer.

22 RESOLUTION NO. 19

23 Resolution.

24 Whereas, The State of Michigan has continually
25 supported the Veterans Service Organizations through funding

1 to provide service work to veterans and dependents, and,

2 Whereas, the cost of operations and support have
3 escalated in recent years, and,

4 Whereas, we must continue the effort to care for
5 those who are most deserving now.

6 Therefore be it resolved that the DAV Department of
7 Michigan assembled in Convention in Sault Ste. Marie,
8 Michigan, June 4-7, 2009, go on record as supporting adequate
9 and continued funding of the DAV and all Veterans Service
10 Organizations to continue their excellent service programs and
11 rehabilitation efforts.

12 Be it further resolved that no attempts be made to
13 reduce the Veterans Service Organizations' budget or staffing
14 levels in order to fund other State programs, since any
15 reduction will severely impact on the organizations' ability to
16 continue the present programs of service to Michigan veterans
17 and their dependents.

18 Respectfully submitted,
19 Douglas K. Wells, Assistant Director.

20 RESOLUTION NO. 20

21 Resolution.

22 Whereas, the Department of Military Affairs has
23 responsibility for the operation of the Michigan Veterans Homes
24 in Grand Rapids, Michigan, and Marquette, Michigan, and,

25 Whereas, any decline in the commitment by way of

1 financial support will adversely affect some services and
2 programs at these facilities, and,

3 Whereas, steps must be taken to provide for the
4 continued care of our veterans and spouses who can no longer
5 care for themselves.

6 Therefore be it resolved that the DAV, Department of
7 Michigan, while assembled in Convention in Sault Ste. Marie,
8 Michigan, June 4-7, 2009, go on record as urging the legislature
9 to continue to expend the funds needed to fully operate the
10 Michigan Veterans Homes consistent with the intent of law and
11 in accordance with established medical guidelines.

12 Respectfully submitted,
13 Douglas K. Wells, Assistant Director.

14 RESOLUTION NO. 21

15 Support Former Prisoner-of-War Slave Labor Claims
16 Against Japanese Firms.

17 Whereas, during World War II, in the Pacific Theater,
18 over 33,000 American military personnel were captured and
19 interned by the Japanese as prisoners of war (POWs), and,

20 Whereas, over 12,500 of those POWs died in captivity
21 and this heavy loss of life gives a good indication of the horrid
22 conditions that existed in the Japanese POW camps, and,

23 Whereas, these POWs suffered from a lack of
24 adequate food, clothing, shelter and medical care, suffered
25 interrogation and torture, endured unthinkable abuse and

1 brutality under the hands of their captors, and,

2 Whereas, many of these POWs were transported to
3 mainland Japan and were forced into slave labor where they
4 were required to work for private Japanese companies under
5 horrible conditions and suffered many types of cruel
6 punishment and human rights abuses, and,

7 Whereas, since the end of World War II, neither the
8 Japanese government nor those private Japanese companies
9 that enslaved our fighting men have offered to make restitution
10 for the abuses and injuries suffered, nor have they offered any
11 apology for their actions, and,

12 Whereas, the US government has never actively
13 sought to have fair compensation and restitution paid to these
14 former POWs who were deprived of all human dignity during
15 their service to their country, and,

16 Whereas, in 1999 the California legislature
17 unanimously passed a statute allowing claims for compensation
18 for these former POWs to go forward in the courts, irrespective
19 of the running of the statute of limitations, and,

20 Whereas, since this law was passed, suits have been
21 filed by American veterans captured by the Japanese during
22 World War II and later enslaved by Japanese Companies, and,

23 Whereas, the US Department of State opposes the
24 legal actions of the former American POWs to obtain
25 compensation from Japanese companies and has filed papers

1 in court proceedings that would have the effect of stopping the
2 court cases of these former POWs from ever going forward
3 under any court, and,

4 Whereas, the Department of Justice opinion, if
5 adopted, would nullify the action of the California Legislature in
6 seeking to open the courts for American POWs pursuing fair
7 compensation for the harm suffered.

8 Therefore be it resolved that the DAV, Department of
9 Michigan, at State Convention, assembled in Sault Ste. Marie,
10 Michigan, June 4-7, 2009, supports fair and just compensation
11 for the injuries suffered by all American POWs at the hands of
12 their Japanese captors, and the slave labor they were forced to
13 perform by private Japanese companies during World War II,
14 and,

15 Be it further resolved that we urge the Administration
16 to work with all parties involved in this issue to resolve the
17 claims of these former POWs against the private Japanese
18 companies in an expeditious manner.

19 Respectfully submitted,
20 Thomas E. Wendel, Director.

21 RESOLUTION NO. 27

22 Resolution.

23 Whereas, Public Act 359 of 1921 allows for the
24 creation of a veterans organization which is an organization
25 composed of veterans that is organized for a bona fide fraternal,

1 benevolent, educational, philanthropic, humane, patriotic or
2 charitable purpose, and,

3 Whereas, through the Department of Military and
4 Veterans Affairs (DMVA) Michigan provides grant funds annually
5 to eleven Veteran Service Organizations (VSO), with its first
6 grant to a VSO being made in 1927, and,

7 Whereas, the DMVA stipulates that state grant funds
8 shall be used only for salaries, wages, related personnel costs,
9 training, and equipment for accredited veteran service advocacy
10 officers and necessary support and managerial staff; and,

11 Whereas, the veteran service advocacy officers
12 supported by these funds assist veterans in obtaining benefits
13 primarily from the US Department of Veterans Affairs, and

14 Whereas, historically, the DMVA has administered
15 these State grand funds as pass-through funds to the VSOs with
16 the VSOs submitting various financial reports to the Department
17 in an effort to ensure the effective delivery of services to
18 Michigan's veterans, and,

19 Whereas, Section 707 of Senate Bill 250 introduced on
20 February 19, 2009 proposes maintaining the same total,
21 including funding of individual VSO grants for FY 2009-10 for
22 the first half of the fiscal year in the amount of \$2,014,750, but
23 requires funding for the second half, in the amount of
24 \$2,014,850, to be used for contracting to organizations for
25 counseling and the coordination of services within the

1 Department of Military and Veterans Affairs, and,

2 Whereas, Section 707 of Senate Bill 250 will dismantle
3 the current agreement between the State of Michigan and the
4 VSOs and have a negative impact on Michigan's veterans by
5 centralizing services under the Department of Military and
6 Veterans Affairs, creating a duplication of effort with the VSOs,
7 and,

8 Whereas, Section 707 of Senate Bill 250 will severely
9 diminish the capacity with which service is able to be afforded
10 to Michigan's veterans, and,

11 Whereas, Michigan's annual investment in VSOs of
12 \$4,029,600 yields a return to the State of approximately
13 \$300,000,000 annually in benefit recoveries from the US
14 Department of Veterans Affairs.

15 Therefore be it resolved that the DAV, Department of
16 Michigan at State Convention, assembled in Sault Ste. Marie,
17 Michigan, June 4-7, 2009, go on record opposing section 707 of
18 Senate Bill 25.

19 Respectfully submitted,
20 Thomas E. Wendel, Director.

21 DELEGATE SCHRIEBER: Comrade Commander, that
22 concludes my report.

23 COMMANDER MULCAHEY: Thank you.

24 I'd like to entertain a motion to support the Legislative
25 Committee, to approve the committee's recommendations.

1 DELEGATE DAVIS: Davis, Chapter 9, so moves.

2 COMMANDER MULCAHEY: Motion.

3 DELEGATE SCOTT: Scott, Chapter 1, seconds.

4 COMMANDER MULCAHEY: And a second.

5 All in favor?

6 BODY OF DELEGATES: Aye.

7 COMMANDER MULCAHEY: Opposed?

8 Motion passes.

9 I'd also like to entertain a motion of support to dismiss
10 this committee with a vote of thanks.

11 DELEGATE SCHUPBACK: Art Schupback, Chapter No.
12 9, so moves.

13 COMMANDER MULCAHEY: We have a motion. Do we
14 have a second?

15 DELEGATE BENZING: Benzing, 18, seconds.

16 COMMANDER MULCAHEY: Please use your mikes.

17 Go ahead, sir.

18 DELEGATE DAVIS: Davis, Chapter 9, seconds.

19 COMMANDER MULCAHEY: All in favor?

20 BODY OF DELEGATES: Aye.

21 COMMANDER MULCAHEY: Opposed?

22 Motion passes.

23 DELEGATE SCHRIEBER: Thank you.

24 COMMANDER MULCAHEY: Thank you.

25 Harold DeForest.

1 DELEGATE DEFOREST: Commander, line officers.

2 COMMANDER MULCAHEY: Please use the mike.

3 DELEGATE DEFOREST: This is the General
4 Resolutions Committee. The committee consisted of myself as
5 chairman, Harold DeForest, 129; Art Schupback, Chapter 9; Clyde
6 Hishok, Chapter 60; and from each zone – Zone 1, Beth Gonzales, 114;
7 Zone II, Flo Lopez, Chapter 68; Zone III, Ben Benzing; Zone IV, James
8 Kirk.

9 The resolutions are as follows:

10 **RESOLUTION NO. 1**

11 **A Resolution Calling for a Third State Veterans' Home
12 to be Established in Southeast Michigan.**

13 **Whereas, There are more than 826,000 wartime
14 veterans in the State of Michigan, all of them eligible to live
15 and/or receive care at the Grand Rapids Home for Veterans
16 (GVH) or the D.J. Jacobetti Home for Veterans (JHV) in either the
17 domiciliary units, assisted living units or acute or chronic
18 nursing care units, and,**

19 **Whereas, the spouses of wartime veterans are also
20 eligible to reside at and receive care at the GVH or the JHV, and,**

21 **Whereas, more than 400,000 of the 826,000 wartime
22 veterans live in southeast Michigan and to move the veterans
23 from southeast Michigan to Grand Rapids or Marquette is a
24 hardship on the veterans and especially on the veterans'
25 families, and,**

1 **Whereas, the maximum number of veterans, veterans'
2 spouses and dependents that can be housed at the existing
3 State Veterans' Homes is less than 1200.**

4 **Therefore be it resolved that the DAV, Department of
5 Michigan support and promote the establishment of a state
6 veterans home in southeast Michigan, and,**

7 **Be it further resolved that the DAV, Department of
8 Michigan, support legislation designed to establish a third state
9 veterans home in southeast Michigan.**

10 **Respectfully submitted,**

11 **Rolly D. Lee, Sr., 129.**

12 **RESOLUTION NO. 3**

13 **Resolution to Support the Election of Michael E.
14 Dobmeier to National Judge Advocate.**

15 **Whereas, Michael E. Dobmeier has a commitment to
16 the ideals of the Disabled American Veterans and has served
17 with distinction as our National Judge Advocate, and,**

18 **Whereas, Michael E. Dobmeier has through his
19 serving as a National Judge Advocate and as National
20 Commander demonstrated his ability to be a leader in this
21 organization of over 1.2 million life members.**

22 **Therefore be it resolved that the Disabled American
23 Veterans, Department of Michigan go on record as supporting
24 and endorsing Michael E. Dobmeier of North Dakota for National
25 Judge Advocate.**

1 **Respectfully submitted,**

2 **Rolly D. Lee, Sr., PDC.**

3 **RESOLUTION NO. 4**

4 **Resolution to support the election of Mary J.
5 Bencivenga to Higher National Office.**

6 **Whereas, Mary J. Bencivenga has a commitment to
7 the ideals of the Disabled American Veterans and has served
8 with distinction as a national Jr. Vice-Commander, and,**

9 **Whereas, Mary J. Bencivenga has through her service
10 the past year, demonstrated her ability to be a leader in this
11 organization of over 1 million life members.**

12 **Therefore be it resolved that the Disabled American
13 Veterans, Department of Michigan go on record as supporting
14 and endorsing Mary J. Bencivenga of the Department of New
15 Jersey for higher office.**

16 **Respectfully submitted,**

17 **Rolly D. Lee, Sr., (PDC).**

18 **RESOLUTION NO. 5**

19 **Resolution to support the election of Wallace E.
20 Tyson to Higher National Office.**

21 **Whereas, Wallace E. Tyson has a commitment to the
22 ideals of the Disabled American Veterans and has served with
23 distinction as a national 1st Jr. Vice-Commander, and,**

24 **Whereas, Wallace E. Tyson has through his serving
25 as a National Jr. Vice Commander the past 4 years**

1 demonstrated his ability to be a leader in this organization of
2 over 1 million life members.

3 Therefore be it resolved that the Disabled American
4 Veterans, Department of Michigan go on record as supporting
5 and endorsing Wallace E. Tyson of North Carolina for higher
6 office.

7 Respectfully submitted,
8 Rolly D. Lee, Sr., (PDC).

9 RESOLUTION NO. 6

10 Resolution to support the election of Larry A. Polzin
11 to Higher National Office.

12 Whereas, Larry A. Polzin has a commitment to the
13 ideals of the Disabled American Veterans and has served with
14 distinction as a national Jr. Vice-Commander, and,

15 Whereas, Larry A. Polzin has through his service the
16 past year, demonstrated his ability to be a leader in this
17 organization of over 1 million life members.

18 Therefore be it resolved that the Disabled American
19 Veterans, Department of Michigan go on record as supporting
20 and endorsing Larry A. Polzin of the Department of California for
21 higher office.

22 Respectfully submitted,
23 Rolly D. Lee, Sr., (PDC).

24 RESOLUTION NO. 7

25 Resolution to Support the election of Donald L.

1 Samuels to Higher National Office.

2 Whereas, Donald L. Samuels has a commitment to the
3 ideals of the Disabled American Veterans and has served with
4 distinction as a national Jr. Vice-Commander, and,

5 Whereas, Donald L. Samuels has through his service
6 the past year, demonstrated his ability to be a leader in this
7 organization of over 1 million life members.

8 Therefore be it resolved that the Disabled American
9 Veterans, Department of Michigan go on record as supporting
10 and endorsing Donald L. Samuels of the Department of
11 Tennessee for higher office.

12 Respectfully submitted,
13 Rolly D. Lee, Sr., (129).

14 RESOLUTION NO. 8

15 Resolution to Support the Election of Roberto Barrera
16 to National Commander.

17 Whereas, Roberto Barrera has a commitment to the
18 ideals of the Disabled American Veterans and has served with
19 distinction as our National Senior Vice-Commander, and,

20 Whereas, Roberto Barrera has attended our
21 Department convention and has impressed our members with
22 his leadership abilities, demeanor and warm personality, and,

23 Whereas, Robert Barrera has served and will continue
24 to serve our organization admirably as our National
25 Commander.

1 Therefore be it resolved that the Disabled American
2 Veterans, Department of Michigan go on record as supporting
3 and endorsing Roberto Barrera of Texas for the office of
4 National Commander.

5 Respectfully submitted,
6 Rolly D. Lee, Sr., PSC.

7 RESOLUTION NO. 22

8 Support Michael Knutson for the Position of National
9 Chaplain for the Disabled American Veterans.

10 Whereas, the Disabled American Veterans elects a
11 National Chaplain every(y) year at its National Convention.

12 Whereas, Michael Knutson holds the position of
13 Chaplain for the Department of Michigan.

14 Whereas, Michael Knutson has proven himself to be a
15 diverse Chaplain with the ability to understand many faiths.

16 Therefore be it resolved that the DAV, Department of
17 Michigan, at State Convention, assembled in Sault Ste. Marie,
18 Michigan, June 4-7, 2009, go on record supporting Michael
19 Knutson for the position of National Chaplain of the Disabled
20 American Veterans.

21 Respectfully submitted,
22 Thomas E. Wendel, Director.

23 RESOLUTION NO. 28

24 Resolution to Commend DAV State Commander
25 Daniel S. Mulcahey.

1 Whereas, it is the responsibility of the Commander to
2 lead, represent and serve the membership with honor, dignity,
3 integrity and foresight, and,

4 Whereas, his every action is a direct reflection on this
5 proud organization, and,

6 Whereas, Commander Mulcahey has accepted his role
7 as Commander, fulfilled his responsibility, and has served the
8 membership in an admirable manner, far beyond his years.

9 Therefore, be it resolved that the Department of
10 Michigan, Disabled American Veterans assembled in
11 Convention June 5, 6 and 7 in Sault Ste. Marie, Michigan, offer
12 our gratitude, respect and thanks (to) him for his leadership,
13 with a big round of applause.

14 Respectfully submitted by,
15 Harold DeForest, Chairman, Interim General
16 Resolutions Committee.

17 (Applause.)

18 DELEGATE DEFOREST: That's my report, Commander.

19 COMMANDER MULCAHEY: Thank you, Harold.

20 I would like to entertain a motion to approve the
21 committee's recommendations for General Resolutions.

22 DELEGATE DOUGLAS: Bruce Douglas, Chapter 9, so
23 moves.

24 DELEGATE SCOTT: Defolia Scott, Chapter 1, seconds.

25 COMMANDER MULCAHEY: Motion and a second.

1 All in favor?
2 BODY OF DELEGATES: Aye.
3 COMMANDER MULCAHEY: Opposed?
4 Motion passes.
5 Thank you.
6 Roger. Before you start, Roger, I'd like to entertain a
7 motion to support the General Resolutions Committee and dismiss this
8 committee with a vote of thanks.

9 DELEGATE DAVIS: Davis, Chapter 9, so moves.

10 COMMANDER MULCAHEY: Thank you.

11 Do we have a second?

12 DELEGATE SCOTT: Defolia Scott, Chapter 1, seconds.

13 COMMANDER MULCAHEY: Motion and a second.

14 All in favor?

15 BODY OF DELEGATES: Aye.

16 COMMANDER MULCAHEY: Opposed?

17 Motion passes. Thank you.

18 ROGER JANSEN: Good morning. I do not have any
19 resolutions.

20 (Applause.)

21 ROGER JANSEN: This is a report of the Convention
22 Committee. On the committee was Commander Dan Mulcahey, Line
23 Officers John Lamphere, Frank Shepherd, Jr., Christopher Sardo, Garry
24 Henshaw, Adjutant Rolly Lee. From Zone I was Patrick Adams of 114;
25 Roger Jansen of 14; Thomas Stanford of Chapter 11, and Albert Ford of

1 22.
2 Our next year's convention has already been set up, will
3 be here at the Kewadin in Sault Ste. Marie on June 11, 12 and 13.
4 We had three bids for 2011. We had one from the
5 Comfort Inns and Suites at Mount Pleasant. It's a fair size hotel/motel
6 with two other attached motels and a restaurant. As we looked that over,
7 the room rates there are \$95 plus occupancy tax and sales tax. There is
8 a shuttle that runs from that hotel to the casino. Starts early in the
9 morning and ends at 11 p.m. and it costs you \$2 for a ride each way.
10 We looked at the menus and the cost of the food. It's quite a bit more
11 than here.

12 The second one we looked at was McCamly Plaza in
13 Battle Creek. Their room rates are \$99 plus occupancy tax and sales
14 tax. There will be a new casino opening up in Battle Creek. It isn't open
15 yet, so we have no idea if there's going to be a shuttle or what it would
16 cost to go to the casino.

17 The third bid we had was right here at the Soo. We're
18 looking at a room rate of \$75. We're looking at the convenience of all in
19 one building. We look at the price of the food. I don't know about you,
20 but I had breakfast, my wife and I, for a little over \$2. There is the
21 advantage that we have here – I know it's a lot longer to come. But
22 when we figure the cost of the other hotels, it's a savings, actually, to
23 stay here. They froze the food prices. Not only that, you get a \$10 – you
24 pay \$75 for your room, plus you get \$10 in coins every day. Maybe you
25 can make some money, maybe you can't.

1 So, the vote was taken. We reviewed all three and it was
2 unanimous consent that we stay here. Until we can get some of those
3 hotels down state to become a little more eager, it appears that the cost
4 to the Department and to our members, it's cheaper to stay here,
5 because it's all under one roof. I don't know about you, I parked my car
6 and I haven't left. Didn't have to. Even though it was raining yesterday,
7 we all stayed dry. So, the recommendation for 2011 is here at the
8 Kewadin. That is the end of my report. We recommend that.

9 (Applause.)

10 COMMANDER MULCAHEY: Thank you, Roger.

11 I'd like to entertain a motion to approve the Convention
12 Committee's recommendations.

13 DELEGATE DAVIS: Davis, Chapter 9, so moves.

14 DELEGATE MOREY: Chris Morey, Chapter 14, seconds.

15 COMMANDER MULCAHEY: Motion and second.

16 All in favor?

17 BODY OF DELEGATES: Aye.

18 COMMANDER MULCAHEY: Opposed?

19 Motion carried.

20 I'd like to entertain a motion to dismiss this committee
21 with a vote of thanks.

22 DELEGATE SCHUPBACK: Art Schupback, Chapter 9, so
23 moves.

24 DELEGATE MANNINEN: John Manninen, 115, seconds.

25 COMMANDER MULCAHEY: Motion and a second.

1 All in favor?

2 BODY OF DELEGATES: Aye.

3 COMMANDER MULCAHEY: Opposed?

4 Motion passes.

5 Thank you.

6 DELEGATE CARMICHAEL: Commander Mulcahey, line
7 officers, fellow members, guests, this is a report from the National &
8 State Cemetery Committee. It was a great honor to chair it. My name is
9 Jack Carmichael, Chapter 7. Other members were Peter Sardo, Chapter
10 16; Eugene Corwin, Chapter 135; James Shogren, Chapter 52.

11 We had one resolution.

12 **RESOLUTION NO. 25**

13 **Resolution to Support the Establishment of a State
14 Veterans Cemetery in the Upper Peninsula.**

15 **Whereas, the government has traditionally developed
16 and maintained a National Cemetery System to provide our
17 nation's final tribute to the military veterans of our country's
18 major conflicts and wars, and,**

19 **Whereas, the location of the Fort Custer National
20 Cemetery in the southwest region of the State of Michigan is
21 more convenient for the population centers of Illinois and
22 northern Indiana than it is the major population centers of
23 Michigan, and,**

24 **Whereas, the Great Lakes Cemetery located in Holly,
25 Michigan meets the needs of Metro Detroit's veterans and their**

1 families, and,

2 Whereas, neither National Cemetery is conveniently
3 located to meet the needs of any Upper Peninsula veterans and
4 their families.

5 Therefore, be it resolved that the DAV, Department of
6 Michigan, assembled in Convention June 4-7, 2009, in Sault Ste.
7 Marie, Michigan, go on record to support the establishment of a
8 State Veterans Cemetery in the central Upper Peninsula for
9 military veterans of our country's major conflicts and wars.

10 Respectfully submitted,

11 Douglas M. Marble, National Service Officer.

12 DELEGATE CARMICHAEL: Our committee
13 recommended approval of this. That's the end of my report.

14 COMMANDER MULCAHEY: Thank you.

15 I'd like to entertain a motion to approve the committee's
16 recommendations.

17 DELEGATE PEDDLE: Todd Peddle, Chapter 129,
18 moves.

19 COMMANDER MULCAHEY: We have a motion.

20 DELEGATE DAVIS: Davis, Chapter 9, seconds.

21 COMMANDER MULCAHEY: We have a second.

22 All in favor?

23 BODY OF DELEGATES: Aye.

24 COMMANDER MULCAHEY: Opposed?

25 Motion passes.

1 I'd like to entertain a motion to dismiss this committee
2 with a vote of thanks.

3 DELEGATE MANNINEN: John Manninen, 115, supports.

4 DELEGATE DAVIS: Davis, Chapter 9, seconds.

5 COMMANDER MULCAHEY: We have a motion and a
6 second.

7 All in favor?

8 BODY OF DELEGATES: Aye.

9 COMMANDER MULCAHEY: Opposed?

10 Motion passes.

11 Announcements, Adjutant Lee.

12 ADJUTANT LEE: Be sure and be back for this
13 afternoon's session, that starts at 1:15 because we're running a little late
14 here, when the Awards Presentations will begin. After that, Chapters
15 who want to make a monetary commitment to the Department by
16 sponsoring a budget line item, can do so.

17 Zone Caucuses: Zone I will remain in this room. Zone II
18 will meet in the Whitefish Point Room located on the first floor, just to
19 the left of the escalators. Zone III will meet in the Ontario 1 Room, and
20 Zone IV will meet in the Ontario 2 room on the second level in the
21 conference room.

22 The following individuals will please come up to the
23 podium as soon as we're done with announcements: Thomas
24 Lightbody, Flo Lopez, Stanley Kolbucz, Paul Harlan, Frank Brown and
25 the Iron Mountain rep. Thank you.

1 COMMANDER MULCAHEY: Thank you, Adjutant.

2 I have one thing before we break. Please support the
3 Auxiliary raffles and stuff. She'll be in here during the breaks and
4 upstairs also. So, thank you very much.

5 Before we recess, I'll call on Chaplain Knutson for the
6 Benediction, please. Uncover.

7 CHAPLAIN KNUTSON: To my fellow comrades, I say
8 two words; thank you for your support.

9 Oh, God, we are afraid to ask you for the impossible. You
10 can do what we cannot do. All you ask is that we come to you in prayer.
11 You have said if you will ask, I will do. Today we ask for a
12 compassionate spirit as we go to serve our fellow veterans. Amen.

13 COMMANDER MULCAHEY: It is fitting and proper that
14 we again render Honor to the Flag of our Country. Comrades, attention;
15 by the numbers, hand salute. Two! I now declare this meeting recessed
16 until 1:15 p.m. this afternoon.

17 (2nd Convention Session Adjourned.)

1 84th Annual Disabled American Veterans
2 2009 Department of Michigan State Convention
3 3rd Convention Business Session
4 Saturday, June 6, 2009
5 About 1:30 o'clock, p.m.

6 COMMANDER MULCAHEY: Before we start, please
7 turn off all cell phones, beepers or any other electronic devices, if you
8 can.

9 Before we get started, I would like to recognize our
10 National guest, if you would please stand. I'm sorry I didn't catch you
11 earlier, National Judge Advocate.

12 (Applause.)

13 COMMANDER MULCAHEY: All rise. We will now be led
14 in prayer by our chaplain. Uncover.

15 CHAPLAIN KNUTSON: Eternal God, I ask that you make
16 the people of this nation as one. I ask that we stand behind the ideals
17 upon which we are built, behind our freedom. Give us an appropriate
18 pride in the flag that represents that freedom. Give us warmth of spirit
19 when we come together as Americans and as Disabled American
20 Veterans. Help us to be bound together for all that is right. Thank you,
21 God, for the powerful emotions that flood our hearts when we remember
22 what America stands for. I ask that these emotions become actions and
23 words that will make us stronger in the years to come. In your Holy
24 Name, we make this our prayer. Amen.

25 COMMANDER MULCAHEY: Comrades, Attention.

1 Persons wearing uniform caps will give the hand salute and all others
2 place your right hand over your heart. Please join me in giving the
3 Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

4 (Pledge of Allegiance)

5 COMMANDER MULCAHEY: Two. Please be seated.

6 Communications, Adjutant Lee. No communications at
7 this time.

8 The Awards Presentation. Child Welfare, please.

9 DELEGATE DOUGLAS: Good afternoon, Commander,
10 Honored Guests and Fellow Veterans. My name is Bruce Douglas, I'm
11 Chair of the Child Welfare and Drug Education Committee. My
12 committee consists of Dawn Bollis, Chapter 16; Bill Roush, Chapter 7;
13 and Ron Munro, Chapter 52.

14 The results, you'll see back here, are the posters that
15 were submitted and also the chapter child welfare books. The winners in
16 categories – the first and second grade, we had no submissions.

17 But the third and fourth grade, the winners were Rose
18 Barbour from Chapter 7, Lauren Leazenby, Chapter 7; and Mohammed
19 Alim from Chapter 83.

20 The award they will be receiving is first place a Barnes
21 and Noble gift certificate, second place is a \$30 Barnes and Noble gift
22 certificate; and third place is a \$25 Barnes and Noble gift certificate.

23 The fifth and sixth grade is Tapia Miah from Chapter 83;
24 Prena Palokij, Chapter 83; and Nuo Memcevic from Chapter 83.

25 And seventh and eighth grade winners would be Stanna

1 Dorn from Chapter 135 and Bronson Becker from Chapter 4. They will
2 be receiving their certificates from the Chapter.

3 Now, under Child Education and Welfare, to be receiving
4 their certificates: First place was Chapter 7 and second place was
5 Chapter 24. If their commanders could come up here for the
6 presentations of their certificates. Thank you.

7 (Applause.)

8 COMMANDER MULCAHEY: Go ahead, Dennis.

9 DELEGATE ROGALA: Good afternoon, Ladies and
10 Gentlemen, Disabled Veterans and Guests.

11 I was the chairman for the Americanism Committee. I'm
12 Dennis Rogala, Chapter 114. My colleagues on the committee consisted
13 of Carl Poest, 14 of Holland; Tom Stafford, 11 of Muskegon; John
14 Manninen from 115, Dr. Perry H. Wilson. Would you gentlemen, if you
15 are out there, would you please stand to be recognized? Thank you for
16 your job that you did this year.

17 (Applause.)

18 DELEGATE ROGALA: And some of them were there last
19 year.

20 The winning chapter in our contest for the best
21 Americanism program goes to DAV Chapter 20 of Lenawee County.
22 Congratulations.

23 (Applause.)

24 DELEGATE ROGALA: List of Honorable Mentions goes
25 to Chapter 7, Calhoun County; Chapter 63, Shiawassee County. And

1 Shiawassee County had the first place winner in the essay contest for
2 the fifth graders, which was a \$500 bond to the student and \$500 to the
3 school.

4 The books were all good, any one of them could have
5 won – each one of them had a specialty that they did. But I want to tell
6 you, next year, follow the rules, because Chapter 114 is going to put in a
7 new book and Chapter 113, I believe, who won last year, Gunny left
8 Chapter 114 and went to Chapter 113. I know they are going to have a
9 good book. So, the fight will be on next year and I thank all the
10 participants. Thank you.

11 (Applause.)

12 DELEGATE STRAUB: Public Relations and Awards
13 Committee was Chairman, Ken Cummins, Chapter 94; Paul Klosterman,
14 Chapter 44; myself, Richard A. Straub, Chapter 2; and Preston King,
15 Chapter 22.

16 I want to say good afternoon, Ladies and Gentlemen,
17 from my committee. And I would tell you that for the James R. Friesema
18 Public Relations Award, what a presentation they put on, Chapter No.
19 63 is the winner.

20 (Applause.)

21 DELEGATE STRAUB: Moving down to the
22 Publication/Newsletter Award. Chapter No. 18, Big Rapids,
23 congratulations.

24 (Applause.)

1 DELEGATE STRAUB: Your newsletter gave us all that
2 was required and more. You hit the nail on the head in every section.
3 What a great newsletter. Everybody on our committee thought that
4 newsletter from your chapter was great. So, you earned the award.

5 With that, that concludes my report at this time,
6 Commander, and I wish to sit down. Thank you.

7 (Applause.)

8 1ST JR. VICE COMDR SHEPHERD: I'd entertain a
9 motion to dismiss these committees with a vote of thanks.

10 DELEGATE UNKNOWN: (Off microphone) . . . so moves.

11 DELEGATE SCHUPBACK: Art Schupback, seconds.

12 1ST JR. VICE COMDR SHEPHERD: We didn't hear the
13 first one, could you please use the mike.

14 DELEGATE WELLS: Doug Wells, 113, so moves.

15 DELEGATE SCHUPBACK: Art Schupback, Chapter 9,
16 seconds.

17 1ST JR. VICE CMDR SHEPHERD: The motion is
18 seconded. All those in favor, say "Aye."

19 BODY OF DELEGATES: Aye.

20 1ST JR. VICE CMDR SHEPHERD: Opposed?
21 Passed. Thank you.

22 Don Crull, would you please come up for the second
23 reading of the Constitution and Bylaws?

24 DELEGATE CRULL: Good afternoon. This will be the
25 second reading of the amendments to the Constitution and Bylaws.

1 **RESOLUTION NO. 10 (SECOND READING)**

2 **Change to Department of Michigan Bylaws**

3 **Whereas, there is currently no provision in the**
4 **Department of Michigan Constitution and Bylaws for the**
5 **Administrative Board to make board decisions without a formal**
6 **meeting, and,**

7 **Whereas, it would be very advantage(ou)s and cost**
8 **effective for the Administrative (Board) to be able to do**
9 **business by electronic communication; NOW**

10 **Therefore, be it resolved that the Disabled American**
11 **Veterans, Department of Michigan, in State Convention,**
12 **assembled in Sault Saint Marie June 5 to June 7, 2009, change**
13 **the Department of Michigan Constitution and Bylaws as follows:**

14 **Article 11 Administrative Board.**

15 **11.1 Administrative Board Meetings.**

16 **Add 11.1d.**

17 **The regular business of the organization requiring the**
18 **consideration of the State Administrative Board between**
19 **scheduled meetings shall be transacted through the office of the**
20 **State Adjutant by the use of the mail, telephone, email or**
21 **facsimile transmission. Whenever a vote is taken in this fashion,**
22 **the votes shall be printed listing the vote of each Administrative**
23 **Board Member as soon as possible following each vote and the**
24 **results communicated to the members.**

25 **Ronald R. Schrieber, Legislative Chairman.**

1 DELEGATE CRULL: I need a motion

2 TREASURER JANSEN: Jansen, Chapter 14, makes a motion
3 to approve Item No. 10

4 DELEGATE SCHRIEBER: Schrieber, 135, seconds the motion.

5 1st JR. VICE CMDR SHEPHERD: Okay. We have a motion and
6 it's seconded. Any discussion? All those in favor, say "Aye."

7 BODY OF DELEGATES: Aye.

8 1st JR. VICE CMDR SHEPHERD: Opposed?

9 Passed.

10 DELEGATE CRULL: Okay. The next resolution is Resolution
11 No. 11.

12 **RESOLUTION NO. 11 (SECOND READING)**

13 **Resolution to Change the Department of Michigan**
14 **Constitution and Bylaws.**

15 **Whereas, the Disabled (American) Veterans**
16 **Department of Michigan cannot maintain its excellent Service**
17 **and Transportation programs because the State of Michigan**
18 **reduced the state grant to the organization that was used for**
19 **that purpose; and,**

20 **Whereas, as these programs are very vital for the**
21 **Department of Michigan to carry out its mission to help make**
22 **better lives for all disabled veterans and their dependents; and,**

23 **Whereas, the Disabled American Veterans,**
24 **Department of Michigan must generate enough revenue to keep**

1 these vital programs as well as others to help offset the state
2 budget cuts; NOW,

3 **Therefore be it resolved that the Disabled American**
4 **Veterans, Department of Michigan in State Convention**
5 **assembled in Sault Saint Marie June 5 thru 7, 2009, change the**
6 **Department of Michigan Constitution and Bylaws as follows:**

7 **Article 13 Revenues and Expenditures**

8 **Article 13.3 Revenues**

9 **13.3b All fundraising activities conducted by the**
10 **Department, Chapters, Disabled American Veterans Auxiliary**
11 **and the National Order of Trench Rats will require written**
12 **approval of the Department and will be in compliance with the**
13 **National Bylaws, State Executive Committee and Administrative**
14 **Board regulation and policy now in effect or as might hereafter**
15 **(be) amended.**

16 **13.3b(a) Disabled American Veterans Chapters,**
17 **Auxiliary Units and National Order of Trench Rats conducting**
18 **any fundraising activities, including For(get)-Me-Not drives,**
19 **Bingos, Raffles or any other form of fundraising will remit ten**
20 **percent (10%) of any net profit to the Disabled American**
21 **Veterans Department of Michigan. Remittance will take place at**
22 **the end of the fundraising activity.**

23 **13.3b(b) Each subordinate body subject to the**
24 **provisions hereof shall hold the Department harmless from any**
25 **claims arising from approval granted or withheld by any**

1 **governing body hereunder, and the approval of such body is**
2 **specifically limited to project submitted as a means of**
3 **fundraising and may not be construed so as to make the**
4 **approving body a party to any contract or obligation, arising out**
5 **of the project.**

6 **Ronald R. Schrieber, Legislative Chairman.**

7 **COMMANDER MULCAHEY: I'd like to entertain a motion**
8 **to approve this resolution.**

9 **DELEGATE LIGHTBODY: Thomas Lightbody, Chapter 7,**
10 **makes the motion to approve this resolution.**

11 **COMMANDER MULCAHEY: We have a motion.**

12 **DELEGATE DAVIS: Davis, Chapter 9, seconds.**

13 **COMMANDER MULCAHEY: We have a second.**

14 **Any recommendations?**

15 **DELEGATE LAWTON: Landis Lawton, Chapter 113.**

16 **I fully understand what this resolution is doing. I fully**
17 **support it. We've got to do something to help the Department out. I fully**
18 **understand that. The only item in this resolution that causes me to ask**
19 **questions is when it's dealing with the Forget-Me-Not drive. When we**
20 **get out on the sidewalks in front of stores and we have these people**
21 **donating money, a lot of times they hesitate to drop any cash in that**
22 **can, because every time they're called by somebody or they're asked to**
23 **donate some money, they hesitate because they say, "Is a hundred**
24 **percent of this money going where it needs to go?" If we allow this**
25 **Forget-Me-Not money to go into this resolution, we cannot be honest to**

1 the people in our local communities and tell them that a hundred percent
2 is going to go and stay in their community. We have to tell them that
3 10% of it is going to have to go to our Department. That may cause
4 damage when it comes to the donations. Thank you.

5 COMMANDER MULCAHEY: Thank you.

6 DELEGATE DOUGLAS: Bruce Douglas, Chapter 9.

7 I'd like to amend this that we leave that Forget-Me-Not
8 Drive out of this part of this amendment because that – if we're going to
9 do a fundraiser for Forget-Me-Nots, this will hurt almost every chapter in
10 the State collecting, because we all say the same thing. "It stays local,
11 it's used locally." If we have to give this back to the State, this is going to
12 hurt us in our poppy drives. I would like to amend this to have that part
13 omitted from it. And I'll make a motion to that effect.

14 COMMANDER MULCAHEY: Right now we are under
15 recommendations.

16 DELEGATE PEDDLE: Todd Peddle, Chapter 129.

17 I put out on the floor that this is going back to your local
18 communities. The 10% is going back in your community by service.
19 That's what we're about, service. The poppies gives us the money for
20 service. Nothing else, service.

21 DELEGATE DURKEE: Robert Durkee, Chapter 12.

22 I think we're discounting the fact right now, and I
23 understand after talking with Dave Van Hill about this a little bit more.
24 I'm in support of it, but I am not in support of it. So, when we have
25 volunteers and volunteers have to go out there and defend this, the

1 community might get a little disturbed with that. And Gunny brought up a
2 very good point on this. I don't know if there's been any other creative
3 way looked at this to give us a different avenue to approach it. But 10%
4 of people who really get out there and hustle with their chapters can be
5 a significant amount of money. And I'm against the Forget-Me-Nots and
6 some of these fundraisers that go out – when you get volunteers who
7 are working hard to bring a chapter forward and many of the chapters
8 are not as large as the other ones that are out here, you might find
9 where it's going to become a difficult chore. So, there should be some
10 other creativity given to this rather than carte blanche just 10%.

11 COMMANDER MULCAHEY: Thank you.

12 Any other recommendations?

13 DELEGATE ROUSH: Bill Roush, Chapter 7, Calhoun and
14 Eaton and Berry County.

15 When I stand out there for the Forget-Me-Nots, I give my
16 110% and I tell those people that they are donating to the local
17 community and that does not mean going to the Department and
18 someone saying that it's coming back in service. I am the service in my
19 county, and I cannot honestly support this here resolution on that part of
20 the Forget-Me-Nots. Everything else, I am a hundred percent behind
21 you, gentlemen.

22 COMMANDER MULCAHEY: Any other
23 recommendations?

24 DELEGATE LINTON: Jim Linton, Chapter 3.

1 I agree with all the comrades' previous statements
2 regarding this proposal and I also want to bring attention to everybody in
3 here, we know that our Auxiliary is the backbone of this system. They
4 are out there working every day trying to get us the funds to go ahead
5 and run our system the way that we ought to run our system. They have
6 not a vote here and so Chapter 3 will make a vote on behalf of them.
7 You're looking at not only the people out there that we try to get to
8 contribute to us, but you're looking at the volunteers that go out there
9 and do this also. You are also looking at that we, as a unit, whether or
10 not chapter, whether or not it's State or other, Chapter 3 is one of the
11 largest chapters and brings in most of the money to our chapter than
12 any other chapter that's out there. We have no problem with this money
13 going to the veterans as it's supposed to be. We have the Forget-Me-
14 Not program which goes 100% to the veteran, no other place, to the
15 veteran.

16 COMMANDER MULCAHEY: Thank you, Comrade. Your
17 three minutes are up. Is there any other discussion?

18 UNKNOWN DELEGATE: I do believe that all of the
19 chapters do have the Forget-Me-Not drive earmarked as a separate
20 welfare fund. It should not be earmarked into their general fund. It
21 should be strictly welfare. There are some chapters that do not have a
22 so-called welfare line item, but it goes into their general fund, which
23 therefore cannot be totally accounted for. It is the regulation that the
24 welfare fund be brought down to zero at the end of each year. If you are
25 not giving that money to service the veterans within your community,

1 what money is left over should go to the Department. And the
2 Department should accept whatever that amount is, not a 10%, or
3 anything like that. As long as these chapters are doing what they are
4 supposed to do, is to take care of veterans, donating money to the
5 hospital should come out of your general fund, not your welfare fund.
6 The welfare fund is to take care of the people in the community. Okay.
7 To take care of the veterans. Anything left over at the end of that fiscal
8 year is supposed to be used up and it should be turned over to the
9 Department. Thank you.

10 COMMANDER MULCAHEY: Yes, Comrade.

11 DELEGATE DEMPSTER: Thomas Dempster, Chapter
12 114, Livonia.

13 I agree with everyone here on the Forget-Me-Not fund.
14 This was the first year I collected for it and I believe the fund should stay
15 in tact as it is. Thank you.

16 COMMANDER MULCAHEY: With no other discussion.

17 DELEGATE ROGALA: Dennis Rogala, Chapter 114.

18 It seems to me that this would be like a double take
19 because we do support you guys anyway. So to ask, to put this burden
20 on us doesn't sound – I know you guys are hurting, but the chapters all
21 support you as it is. So, we're going to give you what we can. And I've
22 really got to go with Gunny and the rest of them that I think we ought to
23 leave it, the Forget-Me-Not, leave it alone.

24 COMMANDER MULCAHEY: Thank you.

25 (Applause.)

1 COMMANDER MULCAHEY: With no other discussion,
2 we will go back to the motion. We have a motion to approve Resolution
3 No. 11.

4 All in favor?

5 Against?

6 BODY OF DELEGATES: Nay.

7 COMMANDER MULCAHEY: Defeated.

8 (Applause.)

9 DELEGATE CRULL: Next resolution is Resolution No.

10 12.

11 **RESOLUTION NO. 12 (SECOND READING)**

12 Resolution.

13 Whereas, the financial picture of the DAV here in
14 Michigan is bleak, and,

15 Whereas, the DAV Department of Michigan's ability to
16 raise funds is limited, and,

17 Whereas, The DAV Department of Michigan cannot
18 continue to operate as it has been doing and must reduce costs,
19 wherever possible, and

20 Whereas, Quite a few chapters in the state are in
21 better shape financially than the Department.

22 Therefore be it resolved that the DAV Department of
23 Michigan assembled in State convention June 5, 6 and 7, 2009
24 go on record to amend and adopt Article 11, Section 11.2m of
25 the Department Bylaws to read:

1 11.2m, The State Administrative Board may, if funds
2 are available, provide annually in the Department budget an
3 appropriation of not less than \$600 for each Zone for the
4 purpose of holding Zone Meetings.

5 Respectfully submitted,

6 Roger Jansen, State Treasurer, Chapter 14.

7 COMMANDER MULCAHEY: Thank you.

8 I'd like to entertain a motion to approve Resolution No.

9 12.

10 TREASURER JANSEN: Jansen, Chapter No. 14, makes
11 the motion to approve Resolution No. 12.

12 COMMANDER MULCAHEY: We have a motion.

13 DELEGATE SCHUPBACK: Art Schupback, Chapter 9,
14 supports.

15 COMMANDER MULCAHEY: We have a second.

16 Any questions on the motion?

17 DELEGATE PETER SARDO: Commander, Pete Sardo,
18 Chapter 16. I'm not only a chapter member, I'm also a zone member,
19 and I do believe that us as a group have taken our zone meetings a little
20 bit too far. We don't need the elaborate catered meals, you know.
21 There's no reason why a zone meeting should run more than six hours.
22 We can eliminate even the \$600 down to \$400 or \$500 if we do not
23 request all this money because we want to do catered meals. You know,
24 coffee, doughnuts, hot dogs, hamburgers, or whatever. It doesn't have

1 to be the big spread. And I believe that the majority of these people
2 would go along with that and that's my thoughts.

3 COMMANDER MULCAHEY: Thank you, Comrade.

4 Any other questions?

5 DELEGATE MANNINEN: Yes, Commander. John
6 Manninen, 115.

7 Talking about the meals there. Well, the people already
8 pay an \$8 fee or whatever to go to a zone meeting.

9 COMMANDER MULCAHEY: Speak into the mike. We
10 can't hear you.

11 DELEGATE MANNINEN: Talking about the zone meeting
12 and the meals. The people already pay an \$8 fee to attend a zone
13 meeting because of the meals there. I'm just wondering how many
14 people are not going to show because, you know, they're going to say,
15 well, you know, there's no meal, there's this, that. And what it does is
16 help with the attendance also. You know, because people are still going
17 to go eat somewhere if they do come. And I think it's probably a better
18 bargain if it's just catered than if they are all eating individually.

19 COMMANDER MULCAHEY: Thank you, Comrade.

20 Being there are no other questions, back to Resolution
21 12. All in favor?

22 BODY OF DELEGATES: Aye.

23 COMMANDER MULCAHEY: Opposed?

24 Motion passes.

1 UNKNOWN DELEGATE: Commander, Roger Jansen's
2 the one that made that resolution, how could he vote on that to start it
3 off?

4 COMMANDER MULCAHEY: He didn't vote, he just
5 made a motion.

6 UNKNOWN DELEGATE: How can he do that if he wrote
7 the resolution?

8 DELEGATE CRULL: Are we done? Can I move on?

9 COMMANDER MULCAHEY: Go ahead.

10 DELEGATE CRULL: Resolution No. 13.

11 **RESOLUTION NO. 13 (SECOND READING)**

12 Resolution.

13 Amend DAV Department of Michigan Constitution to
14 Decrease the Number of State Administrative Board Members.

15 Whereas, The income to the Disabled American
16 Veterans, Department of Michigan has been continually
17 decreasing over the years, and,

18 Whereas, It is imperative for the Organization to find
19 ways to cut expenses in order to preserve our existence, and,

20 Whereas, Each State Administrative Board Meeting
21 costs the Department an average of \$5,200 each time a Board
22 Meeting is called.

23 Therefore be it resolved that Article IV, Section 4.5a of
24 the Constitution which currently reads:

1 4.5a There shall be a State Administrative Board
2 composed of twelve (12) members elected by the State
3 Convention to serve three-year terms, the State commander and
4 the immediate Past State Commander. The State Vice
5 Commanders, the State Treasurer and the State Judge Advocate
6 shall serve as ex-officio members with voice, but no vote.

7 Be amended to state:

8 4.5a There shall be a State Administrative Board
9 composed of eight (8) members elected by the State Convention
10 to serve two-year terms, the State commander, and the
11 immediate Past State Commander,

12 And,

13 Be it further resolved that Article IV, Section 4.5b of
14 the Constitution which currently reads:

15 4.5b There shall be no less than two elected members
16 nor more than four elected members from each Zone.

17 Be amended to state:

18 4.5b There shall be no more than two (2) elected
19 members from each Zone.

20 Be it further resolved that in order to implement these
21 changes, pending approval of the National Judge Advocate, all
22 terms of the current twelve (12) member State Administrative
23 Board shall cease on Sunday, June 13, 2010, when a new eight
24 member Board is elected in accordance with the Constitution
25 and Bylaws as amended this date.

1 Be it further resolved that the DAV Department of
2 Michigan, assembled in State Convention June 5, 6 and 7, 2009,
3 go on record to adopt these cost-saving amendments for the
4 betterment of the DAV Department of Michigan,

5 Respectfully submitted by

6 David R. Van Hill (116), Administrative Board Member.

7 COMMANDER MULCAHEY: Thank you. I'd like to
8 entertain a motion to approve Resolution 13.

9 DELEGATE DAVIS: Davis, Chapter 9, so moves.

10 COMMANDER MULCAHEY: We have a motion. Do we
11 have a second?

12 DELEGATE SPALDING: Spalding, supports.

13 COMMANDER MULCAHEY: Spalding supports.

14 DELEGATE PETER SARDO: Commander, Peter SarDO,
15 Chapter 16, also at this present time an elected board member.

16 I do believe that you have another resolution coming up,
17 unless I just missed it, on electronic communications for the Ad Board. If
18 this is the case, you can cut your costs for the Ad Board meetings by
19 allowing the zone officers or your elected officers up there to send in
20 their reports to the zone meetings and allow the organization to keep the
21 representation that they have on the Ad Board. Zone officers, for when
22 they come to the Ad Board, they could very well have the Adjutant read
23 their reports. Thank you.

24 COMMANDER MULCAHEY: Thank you, Comrade. Any
25 other discussions? Seeing none.

1 Motion to approve?

2 BODY OF DELEGATES: Aye.

3 COMMANDER MULCAHEY: Motion to disapprove?

4 We will do a hand vote. Motion to approve, please raise
5 your hand. Okay. Those who disapprove, would you please raise your
6 hand?

7 The ayes have it. Motion passes.

8 (Applause.)

9 DELEGATE CRULL: Okay. Resolution No. 14.

10 RESOLUTION NO. 14 (SECOND READING)

11 To amend the DAV Department of Michigan Bylaws.

12 Whereas, The income to the Disabled American
13 Veterans, Department of Michigan has been continually
14 decreasing over the years, and,

15 Whereas, It is imperative for the Organization to find
16 ways to cut expenses in order to preserve our existence, and,

17 Whereas: Each State Administrative Board Meeting
18 currently costs the Department an average of \$5,200 each time a
19 Board Meeting is called and further cost savings measures need
20 to be taken.

21 Therefore be it resolved that Article 11, Administrative
22 Board, Section 11.1b in the Bylaws that currently reads:

23 11.1b The State Administrative Board shall meet at the
24 call of the Administrative Board Chairman, at the request of the
25 State Commander, or at the request of seven (7) members of the

1 State Administrative Board,

2 Be amended to state:

3 11.1b The State Administrative Board shall meet at the
4 call of the Administrative Board Chairman, at the request of the
5 State Commander, or at the request of five (5) members of the
6 State Administrative Board,

7 And,

8 Be it further resolved that a new Section be created
9 and named Section 11.1c to read:

10 11.1c Only the 8 Administrative Board members, the
11 State Commander, the immediate Past State Commander, the
12 Senior Vice Commander, the State Treasurer, the State Judge
13 Advocate and the State Adjutant shall be paid travel expenses
14 to attend the Administrative Board Meetings.

15 And that current Section 11.1c be renumbered Section
16 11.1d.

17 Be it further resolved that in order to implement these
18 changes, pending approval of the National Judge Advocate, all
19 terms of the current twelve member State Administrative Board
20 shall cease on Sunday, June 13, 2010, when a new 8 member
21 Board is elected in accordance with the Constitution and
22 Bylaws as amended this date.

23 Be it further resolved that the DAV Department of
24 Michigan assembled in State convention June 5, 6 and 7, 2009,
25 go on record to adopt these amendments to our Bylaws for the

1 betterment of the DAV Department of Michigan.

2 Respectfully submitted by,

3 David R. Van Hill (116), Administrative Board Member.

4 COMMANDER MULCAHEY: Thank you. I'd like to
5 entertain a motion to approve Resolution 14.

6 DELEGATE SCHUPBACK: Art Schupback, Chapter 9, so
7 moves.

8 DELEGATE SPALDING: Spalding, Chapter 20,
9 supports.

10 COMMANDER MULCAHEY: I have a motion and a
11 second.

12 All in favor?

13 BODY OF DELEGATES: Aye.

14 COMMANDER MULCAHEY: Any questions?

15 Opposed?

16 Motion passes.

17 DELEGATE CRULL: Okay. That concludes my report.

18 UNKNOWN DELEGATE: Comrade Commander.

19 COMMANDER MULCAHEY: Yes.

20 UNKNOWN DELEGATE: Sir, before we dismiss the
21 committee, if it's appropriate, I think we should revisit Resolution No. 11.
22 It's my understanding that if the author affords approval of a change in
23 the resolution, that we can revisit that and revote on it. It seems to me
24 that virtually all of the speakers who were opposed to the poppy issue,
25 were also very supportive of the rest of the resolution. And, in fact,

1 Comrade Douglas attempted to make an amendment to that effect and,
2 you know, we were unable to, by the machinations of the meeting, you
3 know, have that effort reflected. So, I'd like to invite Comrade Schrieber
4 to the mike –

5 DELEGATE CRULL: Can I clarify that?

6 COMMANDER MULCAHEY: Sure.

7 DELEGATE CRULL: We talked to Ron about that and he
8 didn't want to amend it. We talked, Ron, and you told me you weren't
9 going to amend it.

10 DELEGATE SCHRIEBER: I want to do it.

11 DELEGATE CRULL: Now you're going to amend it?

12 DELEGATE SCHRIEBER: I want to amend it, yeah.

13 DELEGATE CRULL: Can we do that? You voted on it
14 and it's down. I don't think we can bring it back up.

15 UNKNOWN DELEGATE: We didn't vote on it with the
16 amendment.

17 DELEGATE CRULL: It's a dead horse.

18 COMMANDER MULCAHEY: It's done.

19 DELEGATE SCHRIEBER: I would like to make an
20 amendment to that motion.

21 COMMANDER MULCAHEY: Go ahead, chairman.
22 Thank you.

23 UNKNOWN DELEGATE: Commander, it's my
24 understanding that you are not going to allow the author of the
25 resolution to attempt to make an amendment and bring it to the floor?

1 COMMANDER MULCAHEY: It was already voted on.

2 UNKNOWN DELEGATE: But it wasn't voted on with the
3 amendment, Commander.

4 COMMANDER MULCAHEY: It has to come out of
5 committee amended, and it didn't

6 UNKNOWN DELEGATE: So, we're going to wait another
7 year to try to resolve the Department's financial woes when we can do it
8 right now, or at least get a long way toward that?

9 COMMANDER MULCAHEY: It was already voted on, on
10 the floor – use the mikes – next time, it has to come out of the
11 committee amended to the floor. The floor already voted on it. Thank
12 you.

13 Any other reports? Richard Straub, would you please
14 come up to the podium.

15 DELEGATE STRAUB: Commander, I would like to make
16 a motion that we release that committee with a vote of thanks.

17 COMMANDER MULCAHEY: Thank you.

18 I'd like to entertain a motion that we release the
19 Constitution and Bylaws committee with a vote of thanks.

20 DELEGATE MANNINEN: John Manninen, 115, second
21 the motion.

22 COMMANDER MULCAHEY: Second.

23 All in favor?

24 BODY OF DELEGATES: Aye.

25 COMMANDER MULCAHEY: Opposed?

1 Motion passes.

2 DELEGATE ROUSH: Commander, point of order.
3 Chapter 7, Bill Roush. Is there a chance that we could have a revisit on
4 No. 11 and a decision by the Judge Advocate of where we stand on
5 that, that we may be able to go back in to it? Please.

6 COMMANDER MULCAHEY: Sir, it was voted on. The
7 rules that we have – I appreciate it, but when it came open to discussion
8 and in the committee itself, but thank you.

9 May we have Rich Straub please approach the podium?

10 UNKNOWN DELEGATE: Commander, you're being
11 requested by the people of this organization to revisit an item. I do not
12 believe that we need to send these people out of here knowing that
13 there could have been an adjustment to it and having to wait another
14 year to find out.

15 (Applause.)

16 COMMANDER MULCAHEY: With all due respect, this
17 was voted on by the floor. Everyone in here, when I opened it up to
18 discussion, when this went before, we all voted on it. So, thank you very
19 much.

20 Richard Straub.

21 DELEGATE LAWTON: Commander, Landis Lawton,
22 Chapter 113.

23 COMMANDER MULCAHEY: Yes.

24 DELEGATE LAWTON: Commander, if we do not revisit
25 this, with all due respect to the State Line, the Department is cutting its

1 own throat. Because with that resolution that came in, it would be a
2 great way to have a flow of money coming in to the Department on a
3 continuous basis. We tried to save the Department and the State of
4 Michigan, and this is a sore subject and I'm sorry I'm bringing it up, but
5 with the DAV Thrift Store, it hit speed bumps. It has not produced like it
6 should. So, we need to do what we need to do in order to make sure the
7 State of Michigan stays in existence.

8 COMMANDER MULCAHEY: Thank you, Comrade.

9 DELEGATE PLUNKETT: Stacey Plunkett, Chapter 4.

10 Before Resolution 11 was voted on, Bruce Douglas did
11 have an amendment to it on the floor that was ignored. That was what
12 Mr. Wells was trying to bring up, is that it was ignored. It was never
13 acknowledged.

14 COMMANDER MULCAHEY: The body up here did not
15 hear it, and if it was – we voted on it.

16 DELEGATE PLUNKETT: Check the reporter, please.

17 DELEGATE MANNINEN: Commander, John Manninen,
18 115, I believe he may have brought it to the floor, but I don't think it had
19 a second.

20 DELEGATE SCHRIEBER: I make a motion that we
21 suspend the rules and go back in to visit this issue.

22 COMMANDER MULCAHEY: Thank you.

23 (Applause.)

24 We have a motion. Do we have a second?

25 DELEGATE WELLS: Doug Wells, Chapter 113, seconds.

1 COMMANDER MULCAHEY: Thank you.

2 All in favor?

3 BODY OF DELEGATES: Aye.

4 DELEGATE SCHRIEBER: Commander, Bruce Douglas
5 made a motion that wasn't acknowledged to amend that resolution.
6 Okay. I'll make a new motion.

7 We're going to use the same motion, with exception
8 we're going to remove the word "Forget-Me-Nots" on Resolution No. 11.
9 It will read the same, except we're gonna remove "Forget-Me-Nots" from
10 that motion.

11 DELEGATE DEMPSTER: Thomas Dempster, Chapter
12 114, I second that motion.

13 COMMANDER MULCAHEY: We'll need a re-reading of
14 the entire motion, as recommended. Where is Don? Ron. Ron.

15 DELEGATE SCHRIEBER: Okay.

16 **RESOLUTION NO. 11 (As Amended) *****

17 **Resolution to Change the Department of Michigan
18 Constitution and Bylaws.**

19 **Whereas, the Disabled (American) Veterans
20 Department of Michigan cannot maintain its excellent Service
21 and Transportation programs because the State of Michigan
22 reduced the state grant to the organization that was used for
23 that purpose; and,**

1 **Whereas, as these programs are very vital for the
2 Department of Michigan to carry out its mission to help make
3 better lives for all disabled veterans and their dependents; and,**

4 **Whereas, the Disabled American Veterans,
5 Department of Michigan must generate enough revenue to keep
6 these vital programs as well as others to help offset the state
7 budget cuts; NOW,**

8 **Therefore be it resolved that the Disabled American
9 Veterans, Department of Michigan in State Convention
10 assembled in Sault Saint Marie June 5 thru 7, 2009, change the
11 Department of Michigan Constitution and Bylaws as follows:**

12 **Article 13 Revenues and Expenditures**

13 **Article 13.3 Revenues**

14 **13.3b All fundraising activities conducted by the
15 Department, Chapters, Disabled American Veterans Auxiliary
16 and the National Order of Trench Rats will require written
17 approval of the Department and will be in compliance with the
18 National Bylaws, State Executive Committee and Administrative
19 Board regulation and policy now in effect or as might hereafter
20 be (sic) amended.**

21 **13.3b(a) Disabled American Veterans Chapters,
22 Auxiliary Units and National Order of Trench Rats conducting
23 any fundraising activities, Bingos, Raffles or any other form of
24 fundraising will remit ten percent (10%) of any net profit to the**

1 **Disabled American Veterans Department of Michigan.
2 Remittance will take place at the end of the fundraising activity.**

3 **13.3b(b) Each subordinate body subject to the
4 provisions hereof shall hold the Department harmless from any
5 claims arising from approval granted or withheld by any
6 governing body hereunder, and the approval of such body is
7 specifically limited to project submitted as a means of
8 fundraising and may not be construed so as to make the
9 approving body a party to any contract or obligation, arising out
10 of the project.**

11 **Ronald R. Schriber, Legislative Chairman.**

12 **COMMANDER MULCAHEY: Thank you.**

13 **As it was read, we have a motion to approve the
14 Resolution No. 11 as amended.**

15 **DELEGATE SCHUPBACK: Art Schupback, Chapter 9, so
16 moves.**

17 **DELEGATE DAVIS: Davis, Chapter 9, seconds.**

18 **COMMANDER MULCAHEY: All in favor?**

19 **BODY OF DELEGATES: Aye.**

20 **COMMANDER MULCAHEY: Opposed?**

21 **BODY OF DELEGATES: (Some signified "aye.")**

22 **COMMANDER MULCAHEY: All in favor by a hand vote,
23 please raise your hand.**

24 **Okay. Now, all those that are against this motion, please
25 raise your hand.**

1 Thank you.
2 COMMANDER MULCAHEY: The motion passes with a hand
3 vote.

4 (Applause.)

5
6 ***** NOTE: Since State convention RESOLUTION NO. 11 (As**
7 **Amended) has been set aside because it wasn't presented properly**
8 **and did NOT conform with Article 18, Section 18.2 of the Department**
9 **Bylaws.**

10
11 DELEGATE SMITH: Hey, Commander.

12 COMMANDER MULCAHEY: Yes, Commander.

13 DELEGATE SMITH: Howard Smith from Chapter 11.

14 Why wasn't there any discussion on this part of the
15 motion.

16 COMMANDER MULCAHEY: Because we had a
17 discussion the first part, then it was amended to what we just voted on.

18 DELEGATE SMITH: All right. But you admit that we've
19 got a right to a question on it.

20 COMMANDER MULCAHEY: You had the –

21 DELEGATE SMITH: (Over talking Commander
22 Mulcahey.) Yes, we have. We better have it.

23 UNKNOWN DELEGATE: Comrade Commander, mike 2.

24 COMMANDER MULCAHEY: Yes.

1 Can we call upon the National Adjutant to make a
2 decision if we can have a roll call vote on this.

3 COMMANDER MULCAHEY: Sir, we did it by the hand
4 vote, by the two-thirds vote that's in the books. Everyone in this room
5 voted. Thank you.

6 Go ahead, Rich.

7 DELEGATE STRAUB: Ladies and Gentlemen, it's indeed
8 a pleasure and honor to address you again, as it always is, at this time
9 when I give my VAVS report for myself, my two deputies, Randy
10 Fortune, who actually lives at the Home, and Jim Coleman, a member of
11 the DAV Chapter 2. Like I said, it's indeed a pleasure and an honor
12 because of the fact that I have chapters that actually come over and do
13 their own programs at the home and do a fantastic job besides what
14 your department does. We do two different bingos a month with your
15 funds, department funds. We also do a – anybody that's opposed to
16 smoking, please close your ears – we do a cigarette call on Monday
17 mornings, due to end next week. They'll have cigarette call one last time
18 this week and the following week, whatever is left will be gone. But
19 we're keeping plenty busy. We have the carnival coming up the last
20 Saturday in July. I'm sure you've all received your letters. You get one of
21 two letters a year from me. And the money that I'll take in from this last
22 letter that I just sent out, I have to make stretch until I send you a letter
23 for Christmas, as you all know. With that being said, I know you're
24 struggling, too, because we're struggling, too, because I notice it in the
25 donations. But, you know what, my heart goes out to each and every

1 UNKNOWN DELEGATE: I make a motion to restore
2 regular business.

3 COMMANDER MULCAHEY: We have a motion to
4 restore regular business. Do we have a second?

5 DELEGATE SMITH: You are going to ignore us, then?

6 DELEGATE SCHRIEBER: Second, Schrieber.

7 COMMANDER MULCAHEY: All in favor?

8 BODY OF DELEGATES: Aye.

9 Approved. Motion passes.

10 DELEGATE SMITH: I'll tell you one thing, the National
11 Order of Trench Rats of 563 is going to disqualify themselves as a bingo
12 player because we're not going to be taxed twice.

13 COMMANDER MULCAHEY: Thank you.

14 DELEGATE SMITH: So, that way everything – the DAV
15 will go down, too, because we support the DAV there in Muskegon,
16 otherwise they're broke.

17 COMMANDER MULCAHEY: Richard Straub will do his
18 hospital report right now.

19 DELEGATE BEAUDOIN: Excuse me, Comrade
20 Commander. Can we call upon a ruling from the National Adjutant? I
21 think we should have –

22 COMMANDER MULCAHEY: What's your name and
23 chapter?

24 DELEGATE BEAUDOIN: Dennis Beaudoin, Chapter 115.

1 single one of you. When you think about almost 700 members who live
2 at the Grand Rapids Home for Veterans and their lives are enriched by
3 what you do. I mean, I am the lucky one. I get to sit up there and carry
4 out the programs and I get the pat on the back when I walk down the
5 hallways and stuff. And I have to remind them, and I have to remind
6 myself I couldn't do a doggone thing there without this great
7 organization. And I just pray you keep doing it.

8 (Applause.)

9 DELEGATE STRAUB: I turn in a monthly report to the
10 Department. They know where the money comes in, they know where it
11 goes out. Every check that you've ever sent me, before it got into the
12 bank, there was a record made of it and a thank you letter went out to
13 you, which I think is very important when the person or chapter that
14 donates gets recognized before that money's used. You know, I've
15 heard a couple of you say, "Why is it taking him so long getting a thank
16 you letter out." Well, sometimes, if I've only got one donation in a month,
17 I will hold the check over for a month until I have enough donations to
18 make sure it's a worthy donation because – everybody be very quiet
19 about this, my account's been in effect a long time, and we still don't get
20 service charges on it. Roger, you didn't hear that. And I like the idea that
21 we don't get service charges on it. But we use every single penny you
22 send us. We hope you support your department and your department
23 hospital program at the Grand Rapids Home for Veterans. And with that,
24 thank you from the bottom of my heart.

25 Commander, that ends my report.

(Applause.)

1
2 COMMANDER MULCAHEY: Thank you, Rich. You do
3 an amazing job.

4 Yep, go ahead.

5 DELEGATE HENSHAW: A representative from the
6 Jacobetti Home couldn't be here today, but he asked me to thank you all
7 for the job you do for him, and more importantly the job you do for the
8 veterans at the Jacobetti Home. Just a quick recap on how some of your
9 money is spent. They spent somewhere around \$2,600 a year for bingo
10 on Thursdays. They have an excellent bingo. The folks at the home, let
11 me tell you something, if you miss a day, one of your bingo days, and
12 the next time you come back, you're lucky if you don't get strung up,
13 because they appreciate those bingos. They love them. And another
14 thing that some of your money went for was the, believe it or not, we
15 spent \$460 for a new stove with a workable oven because we have
16 cooking classes. And the guys enjoy it. They come down and they make
17 dog biscuits for the local animal shelter. And they really enjoy that when
18 they get a chance to help other people. And during Christmas they
19 spent \$950 of your money, they gave everyone in the home \$5 extra. I
20 don't know if you all realize what kind of money they get after they pay
21 for their stay in the Home. It's about \$95 a month. And, believe it or not,
22 \$5 means a lot to most of them. Anyway, they asked me to thank you
23 very much for everything you do and please don't give up on us, keep
24 helping us. And Larry Blondo and Mr. Kovis is very appreciative of all
25 the assistance and the help you give them. Thank you.

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(Applause.)

1
2 COMMANDER MULCAHEY: Any other committee
3 reports at this time?

4 VAVS report. Would you come up to the podium, please?
5 Come right around to the side, there's a ramp.

6 DELEGATE BROWN: My name is Frank Brown, I'm from
7 the Saginaw VA Hospital in Michigan. And first of all I want to thank my
8 deputy, Tom Jones. I had given up my job because of personal reasons
9 at home and you may see me, you may not. I want to thank all of the
10 chapters that have donated money for our mission at Saginaw VA
11 Hospital to make the veterans feel welcome in our world today. Also, the
12 Auxiliary is a big help to us. And some of the things that we do, we have
13 bingos, we have birthday parties for them, we have a pig bake, which is
14 coming up the 19th of June, and that's all the patients and their families
15 that were invited to this. Also, we have inpatient kits that go into a
16 veteran's bag and that costs approximately \$1,000 a year. So, you
17 know, that we need a lot of money to support our mission. And I want to
18 thank all of you people who support me and I hope that you will continue
19 supporting me. That is all I have.

20 (Applause.)

21 COMMANDER MULCAHEY: Thank you.

22 Go ahead, Paul.

23 DELEGATE HARLAN: On behalf of the John Dingell
24 Hospital, I'd like to thank all of you guys who helped out. I'm the new rep
25 on the block. I guess I've been there a year, but can I take time first to

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1 thank my two deputies who are Bill Dezur and Harold DeForest. And I
2 also have Chapter 19 that comes out there, Lionel Lessenthien and
3 George Jones. I've also had Paul from Chapter 44 come out to visit us.
4 Quite a few of you just come periodically to visit us. But I've got an
5 urgent need. I got to tell you guys this. I've got \$361 left in our account.
6 It's not good. And I don't want to give this thing up. I'm a fighter, so I
7 need your help. I asked them in the Zone, and I've got to bring it up
8 now. I know money matters are bad, I really do. But without this, we
9 can't function. And these guys at the John Dingell Hospital are so happy
10 to see us. And we just brought a lot of life back to them people. This last
11 year, January, I had \$1,600 in the account. We're going through the
12 average of \$400 a month and that can account for every penny. Nothing
13 has been spent of that money that you didn't give me. In fact, I do – one
14 group on CLC, which is the Comfort Living Center on the sixth floor, I
15 take them up pops and chips out of my own money. And I don't ask for
16 nothing. I just want to see these guys happy. And I want to bring some
17 joy to them. And we've done that. All of you have helped do it. And you
18 don't realize what an impact – these guys are all shut-ins, a lot of them,
19 they'll never get out of there. So, please, I beg you from my heart. I'm
20 not gonna say anything more except that I got \$361 in the account left
21 and we're burning through that on the average of \$400 a month. So, if
22 you people can help out. Please do not, and I repeat, do not send the
23 money to the VA Hospital. Look in your book and send it to me. I will
24 disburse the money to them. I need to have it come directly to me and

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1 all the reps need it to come directly to them, not to the hospital. So,
2 please do that for me. Thank you very much and God bless all of you.

3 (Applause.)

4 COMMANDER MULCAHEY: Go ahead, Flo.

5 DELEGATE LESSENTHIEN: Commander?
6 Commander?

7 COMMANDER MULCAHEY: Yes.

8 DELEGATE LESSENTHIEN: Can I make an additional
9 statement on behalf of Paul Harlan?

10 COMMANDER MULCAHEY: Name and chapter, please.

11 DELEGATE LESSENTHIEN: I'm Lionel Lessenthien from
12 Chapter 19, the Sr. Vice Commander. Our executive committee has
13 passed a motion and the chapter has passed it as well that we, Chapter
14 19, will match any donation up to \$100, in total, \$500 to the VAVS at the
15 Detroit Hospital. That's commencing now. We'd like to put a challenge
16 out to the chapters in Zone I that we will match a donation in total up to
17 \$500 every month. Thank you.

18 COMMANDER MULCAHEY: Thank you very much.

19 (Applause.)

20 DELEGATE LOPEZ: I'm Flo Lopez, a newly elected
21 VAVS rep. I would like to thank all the deputies and the Auxiliary and all
22 the people who have donated money to us. We put a bingo on for the
23 veterans three and four times a year. We didn't have Christmas, but
24 we're going to have Christmas in July.

25 (Applause.)

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1 COMMANDER MULCAHEY: Thomas Lightbody?

2 DELEGATE LIGHTBODY: I'm the VAVS rep at Battle
3 Creek. First thing I want to say, I listened to this gentleman behind me
4 from Detroit. I talked to him quite a bit the other day. So, Chapter 7,
5 through me, is going to donate \$500 to the Detroit VAVS.

6 (Applause.)

7 DELEGATE LIGHTBODY: My report for Battle Creek is
8 this. I have a unique situation in Battle Creek compared to the other
9 VAs. We are what I call a ground-type VA hospital. We are on a bunch
10 of acreage; we've got 14 plus buildings out there. I mean, we're not a
11 one-story unit. So, we have a lot more territory to cover. So, anyway,
12 due to you people, we were able to do again another nice year again.
13 We do the bingos, the parties, the trips, good food and gifts. But we
14 have an annual picnic in June that we host, the DAV and the Elks put on
15 for the guys out there. We spend the whole day of a Saturday out there
16 with, you know, cookouts. And we give a good number of visits to the
17 American Legion Villa, which is just down the street from us. There is
18 about 26 patients in there. We help take care of those guys. We're
19 involved in the mental health unit, which means we have to go out and
20 help some of the guys in the half-way houses, the nursing homes. We
21 give them movie tickets, McDonald's tickets and bus trips. And they love
22 these McDonald's tickets. And another new one we've got is the
23 returning veterans. We give cash and support for them and gas for their
24 cars, telephones, you know, what these guys need when they come
25 back, these young guys don't sit still. Okay. We're also involved in the

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1 emergency fund for both Battle Creek and Grand Rapids, the coffee
2 fund at Battle Creek and Grand Rapids. So, again, as I say, you guys do
3 a fantastic job or we couldn't do our job, so thank you.

4 (Applause.)

5 COMMANDER MULCAHEY: Thank you.

6 DELEGATE LAPALME: My name is Dale LaPalme, I'm
7 the new VAVS rep at Iron Mountain. And I'd like to thank everyone for
8 all your donations that helps us out at Iron Mountain. There wasn't
9 anybody up there for awhile until I took over in December. But since
10 then, I've reinstated coffee and cookies, which we cover with your help,
11 your donations, every other month up at Iron Mountain. We also do a
12 bingo once a month, every third Monday of the month, and I also help
13 out with – the VAVS puts on a bingo every fourth Wednesday of the
14 month. We also started, with the help of the coordinator, Janet Bauer, I
15 also started a cribbage night on every fourth Monday of the month, and
16 that's been well received, too. We get maybe two or three guys, but
17 that's a small CLC living center of there of 40 people. I'd like to thank
18 Commander Mulcahey and Garry Henshaw for trying to get me into this
19 position. It has been a pleasure since I took over. And I also want to
20 thank Joe Goniea, who's been helping me at Iron Mountain with the
21 facts that I should know that I didn't know. But I also would like to thank
22 all the chapters that have donated so far. I'll just call off their names;
23 Chapter 16 out of Pontiac; Chapter 22 out of Marquette; Chapter 38 out
24 of Traverse City; then a Ms. Regina Sifelbaum out of Chesterfield,
25 Michigan; Chapter 25 out of Menominee; Chapter 45 out of O'Connell

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1 Falls; Chapter 24, Delta County; Chapter 1, Detroit; Chapter 52, Sault
2 Ste. Marie; Chapter 301 of the American Legion out of Rapid River; and
3 Chapter 43 out of Forest County, Wisconsin; and as of today, Chapter 3
4 out of Genesee County.

5 We also are going to have, I've been lining this up also
6 with Janet Bauer, on Father's Day we're going to have a picnic and
7 games and that, which the DAV is putting on with the help of you people
8 with your money donated. So, I guess that's about all I have to say.
9 Thank you.

10 (Applause.)

11 COMMANDER MULCAHEY: Before they disappear, as I
12 said in my opening remarks a couple of days ago – when you're up in
13 the hospital – excuse me, could you guys hang out for a second, please,
14 come back up here, all you hospital program people? Come on, Flo. Flo,
15 come on. This is \$100 out of my pocket because when I first got out, it
16 was you people who were the volunteer services out there for the
17 Disabled American Veterans who were there when I was back and forth.
18 I truly appreciate it. Thank you. Thank you all for serving on this
19 committee and doing what you could. And when I did the hospital tour,
20 you went above and beyond. Thank you all.

21 (Applause.)

22 COMMANDER MULCAHEY: Any other committee
23 reports?

24 DELEGATE MANNINEN: Commander.

25 COMMANDER MULCAHEY: Name and chapter.

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1 DELEGATE MANNINEN: John Manninen, Chapter 115. I
2 have a question. You just gave \$100 to the hospital program. I suppose
3 you've got to give 10% back to the Department, then. I thought I'd close.

4 COMMANDER MULCAHEY: Back to the program.
5 Thank you.

6 At this time, would the Officer of the Day please stand.

7 Do we have any guests at this time?

8 COMMANDER MULCAHEY: At this time, this is
9 something we have started this year, I'd like to call for those chapters
10 who would like to make a monetary commitment to the Department by
11 sponsoring a budget item, to come forward now, please. I will go down
12 to the bottom.

13 PDC RUSS SPALDING: It may not be popular with
14 everybody, but this is one way we can help each other. And my wife and
15 I for many years have been supportive of this organization, and we're
16 going to tell you today, we're going to continue to be supportive of it. So,
17 I have the privilege of presenting you a personal check of \$500 to go
18 into the Rehab fund. And that's my donation to you. And make sure that
19 goes to the Rehab fund. Thank you.

20 COMMANDER MULCAHEY: Thank you very much.

21 CHAPTER 25: Chapter 25 got a check for \$100 for you.

22 CHAPTER 10: Chapter 10 has a \$250 donation.

23 CHAPTER 22: This is not from a chapter, but my
24 personal check. Eric Schwanke.

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1 FRED GEORGE, JR.: Comrade Commander. From
2 Chapter 17 and Unit 17, we would like to present you with a check for
3 \$2,500 to go to our Rehab.

4 DAVID VAN HILL: Commander, on behalf of Chapter
5 116, I would like to present this check to you for \$250 for the Rehab
6 Fund. And on behalf of myself and my wife, \$100.

7 JOHN LAMPHERE: On behalf of a veteran I helped this
8 week, being a small donation, and I'm topping it off to make it an even
9 \$100 for the rehab fund.

10 RICK BARENBRUGGE: In support of my fellow
11 Department Service Officers, I'd like to make a donation of \$100 to the
12 Rehab Fund.

13 CHAPTER 4: Stacey Plunkett, Chapter 4, \$1,000 to the
14 Rehab Fund.

15 CHAPTER 22: Chapter 22, Marquette, a contribution of
16 \$200 to the Rehab Fund.

17 CHAPTER 14: Chapter 14, Holland, donating normally
18 \$1,500, we bumped it up a little bit to \$2,000 for the Americanism Fund.
19 This will be going towards whatever we owe later on.

20 CHAPTER 51: Chapter 51, Dearborn, this check is for
21 \$1,000 towards the Rehab Fund. This is in addition to \$5,000 having
22 been previously donated.

23 CHAPTER 68: Randy McDowell, Chapter 68, Hillsdale,
24 on behalf of Chapter 68, we'd like to donate at least \$50 to help out. We
25 never forget.

1 GARY NOSIS: Here is \$100 from 83, Hamtramck, for
2 whatever fund you need it in.

3 CHAPTER 127: Sir, my name is Steve Spranger from
4 Chapter 127 out of Warren. Yesterday I presented you with two checks;
5 one from Rehab and then one from the chapter, sir.

6 CHAPTER 16: Commander, Chapter 16. I presented you
7 with a check yesterday, you asked me to return, \$500 dollars for line
8 item.

9 CHAPTER 113: Commander, on behalf of Chapter 113,
10 we're happy to present a check to you for \$2,500 to be used for the
11 Rehab Fund. In addition to that, this is in addition to the \$10,000 that our
12 chapter donated to the Department's mortgage, and the \$8,000 that we
13 donated to the membership fund.

14 KEITH PRYOR: Commander, on behalf of the Pryor
15 family, I am donating \$100 to the Rehab Fund.

16 THOMAS LIGHTBODY: Commander, I didn't bring my
17 checkbook, but I hereby pledge \$2,000 to your needs under the name of
18 Roger Dillenbeck.

19 PDC LOWELL McKEEHAN: Commander, I donate \$100
20 to any way they need it.

21 CHAPTER 129: Toni Deaton, Chapter 129. My husband
22 got lucky yesterday and here is \$100 for the service officers.

23 FRANK SHEPHERD: Frank Shepherd, Sr. Vice
24 Commander, \$100 dollars.

1 CHAPTER 125: I'm John Arthur, I'm commander of DAV
2 125. We don't have our budget or how much money we have right now,
3 but on behalf of one of our members, new service officer James
4 Maddux, I'd like to give you \$100.

5 RON SCHRIEBER: Commander, Ron Schrieber, DSO,
6 I'd like to give you a \$100 donation for the Rehab Fund, personal.

7 CHAPTER 44: Paul Klosterman, Chapter 44, we're going
8 to donate \$100 when I get my checkbook for the Rehab Fund.

9 CHAPTER 9: Commander, on behalf of Chapter No. 9,
10 we're going to send you a check for \$500.

11 CHAPTER 3: Commander, as you well know, you came
12 to our chapter, Chapter 3, a few weeks back with a heartfelt request for
13 donations. And we knew that it was heartfelt. Us as a chapter at that
14 time decided that we would donate \$15,000 from our DAV chapter,
15 \$5,000 from our Auxiliary, and at this time, we're going to present you
16 with the additional \$10,000 that we agreed to prior to this. The only
17 additional thing I have to say is this is the way we do this. We ask for
18 help from our chapters, we don't put Proposal 11 out there and ask for
19 10%. Thank you.

20 CHAPTER 39: Commander, I'm Nick Ackerson,
21 commander at Chapter 39. We, back on 5/28 saw the need and donated
22 money that we had available, there's \$250. Went through our regular
23 meeting and board and have just been sitting on it all this time.

24 CHAPTER 16: Dawn Bollis, Chapter 16, for the Rehab
25 Fund, \$150 in memory of my father, Robert.

1 CHAPTER 105: Marv Van Haitsma from Chapter 105,
2 we're going to pledge \$200.

3 UNIDENTIFIED: From our chapter we donated \$20,000
4 earlier this year, as you know. And I will give you another \$100 from
5 myself personally, whatever which way they want to go.

6 DOUGLAS WELLS: Commander, real quick, I've got a
7 couple of different donations. Got \$204.73 from Chapter 102, they
8 cleaned out their bank account to support the Rehab Fund. So, thank
9 you, Chapter 102. And then, also, hoping to lead by example, since the
10 executive order cut the funding to Tom and my employees and really
11 crippled their ability to continue offering service to those who so richly
12 deserve it, hoping to lead by example, Director Wendel and I are each
13 going to donate \$100 (\$200) to the Rehab Fund out of our own pockets.
14 Also, the silent auction that's upstairs, we got a picture donated, signed
15 by Blanco from the Tigers and I've got the certificate of authenticity
16 here. It's an actual signed picture, the Commander didn't sign that by
17 himself, Blanco signed it.

18 CHAPTER 68: Commander, Flo Lopez, Chapter 68,
19 we're going to send you \$300.

20 COMMANDER MULCAHEY: Announcements, Adjutant
21 Lee.

22 ADJUTANT LEE: The reception prior to the banquet will
23 be held from 5:45 to 6:45 p.m. here in the Dream Maker's Theater.
24 Make sure that you bring your banquet tickets with you. Simple
25 philosophy, no tickie, no eatie. So, make sure that you have those. Don't

1 freak out if you've lost it or something, just come see Bev and we'll try to
2 see what we can do to straighten that out. So, have your ticket, come
3 and have fun, enjoy your meal. That's all the announcements,
4 Commander.

5 COMMANDER MULCAHEY: Before we recess, I'll call on
6 Chaplain Knutson for the Benediction. Please rise and uncover.

7 CHAPLAIN KNUTSON: One flag, one land, one heart,
8 one DAV, one nation, oh, God, evermore. Go in peace. Amen.

9 COMMANDER MULCAHEY: Cover.

10 It is fitting and proper that we again render Honor to the
11 Flag of our Country. Comrades, Attention; by the numbers, Two!

12 I now declare this meeting recessed until 9 a.m. on
13 Sunday morning, June 7, 2009.

14 (3rd Convention Session adjourned @ 2:45 p.m.)
15
16
17

1 84TH Annual Disabled American Veterans

2 2009 State Convention

3 4th Convention Business Session

4 Sunday, June 7, 2009

5 About 9:15 o'clock, AM

6 ADJUTANT LEE: On behalf of the membership, we've
7 had some additional donations to the Rehab Fund from DAV chapter up
8 in the Alpena area, check to the Rehab for \$500.

9 (Applause.)

10 ADJUTANT LEE: We also received a check from
11 Josephine Hishok and Clyde Hishok for the Rehab for an additional
12 \$200.

13 (Applause.)

14 Received a \$40 donation to the Rehab from Linda
15 Walters out of the Auxiliary.

16 (Applause.)

17 ADJUTANT LEE: And Chapter 7 who won the chapter of
18 the year award yesterday graciously turned in their \$500 to the Rehab.

19 (Applause.)

20 COMMANDER MULCAHEY: Please rise and uncover.
21 We will now be led in prayer by our chaplain.

22 CHAPLAIN KNUTSON: Last year, sitting right over there,
23 was Mo Pennermon, a friend to all. This year, as you think about it, some
24 of us are not going to be back next year. We will have passed our last
25 pass and review. Words yesterday sometimes are a little bit hard. Take

1 that person next to you and say, "We are one. I love you." Help us, oh,
2 God, to heal and rebuild when we are hurt. Help us to forgive and forget
3 when we are wrong. Help us to console and comfort when we are sad.
4 Help us to be one and stand tall when we are afraid. Help us to live and
5 be proud because we are Americans. Amen.

6 COMMANDER MULCAHEY: Comrades, Attention!
7 Persons wearing uniform caps will give the hand salute and all others
8 place your right hand over your heart. Please join me in giving the
9 Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

10 (Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.)

11 COMMANDER MULCAHEY: Two!

12 Please be seated.

13 At this time, do we have any unfinished committee
14 reports? Please come up to the podium.

15 DELEGATE HEKKEMA: Al Hekkema, Chapter 11,
16 chairman of the Credentials Committee. We have the same thing as we
17 had last Thursday: Chapter total 943 votes; total individual votes, 14;
18 Total of 957 with 51 chapters represented and 13 absent. That's
19 probably the last one. Thank you.

20 COMMANDER MULCAHEY: Thank you.

21 We will now go in to the Election of Officers.

22 ADJUTANT LEE: We will now appoint the following
23 tellers: From Zone I, Paul Klosterman; Zone II, Les Schneider; Zone III,
24 James Stringham; Zone IV, Dave Spencer. Would you please come up
25 to the front table here.

1 In accordance with Convention Rule No. 10, nominations
2 for Department officers shall be made from the floor by roll call.
3 Nominations will be held for the following positions.

4 Nominations for:

5 State Commander

6 Sr. Vice Commander

7 1st Jr. Vice Commander

8 2nd Jr. Vice Commander

9 3rd Jr. Vice Commander

10 State Chaplain

11 The following Administrative Board positions are open.

12 There are two Administrative Board positions open in
13 Zone I to serve a regular three-year term.

14 There is one Administrative Board position open in Zone
15 II to serve a regular three-year term.

16 There is one Administrative Board position in Zone III to
17 serve an unexpired one-year term.

18 There is one Administrative Board position in Zone IV to
19 serve a regular three-year term.

20 I'll now call on Chapter 1 for nominations for the
21 2009/2010 state commander.

22 E.C. HOUSE: For the purpose of nomination, Chapter 1
23 yields to Chapter 39.

24 ADJUTANT LEE: Sir, would you get a little closer to the
25 mike? We can't hear. I need your name and your chapter, sir.

1 DELEGATE FRENCH: Roger French, Chapter 39.

2 It would be my pleasure to introduce our candidate for
3 2009-2010 State Commander.

4 He was born in Owosso, Michigan in 1961 on Veterans
5 Day. When he turned 12 years old, he moved to Cadillac, Michigan,
6 where he still resides. He met his wife Alyson when he was 17 years old
7 in 1979. In 1982, while Alyson was working at the Army recruiting office,
8 he signed up. He went to Ft. Sill, Oklahoma for basic and AIT as a
9 Lance Missile Crewman. He was top of his Battalion at the M16
10 qualification range as an expert and won the trophy.

11 He came home and got married to Alyson. His orders
12 would then take him to West Germany. After arriving, he was sent to
13 McKee Barracks in Crailsheim, West Germany for three years. Alyson
14 joined him three months later on Christmas Day. He served for two
15 years as a crewman, then he was asked to take over as the wrecker
16 operator and Motor sergeant.

17 In March of 1985 during a motor replacement on the
18 M752 vehicle, the sling broke releasing the motor, hitting him. He spent
19 much of the remainder of his career in medical care to include Brooks
20 Army Medical Center in Texas.

21 He was discharged from the U.S. Army in 1986 at the
22 rank of Specialist E-4. He then went into the Michigan National Guard
23 until 1987 when his service-connected disabilities prevented him from
24 continuing.

1 In 1988, he used the VA vocational rehabilitation
2 program to go to school for Horology and graduated in December 1989.
3 He owned and operated a jewelry store in Cadillac until 1999 when
4 sudden complications from his neck injury caused him to close.

5 He has been a life member of DAV Inland Lakes Chapter
6 #39 since 1991, holding most positions to include two terms as
7 Commander.

8 He is a life member of the National Order of Trench Rats,
9 AmVets and The American Legion. He is also a member of The Sons of
10 The American Legion. He has served in his community in many ways to
11 include past president of the Wexford County Historical Society. Two
12 terms on the Michigan Veterans Trust Fund and the Soldiers and Sailors
13 Relief Commission and he was Director of Veterans Affairs for Wexford
14 County. He is well known for starting an organization known as the
15 National Veterans Support that has been responsible for taking over
16 \$66,000.00 to hospitalized veterans in Washington, D.C.

17 His dad served in the US Army during the Korean
18 Conflict, and one brother was in the US Navy during the Vietnam war.
19 His son Layton is a US Marine on his second tour in Iraq.

20 I, Roger French, Chapter #39, nominate John Lamphere
21 for Commander, Department of Michigan for 2009/2010.

22 (Applause.)

23 COMMANDER MULCAHEY: Any further nominations?
24 Any further nominations? Any further nominations?

25 Nominations are declared closed.

1 I would like to entertain a motion to have the State
2 Adjutant cast one unanimous ballot to elect John P. Lamphere for State
3 Commander.

4 DELEGATE FRENCH: I so move.

5 DELEGATE CONNELLY: John Connelly, seconds.

6 COMMANDER MULCAHEY: All in favor of the motion?

7 BODY OF DELEGATES: Aye.

8 COMMANDER MULCAHEY: Opposed?

9 Motion carries.

10 ADJUTANT LEE: I Rolly D. Lee, Sr., State Adjutant for
11 the State of Michigan, proudly casts one unanimous vote for John
12 Lamphere for State Commander.

13 (Applause.)

14 DELEGATE DOUGLAS: My name is Bruce Douglas,
15 Chapter 9, Bay City. Is there a Lamphere slate? If so, I move we hear
16 the Lamphere slate.

17 COMMANDER MULCAHEY: Do we have support for
18 that motion?

19 DELEGATE DAVIS: Davis, Chapter 9, seconds.

20 COMMANDER MULCAHEY: All in favor?

21 BODY OF DELEGATES: Aye.

22 COMMANDER MULCAHEY: Opposed?

23 Motion carried.

24 Mr. Chairman for the Steering Committee.

1 DELEGATE SCHRIEBER: The John Lamphere Steering
2 Committee consisted of, Zone I, David Van Hill, Paul Klosterman; Zone
3 II, Roger Jansen and Russ Spalding; Zone III, Ron Schrieber, Chairman
4 and Ted Sirotko; Zone IV, David Spencer and Preston King

5 The meeting was called to order by the chairman at 9:49 on June
6 6th. The slate of officers for the John Lamphere Steering Committee is
7 as follows:

8 State Senior Vice Commander Frank T. Shepherd, Jr., Chapter 7

9 State 1st Jr. Vice Commander Christopher M. Sardo, Chapter 16

10 State 2nd Jr. Vice Commander Garry Henshaw, Chapter 22

11 State 3rd Jr. Vice Commander Arthur Schupback, Chapter 9

12 State Chaplain Michael Knutson, Chapter 4

13 Administrative Board:

14 Zone I, Peter A. Sardo, Chapter 16, Regular 3-Year Term

15 Zone I, John Ruselowski, Chapter 51, Regular 3-Year Term

16 Zone II, David C. Martin, Chapter 7, Regular 3-Year Term

17 Zone III, John P. Demorest, Chapter 4, Unexpired 1-Year Term

18 Zone IV, Todd J. Lindahl, Chapter 67, Regular 3-Year Term

19 Motion was made by Preston King, seconded by Dave
20 Van Hill to accept the Lamphere slate. Motion was carried. The meeting
21 was adjourned at 10:10. Thank you.

22 COMMANDER MULCAHEY: Thank you.

23 I would like to entertain a motion to accept the Steering
24 Committee's report and elect the Lamphere slate.

25 DELEGATE SPALDING: Spalding, Chapter 20, I so

1 move.

2 UNKNOWN DELEGATE: (mike off) I second the motion.

3 COMMANDER MULCAHEY: Motion and a second.

4 All in favor?

5 BODY OF DELEGATES: Aye.

6 COMMANDER MULCAHEY: Opposed?

7 Motion carries.

8 COMMANDER MULCAHEY: I'd like to dismiss the tellers
9 from the Credentials Committee at this time with thanks.

10 UNKNOWN DELEGATE: (Mic. 2 off): I make a motion to
11 dismiss the tellers with a vote of thanks.

12 COMMANDER MULCAHEY: We have a motion.

13 UNKNOWN DELEGATE: (Mic. 2 off) Second.

14 COMMANDER MULCAHEY: And a second.

15 All in favor?

16 BODY OF DELEGATES: Aye.

17 COMMANDER MULCAHEY: Opposed?

18 Motion carries.

19 (Applause.)

20 ADJUTANT LEE: For the membership, we've got a total
21 on our donations from yesterday. Some of them were by cash and some
22 of them were by IOUs. Thank you, membership. Commander, you're
23 going to like to hear this. \$28,545.

24 (Applause.)

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1 ADJUTANT LEE: That's what members and the
2 Department of Michigan are about. You should be real proud of
3 yourselves.

4 Lest we forget, we have some information back there.
5 We need to get Russ Mudget, your bid won, now what we need is your
6 money.

7 The Navy quilt, Scott, your bid won, all we need is your
8 money. Scott, you must be from Chapter 1.

9 The Army quilt, Russ Mudget, he won, all we need is
10 your money.

11 Team jacket won by Bob Polhamus. We need your
12 money.

13 Thank you very much.

14 (Applause.)

15 ADJUTANT LEE: Just hang loose for a couple of
16 minutes. We're going to do something that we normally haven't done in
17 a long time. We're going to do a dual installation. Our Auxiliary is done
18 and they are on their way. So, just stay in the convention room, please,
19 we'll get going here shortly.

20 Again, I'd like to recognize our National Judge Advocate
21 Mike Dobmeier and let's give him a good Michigan hand.

22 COMMANDER MULCAHEY: I would like to thank
23 everybody, not only for this past year, but when I first signed up and first
24 went on the line and Past Department Commander Billie Clark, thank
25 you and the other past department commanders out there for the words

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1 of wisdom. Thank you all. This is a team effort. There is no "I". And it's
2 been a great honor and a privilege. Thank you all very much.

3 (Applause.)

4 **Dual Installation of State Officers DAV/DAVA**

- 5 • **Presentation of Pin and Gavel to Newly-elected State**
- 6 **Commander**
- 7 • **Presentation of Past Department Commander's Pin**
- 8 • **Presentation of Commander and Past Commander Caps**

9 (Applause.)

10 AUXILIARY COMMANDER: My theme this year is a
11 legacy of courage, commitment and comradeship and this is the legacy
12 that our organization has passed down from our brave comrades who
13 over the years fought for our freedom. Some came home and some did
14 not. The ones that came home started this great organization and
15 subsequently our Auxiliary. My heart is with you all and I will do my very
16 best to do what I can do for you and hope that you will be proud of me.

17 (Applause.)

18 PDC MULCAHEY: I would just – Commander, it's been
19 an honor. I serve at your command. Anything you need, I'll be there for
20 you. Thank you very much. Thank you for everything that you've done.
21 And let me be the first one to do this. Thank you, sir.

22 (Applause.)

23 COMMANDER LAMPHERE: Nobody's in a hurry to get
24 out of here, are they?

25 I'd like to start out by thanking my chapter, Inland Lakes

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1 No. 39. If they could stand, wave their hands, be recognized.

2 (Applause.)

3 COMMANDER LAMPHERE: Zone III, that stood behind
4 me and helped push me up the line, I appreciate it. There are a few very
5 special people here today. If they would please stand and be
6 recognized: my somewhat adopted son over here, Brian.

7 (Applause.)

8 COMMANDER LAMPHERE: My father-in-law, Herb
9 Augustat.

10 (Applause.)

11 COMMANDER LAMPHERE: My daughter-in-law,
12 Lindsey.

13 (Applause.)

14 COMMANDER LAMPHERE: And, of course, my wife of
15 26 years, Alyson.

16 (Applause.)

17 COMMANDER LAMPHERE: And it would be awful hard
18 to forget the rest of you who helped push me along. Thank you very
19 much.

20 This last year has been very tough on the Department of
21 Michigan and also the State of Michigan. Things are getting pretty rough
22 out there financially and we're going to have to find ways to come
23 through this. So, when we come here next convention, things are going
24 to be changed drastically. You are going to see some changes starting
25 within probably a week. We'll have to work through them together and

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1 find new ways to make money. One of my big things is service, of
2 course, and we really don't want to see these service officers have to be
3 laid off or let go. If there's ways around it, we're going to find it. I don't
4 want to see cuts, I want to see more. We could stand to have more of
5 them in the UP. We could stand to have more in Northern Michigan. It
6 just is too short between visits when they are traveling.

7 Membership is probably one of the things that you'll be
8 seeing me push for the most. That's always been something that I
9 believe in and in the last few years you've seen the membership rolls
10 drop drastically. And that was partially between the Social Security
11 Administration and the VA checking their rolls or the DAV checking their
12 rolls and taking some of those members off. But we're not recruiting like
13 we should be. Now, I'm thankful that we all got 100% on our zones this
14 year, but what's to say we can't get 150% in each one of those zones
15 next year. We can do it if we really push. I don't believe that we're out
16 there pushing quite hard enough. And it's up to each individual member
17 in here to do that; sign up one or two members by next year. You can do
18 it.

19 I look forward to serving you this next year, and keep in
20 mind, I'm only a phone call away. And with that, that's all I have to say.

21 (Applause.)

22 ADJUTANT LEE: I would like to read a letter that John's
23 son sent him, and I'll try to get through it.

24 Hello, my name is Layton Lamphere. I'm the only one
25 and only son of John and Ellie. I hope you don't mind me

1 speaking for a minute, but before I do, I'd like to say thank you
2 to each and every one of the brothers and sisters at arms.
3 Thank you for your dedication, your incredible morals set the
4 standards for the next generation of Disabled American
5 Veterans. I look up to each and every one of you. I'm sorry that I
6 couldn't be here tonight to thank you in person. I'm currently on
7 my second tour in Iraq proudly serving the Marine Corps. I
8 would also like to thank my mom, my wife, Lindsey and my
9 friend Brian for filling in for me. Now I would like to congratulate
10 my friend, my mentor and my guide in life, my dad. All my life, I
11 have looked up to you. I have followed in your footsteps as
12 close as I could growing up, but lately you've been making it
13 pretty hard. I've seen and heard many things from you; one
14 thing I've learned is your true passion for helping others. I can
15 only hope that one day I will do for others the way you have,
16 from taking many phone calls in the middle of the night to
17 knocks on the door, you've always been there for people. I've
18 had a hard time trying to understand why you went through the
19 things you did to help them sometimes. It wasn't until four years
20 ago when I enlisted that I got that answer. I worked really hard
21 to get where I am today, but every time you have said "I'm proud
22 of you," it was worth it all. This time it's my turn. Dad, I'm proud
23 of you. I am glad that you have set the bar so high for me. I look
24 forward to following in your footsteps. I hope that your time as
25 State Commander will mean as much for you as the

1 accomplishments of seeing your son as a Marine. I know this
2 will be a lot of hard work for you now, but I know if anyone
3 should be in this position, it's you. I also know that there will be
4 times when it seems too much and I know that I'm there beside
5 you every time you hear the clank of your dog tags. For those of
6 you who don't know, every time I've been overseas, my father
7 has worn his dog tags to show his support. He is always with
8 me, as I am with him. I love you, Dad, and I've always been
9 proud of you. This is just one more reason of why I'm so proud
10 to say that you're my dad. Once again, thank you to all who
11 support and have served in the Armed Forces, for you
12 dedication and hard work is never forgotten. Ladies and
13 Gentlemen, have a wonderful day, a great year with my dad as
14 your Michigan State Commander. Thank you. Sincerely,
15 Corporal Layton John Lamphere."

16 (Applause.)

17 SR. VICE COM. SHEPHERD: That's hard to follow, but
18 I'm glad to be here. I'm glad to be able to serve as John's Sr. Vice
19 Commander. I would like to thank my family and Chapter 7 who has
20 pushed me in this direction. I would also like to thank you in Zone II for a
21 good year. And I dare call it a good year because we have maintained
22 some stability. We started with 17 chapters and, yes, we still have 17
23 chapters. That's an accomplishment within itself. It has been somewhat
24 of a struggle to maintain this stability; however, with your help and
25 patience, we have accomplished it. But with that said, we still have a

1 long, hard road ahead of us. With the economy, state of the country,
2 State of Michigan and our budget shortfalls, we must now buckle down
3 and help ourselves. Starting with, and I echo, membership. I will say no
4 more than I admonish you to keep that filled out application in your
5 pocket so that that potential member cannot get away. And wear
6 something that identifies you with the DAV, for this attracts that potential
7 member. We need more members and they're out there. Go get them.
8 And I thank all of you who have stepped up to the plate and made
9 contributions to help in this time of need. I commend you all. Thank you.

10 (Applause.)

11 2nd JR. VICE COMMANDER HENSHAW: I've got about a
12 35 to 40 minute speech here. I was going to get up here and talk to you
13 about membership, money, but in the interest of brevity, and knowing
14 everyone's anxious and ready to go home and get a little rest; we've
15 had a hard week, a long week. It's been fun. I love the comradeship and
16 I pray to God to see each and every one of you here next year. Have a
17 good day.

18 (Applause.)

19 3rd JR. VICE COMMANDER SCHUPBACK: It seems
20 kind of funny to be the new kid on the block, but I want to thank my
21 chapter, Chapter 9, Jamie, Bruce, all you guys, Ken from Midland, Doug
22 Wells for listening to me a lot of times. All I can say is, boy do I have
23 some shoes to fill here. The guy that was ahead of me did one heck of a
24 job and it's going to be hard to follow.

25 (Applause.)

1 COMMANDER LAMPHERE: Do we have any Good of
2 the Order? Any Good of the Order?

3 ADJUTANT LEE: The newly-elected 1009/2010
4 Executive Committee will meet in this room following the close of the
5 convention.

6 The Administrative Board will meet in the Birch Room
7 after the Executive Committee Meeting is through.

8 And if I may, let's give another Michigan applause for our
9 new family members, Mike and Sandy Dobmeier.

10 (Applause.)

11 COMMANDER LAMPHERE: Please rise. Uncover.

12 CHAPLAIN KNUTSON: For friendship's renewed and
13 friendships made, we give you thanks, oh, God. For comradeship,
14 laughter, tears, a warm embrace, we give You thanks. For a successful
15 convention, we are truly grateful. Oh, God, as we depart grant us
16 traveling mercies. And now may the Lord watch between Thee and me.
17 May your face be sustained with courage though we travel far, so far.
18 May the Lord bring us back together again in that sweet garden of
19 prayer. Go in peace to serve God. Go in peace to serve your fellow
20 veterans. Amen.

21 COMMANDER LAMPHERE: Cover.

22 Once again, it is fitting and proper to render a hand
23 salute. One. Two!

24 Entertain a motion to adjourn.

25 DELEGATE SCHRIEBER: Ron Schrieber, make a

1 motion to adjourn.

2 DELEGATE DOUGLAS: Bruce Douglas, Chapter 9,
3 seconds.

4 COMMANDER LAMPHERE: A motion and second. All
5 those in favor, say Aye.

6 BODY OF DELEGATES: Aye.

7 COMMANDER LAMPHERE: Motion carried.

8 I now declare this 84th State Convention adjourned.

9 Thank you.

10 (84th State Convention Adjourned.)

1 84th Annual Disabled American Veterans
2 2009 State Convention
3 Executive Committee Meeting
4 Sunday, June 7, 2009
5 About 11:00 o'clock, AM

6 COMMANDER LAMPHERE: May I have the invocation.
7 Uncover.

8 CHAPLAIN KNUTSON: God said where two or three are
9 gathered in my name, there I am. We ask that your spirit be amongst us
10 as we conduct the business of this organization. Amen.

11 COMMANDER LAMPHERE: Those wearing the uniform
12 cap, please remain uncovered, place it over your heart and recite after
13 me.

14 (Pledge of Allegiance.)

15 COMMANDER LAMPHERE: Cover.

16 We will now have roll call.

17 ADJUTANT LEE: State Commander John Lamphere.

18 COMMANDER LAMPHERE: Present.

19 ADJUTANT LEE: John Lamphere here.

20 Immediate Past Department Commander Daniel
21 Mulcahey.

22 PDC MULCAHEY: Here.

23 ADJUTANT LEE: Daniel Mulcahey here

24 Senior Vice Commander Frank Shepherd, Jr.

25 SR. VICE COMMANDER SHEPHERD: Present.

1 ADJUTANT LEE: Frank Shepherd, Jr. here.
2 1st Jr. Vice Commander Christopher M. Sardo, excused.
3 2nd Jr. Vice Commander Garry Henshaw. Garry
4 Henshaw. Garry Henshaw absent.

5 3rd Jr. Vice Commander Arthur Schupback.

6 3RD JR. VICE COMMANDER SCHUPBACK: Here.

7 ADJUTANT LEE: Arthur Schupback, here.

8 We'll now go on to the chapters.

9 Chapter 1 EC, Douglas Marble. Douglas Marble.

10 Alternate, Edward House.

11 E.C. HOUSE: Here.

12 ADJUTANT LEE: Edward House, here.

13 Chapter 2, Richard Straub, III.

14 E.C. STRAUB: Here.

15 ADJUTANT LEE: Richard Straub, III, here.

16 Chapter 3, James Turcsak.

17 E.C. TURCSAK: Here.

18 ADJUTANT LEE: James Turcsak, here.

19 Chapter 4, John Demorest.

20 E.C. DEMOREST: Here.

21 ADJUTANT LEE: John Demorest, here.

22 Chapter 6, Robert Reynolds.

23 E.C. REYNOLDS: Here.

24 ADJUTANT LEE: Robert Reynolds, here.

25 Chapter 7, Thomas Lightbody.

1 E.C. LIGHTBODY: Here.
2 ADJUTANT LEE: Thomas Lightbody, here.
3 Chapter 8. Chapter 8, William Higgins.
4 E.C. HIGGINS: Here.
5 ADJUTANT LEE: William Higgins, here.
6 Chapter 9, Jamie Davis. Frank Brown, alternate.
7 E.C. BROWN: Here.
8 ADJUTANT LEE: Frank Brown, Alternate, here.
9 Chapter 10, Kenneth McGaugh.
10 E.C. McGAUGH: Present.
11 ADJUTANT LEE: Kenneth McGaugh, here.
12 Chapter 11, Albert Hekkema.
13 E.C. HEKKEMA: Here.
14 ADJUTANT LEE: Albert Hekkema, here.
15 Chapter 12, Robert Thomas.
16 E.C. THOMAS: Here.
17 ADJUTANT LEE: Robert Thomas, here.
18 Chapter 13, Gregg M. Weaver.
19 E.C. WEAVER: Here.
20 ADJUTANT LEE: Gregg M. Weaver, here.
21 Chapter 14, Roger Jansen.
22 E.C. JANSEN: Here.
23 ADJUTANT LEE: Roger Jansen, here.
24 Chapter 16, James Wiles.
25 E.C. WILES: Here.

1 ADJUTANT LEE: James Wiles, here.
2 Chapter 17, Fred R. George, Jr.
3 E.C. GEORGE: Here.
4 ADJUTANT LEE: Fred R. George, Jr., here.
5 Chapter 18, Louis Houtekier. Alternate Ben Benzing.
6 E.C. BENZING: Here.
7 ADJUTANT LEE: Alternate Ben Benzing, here.
8 Chapter 19, George Jones.
9 E.C. JONES: Here.
10 ADJUTANT LEE: George E. Jones, here.
11 Chapter 20, Steven Carr. Alternate Robert Polhamus.
12 E.C. POLHAMUS: Here.
13 ADJUTANT LEE: Robert Polhamus, here.
14 Chapter 22, William Dollar. William Dollar. Alternate
15 James Provost.
16 E.C. SCHWANKE: Here.
17 ADJUTANT LEE: Eric Schwanke is answering.
18 Chapter 23, Joseph Goniea.
19 E.C. GONIEA: Here.
20 ADJUTANT LEE: Joseph Goniea is here.
21 Chapter 24, Joseph Stier. Did he say "here"? Alternate
22 Morris Cole. Alternate Morris Cole.
23 No answer at 24.
24 Chapter 25, Jim Uecke.
25 E.C. UECKE: Here.

1 ADJUTANT LEE: James Uecke is here.
2 Chapter 26, Bob Blevins.
3 E.C. BLEVINS: Here.
4 ADJUTANT LEE: Bob Blevins, here.
5 Chapter 30 suspended.
6 Chapter 38. No answer at Chapter 38.
7 Chapter 39, Gregory Burk.
8 E.C. BURK: Here.
9 ADJUTANT LEE: Gregory Burk, here.
10 Chapter 42. No answer for 42.
11 Chapter 43, James Stringham.
12 E.C. STRINGHAM: Here.
13 ADJUTANT LEE: James Stringham, here.
14 Chapter 44, Jeff Badalow.
15 E.C. BADALOW: Here.
16 ADJUTANT LEE: Jeff Badalow, here.
17 Chapter 51, John Ruselowski.
18 E.C. RUSELOWSKI: Here.
19 ADJUTANT LEE: John Ruselowski, here.
20 Chapter 52, James Shogren.
21 E.C. SHOGREN: Here.
22 ADJUTANT LEE: James Shogren, here.
23 Chapter 60, Don Adams.
24 E.C. ADAMS: Here.
25 ADJUTANT LEE: Don Adams, here.

1 Chapter 61, Terry Marek.
2 E.C. MAREK: Here.
3 ADJUTANT LEE: Terry Marek, here.
4 Chapter 63, David Hein. Alternate Les Schneider.
5 E.C. SCHNEIDER: Here.
6 ADJUTANT LEE: Les Schneider, here.
7 Chapter 64, Howard Magee. Howard Magee. No
8 alternate.
9 Chapter 66, Thomas A. DeCarlo.
10 E.C. DECARLO: Here.
11 ADJUTANT LEE: Thomas A. DeCarlo, here.
12 Chapter 67, Jim Kirk.
13 E.C. KIRK: Here.
14 ADJUTANT LEE: James Kirk, here.
15 Chapter 68, Ronald E. Truitt.
16 E.C. TRUITT: Here.
17 ADJUTANT LEE: Ronald E. Truitt, here.
18 Chapter 69. No answer.
19 Chapter 73. No answer.
20 Chapter 75, John Johnson. Alternate Charles G. Woods.
21 No answer.
22 Chapter 83, Gary D. Nosis.
23 E.C. NOSIS: Here.
24 ADJUTANT LEE: Gary D. Nosis, here.
25 Chapter 88, Donald E. Rains. Alternate Robert E. Leis.

1 No answer .
2 Chapter 89. Who answered for 89?
3 E.C. STARRETT: Lawrence O. Starrett answered for
4 Chapter 89.
5 Chapter 93, Billie Clark.
6 E.C. BILLIE CLARK: Here.
7 ADJUTANT LEE: Billie Clark, here.
8 Chapter 94, Ken Cummins
9 E.C. CUMMINS: Here.
10 ADJUTANT LEE: Ken Cummins, here.
11 Chapter 96, suspended.
12 Chapter 100, Don Rashotte. Alternate Nick Schlict. No
13 answer for Chapter 100.
14 Chapter 102, suspended.
15 Chapter 105, Richard D. LaRonde.
16 E.C. LaRONDE: Here.
17 ADJUTANT LEE: Richard D. LaRonde, here.
18 Chapter 106, no answer.
19 Chapter 107, no answer.
20 Chapter 113, Douglas K. Wells, Jr.
21 E.C. WELLS: Here.
22 ADJUTANT LEE: Douglas K. Wells, Jr., here.
23 Chapter 114, Ray Suarez. Alternate Patrick M. Adams.
24 E.C. ADAMS: Here.
25 ADJUTANT LEE: Adams here.

1 Chapter 115, John Manninen.
2 E.C. MANNINEN: Here.
3 ADJUTANT LEE: John R. Manninen, here.
4 Chapter 116, David R. Van Hill.
5 E.C. VAN HILL: Here.
6 ADJUTANT LEE: David R. Van Hill, here.
7 Chapter 117, James Gezequel.
8 E.C. GEZEQUEL: Here.
9 ADJUTANT LEE: Here.
10 Chapter 119. No answer.
11 Chapter 122, Norm Korpi.
12 E.C. KORPI: Here.
13 ADJUTANT LEE: Norm Korpi, here.
14 Chapter 125, Dan Hines.
15 E.C. HINES: Here.
16 ADJUTANT LEE: Dan Hines, here.
17 Chapter 127, Steve Spranger.
18 E.C. SPRANGER: Here.
19 ADJUTANT LEE: Steve Spranger, here.
20 Chapter 129, Bill Dezur.
21 E.C. DEZUR: Here.
22 ADJUTANT LEE: Bill Dezur, here.
23 Chapter 130, Robert Champine.
24 E.C. CHAMPINE: Here.
25 ADJUTANT LEE: Robert Champine, here.

1 Chapter 135, Eugene Corwin.
2 E.C. CORWIN: Here.
3 ADJUTANT LEE: Eugene Corwin, here.
4 That completes the roll call, Commander.
5 COMMANDER LAMPHERE: Do we have any unfinished
6 business? Any unfinished business?
7 Any new business?
8 We need approval to authorize Department fundraising
9 activities to include a golf outing, two or more major fundraising raffles
10 and the sale of advertising for a convention book.
11 E.C. STRAUB: Straub, Chapter 2, so moves.
12 E.C. TRUITT: Truitt, 68, supports.
13 COMMANDER LAMPHERE: Straub, 2, so moves; Truitt,
14 68, seconds.
15 All those in favor, say "Aye."
16 BODY OF DELEGATES: Aye.
17 COMMANDER LAMPHERE: Opposed?
18 Passes.
19 I have my appointments that will be read by the Adjutant.
20 ADJUTANT LEE:
21 The 2009-2010 State Appointments.
22 **2009-2010 State Appointments:**
23 Treasurer: Roger Jansen, Chapter 14.
24 Judge Advocate: Ronald Schrieber, Chapter 135.
25 State Adjutant: Rolly D. Lee, Sr., Chapter 129.

1 State Inspector: Rolly D. Lee, Sr., Chapter 129.
2 Chief-of-Staff: Charles Shackelford, Chapter 39.
3 LVAP Chairman: Les Schneider, Chapter 63.
4 **MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE:**
5 Chairman: Gerald Cool, Chapter 20.
6 Zone I: Dawn Bollis, Chapter 16.
7 Zone II: Joseph Schneider, Chapter 63.
8 Zone III: Charles Shackelford, Chapter 39.
9 Zone IV: Jim Uecke, Chapter 25.
10 **LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE:**
11 Chairman: Ronald Schrieber, Chapter 135.
12 Zone I: John Ruselowski, Chapter 51.
13 Zone II: Robert Polhamus, Chapter 20.
14 Zone IV: Todd Lindahl, Chapter 67.
15 **DEPARTMENT NEWSPAPER COMMITTEE:**
16 Chairman: John Lamphere, Commandeer, Chapter 39.
17 Member: Reuben Swisher, Chapter 13.
18 Member: Clyde Hishok, Chapter 60.
19 Member: Russ Spalding, Chapter 20.
20 Member: Rolly D. Lee, Sr., Adjutant, Chapter 129.
21 **INTERIM CONSTITUTION & BYLAWS COMMITTEE:**
22 Chairman: Donald Crull, Chapter 1.
23 Member: Michael Knutson, Chapter 4.
24 Member: Roberta Ignatowski, Chapter 52.
25 Advisor: State Judge Advocate Ronald Schrieber,

Chapter 135.

CONSTITUTION & BYLAWS COMMITTEE:

Zone I: Gary Nosis, Chapter 83.

Zone II: Thomas Lightbody, Chapter 7.

Zone III: Edward Reeves, Chapter 130.

Zone IV: David Spencer, Chapter 52.

INTERIM GENERAL RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE:

Chairman: Daniel Mulcahey, Chapter 66.

Member: Arthur Schupback, Chapter 9.

Member: Les Schneider, Chapter 63.

GENERAL RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE:

Zone I: Beth Gonzales, Chapter 114.

Zone II: Flo Lopez, Chapter 68.

Zone III: Bruce Douglas, Chapter 9.

Zone IV: James Kirk, Chapter 67.

STATE AND NATIONAL CEMETERY COMMITTEE:

Chairman: Peter A. Sardo, Chapter 16.

Zone I: Jackie Carmichael, Chapter 7.

Zone III: Roger French, Chapter 39.

Zone IV: James Shogren, Chapter 52.

AMERICANISM COMMITTEE:

Chairman: Dennis Rogala, Chapter 114.

Zone II: Carl Poest, Chapter 14.

Zone III: Terry Marek, Chapter 61.

Zone IV: John Manninen, Chapter 115.

EMPLOYMENT COMMITTEE:

Zone I: Lionel Lessenthien, Jr., Chapter 19.

Chairman: Gregg Weaver, Chapter 13.

Zone III: James Stringham, Chapter 43.

Zone IV: James Provost, Chapter 22.

REHABILITATION COMMITTEE:

Chairman: Douglas K. Wells, Jr., Chapter 113.

Member: Karl Brown, Chapter 114.

Member: Stacey Plunkett, Chapter 4.

Member: Joseph Goniea, Chapter 23.

PUBLIC RELATIONS AND AWARDS COMMITTEE:

Chairman: Paul Klosterman, Chapter 44.

Zone II: Richard Straub, Chapter 2.

Zone III: Ken Cummins, Chapter 94.

Zone IV: Morris Cole, Chapter 24.

CHILD WELFARE & DRUG EDUCATION COMMITTEE:

Chairman: John Demorest, Chapter 4.

Zone I: Toni Deaton, Chapter 129.

Zone II: Bill Roush, Chapter 7.

Zone IV: Preston King, Chapter 22.

THRIFT STORE COMMITTEE:

Member: Gary Bush, Chapter 114.

Member: Rick Barenbrugge, Chapter 19/33.

Member: Karl Brown, Chapter 114.

Member: Kwan Tillman, Chapter 119.

POW, MIA INFORMATION & SUPPORT COMMITTEE:

Chairman: Joseph Connelly, Chapter 114.

Zone II: David Hein, Chapter 63.

Zone III: Robert Champine, Chapter 130.

Zone IV: Joe Stier, Chapter 24.

Advisor: Michael Knutson, Chapter 4.

DEPARTMENT INTERIM CONVENTION COMMITTEE:

Chairman: Commander John Lamphere.

Member: Sr. Vice Commander Frank Shepherd.

Member: 1st Jr. Vice Commander Christopher Sardo.

Member: 2nd Jr. Vice Commander Garry Henshaw.

Member: 3rd Jr. Vice Commander Arthur Schupback.

Member: State Adjutant Rolly D. Lee, Sr.

CONVENTION COMMITTEE:

Zone I: Gaston Bonds, Chapter 113.

Zone II: Roger Jansen, Chapter 14.

Zone III: James Gezequel, Chapter 117.

Zone IV: Billie Clark, Chapter 93.

GOLF OUTING COMMITTEE:

Zone I: David Van Hill, Chapter 116.

Zone II: Robert Kraai, Chapter 114.

Zone III: Tom Jones, Chapter 117.

Zone IV: Garry Henshaw, Chapter 22.

2010 CONVENTION "AD" BOOK COMMITTEE:

Zone I, Patrick Adams, Chapter 114.

Zone II: David Mims, Chapter 6.

Zone III: Nick Ackerson, Chapter 39.

Zone IV: Dougald Beaudoin, Chapter 93.

FUND RAISING COMMITTEE:

Zone I, Thomas Wendel, Chapter 51.

Zone II, Jo Linda White, Chapter 20.

Zone III, Tim Bever, Chapter 4.

Zone IV, Jim Provost, Chapter 22.

That completes the appointments, Commander.

COMMANDER LAMPHERE: I'd entertain a motion for approval.

E.C. STRAUB: Straub, Chapter 2, I make a motion to accept the Commander's appointments.

E.C. ADAMS: Second.

COMMANDER LAMPHERE: Pat Adams, 114, seconds.

All those in favor?

BODY OF DELEGATES: Aye.

COMMANDER LAMPHERE: Opposed?

Good of the Order. Don't forget about your checks over here before you leave, unless you want to donate them back, then you can come up and see Bev. Do we have any other good of the order? Any other good of the order?

I'd entertain a motion to adjourn at this time.

E.C. TRUITT: So move.

COMMANDER LAMPHERE: Ron Truitt, 68.

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E.C. LARONDE: Second.

COMMANDER LAMPHERE: LaRonde, 105, seconds.

All those in favor, say "Aye".

BODY OF DELEGATES: Aye.

COMMANDER LAMPHERE: Opposed?

Before we adjourn, it's fitting and proper that we again
render Honor to the Flag of our Country. By the numbers, One, Two!

Uncover. Chaplain.

CHAPLAIN KNUTSON: Gracious God, it is Your day. As
we go forth, protect us on our trips home. Amen.

COMMANDER LAMPHERE: I now declare this meeting
adjourned.

(84th Michigan DAV Department of Michigan
EC Meeting Adjourned @ 11:20.)
