
SONS OF THE UNION VETERANS OF THE CIVIL WAR

Department of Ohio



143RD ANNUAL ENCAMPMENT 2025

2025 DEPARTMENT ENCAMPMENT

(One rap.)

DEPARTMENT COMMANDER STEPHEN W. BALL: The Officers and the Members of the 143rd Annual Encampment of the Department of Ohio, Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War, will now come to order.

Guide, determine if are all present, and entitled to remain. Color Bearer, assist upon the right.

(Chatter.)

DEPARTMENT GUIDE GRANT M. BATES: Commander, ID has been checked. All --

DEPARTMENT COMMANDER STEPHEN W. BALL: Thank you.

DEPARTMENT GUIDE GRANT M. BATES: -- present are eligible.

DEPARTMENT COMMANDER STEPHEN W. BALL: The Secretary will call the roll of Officers of the Department.

DEPARTMENT SECRETARY JOHN EDELMANN: Department Commander, Steve Ball.

DEPARTMENT COMMANDER STEPHEN W. BALL: Here.

DEPARTMENT SECRETARY JOHN EDELMANN: Senior Vice Commander.

DEPARTMENT SENIOR VICE COMMANDER DAVID A. RISH: Here.

DEPARTMENT SECRETARY JOHN EDELMANN: Junior Vice Commander.

DEPARTMENT JUNIOR VICE COMMANDER KELLY HOPKINS: Present.

DEPARTMENT SECRETARY JOHN EDELMANN: Secretary, present. Treasurer.

DEPARTMENT TREASURER THOMAS EDELMANN: Here.

DEPARTMENT SECRETARY JOHN EDELMANN: Department Council 1, R.A. Davis.

DEPARTMENT COUNCIL 1 R.A. DAVIS: (No response.)

DEPARTMENT SECRETARY JOHN EDELMANN: I don't see him

here. Department Council 2, Don Darby.

DEPARTMENT COUNCIL 2 DON DARBY: I am.

DEPARTMENT SECRETARY JOHN EDELMANN: Department Council 3 John Huffman.

DEPARTMENT COUNCIL 3 JOHN HUFFMAN: Here.

DEPARTMENT SECRETARY JOHN EDELMANN: Chief of the Staff, Don Martin.

DEPARTMENT CHIEF OF STAFF DON MARTIN: Here.

DEPARTMENT SECRETARY JOHN EDELMANN: Patriotic Instructor, Michael Mershon.

DEPARTMENT PATRIOTIC INSTRUCTOR: Here.

DEPARTMENT SECRETARY JOHN EDELMANN: Chaplain Brent Davidson.

DEPARTMENT CHAPLAIN BRENT DAVIDSON: Here.

DEPARTMENT SECRETARY JOHN EDELMANN: Counselor Don Darby.

DEPARTMENT COUNSELOR DON DARBY: Here.

DEPARTMENT SECRETARY JOHN EDELMANN: Color Bearer is not assigned. Guide, Guard.

DEPARTMENT GUARD GRANT M. BATES: Here.

DEPARTMENT SECRETARY JOHN EDELMANN: GAR Records Officer R.A. Davis.

DEPARTMENT GAR RECORDS OFFICER R.A. DAVIS: Present.

DEPARTMENT SECRETARY JOHN EDELMANN: GAR Highway Officer Peter Hritsko.

DEPARTMENT GAR HIGHWAY OFFICER PETER HRITSKO: Present.

DEPARTMENT SECRETARY JOHN EDELMANN: Graves Registration Kent Dorr.

DEPARTMENT GRAVES REGISTRATION KENT DORR: Present.

DEPARTMENT SECRETARY JOHN EDELMANN: Eagle Scout Coordinator Michael Spaulding.

DEPARTMENT EAGLE SCOUT COORDINATOR MICHAEL SPAULDING:

Here.

DEPARTMENT SECRETARY JOHN EDELMANN: Signals Officer Brian Brown.

DEPARTMENT SIGNALS OFFICER BRIAN BROWN: (No response.)

DEPARTMENT SECRETARY JOHN EDELMANN: Buckeye Bugle Editor Don Martin.

BUCKEYE BUGLE EDITOR DON MARTIN: Here.

DEPARTMENT SECRETARY JOHN EDELMANN: Buffington Island Representative James Oiler.

BUFFINGTON ISLAND REPRESENTATIVE JAMES OILER: (No response.)

DEPARTMENT SECRETARY JOHN EDELMANN: Memorials Officer Ronald Marvin.

DEPARTMENT MEMORIALS OFFICER RONALD MARVIN: Here.

DEPARTMENT SECRETARY JOHN EDELMANN: Sir, the roll is called.

DEPARTMENT COMMANDER STEPHEN W. BALL: Brothers, upon which principal is our Order founded and what duties do we inculcate?

IN UNISON: Fraternity, Charity, and Loyalty.

DEPARTMENT COMMANDER STEPHEN W. BALL: Brothers, we meet again as Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War in annual session to review the work of the past and to plan the future. May our conduct and deliberations be marked by mutual tolerance and fraternal courtesy, ever keeping in mind our duty to our country, to our Order and to ourselves.

The Chaplain will now invoke the Divine blessing.

(Three raps.)

DEPARTMENT CHAPLAIN BRENT DAVIDSON: Our Heavenly Father, the High and Mighty Ruler of the universe, who looks down upon the government of men, we earnestly ask your favor to bless our native land to preserve it with purity and integrity it's free institutions for all coming time. Bless our Order. Grant that it may long exist, and that it may continue to be an instrument of great good to all. Give us willing hands and ready hearts to carry out properly its principles and objectives. Keep green in our minds the memory of those who

sacrificed so much that the life of the nation might be preserved, and deal with them in all things with your special mercy. Give us your aid in conducting the business for which we are assembled and so bless us that Charity and Justice, and Peace and Harmony shall remain and flow from us. Amen.

IN UNISON: Amen.

DEPARTMENT COMMANDER STEPHEN W. BALL: Color Bearer is Jonathan Davis. Jonathan, would you please lead us in the Pledge of Allegiance.

DEPARTMENT COLOR BEARER JONATHAN DAVIS: Salute or put your right hand on your left heart.

IN UNISON: I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

DEPARTMENT COMMANDER STEPHEN W. BALL: By virtue of the authority vested in me, I hereby declare the 143rd Annual Encampment of the Department of Ohio, Sons of the Union Veterans of the Civil War, duly open for the transaction of such business as may legally and properly come before it.

(One rap.)

These are the rules of the encampment:

We will follow Roberts Rules of Order.

Officers will not read their reports. Any oral reports are not to exceed three minutes.

Any Brother wishing to be recognized will raise his hand and wait to be called on. Once recognized by the Chair, please come to the podium, there's a microphone right in the middle of the room, identify yourself by name and Camp so we have an accurate record for the minutes.

No Brother will speak more than once on a subject unless answering a question.

Brothers may speak no more than two minutes on a topic.

We are on a time limit with the room, so please bear in mind that as we try to work our way through a busy agenda as quickly as we can.

All discussions will be conducted in Fraternity, Charity, and Loyalty.

Brother Secretary, please call the roll of the Camps.

DEPARTMENT SECRETARY JOHN EDELMANN: Camp #1, Governor William Dennison.

CAMP #1 GOVERNOR WILLIAM DENNISON REPRESENTATIVE:
Present.

DEPARTMENT SECRETARY JOHN EDELMANN: Camp #2 General Benjamin D. Fearing.

CAMP #2 GENERAL BENJAMIN D. FEARING REPRESENTATIVE:
Here.

DEPARTMENT SECRETARY JOHN EDELMANN: Camp #7 Brooks-Grant.

CAMP #7 BROOKS-GRANT REPRESENTATIVE: (No response.)

DEPARTMENT SECRETARY JOHN EDELMANN: Absent. Camp #10 General William Lytle.

CAMP #10 GENERAL WILLIAM LYTLE REPRESENTATIVE: Here.

DEPARTMENT SECRETARY JOHN EDELMANN: Camp #12 General William McLaughlin.

CAMP #12 GENERAL WILLIAM MCLAUGHLIN REPRESENTATIVE:
Here.

DEPARTMENT SECRETARY JOHN EDELMANN: Camp #21 William McKinley.

CAMP #21 WILLIAM MCKINLEY REPRESENTATIVE: Here.

DEPARTMENT SECRETARY JOHN EDELMANN: Camp #26 Vienna.

CAMP #26 VIENNA REPRESENTATIVE: (No response.)

DEPARTMENT SECRETARY JOHN EDELMANN: Absent. Camp #33 Jacob Parrott.

CAMP #33 JACOB PARROTT REPRESENTATIVE: Present.

DEPARTMENT SECRETARY JOHN EDELMANN: Camp #43 Philip Triem.

CAMP #43 PHILIP TRIEM REPRESENTATIVE: (No response.)

DEPARTMENT SECRETARY JOHN EDELMANN: Absent. Camp #73 Sergeant Richard Enderlin.

CAMP #73 SERGEANT RICHARD ENDERLIN REPRESENTATIVE:

Present.

DEPARTMENT SECRETARY JOHN EDELMANN: Camp #89 Chaplain William Earnshaw.

CAMP #89 CHAPLAIN WILLIAM EARNSHAW REPRESENTATIVE:
Here.

DEPARTMENT SECRETARY JOHN EDELMANN: Camp #92 Henry Casey.

CAMP #92 HENRY CASEY REPRESENTATIVE: Present.

DEPARTMENT SECRETARY JOHN EDELMANN: Camp #93 William Sherman.

CAMP #93 WILLIAM SHERMAN REPRESENTATIVE: Here.

DEPARTMENT SECRETARY JOHN EDELMANN: Camp #108 John S. Townsend.

CAMP #108 JOHN S. TOWNSEND REPRESENTATIVE: Present.

DEPARTMENT SECRETARY JOHN EDELMANN: Camp #126 Cadot-Blessing.

CAMP #126 CADOT-BLESSING REPRESENTATIVE: (No response.)

DEPARTMENT SECRETARY JOHN EDELMANN: Camp #142 James A. Garfield.

CAMP #142 JAMES A. GARFIELD REPRESENTATIVE: Present.

DEPARTMENT SECRETARY JOHN EDELMANN: Commander, the roll is called.

DEPARTMENT COMMANDER STEPHEN W. BALL: Brad Tilton and Kent Dorr are appointed as Credentials Committee, and Brad Tilton is appointed Chair of the Credentials Committee.

At this time, we recognize any guests. Guide, please escort them to the platform if he wishes to address the Encampment. Brothers, please join me in welcoming our Commander-in-Chief, Kevin Martin.

DEPARTMENT GUIDE: Commander.

(Applause.)

NATIONAL COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF KEVIN MARTIN: Good morning, Brothers.

IN UNISON: Good morning.

NATIONAL COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF KEVIN MARTIN: It's not the prettiest day that I've had, but it's not the worst yet either. So in Tennessee, we had to go down into the basement because of tornadoes. So see, we're looking up already.

It's a pleasure for me to be here today. And it just so happens that my wife, Rosemary Martin, is the National President of the Auxiliary is here in the building as well. So hopefully she's having a good time as well.

It's, as I look outside and all, the places I've been in the past few weeks have not reminded me of home at all. It's just totally different. But here, I guess just being as close as we are in Maryland, it seems more like home outside. It looks pretty much the same as what it looks like at home.

And I would like to also thank each and every one of you for coming here today, for being a part of the Sons of the Union Veterans of the Civil War, and that at all times let's try to remember to be brotherly to each other. Thank you.

(Applause.)

DEPARTMENT COMMANDER STEPHEN W. BALL: At this time, I would like to recognize Past Ohio Department Commanders and Past Commanders-in-Chiefs. Brothers, please rise and I will call your name. Don Martin, Don Darby, John Huffman, Mike Spaulding, Ken Freshley, Pete Hritsko, Jim Crane, Shane Milburn, Shawn Cox, Richard Davis, Brad Tilton, Jonathan Davis. I believe that covers everybody, doesn't it?

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Mike Spaulding.

DEPARTMENT COMMANDER STEPHEN W. BALL: I said Mike Spaulding, yeah.

(Chatter.)

DEPARTMENT COMMANDER STEPHEN W. BALL: I said them. I can see them. I'm standing up.

(Laughter.)

DEPARTMENT COMMANDER STEPHEN W. BALL: I can see okay. Thank you, Brothers.

(Applause.)

DEPARTMENT COMMANDER STEPHEN W. BALL: At this time, would the Chairman of the Credentials Committee please provide us with a first report.

CREDENTIAL COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN BRAD TILTON: I'm going to let Jim Crane give that report.

DEPARTMENT JUNIOR VICE COMMANDER KELLY HOPKINS: Go to the mic.

(Chatter.)

CREDENTIAL COMMITTEE MEMBER JIM CRANE: We'll start with the --

DEPARTMENT COMMANDER STEPHEN W. BALL: Standby.

DEPARTMENT VICE COMMANDER KELLY HOPKINS: You've got to turn it on.

DEPARTMENT COMMANDER STEPHEN W. BALL: Go ahead, sir.

CREDENTIAL COMMITTEE MEMBER JIM CRANE: I'll start with the (indiscernible) and the Camps. Let me see here. Dennison Camp is four. These are quotas. General Benjamin Fearing Camp gets two. Brooks Camp gets three. Lytle Camp is six. McLaughlin is three. McKinley is two. Vienna is two. Parrott's five. Triem's two. Enderlin is three. Earnshaw is two. Casey is three. Sherman's four. Townsend is three. Cadot-Blessing is three. Garfield Camp is three. That's a total of 52. Commander, we have 42 here. Every person that's in this room gets to vote. So it's all been (indiscernible). Past Commanders, oh, sorry. Everybody here today, there are exactly 45 delegates total. So everyone gets to vote.

DEPARTMENT COMMANDER STEPHEN W. BALL: Thank you. Committee reports, I believe we have none.

Resolutions, Don Darby.

BROTHER DON DARBY: Okay. We have one.

DEPARTMENT COMMANDER STEPHEN W. BALL: Would you like the microphone?

DEPARTMENT COUNSELOR DON DARBY: Are you not going off the report?

(Chatter.)

DEPARTMENT COMMANDER STEPHEN W. BALL: Okay. The Officers Report. I apologize. I jumped the line here.

(Chatter.)

DEPARTMENT COMMANDER STEPHEN W. BALL: Okay. So we're at Officers Report, correct?

BROTHER DON DARBY: No. You have, the bottom of page 8, you have to assign people for the Committee of Officers Reports, Committee Reports, Resolutions, and Parliamentarian.

(Chatter.)

DEPARTMENT COMMANDER STEPHEN W. BALL: John Huffman's one for what?

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Officers Report.

DEPARTMENT COMMANDER STEPHEN W. BALL: Officers Report. Jonathan Davis, I'll ask you to be another one, and John Edelmann will be the third. On page 43 of the current, page 43.

(Brief pause.)

(Chatter.)

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: What page are we on?

DEPARTMENT COMMANDER STEPHEN W. BALL: We have no major reports. Resolutions, okay. That would be Don Darby.

(Chatter.)

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Commander, shut the mic off.
Now --

DEPARTMENT JUNIOR VICE COMMANDER KELLY HOPKINS: It's going real bad.

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: It's static. It's terrible. All we can hear is static. We can't hear you.

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Do you have any idea what the problem is? I don't know how to adjust this thing.

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Just speak loud.

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Let's try it without the mic. You should charge it twice.

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: I can do that.

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: We're getting the bad hits.

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: It's terrible and it's getting louder.

(Chatter.)

DEPARTMENT COMMANDER STEPHEN W. BALL: Okay. Past Commander-in-Chief Ken Freshley will be our parliamentarian.

Turn to page 9. You should have received a copy of the Proceedings from the last Encampment. Are there any corrections to make to those Proceedings?

(No response.)

DEPARTMENT COMMANDER STEPHEN W. BALL: At this time, I will entertain a motion to approve the Proceedings.

BROTHER DON DARBY: So moved.

BROTHER KEN FRESHLEY: Second.

DEPARTMENT JUNIOR VICE COMMANDER KELLY HOPKINS:
You've got to say your name.

BROTHER KEN FRESHLEY: Ken Freshley. Second.

BROTHER DON DARBY: Don Darby, first.

DEPARTMENT COMMANDER STEPHEN W. BALL: All those in favor, say aye.

IN UNISON: Aye.

DEPARTMENT COMMANDER STEPHEN W. BALL: All those opposed, say nay.

(No response.)

DEPARTMENT COMMANDER STEPHEN W. BALL: Motion approved.

We will now review the reports of the Officers and the Camps. As a reminder, we will not read the submitted reports, and there is a three-minute limit for oral reports. The Secretary will now lead us through the reports.

DEPARTMENT SECRETARY JOHN EDELMANN: Testing. Okay. Let's see if this works. So you have the reports on page 15 with the Commander's Report. Again, we're not going to read them all. Page 17 is the Senior Vice Commander's Report, Junior Vice Commander's Report. Secretary's Report, is there any questions there? And the recommendation on page 20 will be brought up during the recommendations. The Treasurer's Report is on page 21. As last year, the format is identical if you were here last year to the account summary page. And then, on page 22 is the budget. I believe this -- all right. If you keep on going, the Chief of Staff Report is on page 23. Graves Registration and Council Report, 24. Patriotic Instructor's

Report, 25. Memorials Officer's Report on 26. Eagle Scout Coordination Report on 27.

BROTHER DON DARBY: There's a recommendation on 27.

DEPARTMENT SECRETARY JOHN EDELMANN: Yes. And page 28 is the GAR Records Officers Report, and at the bottom the GAR Highway Officer's Report. And then, we begin with the Camp Reports which are separate.

Okay. So now, we go to Committee Reports. And then, we'll come back to the recommendations after that.

DEPARTMENT COMMANDER STEPHEN W. BALL: We will now review the Committee Reports. Again, we will not read submitted reports. There is a three-minute limit for any oral reports.

Monuments and Memorials.

(No response.)

DEPARTMENT COMMANDER STEPHEN W. BALL: Encampment Site and Planning.

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: No report.

DEPARTMENT COMMANDER STEPHEN W. BALL: Membership and Recruiting.

(No response.)

DEPARTMENT COMMANDER STEPHEN W. BALL: Preservation of Department Property.

(No response.)

DEPARTMENT COMMANDER STEPHEN W. BALL: Bylaws Committee.

(No response.)

DEPARTMENT COMMANDER STEPHEN W. BALL: We will now review any submitted resolutions.

(Chatter.)

DEPARTMENT COMMANDER STEPHEN W. BALL: Are there any recommendations from the Officers or Committee reports to review?

(Chatter.)

DEPARTMENT SECRETARY JOHN EDELMANN: We're going to go

over 43 right now. The resolution that's on page 44 will be covered under new business. On page 43, we have three. As the Secretary, I'm proposing that in 2025 and '26 that we move to adopt a Departmentwide cloud-based means of maintaining Camp rosters. What this means is is that we're going to -- I'm going to create a Google sheet that will have 17 Google sheets, one for each Camp. I will work directly with the Secretaries and the Commanders, as necessary, to populate those sheets. Every Secretary and Department and Camp Commander will have edit access only to their sheet. They won't see anybody else in the Department sheets. Once all of the Camps have populated those sheets, as the Department Secretary, I will have access to merge all that data into a single roster that we can actually report to National, if needed. But most important, everybody's rosters will be identical in terms of name, address, email, age because in case of juniors we need to know that to see when they would become a full member. So that's what I'm proposing that we do as a recommendation to just help everyone. And for those of you that don't have tremendous computer skills, I will work, be happy to work with you to basically populate your spreadsheet for you and then you will be able to keep a copy of it. And you will also have access to it directly if you wish. We can show you how to do that certainly. So that is my recommendation there.

The Eagle Scout Coordinator has a recommendation that every Camp find at least one local Boy Scout Troop sponsored perhaps by a local church or American Legion chapter and discuss the SUVCW Eagle Scout Program. As an Eagle Scout myself, I had no clue that this was even an issue and would have been handy to have known that there was an organization like ours that presents a certificate to Eagle Scouts.

The GAR Records Officer has a recommendation from page 28. He recommends the Department of Ohio institute a serious and ongoing program to educate the citizens and other inhabitants of the country about the history of the Civil War era, about what led up to that era and what followed. One possibility might be to create a new appointed officer, say a Department Education Officer or maybe a designated Education Committee with an appointed Chairman. But even labeling it Education or History might chase people away in droves. Whatever is done must be fun and alluring.

And that is all we have, sir.

BROTHER KEN FRESHLEY: Commander, through you to the Secretary, I have a question for your --

DEPARTMENT COMMANDER STEPHEN W. BALL: Yes, sir.

BROTHER KEN FRESHLEY: -- for your proposal.

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Come to the mic here.

DEPARTMENT JUNIOR VICE COMMANDER KELLY HOPKINS:
You've got to introduce yourselves, guys, too, for the --

BROTHER KEN FRESHLEY: Ken Freshley, Department of Ohio, James A. Garfield Camp. Through you, to the Secretary, I have a question about this roster sheet. Who's going to have access to this sheet, and how are we controlling access to this sheet because right now there's a big push to not provide so much PII information on the Internet. So my question to you.

DEPARTMENT SECRETARY JOHN EDELMANN: Right. So the way the Google sheets work is that it will be restricted to whoever has access based on the access control that I will. As the Department Secretary, I have control of everything.

BROTHER KEN FRESHLEY: Okay.

DEPARTMENT SECRETARY JOHN EDELMANN: But it will be -- there won't be any way for one Camp to look at the other unless they provide a share, and that's the same we have a problem with PIA today. If somebody gives someone else a password or something, we can't control that. But there will only be one user ID that's able to access it.

BROTHER KEN FRESHLEY: Thank you, sir.

DEPARTMENT SECRETARY JOHN EDELMANN: Any other questions on the recommendations? Thank you.

(Chatter.)

DEPARTMENT COMMANDER STEPHEN W. BALL: We will now turn to old business. Please save all new business for later. Any old business anybody needs to bring before?

(Chatter.)

DEPARTMENT COMMANDER STEPHEN W. BALL: We need to vote on the three recommendations. All in favor, say aye.

IN UNISON: Aye.

DEPARTMENT COMMANDER STEPHEN W. BALL: Anybody opposed?

(No response.)

(One rap.)

(Chatter.)

DEPARTMENT COMMANDER STEPHEN W. BALL: Okay.
Communications received, is that where we're at now? Yes, okay.

(Chatter.)

DEPARTMENT SECRETARY JOHN EDELMANN: Okay, yeah. We had two communications received. One was an endorsement of the Camp Commander at Sherman from the Sherman Camp Council for John Edelmann to be elected to be the Department of Ohio Junior Vice Commander. I'll go ahead and read this real quick.

"WHEREAS Brother John F. Edelmann's obligations and charges in the diverse offices held in the Department of Ohio as Secretary, and in Sherman Camp as Council Member, Junior Vice Commander, Secretary, and the Commander, has, and continues to provide him with the required knowledge to serve the Brothers of the Order; and

WHEREAS Brother Edelmann has a tenure of five (5) years in good standing in the SUVCW; and

WHEREAS Brother Edelmann has been the recipient of the Meritorious Service award (140th National Encampment - 2021) and the Sherman Camp Commanders Award (2020):

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that General William T. Sherman Camp endorses and recommends the election of our esteemed Camp Brother to the Department of Ohio office of Junior Vice Commander, Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War, at the 2025 Department of Ohio Encampment, on June 14, 2025.

APPROVED by the members of General William T. Sherman Camp had their regular meeting on the 6th day of May 2025."

Thank you.

The other communication we have is from the Secretary of the same Camp regarding a memo received by the employees of the Department of the Defense Logistics Agency. Today, June 14th is the 250th anniversary of the founding of the United States Army. And so the Director of DLA sent out an alert, a notice to all the members, I'm not going to read that. If you would like to see that, please see me in the break. But again, the Director of the DLA Agency sent this out to the workforce, and I thought I would share that with everyone.

And that's all we received.

DEPARTMENT COMMANDER STEPHEN W. BALL: And while we're on the birthday of the Army, how many veterans do we have at our Encampment today? Would you just put your hand up?

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: That's Army members.

(Laughter.)

DEPARTMENT COMMANDER STEPHEN W. BALL: And how many of you are Army veterans?

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Yeah.

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Go Navy.

DEPARTMENT COMMANDER STEPHEN W. BALL: Well, happy birthday.

(Laughter.)

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Yeah, go, beat Army.

DEPARTMENT COMMANDER STEPHEN W. BALL: We have the Navy and Marines. You know, you just --

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Careful.

DEPARTMENT COMMANDER STEPHEN W. BALL: Okay. We will now turn to old business. We'll save all new business for later. Any old business anybody needs to address?

We will take a five-minute break. Chaplain, please attend to and close the Bible.

(Three raps.)

DEPARTMENT COMMANDER STEPHEN W. BALL: Five minutes.

(One rap.)

(Break.)

(Three raps.)

DEPARTMENT COMMANDER STEPHEN W. BALL: The Chaplain, please open the Bible?

(One rap.)

(One rap.)

DEPARTMENT COMMANDER STEPHEN W. BALL: We skipped over the Bylaws Committee when we were reviewing the Committee Reports because we have a bit of a lengthy Bylaw Committee Report. We have to go over the entire thing. I will turn the floor over to Brother Martin at this time.

(Chatter.)

BROTHER DON MARTIN: Okay. The Bylaws Committee this

year consisted of myself, Past Commander-in-Chief Graham, Past Commander-in-Chief Darby, Past Department Commander Huffman, and Department Secretary John Edelmann.

So we were tasked with updating and revising the section dealing with the Monuments and Memorials Committee. This is a task from the Department Encampment, a general and (indiscernible) duties to review, update, correct, and circumplex with National's Constitution and Regulations.

So we have a lot this year, particularly in the Monuments and Memorials which we completely restructured. So with that in mind, and also the limited amount of time we have, Commander, I'd like to make a motion that we forego reading these because these were presented to the Camps back in January. So I make that motion.

BROTHER KEN FRESHLEY: I second. Ken Freshley.

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: So we have a motion and a second.

DEPARTMENT COMMANDER STEPHEN W. BALL: Okay. We have a vote on the floor. All in favor, say aye.

IN UNISON Aye.

DEPARTMENT COMMANDER STEPHEN W. BALL: Any opposed, say nay.

(No response.)

(One rap.)

BROTHER DON MARTIN: All right. The second thing I'd like to move is that with no objection that we go ahead and pass these recommendations. So what I mean is to put it directly to a vote. So the motion is we go directly to vote to approve or disapprove.

BROTHER JOHN HUFFMAN: I second. John Huffman, Past Department Commander.

(Chatter.)

DEPARTMENT COMMANDER STEPHEN W. BALL: Okay. Are we ready to vote?

BROTHER DON MARTIN: Discussion?

DEPARTMENT COMMANDER STEPHEN W. BALL: We're ready to vote. All in favor, say aye.

IN UNISON: Aye.

DEPARTMENT COMMANDER STEPHEN W. BALL: Any opposed,
say nay.

(No response.)

(Chatter.)

DEPARTMENT COMMANDER STEPHEN W. BALL: We'll now vote
to approve the updated bylaws.

BROTHER DAVID RISH: So moved.

BROTHER JOHN HUFFMAN: Second.

DEPARTMENT COMMANDER STEPHEN W. BALL: Okay. That was
a motion, right?

BROTHER DAVID RISH: Yes, motion.

DEPARTMENT COMMANDER STEPHEN W. BALL: Okay. Now
we'll vote.

BROTHER DAVID RISH: Dave Rish, so moved.

BROTHER JOHN HUFFMAN: John Huffman, Past Department
Commander.

DEPARTMENT JUNIOR VICE COMMANDER KELLY HOPKINS:
Second.

BROTHER JOHN HUFFMAN: Second.

DEPARTMENT COMMANDER STEPHEN W. BALL: All in favor,
say aye.

IN UNISON: Aye.

DEPARTMENT COMMANDER STEPHEN W. BALL: Any opposed?

(No response.)

(One rap.)

BROTHER DON MARTIN: Thank you, sir.

DEPARTMENT COMMANDER STEPHEN W. BALL: Thank you, Don.

(Applause.)

DEPARTMENT COMMANDER STEPHEN W. BALL: That was easy.
We will now move to new business. Is there any new business
that we need to discuss? Brother Allen, Commander Allen,

Dennison Camp.

GOVERNOR WILLIAM DENNISON CAMP #1 COMMANDER JAMES W. ALLEN, JR.: Jim Allen, Dennison Camp #1. I'd like to make a motion that the Monuments and Memorial Committee to forward to the Dennison Camp for the completion of grave marker project that we've been doing at the Greenlawn Cemetery for a headstone for a veteran for whom the Veterans Administration will not pay for a new headstone for him. I'd like to ask for \$500 to help buy the headstone.

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: That has to be submitted to the Committee.

DEPARTMENT COMMANDER STEPHEN W. BALL: Okay. Do we have a motion on the floor to approve it.

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: I'll second the motion.

DEPARTMENT COMMANDER STEPHEN W. BALL: Who made the first?

BROTHER DON DARBY: He did.

DEPARTMENT COMMANDER STEPHEN W. BALL: Okay. Very good.

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Mark the second.

DEPARTMENT COMMANDER STEPHEN W. BALL: We'll vote on this. All in favor --

DEPARTMENT JUNIOR VICE COMMANDER KELLY HOPKINS: Discussion.

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Don't we have discussion?

DEPARTMENT COMMANDER STEPHEN W. BALL: Yeah. We can have discussion on it.

BROTHER BRAD TILTON: Brad Tilton, Camp #12, Past Department Commander. I thought we just now just passed a motion in the bylaws for the Monuments and Memorials Committee in which there is a procedure for this to happen. So why are we entertaining such a motion in the first place?

DEPARTMENT COMMANDER STEPHEN W. BALL: Well, we brought it up and discussed it and I was told that we could do it by a vote at the Department Encampment and forgo all the other steps in the situation because this situation arose in between in the 60-day window. In other words, the application would have to be sent in and considered 60 days before the Department Encampment. But at the Department Encampment, we

could put it to a vote and settle it right here.

BROTHER BRAD TILTON: Okay. Secondly --

DEPARTMENT COMMANDER STEPHEN W. BALL: Otherwise, whoever would want to apply to the Monuments and Memorials Committee would have to wait until 2026.

BROTHER BRAD TILTON: That's fine. Okay. Secondly, why is a veteran being denied a headstone by the --

DEPARTMENT COMMANDER STEPHEN W. BALL: That is a very good question.

BROTHER BRAD TILTON: I'd like to hear --

DEPARTMENT COMMANDER STEPHEN W. BALL: I sent in 188 applications for headstones in Greenlawn Cemetery and the VA approved 162 of them. The 163rd, and this was the headstone that Greenlawn wanted to have a ceremony to complete the project, and this was for Private John Duval (phonetic) of the 22nd Ohio Volunteer Infantry. Duval was born in March of 1946 (sic) and joined the 22nd Ohio when he was 15 years old. He fought at Fort Henry, Fort Donelson, Iowa Number Ten, the battle of Shiloh, the battle of -- both battles of Corinth, the battle of Iuka, the battle of Champion Hill, the battle of Jackson, Mississippi, and the entire Vicksburg campaign. He was mustered out of the Union Army two months after he turned 18. And all of the documentation, I have got census reports, I've got the date he was born, I've got all of his rosters, I've got his pension records, I've got his graves registration card. Greenlawn Cemetery had his obituary in their card where they placed him in his plot, and the Government for some reason rejected this one. I sent in half that information for many of the stones we received. But for some reason, we applied for it three times and every time they came back and said this guy's got his name spelled wrong even though he shows up in the 1850 census, the 1860 census, the 1870 and 1880 censuses, and the 1900 census as John Duval, Columbus, Ohio. And they just absolutely refuse to approve that headstone. Yes, sir.

BROTHER JIM CRANE: Jim Crane, Past Department Commander. Did you turn this off? Jim Crane, Past Department Commander. I was wondering since that's approved if the cemetery had approved putting that headstone in?

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: So is the cemetery wanting to do that?

DEPARTMENT COMMANDER STEPHEN W. BALL: Oh, yeah. The cemetery has already put 156 in the ground.

BROTHER JIM CRANE: Is the Camp going to go put the headstone in?

DEPARTMENT COMMANDER STEPHEN W. BALL: No, the cemetery. We'll send the headstone, and then they will coordinate a dedication ceremony --

BROTHER JIM CRANE: Okay.

DEPARTMENT COMMANDER STEPHEN W. BALL: -- with the Sons of Union Veterans and local authorities. They want to make a fairly big deal out of that particular headstone.

BROTHER JIM CRANE: I just wanted to make sure that they didn't take that headstone there and try to put it in there. Thank you.

DEPARTMENT COMMANDER STEPHEN W. BALL: Yes, sir.

BROTHER GRANT BATES: Grant Bates, Sherman Camp #93. I don't understand why we have bylaws if we're not going to follow them. I'm sorry, there was a 60-day window put in the bylaws for some reason for the Memorials Committee to consider this. That's why they're a Memorials Committee. They're supposed to be active in understanding these requests. I don't see why we should be overriding that procedure. If we don't like the procedure, then we rewrite the bylaws. If we're just going to have a motion and start passing through the bylaws, I don't see why we have them. Thank you.

(Chatter.)

BROTHER DON DARBY: Don Darby, Past Commander-in-Chief, Department Counselor, terrorizer of women and small children. The thing that you just passed for the bylaws, the Monuments and Memorials Fund Committee shall have exclusive discretion to recommend amounts of said funding to the Annual Department Encampment, which means the Annual Department Encampment says whether the money will be divvied out or not.

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Correct.

BROTHER DON DARBY: So anything can become a motion of the Encampment to make it happen. Does that answer your question?

BROTHER GRANT BATES: Well, the concern is that this wasn't brought up 60 days prior to the Encampment and --

BROTHER DON DARBY: I understand that. But it's still the wishes of the Encampment to have the money dispersed as is it says the Monuments and Memorials Fund Committee will make a recommendation to the Encampment. The Encampment decides

whether the money is expended or not, not the Committee.

BROTHER GRANT BATES Since that was addressed mostly to me, can I reply, Commander?

DEPARTMENT COMMANDER STEPHEN W. BALL: Sure, absolutely.

BROTHER GRANT BATES: When did the Memorials Committee meet on this subject, and when was the recommendation made?

BROTHER DON DARBY: I'm not on the Committee. I'm just telling -- I answered your question what the Encampment can do.

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: I was Chairman of the Committee and met back in October, November.

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: The mic.

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Microphone.

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: I'm not using that mic. I was Chairman of the Committee. We met back in October, November. Don Martin was instrumental in rewriting the bylaws and we passed it on to the Bylaw Committee and had their final approval. Those bylaws were not in effect until just now. So anything that happened prior to that can be brought up to the Encampment, which it still can within 60 days. It doesn't have to go before the Committee if it's brought up within 60 days of the Encampment. Only is the -- if you want a memorial and you want to do it next month, then it goes before the Committee and we make a recommendation, but you're still not going to get any money until after the Encampment next year. So it doesn't matter. Follow me?

BROTHER GRANT BATES: No. But it doesn't matter apparently.

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Well, it really --

BROTHER KEN FRESHLEY: Past Commander-in-Chief Ken Freshley. If -- I mean, I just read that same bylaw. But when I read it, it still has the requirement of submitting the project to the Committee, the Committee reviews it and so on and so forth. But there's a loophole. We could suspend the bylaws for this specific motion and pass it on the floor to be legal. To do it this way, like I said, when I read the bylaws, yes, the Department has the power to vote on yes or no or, sorry, let me rephrase that, they get to vote on the recommendation of the Committee. But without having the proper paperwork, how would we get, you know, it would be, like, me showing up today and

saying, you know, I want to do a project. Well, that's not following our procedure.

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Right.

BROTHER KEN FRESHLEY: So like I said, if we want to continue, I make a recommendation that we suspend the bylaws for this specific motion. Thank you, Commander.

BROTHER DON DARBY: I'll second it.

DEPARTMENT COMMANDER STEPHEN W. BALL: Brother Davis.

BROTHER RICHARD DAVIS: Richard Davis. I address this to the handsome Brother Edelmann. What will be the -- where is this \$500 going in the budget?

(Chatter.)

DEPARTMENT TREASURER THOMAS EDELMANN: Yeah, that's not a budget item. Any expenses out of the fund for Memorials is not a budget item. It's got its own fund. It doesn't need a budget --

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: So it will come out of the Monuments and Memorials fund.

DEPARTMENT TREASURER THOMAS EDELMANN: Right. It comes out of the fund. The fund can be used up to the discretion of what it says, up to a maximum because of that. It's not in the budget.

BROTHER DON MARTIN: Don Martin, Camp Commander, Enderlin #73. Kind of piggybacking on what Past Commander Freshley said, so the Encampment, yes, we do make the bylaws. We appoint the committees. We vote on the bylaws. However, the Encampment is the ultimate authority. And so as Brother Freshley has said, the Encampment can choose to make a waiver, if you will, which is exactly what he was saying. So and this is where this is coming in because you have rules, but rules don't always fit every situation. So you do have flexibility.

BROTHER KEN FRESHLEY: Let me make this official.

BROTHER DON MARTIN: Make it official.

BROTHER KEN FRESHLEY: Commander, Past Commander-in-Chief, Ken Freshley, James A. Garfield Camp. I make a motion that we suspend the bylaws for this specific motion for the recommendation of the Monuments and Memorials.

BROTHER DON DARBY: Second.

DEPARTMENT COMMANDER STEPHEN W. BALL: Okay. Vote on the floor to suspend the bylaws for this particular situation. All in favor, say aye.

IN UNISON: Aye.

DEPARTMENT COMMANDER STEPHEN W. BALL: Any opposed?

IN UNISON: Aye.

BROTHER DON DARBY: Do a hand vote.

DEPARTMENT COMMANDER STEPHEN W. BALL: Okay. We're going to have to count hands. All in favor, put your hand up. Would the Color Bearer please count the hands. Number?

DEPARTMENT COLOR BEARER JONATHAN DAVIS: 19.

DEPARTMENT COMMANDER STEPHEN W. BALL: 19. Those opposed.

DEPARTMENT COLOR BEARER JONATHAN DAVIS: Nine.

DEPARTMENT COMMANDER STEPHEN W. BALL: Nine, okay. So the motion passes to suspend the bylaws for this particular situation. Now, do I have a motion to approve the Monuments and Memorials funding for the headstone in Greenlawn Cemetery?

DEPARTMENT JUNIOR VICE COMMANDER KELLY HOPKINS: He made it already.

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: He already made it.

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Yeah. That's already made.

DEPARTMENT COMMANDER STEPHEN W. BALL: So that motion has been made. Do we have a second on it?

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Yes.

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Yes, we do.

DEPARTMENT COMMANDER STEPHEN W. BALL: Who made the second?

BROTHER KEN FRESHLEY: I'll make the second.

DEPARTMENT COMMANDER STEPHEN W. BALL: Okay. Thank you.

BROTHER KEN FRESHLEY: Make it easy, Ken Freshley.

DEPARTMENT COMMANDER STEPHEN W. BALL: Okay. Let's

vote to pass the request for the funding for the headstone in Greenlawn Cemetery. All in favor, say aye.

IN UNISON: Aye.

DEPARTMENT COMMANDER STEPHEN W. BALL: All opposed.

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Aye.

DEPARTMENT COMMANDER STEPHEN W. BALL: Okay. We have one opposed.

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Two.

DEPARTMENT COMMANDER STEPHEN W. BALL: Two opposed. Anybody else want to get in there? Okay. That passes. Thank you all very much.

Is there any other new business that we need to discuss at this time?

Yes, Brother Darby.

BROTHER DON DARBY: The resolution from Enderlin Camp.

DEPARTMENT COMMANDER STEPHEN W. BALL: Okay.

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: You have to speak up.

BROTHER DON DARBY: This is a resolution that was proposed by the Richard Enderlin Camp #73.

Whereas, the current National Regulations, Regulations Chapter 1, Article IV Meetings, Footnote 33, page 38 forbids the posting of any Social Media outlet or website to any other means of communication, any live or video recording of selected video clips from any business sessions (including committee meetings) of a Camp, Department, or National Encampment with the explicit exception of the presentation of awards and/or special recognitions.

Whereas, there shall be no prohibition against the posting of still photography during any and all meetings.

Whereas, nothing in the Order shall be considered as any type of prohibition in the use of the interactive video technology via Zoom or any other such program for the Brothers of the Order and invited guests attending the meetings by electronic means consistent with the National Regulations and/or National Policy. This was CinC Paquette, General Order 7, Revised 141st Encampment, page 512 if you want to look that up in the proceedings.

Whereas, many of our Past Commanders-in-Chiefs and other long-time members of the Order are no longer able to travel due to illness, doctor's orders, or other infirmities. Those Brothers have spent years or decades supporting the work of the Order as well as maintaining the history of the Boys in Blue. It seems that these cherished Brothers should be able to view the proceedings of the National Encampment, to listen to the words of the Order, and to see many of the old comrades and young Brothers moving up.

Therefore, be it resolved, the Department of Ohio in Encampment assembled propose to the 144th National Encampment the following change to the National Regulations, Chapter 1, Article IV, Meetings, Section 1, footnote 33 to permit the transmission of the National Encampment meeting live to those infirmed Brothers. This would not permit the Brothers to vote nor would they be counted as an attendee for voting purposes.

DEPARTMENT COMMANDER STEPHEN W. BALL: Any discussion? It appears we do have some.

BROTHER JIM CRANE: Jim Crane, Past Department Commander. Why do we keep turning this thing off?

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Because the static is so loud, you can't hear.

BROTHER JIM CRANE: Really?

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Yeah.

BROTHER JIM CRANE: Jim Crane, Past Department Commander. Being on the Site Committee for I don't know how many years, actually, Past Commander-in-Chief Ken Freshley and I looked into doing this several years ago and the cost of it is really expensive. You just can't, you just can't do it with a computer. You have to have some sophisticated equipment that we just figured, if I'm correct, you know, the cost of it was prohibitive. Have you ever seen the TV cameras when you're doing the news and stuff? We almost have to have one of those cameras to do this. You can't do it with a computer. There's problems. I mean, second, we have two Encampments already scheduled, right. So I mean, I don't know how you handle all that because some people will say well, I can just watch it on TV, right, or on my computer. So would it affect that? I don't know. I don't know what that would happen. And the third thing about traveling, one of the things I brought up at National Encampment many years ago about some of the Zoom stuff was we had 90-year-old guys traveling from Texas and Pennsylvania and New England and California to go to their GAR Encampments. How'd they get there, okay. I'm just saying, you know, I hear the argument. I agree with some of that. I really do. But

when you look at it as a whole, you know, I think it really needs to be looked at from a lot of different angles. And that's it. Thank you.

BROTHER DON DARBY: I just made this look easy. Don Darby, Past Commander-in-Chief. This is not -- this is just us asking for National to look at it. I don't believe anywhere in there I said anything about a video conference. Maybe I did, but I was just reading it. But it's to put it before National to take a look at it and to revisit the subject. We have people like Past Commander-in-Chief Danny Wheeler who basically can't get out of bed because he's on oxygen. He had a heart, or not a heart, something done with the heart and his heart was so hard, God help us, that they could barely get the needle in to do the grafting. He's not, you know, he was Past Commander-in-Chief. He was the National Quartermaster for decades, made us -- made the Sons more money than God. And you know, he now just sits at home in August and cannot even look, can't even hear it on his computer. Trust me, I'm not a computer geek. I can turn it on, turn it off. And after that, you're done. But it's a point where none of us are getting any younger and some people in this room have had some issues. And I'm not making it for some guy who says well, I don't want to spend the 500 bucks to drive to Houston, no. You've got to have a legitimate medical excuse. Mark Day, who was a year older than me, can't drive, he's Past Commander-in-Chief, because his wife basically has a problem and can't drive. So you know, he, we just wrote him off because he's old and sick? All I'm asking is is this resolution asks National to look at it. If National turns it down and says it's too expensive, fine. But we made our shot.

BROTHER DON MARTIN: The other point -- Don Martin, Camp Commander, Enderlin #73. What they do about the future -- if this is approved and goes to National, and National approves it, it's not going to happen for a while, okay, because if it goes to National, it's going to go to a Committee to look at the feasibility. What Past Commander Darby said, that's where we're asking for National to take a look at it. We're not trying to explain how it's going to happen. That's up to whatever Committee.

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: -- I need a new battery.

(Chatter.)

BROTHER DON MARTIN: All right. So that would just be up to --

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Hold on.

BROTHER DON MARTIN: So yeah, that would be up to whatever Committee the Commander assigns it to. That Committee

would then look at the feasibility and then it would come back through the process. So this would not happen overnight.

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: I make a motion (indiscernible - away from microphone).

(Chatter.)

BROTHER DON MARTIN: I'll second the motion, sir.

DEPARTMENT COMMANDER STEPHEN W. BALL: Vote on the floor. All in favor of the resolution, aye.

IN UNISON: Aye.

DEPARTMENT COMMANDER STEPHEN W. BALL: Any opposed?

(No response.)

DEPARTMENT COMMANDER STEPHEN W. BALL: Passes.

(Chatter.)

BROTHER JOHN HUFFMAN: Commander, could we take a two-minute break. During the break, I'll replace these batteries.

DEPARTMENT COMMANDER STEPHEN W. BALL: Okay. Pause for just a couple minutes while Brother Huffman attempts to repair the microphone.

(Chatter.)

DEPARTMENT COMMANDER STEPHEN W. BALL: Chaplain, please close the Bible.

(Three raps.)

(One rap.)

DEPARTMENT COMMANDER STEPHEN W. BALL: Three minutes.

(Break.)

(One rap.)

DEPARTMENT COMMANDER STEPHEN W. BALL: Okay. I believe we're still on new business, correct?

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Yes, sir.

DEPARTMENT COMMANDER STEPHEN W. BALL: Brother Darby, you have --

BROTHER DON DARBY: The National Proceedings was just,

I'm sorry, the C&R was just updated within the last two weeks and placed on the website. And for those of you who haven't looked at it, you should look at it, basically everybody in the room, you'll notice that the C&R currently has red wording in it, okay. Now, what that means is that these are the current changes that were just made based on the Encampment so that you can read those and update yourself. Next year, those red lettering will return black, and any new will come up, okay.

So the new red one is footnote 9 on page 27 of the C&R. It states, and this was a question that was brought up numerous times regarding whether Life Members are required to pay Camp and Department dues, and this is the answer.

Life Members are required to pay annual Department and Camp level dues. If the Life Member fails to pay the required dues, the Camp or Department can take disciplinary action against the Life Member, either dropping him with a general Discharge or suspending him until such time as the dues are paid. If the Camp paid the dues, as in prepaid the dues, in anticipation of reimbursement, that payment cannot be considered as prior indebtedness. This was by the 143rd National Encampment. It goes to discussion on page 496 to 499. So it got some voice time on it. The opinion was confirmed by Commander-in-Chief Hritsko. And some guy named Darby is the one who wrote it just --

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Oh --

BROTHER DON DARBY: -- just wanted to let you know. Now, I said all that to say this; we have a few Life Members in the Department of Ohio that were -- their Camp was, what's the word I want?

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Dissolved.

BROTHER DON DARBY: They have, to my knowledge, at least one of them is not anywhere on the records in the Ohio Department as having taken his transfer to another Camp, which he's required to do within one year for that transfer to be valid.

What I would request is that the incoming Department Commander with the Department Secretary send a letter, a registered, receipt returned, letter, to those Life Members who have not joined a Camp, and alerting them to the change in the C&R. And then, after a period of 30 days, if they have not done everything, then the Commander will be required to have a trial condition to decide the fate of the Brothers. So that's the motion. Is there a second?

BROTHER KEN FRESHLEY: I will second. Ken Freshley.

BROTHER DON DARBY: Discussion?

BROTHER JIM CRANE: Jim Crane, Past Department Commander. You guys turn this off on me again?

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: I was just doing it to throw you off.

BROTHER JIM CRANE: Well, bring five batteries in. Jim Crane, Past Department Commander. Just so everyone knows in this group right now that Richard Davis was the Department Commander. We had discussions about that. Certified letters were sent to the Commander, the Secretary, and I do believe they went to all the members of that Camp. So they had certified mail that went to everybody in that Camp about you need to find a new Camp because yours is dissolved. That's all.

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: What Camp was that?

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: #67.

BROTHER JIM CRANE: #67.

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Voris.

BROTHER JIM CRANE: Right.

DEPARTMENT SECRETARY JOHN EDELMANN: John Edelmann, Department Secretary. So is there a list? Is there an address of these people because I'm not sure who was they would be. How do I, as the Secretary, how would I know who these Life Members that aren't currently in a Camp?

BROTHER JIM CRANE: Are they still paying dues? Do we have any idea if they're paying their National dues?

DEPARTMENT SECRETARY JOHN EDELMANN: Yeah.

BROTHER DON DARBY: They don't pay National dues if they're a --

BROTHER JIM CRANE: Right.

BROTHER DON DARBY: The Life Membership Coordinator for National should have their addresses.

DEPARTMENT SECRETARY JOHN EDELMANN: So how would one go about ascertaining whether or not there are people that are not in a Camp on that list of -- you're right, we get one for Ohio that has all the Life Members. But how would we ascertain?

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: If they're not associated with the Camp.

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Their names aren't listed.

(Multiple speakers.)

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: I might have to get back with you on that.

BROTHER DON DARBY: You're going to find that they have -- that you bounce the Life Membership against the membership of the Department. You have the list of all the members of the Department, right?

DEPARTMENT SECRETARY JOHN EDELMANN: Right.

BROTHER DON DARBY: Okay. If the Life Member shows up in Life Member, and it doesn't show up in the Department or --

DEPARTMENT SECRETARY JOHN EDELMANN: Or a Camp.

BROTHER DON DARBY: -- the membership at large or the Camp, then he gets a letter.

DEPARTMENT SECRETARY JOHN EDELMANN: Okay. I don't remember seeing that happen this past year.

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: But did you receive any dues? We still get Department dues from them, correct?

DEPARTMENT SECRETARY JOHN EDELMANN: No. What I'm saying is that we have a list of Life Members, and of the Life Members that we have a list from National, or I'm sorry, from the Camps that that were reporting these.

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Right.

DEPARTMENT SECRETARY JOHN EDELMANN: So, okay, so it would be a comparison of the Life Members from (indiscernible) compared with the Life Members that are reported from all the Camps?

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Correct.

DEPARTMENT SECRETARY JOHN EDELMANN: Okay. I got it.

(Chatter.)

DEPARTMENT COMMANDER STEPHEN W. BALL: Okay. We need a vote on whether or not we are going to send a letter to this individual who is or individuals --

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: There's only one.

DEPARTMENT COMMANDER STEPHEN W. BALL: There's only

one, correct?

(Chatter.)

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: No. There's four or five.

DEPARTMENT COMMANDER STEPHEN W. BALL: Four or five Life Members that do not belong to Camps?

(Chatter.)

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Okay. Well, I was informed from Voris Camp that there was more than one Life Member, and it dissolved. I don't know who it was.

DEPARTMENT COMMANDER STEPHEN W. BALL: Does anybody know if there was more than one Life Member in Voris Camp when it was dissolved?

(No response.)

DEPARTMENT COMMANDER STEPHEN W. BALL: I take that as a no.

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: I don't know.

DEPARTMENT COMMANDER STEPHEN W. BALL: So there's one out there floating around.

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: That we know for sure.

DEPARTMENT COMMANDER STEPHEN W. BALL: Now, my question about that is Life Member still pays Camp dues and Department dues. Did this guy pay his Department dues this year?

BROTHER DON DARBY: No. He belongs to no Department.

DEPARTMENT COMMANDER STEPHEN W. BALL: He doesn't belong to a Camp. The Camp dissolved. So he would still belong to the Department of Ohio. So if he wanted to be a member of ours, he would have paid his membership dues to the Department.

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: That's right.

DEPARTMENT COMMANDER STEPHEN W. BALL: But he did or did not do that.

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Correct.

DEPARTMENT COMMANDER STEPHEN W. BALL: So if he didn't pay his dues, why would we even consider him a member?

BROTHER DON DARBY: Because he's a Life Member and we have to notify him there's something coming up.

DEPARTMENT COMMANDER STEPHEN W. BALL: Okay. So do we have his address? Do we even have his name and --

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Yes.

DEPARTMENT COMMANDER STEPHEN W. BALL: -- all that information?

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Oh, yeah.

DEPARTMENT COMMANDER STEPHEN W. BALL: Okay. Let's vote then. Let's send this individual a letter. Everybody in favor say aye.

IN UNISON: Aye.

DEPARTMENT COMMANDER STEPHEN W. BALL: Any opposed?

(No response.)

DEPARTMENT COMMANDER STEPHEN W. BALL: Passes. So would you please send him a letter if you're still --

(Chatter.)

BROTHER DON DARBY: That's his job. We've just voted to have him do what I just said.

(Chatter.)

BROTHER DON DARBY: One other thing that we need to do, and this is going to fall on two people. One is Jim Crane and the other one, well, actually, three people. It will be Jim Crane and the new incoming Department Commander and the Department Secretary in that Jim has submitted his resume and letter of intent to run for the National Secretary in the upcoming Encampment. So he needs to provide the Commander and the Secretary with our blessings, and we support his election as the National Secretary for the Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War.

BROTHER KEN FRESHLEY: Commander, I also will second that. And is that a resolution we're going to send to National, a resolution of the --

BROTHER DON DARBY: Well, yeah, it will be a resolution supporting him, yes, sir.

BROTHER KEN FRESHLEY: Thank you.

BROTHER DON DARBY: So you'd have to write that up, Jim. You got a motion and a second. Any discussion? You guys can deal with Jim Crane if you're going to say he can't have it, so.

(Laughter.)

BROTHER DON DARBY: You can go ahead and discuss it. I'm taking bets on him by the way. Okay. There you go. Ask for a vote.

DEPARTMENT COMMANDER STEPHEN W. BALL: All right. Everybody in favor of Jim Crane becoming National Secretary, please say aye.

IN UNISON: Aye.

DEPARTMENT COMMANDER STEPHEN W. BALL: Any opposed? Get ready.

(No response.)

DEPARTMENT COMMANDER STEPHEN W. BALL: Okay. That passes.

(One rap.)

Any other new business?

BROTHER DON DARBY: Have you got enough time, the budget report. Have you got enough time to do it?

DEPARTMENT COMMANDER STEPHEN W. BALL: Let's move on to the budget report. You can do that in a half-hour, can't you? If nobody asks any questions, we can do it in a half-hour. Go ahead.

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: What page?

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: It's on 22.

(Chatter.)

DEPARTMENT TREASURER TOM EDELMANN: This is Tom Edelmann, Treasurer. We're going to go to the accounts first, page 21.

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Page 21.

DEPARTMENT TREASURER TOM EDELMANN: All right. Go a little bit to the top. All right. So how this is broken up on this first page of the report is a statement by -- the accounts from Wright-Patt Credit Union. So this box is all just Wright-

Patt Credit Union. The lower box will be for our checking account just for Chase. So we have a account number zeros are the savings. We have one, two, three, four CDs. We have two money market accounts, and the total is \$26,828.64. The funds broken out will all -- all that adds up in a different way.

Okay, going down to the Chase bank account. So this has got a savings and a checking. We are required to have \$1,000 in the savings account for the Chase management system. We have a checking account balance of 6,000, and our total is \$7,234.10.

So our total assets are \$34,062.74 which is an increase over \$30,783.68 in 2024. All right.

And then, looking at the funds at the bottom, assets in a fund point of view perspective, we have a Permanent Fund, Monuments and Memorials Fund, and a General Fund. So all the accounts; Wright-Patt, Chase are broken up into these funds in this manner and the balances of each are here. And the total of the funds, so we have \$11,414.83 in the Permanent Fund; \$3,609.43 in the Monuments and Memorials Fund; the General Fund basically has the remaining assets that we have of \$19,038.48. So our total, again, is the same \$34,062.74.

So the summary information is that we have quarterly audits performed by the Department Council and the three Officers during the year. We had a growth of about \$3,279.06. And again, the Permanent Fund is a fixed account unless donations are specifically added to that account. Any questions on the report?

BROTHER MIKE SPAULDING: I'm Mike Spaulding, Past Department Commander. My question to you, Brother Edelmann, is if we have to keep the \$1,000 in the savings account, is it really available to the Monuments and Memorials Fund?

(Chatter.)

DEPARTMENT TREASURER TOM EDELMANN: This is good about right here. That would be a great breakout point, yes. I mean, in that way, it's not available for that fund.

BROTHER MIKE SPAULDING: So the actual balance of that fund is \$2,609.43?

DEPARTMENT TREASURER TOM EDELMANN: I think it's a difference -- it's a problem in definition. We have said that the money in the savings account goes to that Fund. Whether or not it's there available is another technicality. I mean, if we needed to use it, we would lose that account, but it is there.

BROTHER MIKE SPAULDING: So if we wanted to spend \$500 today, if we had voted to spend \$3,000 today, then we would have to dip into that and where would we restore that so it's back to the \$1,000?

DEPARTMENT TREASURE TOM EDELMANN: Well, there's two answers to that question. The first is we would probably vote on that and see that -- I should have said but we don't have that money in there during that discussion of that kind of an expenditure, first of all. Secondly, we would have to work with the Council to see if we could get some more funds for that if the Monuments and Memorials Committee agreed to that.

BROTHER MIKE SPAULDING: Okay. I'm just troubled by saying we have that much money available when we actually don't.

(Chatter.)

BROTHER DON DARBY: Well, it is available. It's just if you take the \$1,000 out, or you take \$600 out of that 1,000, then you start paying maintenance fees. With the \$1,000, we incur no maintenance fees. That's what it says. So the only thing that happens if you use that \$1,000 because you start any -- you either zero it out or you take 600. If you take 600, that leaves four, and then that means you start paying maintenance fees. So the money is there and available, it's just do we want to pay a maintenance fee or not.

BROTHER MIKE SPAULDING: I agree it's a technicality. I just think it should be maybe noted it's not as available as it looks on this report.

DEPARTMENT TREASURER TOM EDELMANN: Yeah. It says it's not available in one chart, but not in the second one, agreed, on here. All right. Let me get to the, okay, any other questions on the report?

Going on to the budget, the budget has already been approved by the Council. So this will just be a review. At the close of '24, we had an income expended proposed -- you can go ahead and increase it so we can look at the income first. Yeah. So our proposed income was 18,950. The actual was a little below that at \$16,868. Our proposed for next year is just a little bit higher at 17,950 based on more dues and our Encampment income for today's event.

Okay. Moving on up for the expenses, the type of expenses that we have shown here, I'm too close to the speaker, have not changed except for a few additions. We have added domain hosting. The Encampment fees are relatively the same. And our office equipment, we did have an expenditure of 560. That was for the scanner. That is used for the documentations

of the Department. We also have the fund here for the sword. So we will be proposing to provide that for this year. And anything else is basically what we normally look at here. Total expenses were expected to be 17,240. They were about \$15,944.36. And we're expecting to have \$18,215.00 proposed for 2025 here, with a deficit of about \$265. Discussion?

BROTHER JIM CRANE: Jim Crane, Past Department Commander. The only thing I would question after my years of experience is that bereavements is \$500, and I can't remember getting really more than 100 or 150. I don't know why we have all that in there, but I, you know, I would offer maybe we could make a change to that. So also, I think there were some late bills that came in. So do you want to make any adjustments to this, John, Tom? No. Okay. All right. That's all.

(Chatter.)

DEPARTMENT TREASURER TOM EDELMANN: Yeah. Actually, I think the Department was rather fortunate this past year. The reason for that increase over 2023 to 2024 was due to the number of Department Commanders that did pass away in 2023 to 2024.

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Exactly.

DEPARTMENT TREASURER TOM EDELMANN: So I'd rather we leave that there at 500 because we don't know what the future going to be holding. But we did well exceed the amount that was in there of \$100 from 2023. So that's the only reason why that's at 500.

BROTHER DON DARBY: There's two other things you need to, and this is just for clarification, you see that it says Cadot-Blessing Camp under the first one under expenses, or give that -- we used to -- that's for Buffington Island, and we used to have that as the whatever the --

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Community --

BROTHER DON DARBY: -- the place was that we were --

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Community, some kind of community program.

BROTHER DON DARBY: Yeah, it was some community thing, and they're not 501(c)(3) so we moved it to Cadot-Blessing to cover that. And the same thing applies to the Townsend Camp. So those were the two changes, and it's basically just cosmetic, but if you were wondering about it, that's why it's there.

DEPARTMENT TREASURER TOM EDELMANN: Yes, sir.

BROTHER MIKE SPAULDING: So Mike Spaulding, Past

Department Commander. This is a question to the Treasurer. We're showing zero in memory (indiscernible) expenditures. Did we not send anything for Past Department Commander Jim Houston?

DEPARTMENT TREASURER TOM EDELMANN: I believe the contributions on behalf of the Department were all private donations this past year. That was requested -- that was requested that they just take care of it.

BROTHER MIKE SPAULDING: Okay. I thought we were going to send something to the local Boy Scout Council.

DEPARTMENT TREASURE TOM EDELMANN: Not that I recall, or I do recall the discussion, but I think it was still handled. I don't know.

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: I remember the discussion, but I got told it was going to be handled privately.

DEPARTMENT TREASURER TOM EDELMANN: Right.

BROTHER MIKE SPAULDING: Okay. We have a line --

DEPARTMENT TREASURER TOM EDELMANN: Right. It was handled privately, so that took it off of the table.

BROTHER BRAD TILTON: Brad Tilton, Past Department Commander, Camp #12. On the Treasurer's Report, we increased our assets by \$3,200. But when we go to the actual 2024 budget, we only gained \$923. I'm wondering how we explain that.

DEPARTMENT TREASURER TOM EDELMANN: Okay. The reason those numbers aren't the same is that the report is, I didn't say this, this as of May 31, 2025. It's not an accumulation. But your number, the number that I have is where? \$3,279, the growth of assets. So why doesn't it show up in the actual year of '24?

BROTHER BRAD TILTON: Yeah, that's what I'm --

DEPARTMENT TREASURER TOM EDELMANN: Well, this -- well, let's see. Okay. So what it is is that my number here is wrong. The report of the assets is not really -- what is this number, 30,000? Was that from the report last year? I can't remember. So this doesn't have to do with the budget year. I will have to investigate that before I answer right now.

BROTHER BRAD TILTON: Okay, yeah. I thought they should be pretty close to the same amount.

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: It's also because there's some checks that may not be cashed yet. And so the report on May 31st shows exactly what he wrote maybe, but it wasn't

necessarily cashed out of the account yet. So the budget is going to say this is what we're expecting to get in and to send to National. But if the check hasn't been cashed at National yet, it wouldn't necessarily have been taken out of the account. So he's not reflecting the fact that it's -- now, just what I'm trying to say is the amount on the report in the front isn't intended to be perfectly in sync with the actual amount shown on the budget.

BROTHER BRAD TILTON: I get that, but I thought it might be a little closer. Okay.

BROTHER GRANT BATES: Grant Bates, Sherman Camp. Real quick, the CinC sword expenditure, please.

BROTHER KEN FRESHLEY: I'll explain this. Commander-in-Chief, Ken Freshley. Basically, we've kind of in the past years have given the outgoing Commander-in-Chief a sword.

BROTHER DON DARBY: If he is from Ohio.

BROTHER KEN FRESHLEY: From Ohio, yes, from Ohio. What usually has happened in the past is Brother Tim Graham used to -- he has connections to connections to connections when it came to swords. I can see his house. He could fill this room. I mean, that's how much he has. So he had connections to get these refurbished. There's not a whole lot of refurbishing companies out there anymore. I'm talking with a gentleman, he's on the East Coast. We're trying to work out the details. So it's in my lap right now. It's actually locked in my safe. So that's what this is. And I will continue. That amount is how much the Department said that they would donate towards the gift, that the James A. Garfield Camp did the rest. So that's what's going on. And again, it's in my lap. So sorry about that.

BROTHER JIM CRANE: I make a motion that we accept the Treasurer's Report and the budget that's been in the packet that we just received. And I would also say that you've gotten some bills since May 31st, right, so that's probably some of the difference that Brad Tilton was bringing up. So I make that motion.

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Second.

BROTHER DON DARBY: Hold it.

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: It's already approved.

BROTHER DON DARBY: Hold it.

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Somebody get the microphone

down here.

BROTHER DON DARBY: Okay. We do not want to approve the budget. The Encampment doesn't. The Council has approved the budget. If you guys approve the budget, nothing can be changed. So if something goes to crap and we have to move money, we can't. Okay. The Council cannot overrule the Encampment. So you can accept the Treasurer's Report and just note that the budget has been approved by the Council. Okay. So let's don't all tie ourselves.

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: So on page 10 of 49, we are going to skip -- do we have a motion to approve the financial report?

BROTHER DON DARBY: We're going to approve the financial report, the Treasurer's Report, but we are not going to approve the budget.

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: All right. That's what I said, approve the financial report.

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: The motion says we'll approve the budget.

BROTHER DON DARBY: The financial reports.

BROTHER KEN FRESHLEY: So you amended it, it's just the financial report and not the budget.

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Correct.

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: So we're voting on --

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: So those are blank checks, right, for the -- never mind.

BROTHER DON DARBY: So I've made a motion to amend it. You have to vote on that first -- and then, we vote to approve the financial report.

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: I'm looking at page 10. It says Treasurer Report, presents reports and leads discussion. And the next is do we have a motion to approve the financial report, that's fine, okay. The next one is do we have a motion to approve the budget.

BROTHER DON DARBY: We are not --

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: And you're saying we are not doing that?

BROTHER DON DARBY: No, we are not. But first, we're

going to vote on my amendment to Crane's motion.

BROTHER MIKE SPAULDING: Mike Spaulding. I second the motion.

DEPARTMENT COMMANDER STEPHEN W. BALL: Okay. Let's vote on the motion.

BROTHER DON DARBY: No. You're going to vote on the amendment.

DEPARTMENT COMMANDER STEPHEN W. BALL: Vote on the amendment.

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Vote on the amendment. Vote on the amendment.

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Restate the amendment, please.

BROTHER DON DARBY: The amendment is that the Encampment will vote to accept the financial report or the Treasurer's Report and just note that it realizes that the Council has approved the budget.

DEPARTMENT COMMANDER STEPHEN W. BALL: Okay. All in favor of the amendment, say aye.

IN UNISON: Aye.

DEPARTMENT COMMANDER STEPHEN W. BALL: Any opposed?

(No response.)

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Now the real motion.

DEPARTMENT COMMANDER STEPHEN W. BALL: Is that a no? Okay.

(One rap.)

Okay. The amendment's passed.

DEPARTMENT COMMANDER STEPHEN W. BALL: Now we're going to bless the financial report. Do I have a motion to approve the financial report? Brother Davis. Second? Brother Huffman. All in favor of approving the financial report, say aye.

IN UNISON: Aye.

DEPARTMENT COMMANDER STEPHEN W. BALL: Any opposed?

(No response.)

DEPARTMENT COMMANDER STEPHEN W. BALL: The financial report passes. It is now time for lunch. We've got about ten minutes before the actual lunch hour, so let's just take a break until then. If somebody, if John, will you please let them know that we're ready for lunch, they can start serving.

(Chatter.)

DEPARTMENT COMMANDER STEPHEN W. BALL: Okay, very good. Brother Huffman's got it covered.

Chaplain, would you please close the Bible.

(Three raps.)

(Break.)

DEPARTMENT COMMANDER STEPHEN W. BALL: Yes, Brother Spaulding.

BROTHER MIKE SPAULDING: Commander, I would --

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Why don't we just leave that on.

BROTHER MIKE SPAULDING: Mike Spaulding, Past Department Commander. Before we move on, right before lunch, we had a vote on a motion concerning the financial report. And as I heard it being read into the record, I believe it was worded as the Encampment was approving the financial record and by Brother Darby's amendment, we were supposed to be voting on accepting the financial reports. I realize it doesn't sound like a big deal, but I would like it to be read into the record as it was amended so that when it's transcribed by our transcribers that it's recorded as it was actually meant to be approved. Thank you.

DEPARTMENT COMMANDER STEPHEN W. BALL: Thank you.

BROTHER DON DARBY: I'll second his motion.

DEPARTMENT COMMANDER STEPHEN W. BALL: So we all want to vote on that, and say aye.

IN UNISON: Aye.

DEPARTMENT COMMANDER STEPHEN W. BALL: Anybody opposed?

(No response.)

(One rap.)

DEPARTMENT COMMANDER STEPHEN W. BALL: Let's move on. On our form 35, the Department Annual Report, we record 363 members of the Department excluding Juniors and Dual Members. This means we are entitled to 15 National Delegates plus our automatic Delegates. I would like to turn this over to Brother Edelmann to explain the difference between automatic Delegates and National Delegates at this time.

DEPARTMENT SECRETARY JOHN EDELMANN: Yes. So if you could, as it states, please raise your hand if you are planning on going to the National Encampment, but only if you are not a Past Department Commander so that you would require to be a Delegate. If you are an automatic Delegate, don't raise your hand right now. So please raise your hand if you are planning on going as a Delegate.

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: So you're not a Past Department Commander.

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: No, I'm not.

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: But as a Department --

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: He will be. You will be a Department Commander, so we won't count you. So is there anyone in the room that is attending Houston that is not already an automatic Delegate that would be entitled anyway? It doesn't look like it. So your nephew is one, right?

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: (Indiscernible - away from microphone)

DEPARTMENT SECRETARY JOHN EDELMANN: Okay. So yes, so we have one, but he's not here, okay. I'll turn it back over to you.

DEPARTMENT COMMANDER STEPHEN W. BALL: Thank you, sir. Please see our Department Secretary immediately after the closing to request your Delegate card.

We will now discuss items for the Good of the Order.

BROTHER DON DARBY: No, we won't.

DEPARTMENT COMMANDER STEPHEN W. BALL: No, we won't?

BROTHER DON DARBY: Point of order. Commander, you need to take a vote for the Encampment to approve those Delegates and all other members as Alternates. You have to do that. You have to ask it. You have to take a vote.

DEPARTMENT COMMANDER STEPHEN W. BALL: Okay. Let's take a vote on our Delegates. Are we all approving?

IN UNISON: Aye.

DEPARTMENT COMMANDER STEPHEN W. BALL: Anybody
opposed?

(No response.)

(One rap.)

BROTHER DON DARBY: Now, you have the wording that all
other members of the Department will be voted on to be
Alternates to the Encampment. That's a motion.

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: I second.

DEPARTMENT COMMANDER STEPHEN W. BALL: Okay. Does
everybody understand that? These will be Alternates to the
Encampment, correct? Okay. Everybody in favor, say aye.

IN UNISON: Aye.

DEPARTMENT COMMANDER STEPHEN W. BALL: Anybody
opposed?

(No response.)

(One rap.)

DEPARTMENT COMMANDER STEPHEN W. BALL: Now, are we
done with our form 35?

BROTHER DON DARBY: Yes, you're done.

DEPARTMENT COMMANDER STEPHEN W. BALL: Okay. Very
good. We will now discuss items for the Good of the Order. I
remind Brothers that we are on a time limit, so please keep your
comments brief. Does anybody want to discuss anything for the
Good of the Order? Brother Crane?

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: It's on.

BROTHER JIM CRANE: At the National last year, Pete
Hritsko was Commander-in-Chief, and there were some National
Orders that were passed out. So if -- I'll announce your names.
Kent Dorr received an MSA or his Graves Registration. Kent,
where are you at? Stand up. Stay there. Don't sit down yet.

John Huffman, you knew you were coming up next, right?
So stand up. You got an MSA.

The Department received the National Marshall Hope
award for the best Department newsletter in the Order. You get
to stand up, Past Commander-in-Chief Martin.

If there's anybody that I missed, please let us know, but the ones that are here and that I know of that got -- did you get one?

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: I had enough guys, but nobody turned it in.

BROTHER JIM CRANE: So that's it. I just wanted to recognize these gentlemen.

(Applause.)

DEPARTMENT COMMANDER STEPHEN W. BALL: Does anybody else have anything for the Good of the Order before we move on to the nominations for candidates?

(No response.)

DEPARTMENT COMMANDER STEPHEN W. BALL: Okay. I'm going to take just a few minutes. The Department would like to recognize a few of the Brothers that have done things in the past year that have come to everyone's attention.

Do we have anybody here from the McKinley Camp? Please come up. This a Certificate of Commendation for Andy Rogers. If you know Andy, he is the guy that pretty well heads up the Cannon Committee, the Sherman cannon for the McKinley Camp. He does an outstanding job of hauling that thing all over the state, making the schedule for it, contacting different events. If you would pass that along to Brother Rogers. Thank you.

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: You want them to stay up front, Commander?

DEPARTMENT COMMANDER STEPHEN W. BALL: Yes.

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: You want them all to --

DEPARTMENT COMMANDER STEPHEN W. BALL: Yes. You want to stay up front, please.

(Applause.)

DEPARTMENT COMMANDER STEPHEN W. BALL: I have one for Jim Allen, who is the Commander of the Dennison Camp. Jim has done an outstanding job of working with the Delaware Historical Society and promoting the Order. I know he has worked very hard. He set up at a lot of different events over the years. I don't know how successful he's been as far as recruiting goes, but he has done an absolute incredible job of staying busy in that particular category for the Order, and we'd like to recognize him.

(Applause.)

DEPARTMENT COMMANDER STEPHEN W. BALL: Jim, I think you can probably turn around and come back since the next guy isn't here. This next one is for Jim Rulli (phonetic) of the Dennison Camp. Jim has personally taken care of the private cemetery that has three Civil War veterans buried in it, two of them in unmarked graves. He has taken his time, his money, his equipment down there to cut down small trees, cut down bushes, weed whack, kill weeds, and then keep those stones cleaned off. He has done that for the last eight and a half years. So I'd like to give this to Jim Rulli of the Dennison Camp. You can give that to him.

(Applause.)

DEPARTMENT COMMANDER STEPHEN W. BALL: The next one is for Kelly Hopkins. Kelly, of course, just retired from the County down at Clinton County. He has done an outstanding job of working with the Camp down there, with the Historical Society, and setting up at different events. Just, again, an incredible job. He has stayed very, very busy with that, and we want to recognize that.

DEPARTMENT JUNIOR VICE COMMANDER KELLY HOPKINS: Thank you.

(Applause.)

DEPARTMENT COMMANDER STEPHEN W. BALL: This next one is for Don Martin and his absolutely outstanding job with our Bugle. And anybody that can get me on a horse deserves --

(Laughter.)

DEPARTMENT COMMANDER STEPHEN W. BALL: Dad always said never get on anything bigger than you that can think. You did an outstanding job --

(Applause.)

DEPARTMENT COMMANDER STEPHEN W. BALL: Next, and again, this gentleman is not here. I'll probably see him next month. Jim Oiler of the Cadot-Blessing Camp and his incredible work with the Buffington Island operation over the years. Jim has just, again, done an outstanding job. He also deserves an award for the longest living Department or Camp Commander in the Department of Ohio. I think Jim's been the Commander down there now for 23 straight years. I think he was also instrumental in starting that Camp. So I hope to see him next month at the Buffington Island ceremony, and I will pass that on to him at that time.

(Applause.)

DEPARTMENT COMMANDER STEPHEN W. BALL: Next, I'd like to give this one to Kent Dorr of the McLaughlin Camp for all of his work in the graves registration part of the Department, and also for his work at the table there every year at the Encampment. You're allowed to walk up front here. Thank you, Brother.

BROTHER KENT DORR: Thank you.

(Applause.)

DEPARTMENT COMMANDER STEPHEN W. BALL: Next, Brad Tilton of the McLaughlin Camp. I'd like to recognize you, Brad, for all of your extra work for the Department over the years, manning the table up here. Very active in recruiting and setting up at different events, and he has done an outstanding job, a true asset to the Department.

(Applause.)

DEPARTMENT COMMANDER STEPHEN W. BALL: Last, but not least, and just one of my favorite people to work with and I've worked with him quit a bit and this is Carl Denbow. And Carl, I'd like for you to just take a minute, stand at that microphone and tell everybody where we're at with the Frost GAR Hall project down in Athens County. Carl has probably had me come to more ceremonies to rededicate monuments, headstones, plaques, whatever the case may be, and just does an outstanding job of putting all those ceremonies together. And I want to thank you for all of that. But if you would, just say a few words. You've got three minutes to talk about the Frost GAR Hall.

BROTHER CARL DENBOW: Okay. Well, the current status on it, we have a little bit of good news. It looks like we are going to be able to get the foundation work done. We've pared down the estimate for the foundation so we can get it under the \$50,000 that the State has approved for capital improvement funds for it. So that should be, barring any unforeseen circumstances, under construction this fall. We still need a lot more money to get it back to where it used to be in 1893 when it was first dedicated. And Steve and I are working with some legislators to see if we can get it funded better. One particular, this mic keeps going in and out, one particular aspect that we may be able to do is to get it classified as a war memorial and there's existing state law that indicates that all war memorials must be maintained by the local county commissioners. So there's several different ways we're looking at perhaps raising the extra money which actually to get it back to what it was like in 1892, it's about half a million dollars. So we had a lot of work to do. But getting the foundation done

is really a prerequisite for anything else. And so that's kind of where we're at.

DEPARTMENT COMMANDER STEPHEN W. BALL: Thank you, Carl. Carl, oh.

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Come on up.

(Applause.)

(Chatter.)

(Pause.)

DEPARTMENT COMMANDER STEPHEN W. BALL: All right. We are about to move on to elections. I would just like to take the time to thank all of you for your support over the past year. I was very very proud to serve as your Department Commander, and I have felt my way through this meeting today. You only get to do this once, you know. You're not real comfortable with it or somehow seasoned to it. It appears to be sloppier than I really think it was. But anyway, I want to thank all of you. I want to thank all of the staff of the Department of Ohio. I had an absolute dream team when it comes down to the support that I received from Don Martin, Don Darby, John Huffman. Personally, it was a rather rough year, and back in January when I was a bit under the weather, John Huffman took the time to drive me all over the state, and he drove all the way from Waverly to Grove City to pick me up and then we would head to points unknown from there. And I want to personally thank him very much for that offer and what he did for me back in January. But I want to thank all of you. It's been a very proud year for me. Like I said last year, I have 12 ancestors that served in the Union Army, and I'm very proud of all of their service. And I'd like to think that they are looking down on me and the entire Encampment today, and they are all very proud of all of us. So thank you. With that --

(Applause.)

DEPARTMENT COMMANDER STEPHEN W. BALL: -- we will now move into our elections. Thank you.

(Applause.)

DEPARTMENT COMMANDER STEPHEN W. BALL: Okay. Credentials Committee, please provide a final report.

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Want the microphone?

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: I'm getting a little older.

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Well, allow me to turn it on

for you.

DEPARTMENT CREDITIALS COMMITTEE MEMBER: If anything, we've all learned how the audiovisual works today.

(Chatter.)

DEPARTMENT CREDITIALS COMMITTEE MEMBER: Commander, we have 40 people present right now. Two missing.

DEPARTMENT COMMANDER STEPHEN W. BALL: Two missing. Do they intend to return?

DEPARTMENT CREDITIALS COMMITTEE MEMBER: Yes, sir. They went to lunch.

DEPARTMENT COMMANDER STEPHEN W. BALL: They went to lunch, but they haven't come back from lunch?

DEPARTMENT CREDITIALS COMMITTEE MEMBER: And I told they had until, like, 1300 or 1 o'clock.

DEPARTMENT COMMANDER STEPHEN W. BALL: I understand that. Okay. At this time, we will take nominations of candidates for the Department office one year 2025-2026. First, is there a motion that if only one nominee for any office that the Secretary should record a single vote in favor of that candidate and the Brother then will be duly elected?

BROTHER BRAD DAVIS: I make a motion.

BROTHER MIKE SPAULDING: I second it.

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Brad Davis and Mike seconded it, Spaulding.

DEPARTMENT COMMANDER STEPHEN W. BALL: All those in favor, say aye.

IN UNISON: Aye.

DEPARTMENT COMMANDER STEPHEN W. BALL: All those opposed, say nay.

(No response.)

(One rap.)

DEPARTMENT COMMANDER STEPHEN W. BALL: Motion's approved.

We will begin with the Office of Department Commander. Are there any nominations for the Office of Department

Commander?

BROTHER TOM MCBRAYER: Tom McBrayer, Chaplain at Jacob Parrott Camp #33, and I'd like to nominate Dave Rish for Department Commander. You are all familiar with David. Page 45 lists some of his accomplishments. But there was a rumor going around at our last Camp meeting that he was wanting to be here today, that he gave up his seat on the reviewing stand in the parade in D.C. to make sure that he was here.

(Laughter.)

DEPARTMENT COMMANDER STEPHEN W. BALL: Are there any nominations for the office of Department Commander? Are there any nominations for the office of Department Commander? That is the third time, so.

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: One more time.

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: One more.

DEPARTMENT COMMANDER STEPHEN W. BALL: One more? Are there any nominations for the office of Department Commander?

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: You have to ask him if he wants to serve.

DEPARTMENT COMMANDER STEPHEN W. BALL: To each nominee: Brother, you have been nominated for the office of Department Commander. What other offices in the order do you currently hold?

BROTHER DAVID RISH: None, Commander.

DEPARTMENT COMMANDER STEPHEN W. BALL: If elected, are you willing to serve?

BROTHER DAVID RISH: Yes, Commander.

DEPARTMENT COMMANDER STEPHEN W. BALL: We will now take nominations for Senior Vice Commander. We will now take nominations for Senior Vice Commander. We will now take nominations for Senior Vice Commander.

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Please hit the gavel.

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Hit the gavel.

BROTHER JAMES CRANE: Either one. You can use your guitar or whatever. I wish to nominate Kelly Hopkins for the position of Department Vice Commander for the Department of Ohio. Kelly has previously served as Henry Casey Camp #92 Junior Vice Commander, Senior Vice Commander. He is currently

in his second year as Camp Commander of that Camp. He has also served as Secretary for the Department of Ohio.

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: What did you do to that thing?

BROTHER JAMES CRANE: Kelly Hopkins was born and raised in Clinton County, is a graduate of Wilmington High School. And after leaving the U.S. Army, Kelly met his wife of 29 years, Tracy. He has worked for the Wilmington Police Department as a patrol officer and in 1999, he received the honor of Law Enforcement Officer of the Year and a Law Enforcement Excellence Award from the Ohio Department of Public Safety. He's also been a canine patrol officer. He received several certificates, awards, and accreditations. He has also worked as a probation officer with Clinton County Common Pleas. He recently retired from public service after 33 years as the Chief Bailiff, Court Administrator for Clinton County. Kelly has been involved with many organizations: Clinton County Leadership Institute, American Legion Post 49, Voyageurs Militaire Local 992 of the Forty and Eight Seventh Infantry Division Association, Sons of Union Veterans, and a Life Member of the VFW Post 6710 and Military Order of the Loyal Legion. A little bit more. He meets the eligibility requirements. And I have a few things to add to this. This man has scanned thousands of documents for us, correct?

DEPARTMENT JUNIOR VICE CHAIRMAN KELLY HOPKINS: Close.

BROTHER JAMES CRANE: Close. And I worked with him, and he took my place as Department Secretary. In fact, I think I was doing both jobs at the time. But I can tell you, he's committed. He knows what he's doing. He's done a lot of work and it's nice to hear different opinions and to see what he's thinking about the future. And I would really encourage everybody here to vote for Kelly. He's a good man. He's going to make a difference in the Department, and I'm sure if he ever decides to go National, he'll do the same thing. Kelly.

DEPARTMENT COMMANDER STEPHEN W. BALL: Thank you, Brother Crane. Brother, you have been nominated for the office of Senior Vice Commander. What other offices of the Order do you currently hold?

DEPARTMENT JUNIOR VICE COMMANDER KELLY HOPKINS: Commander, I'm the Commander of Camp #92, Henry Casey Camp.

DEPARTMENT COMMANDER STEPHEN W. BALL: If elected, are you willing to serve?

DEPARTMENT JUNIOR VICE COMMANDER KELLY HOPKINS: Yes, I am.

DEPARTMENT COMMANDER STEPHEN W. BALL: Thank you. We will now take nominations for Junior Vice Commander. We will now take nominations for Junior Vice Commander. We will now take nominations for Junior Vice Commander.

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: I wish to nominate John Edelmann who's the current Department Secretary. I'd like to nominate him to serve as the Junior Vice Commander of the Department of Ohio. We've had a lot of changes in the past couple years, and really, you know, both of you, Tom, John, you guys have done a great job. I know you're running, but Tom, you're just as -- I'll tell you what, you guys have done a fantastic job, and I know that Kelly has been working with you guys. So you three gentlemen, the Three Musketeers, you guys have done a great job. He was elected to Secretary for a three-year term. He's actually in his second year of that term. He's held numerous positions in both religious and civic concerns. He's been a Director of Music for three parishes. I won't read them all, but he has been during a nearly 25-year span, and I've held the office of Chair for most of that time. I'm also a current employee of the Defense Logistics Agency based at Wright-Patt Air Force Base. As it relates to the Civil War, his family, he is qualified to run for this position, Commander. And I can tell you that it's been a pleasure working with both of those gentlemen and Tom, and you guys have done a great job.

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: I agree.

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: I really appreciate it.

(One rap.)

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: That's all, sir.

DEPARTMENT COMMANDER STEPHEN W. BALL: Brother, you have been nominated for the office of Junior Vice Commander. What other offices of the Order do you currently hold?

DEPARTMENT SECRETARY JOHN EDELMANN: I'm the Camp Commander for the Sherman Camp. I'm the Secretary of Sherman Camp, and the Secretary for the Department of Ohio.

DEPARTMENT COMMANDER STEPHEN W. BALL: If elected, are you willing to serve?

DEPARTMENT SECRETARY JOHN EDELMANN: I am.

DEPARTMENT COMMANDER STEPHEN W. BALL: We will now take nominations for Department Treasurer. We will now take nominations for Department Treasurer. We will now take nominations for Department Treasurer.

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: It's a three-year term.

(Chatter.)

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: It's not over yet.

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: He's still serving.

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Yep, it was a three-year term.

DEPARTMENT COMMANDER STEPHEN W. BALL: Oh, okay. It's in the book. I read it.

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Right.

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: True.

DEPARTMENT COMMANDER STEPHEN W. BALL: Here's the directions. I'm reading the directions. You know, if you read the directions, you get education. If you don't read the directions, you get experience. How about Department Secretary. Do we need one of those?

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: No.

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: No.

DEPARTMENT COMMANDER STEPHEN W. BALL: Is that a three-year term?

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Yep.

DEPARTMENT COMMANDER STEPHEN W. BALL: So I can skip that as well.

The one-year term for Department Council next year will be filled by --

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Hold on.

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Commander, as our tradition is, as the outgoing Department Commander leaves, would normally step right into the Council position. So I would nominate Steve Ball for the Council position being vacated by R.A. Davis.

BROTHER DON DARBY: I second it.

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Second.

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Thank you.

DEPARTMENT COMMANDER STEPHEN W. BALL: Thanks.

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Will you accept?

DEPARTMENT COMMANDER STEPHEN W. BALL: Okay. Two-year term for Department Council will be filled by --

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: You.

DEPARTMENT COMMANDER STEPHEN W. BALL: So that's already taken care of.

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Yeah.

DEPARTMENT COMMANDER STEPHEN W. BALL: All right. Are there any -- we don't need any nominations for Department Council. That is filled now.

(Chatter.)

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Got to vote for you.

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: -- that motion and a second.

DEPARTMENT COMMANDER STEPHEN W. BALL: A motion's been made for my position. Everybody in favor, say aye.

IN UNISON: Aye.

DEPARTMENT COMMANDER STEPHEN W. BALL: Anybody opposed?

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Aye.

(Laughter.)

(One rap.)

DEPARTMENT COMMANDER STEPHEN W. BALL: That passed.

DEPARTMENT COMMANDER STEPHEN W. BALL: Okay.
Commander-elect --

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Are the elections complete with that?

BROTHER DON DARBY: You haven't voted yet. Don't you have to vote.

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: What, cast one vote.

BROTHER DON DARBY: You've got to cast one vote for --

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: -- one vote for all the people.

BROTHER DON DARBY: -- all three.

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Well, that's just assumed --

BROTHER DON DARBY: Well, you know what that does.

(Chatter.)

DEPARTMENT COMMANDER STEPHEN W. BALL: Just have a motion to accept all candidates.

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: So moved.

DEPARTMENT COMMANDER STEPHEN W. BALL: Okay. Second.

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Second.

DEPARTMENT COMMANDER STEPHEN W. BALL: Okay. Very good. Approval of all candidates, aye or nay?

IN UNISON: Aye.

DEPARTMENT COMMANDER STEPHEN W. BALL: Any nays?

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: I thought not.

DEPARTMENT COMMANDER STEPHEN W. BALL: Commander-elect, have you decided who you want as the installing officer?

DEPARTMENT COMMANDER-ELECT DAVID RISH: I have, Commander. I would like to have Past Commander-in-Chief Don Darby or Don Darby, I don't want him, Don Martin.

(Laughter.)

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Pick one. We got --

DEPARTMENT COMMANDER-ELECT DAVID RISH: No, Don Martin. I want Don Martin. I don't want Don Darby.

(Laughter.)

BROTHER DON DARBY: Okay. We're going to decide about mental capacity --

(Laughter.)

(Chatter.)

INSTALLING OFFICER DON MARTIN: When you were in here, I didn't think there was a competency test. Two can play that game. Let me get my book out. I'm sorry, I apologize.

(Chatter.)

INSTALLING OFFICER DON MARTIN: I had the privilege of installing Brother Rish as the Camp Commander, climb up to Department Commander, so it's kind of a full circle thing here.

Commander Ball, in relieving you of the command of the Department on behalf of the officers, I convey to you their thanks for the manner in which you have discharged your duties. I trust that in surrendering the command of the Department, your interest will remain in the welfare of the Order. Having received the highest honors which your fellow members can confer upon you, your continuing commitment will point the way for others who will serve the Order. Please be seated at my left.

Commander-Elect, are you prepared to announce your staff appointments?

DEPARTMENT COMMANDER-ELECT DAVID RISH: I am.

INSTALLING OFFICER DON MARTIN: If so, the Guide will hand those to the Secretary.

DEPARTMENT COMMANDER-ELECT DAVID RISH: The Secretary already has them.

INSTALLING OFFICER DON MARTIN: The Secretary has them. Thank you. Secretary, call the roll of the Officers-Elect and the staff appointees, who as their names are called will rise.

(Chatter.)

INSTALLING OFFICER DON MARTIN: I know you got it.

(Chatter.)

INSTALLING OFFICER DON MARTIN: I'm sure you know who it is off the top of your head, right?

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Me.

(Chatter.)

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Yeah, and I printed it off, and I forgot to print page.

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Talk about something real quick.

(Laughter.)

COMMANDER-ELECT DAVID RISH: Well, everybody that's already holding a position, you still have your same position except I'm appointing a new Chaplain and a new Chief of Staff.

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Thank you, yeah. Jonathan.

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Jonathan Davis and Thomas

McBrayer.

DEPARTMENT SECRETARY JOHN EDELMANN: Okay. I've got it. I'm ready. You want --

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: He's got it.

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Yeah, go ahead.

DEPARTMENT SECRETARY JOHN EDELMANN: Okay. So other than elected, we have Patriotic Instructor Mike Mershon; Chaplain Thomas McBrayer; Graves Registration Officer Kent Dorr; GAR Records Officer R.A. Davis; Counselor Don Darby; Eagle Scout Coordinator Michael Spaulding; GAR Highway Officers Peter J. Hritsko; Civil War Memorials Officer Ronald Marvin; Assistant Secretary will remain Kelly Hopkins; Signals Officer Brian Brown; Chief of Staff is Jonathan Davis; Assistant Treasurer James Crane; and Buffington Island Representative is James Oiler.

INSTALLING OFFICER DON MARTIN: Thank you, Brother.

(Three raps.)

INSTALLING OFFICER DON MARTIN: Brothers, these are your regularly chosen officers for the next term. If any Brother has any valid reason why any of them should not be installed, let him speak now or forever hold his peace.

(One rap.)

INSTALLING OFFICER DON MARTIN: So, Brother Bates, are you the Guide or Acting Guide?

BROTHER GRANT BATES: Correct.

INSTALLING OFFICER DON MARTIN: Okay. Would you present the Brothers before the altar for installation? So all the new for installation, please come forward. Officers, you have been selected to positions of great honor and trust. With the Commander, you will be responsible for the financial and material prosperity and interests of this Department. Members of the Encampment confidently expect that you will discharge the duties and responsibilities resting upon you with conspicuous zeal, ability, and good works. I trust that you will appreciate the great confidence placed on you and that you remember that the success or failure of the administration of your Department will depend very largely upon the manner in which you discharge the duties of your respective offices. Are you now willing to pledge solemnly to the faithful performance of your several duties? If so, say I am.

IN UNISON: I am.

INSTALLING OFFICER DON MARTIN: Please raise your --
Brothers, I would like everyone to stand.

(Three raps.)

INSTALLING OFFICER DON MARTIN: Brothers, please raise your right hand, place your left hand on the Bible or the shoulder of the person in front of you. Repeat, using your name.

I, (each member stating their name, and repeating, as directed) having been regularly chosen as an Officer of the Department of Ohio, Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War, hereby renew the sacred obligation given at the time of my initiation and in the presence of Almighty God, and the members of this Encampment here ceremonies for Department Encampments, I'm sorry, members of the Encampment here ceremonious for Department Encampments assembled.

(Chatter.)

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Assembled. Move on.

INSTALLING OFFICER DON MARTIN: -- do furthermore solemnly and sincerely promise and declare that I will to the best of my ability in word and deed and without fear or favor faithfully, honestly, and impartiality perform all the duties of the office upon which I am about to enter, so help me God.

(One rap.)

INSTALLING OFFICER DON MARTIN: Guide, please conduct these officers to their respective stations. Acting officers should vacate.

Commander, by the votes of the members of this Encampment, you have been elected to the highest honor within their gifts. Your election to this honorable position is an evidence not only of their regard and appreciation of your work and ability as the Sons of the Union Veterans of the Civil War, but it's an assurance that your conduct of the affairs of this Department will be characterized by faithful, earnest, and conscientious devotion to the responsibilities resting upon you. Great trust and great cares await you and to their faithful performance, I now most solemnly direct you.

(Three raps.)

As no work of this nature may be a success without the assistance of the Divine Providence, the Chaplain will ask his assistance and guidance.

DEPARMENT CHAPLAIN TOM MCBRAYER: Almighty God, our

Heavenly Father, we humbly ask your blessing on these Brothers assembled for installation. Grant them your wisdom that they may daily perform the duties of the office into which they are to be installed with the knowledge that Thou art ever watching over them. Keep them in good health that they will not falter on the way. Bless them with your great mercies that they might be competent to administer the many problems that will confront them. Bless their every action in your Name through the mediation of your Blessed Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

IN UNISON: Amen.

INSTALLING OFFICER DON MARTIN: Commander, your officers are now in their respective stations, and I am about to place you in full control. But first, I give to your care the Charter of the Department. Prize it for the privileges it bestows and guard it sacredly for the filial heritage it represents.

Now, I place in your care the ritual of the Order and a copy of the Constitution and Regulations for the government of the Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War, both of which I advise you to study with care, to be true to its principles, and faithful to its teachings.

Lastly, you will receive this gavel, the emblem of your authority. One rap calls the Encampment to order and seats the same when standing. Two raps calls the Officers to their feet. Three raps calls up the entire Encampment.

And now, by the virtue of the authority invested in me as the Installing Officer of the Department of Ohio Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War, I hereby declare the Officers of this Department legally elected and installed and qualified to enter upon the SUVCW ritual and ceremonies discharged of their several duties for the term ending of June 2026, or until their successors are regularly elected, qualified, and installed.

Now, I am pleased to present you with the badge of the office of the Department Commander. Commander, assume your command. Be true to your vow, faithful to your trust, unflinching in your loyalty, and rule with civility, impartiality, firmness, and may your administration be successful.

(One rap.)

(Applause.)

DEPARTMENT COMMANDER DAVID RISH: Well, the only thing I've got to say right now is Jim Crane, you brought this on a

long time ago. You kept pushing me to run for Department Officer. So you got your wish.

BROTHER JIM CRANE: Amen.

DEPARTMENT COMMANDER DAVID RISH: The only thing I'm going to talk about real quick is the fact that we have such a low number of Brothers in this Department, and I want to see every Camp try to start recruiting. If you have any questions, get a hold (indiscernible). We got to grow. When you're getting smaller all the time, you're not going to go anywhere. That's about all I've got to say for right now. So I guess we're going to go ahead and close.

(One rap.)

(Three raps.)

DEPARTMENT COMMANDER DAVID RISH: You will give your attention to the Chaplain as he asks for the blessings of God on our deliberations.

DEPARTMENT CHAPLAIN JONATHAN DAVIS: Our Father in Heaven, we pray you will deal with the events of this meeting as you deem proper and fitting. Please answer the heartfelt prayers of each one of us as permitted in your perfect will. Preserve us in health, strength, and integrity while we remain here, and when our mission on earth is ended, take us to a better world. Amen.

IN UNISON: Amen.

DEPARTMENT COMMANDER DAVID RISH: Brothers, we are about to leave this Encampment to retire to our respective homes. Let us regulate our conduct so to bring honor and credit upon the great patriotic organization we represent. May we be faithful to our vows, mindful of our duties, and exhibit toward each other an unbroken Fraternity, a tender Charity, and an unwavering Loyalty.

Color Bearer, attend to the altar, and station banners.

I now declare the 143rd Annual Encampment of the Department of the Sons of Union Veterans of Ohio of the Civil War duly closed.

(One rap.)

(Applause.)

(END OF PROCEEDINGS)

TRANSCRIBER'S CERTIFICATE

I, JANICE M. GRILL, hereby certify that the foregoing pages one through 59 constitute a full, true, and accurate transcript, from electronic recording, transcribed by me, of the proceedings of the 143rd Annual Encampment of the Ohio Department of the Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War.

Signed and dated this 36th day of June, 2025.

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Janice M. Grill", is written over a horizontal line.

JANICE M. GRILL