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97th Fleet Reserve Association
National Convention

First Business Session

4 November 2025

Oasis Hotel and Convention Center
Springfield, Missouri

1 (Called to order at 1325.)

2 NP BEHM: Shipmate Master at Arms, will
3 you invite the shipmates into the convention hall
4 and close those doors please.

5 MAA: The fine is \$15 for a phone.

6 NP BEHM: The fine is \$15 if your phone
7 goes off. The second time is doubled.

8 Shipmate National Chaplain, would you
9 please open the Holy Bible. Uncover.

10 NCHAP FALU: Shipmate National
11 President, the Bible is open.

12 NP BEHM: Thank you. Cover. Hand
13 salute. Two.

14 I now declare the first business session
15 of the National Convention of the Fleet Reserve
16 Association regularly convened.

17 Shipmates, our convention reporter
18 recorder is over here to the right of the
19 rostrum, is Paul Gasparotti, working with CRC
20 Salomon.

21 I want to remind all the delegates that

1 when addressing the chair on any matter,
2 including the seconding of motions, you must
3 speak into the microphone which, we're working on
4 getting one, and you must state your last name
5 and branch number. Of course we're recording
6 this convention by electronic means. Do I need
7 to read you all that, or do you understand that
8 we do record these so we can have the minutes and
9 everything within a timeframe? Please keep your
10 private discussions with yourself and during the
11 breaks.

12 I've appointed as the master of arms
13 Shipmate Richard Ruiz. He's at the back of the
14 room and he has just been dying for all the years
15 I've known him to escort somebody out. I do want
16 to remind all the delegates that when a matter is
17 under discussion that you are limited and will be
18 limited to a maximum of three minutes speaking at
19 the microphone, and you must confine your remarks
20 to the question. In addition, you may not speak
21 a second time on any question until others

1 privileged to speak and who deserve to speak have
2 done so. The rules are addressed in FRA Standing
3 Rule 3.

4 The National Executive Director Phillip
5 will call the role of the national officers.

6 NED REID: National President Maria
7 Behm.

8 NP BEHM: Here.

9 NED REID: National Vice President
10 Fetro.

11 NVP FETRO: Here.

12 NED REID: National Executive Director
13 Reid, here.

14 Regional President Northeast/New England
15 Rizzo.

16 RPNENE RIZZO: Here.

17 NED REID: Regional President East Coast
18 Oliveira.

19 RPEC OLIVEIRA: Present.

20 NED REID: Regional President Southeast
21 Anger.

1 RPSE ANGER: Present.

2 NED REID: Regional President North
3 Central Jones.

4 RPNC JONES: Here.

5 NED REID: Regional President South
6 Central Talbot.

7 PRPSC TALBOT: Here.

8 NED REID: Regional President Southwest
9 Labao.

10 RPSW LABAO: Here.

11 NED REID: Regional President West Coast
12 Porter.

13 RPWC PORTER: Here sir.

14 NED REID: Regional President Northwest
15 Bean.

16 RPNW BEAN: Present.

17 NED REID: National Chaplain Falu.

18 NCHAP FALU: Here.

19 NED REID: National Parliamentarian
20 Posekany.

21 NPAR POSEKANY: Present.

1 NED REID: All present and accounted
2 for, ma'am.

3 NP BEHM: Thank you, Shipmate. We will
4 not have the first credentials report from
5 Shipmate Chairman Matthews.

6 PRPWC MATTHEWS: All right. Matthews,
7 Branch 197, delegate chairman. We are having
8 some issues reconciling the credentials report.
9 There's a couple branches not registered. If we
10 can verify that the registered voting strength is
11 758, we'll have an updated report at the next
12 business section tomorrow.

13 We are open for registration from eight
14 to nine tomorrow.

15 NP BEHM: We will wait for that,
16 Shipmate, thank you much.

17 Okay, shipmates. I will admit, I have
18 watched the two of them working most of the
19 evening last night down in the area where the
20 pool is, they had the computer up quite a bit
21 working on this thing. So, and if you've been on

1 the credentials committee before, then you'll
2 know it's probably very difficult, and maybe
3 perhaps you could get with them and find out what
4 maybe they think the problem may be and it can
5 get fixed. Remember, service to shipmates,
6 wherever needed as well.

7 All right. We'll now have the
8 presentation of the annual reports of the
9 national officers. These reports of course have
10 been already submitted in writing, typewritten
11 and included in the delegate kit that each of you
12 should already have in front of you. I ask that
13 you all submit your reports for the record, and
14 confine your remarks to summarizing the
15 highlights of your report and additional remarks
16 as necessary.

17 I will commence with my report. It is
18 submitted for the record, it's also submitted on
19 the website and a partial versions will be in FRA
20 Today. I wanted to make sure that you got it and
21 you knew exactly what we were doing all year.

1 National Vice President Richard Fetro,
2 you are on Tab B.

3 NVP FETRO: Shipmates, my report is in
4 Tab B, but one of the things that I'd like to
5 talk to you about today is when you registered,
6 you received this new brochure that's on the
7 tables. This is one of the items that we had
8 worked on this year in membership and retention,
9 and so I'd like for you to take a copy and check
10 it out to make sure it's up to date. It looks
11 pretty clean, it looks pretty new, and hopefully
12 this will help us in our retention program.
13 Thank you.

14 NP BEHM: Thank you, Shipmate.

15 National Executive Director.

16 NED REID: Shipmates, I'm actually,
17 there were two reports that I have provided in
18 here, one as executive director and that's
19 located in Tab C, Charlie. The only thing I want
20 to read here is, this is the last report I will
21 be providing as the national executive director.

1 It's been my honor and pleasure to serve the FRA
2 membership first as the finance officer, and
3 since August 2023 with the passing of our former
4 national executive director, I was appointed.

5 So I'm not going to -- if you look at
6 Tab C, some of the things that I tried to say in
7 there were what we've done and what I've tried to
8 accomplish. I leave you probably with a lot more
9 to accomplish, but my time is up and I've decided
10 not to pursue the next term. You will have to
11 identify who your next NED is going to be, but
12 I've enjoyed it. I think there's some pessimism
13 and optimism, but the glass is half full, and I
14 think we've got work to do, but the good news is
15 that we can still work, and so we've got work to
16 do and I just want to make sure that we do that.

17 To Tab delta, D, as the finance officer,
18 I don't have a lot of great things to say, but
19 again, I tried to be as open communicatively what
20 our position is financially. It's not just the
21 FRA. Every single veteran service organization

1 is experiencing the same things that we are
2 experiencing. It kind of saddens me when I see
3 the pictures that the branches turn in and I look
4 for people who are 50 years of age and I don't
5 see many of them. Every time I look at a
6 picture, I'm looking for that to identify that
7 somebody is replacing him. Two years ago that
8 was a campaign that Shipmate Handzuk and I came
9 up with, replace yourself, and what we need to do
10 is find those replacements.

11 What I pledge to do, even after I leave
12 here, is to look for ways to increase finances
13 for this organization at the headquarters level,
14 through sponsorship and through not one-on-one
15 memberships, but actually for organizations that
16 will give use, provide us with a large percentage
17 of new members. So that's what I'm going to be
18 up to and retirement is out of the question, and
19 I submit that these reports be received. Thank
20 you.

21 NP BEHM: Thank you, Shipmate NED. Next

1 will be Regional President Northeast/New England
2 Rizzo.

3 RPNE RIZZO: Good afternoon,
4 shipmates. My annual report is the first one in
5 Section E. Excuse me while I get my glasses on.
6 I submit it to be received as written.

7 NP BEHM: Accepted, thank you. Next up,
8 Shipmate Oliveira, East Coast.

9 RPEC OLIVEIRA: Shipmate Oliveira,
10 Regional President, East Coast. My report is
11 also in Tab E. The only thing that I would like
12 to amend was the Fleet Fest at Norfolk and the
13 retiree summit at Little Creek were not held due
14 to the budget, and we were unable to do the
15 picnic in Philadelphia due to a storm, but
16 everything else, I ask be received. Thank you.

17 NP BEHM: Southwest, or Southeast, Jerry
18 Anger.

19 RPSE ANGER: My report is at Tab E.2
20 also. I would like to move that it be received.

21 NP BEHM: Thank you, Shipmate. You can

1 actually just submit it for the record. South
2 Central, Bruce Talbot, you are in Tab E as well.

3 RPSC TALBOT: My report is included in
4 Tab E of the delegate kit. The most significant
5 piece in there is that the North and South
6 Central regions have been working together over
7 the last three years to merge, and we request
8 your support when it comes to a vote for the
9 resolution. The report is submitted.

10 NP BEHM: Thank you, Shipmate.
11 Apologies to North Central Region Jones, Tab E as
12 well.

13 RPNC JONES: Thank you, National
14 President. My report is in Tab E, third report.
15 In addition, we have been able to visit three
16 more branches, two of which are (inaudible) vital
17 and upgraded for the region. I move that it be
18 accepted.

19 NP BEHM: Submitted, thank you.
20 Regional President Southwest Labao.

21 RPSW LABAO: Shipmate President, my

1 annual report is at Tab E. However, you will
2 only see the second page, the first page is
3 missing. Only the second -- the first page is
4 not in here.

5 NED REID: We'll have a copy done.
6 Thank you for that.

7 RPSW LABAO: One of the highlights of
8 Southwest is we approved the petition of Branch
9 47 to elect their officers under Section 1216.A,
10 and it was clarified on 19 August 2025. All
11 branches are in good working order and serving
12 their shipmates to the best of their ability. I
13 emphasize that some of the branches could not
14 conduct their monthly meetings, and I encouraged
15 all branches to find ways to recruit and retain
16 membership. Some of the branches that were
17 meeting night will change the meetings to daytime
18 so that members who have a problem driving at
19 night may be able to drive and attend the
20 meetings. That is welcome to all our members.
21 This concludes my report, and I move that it be

1 received.

2 NP BEHM: Submitted, thank you.

3 Regional President Northwest Bean.

4 RPNW BEAN: Robert Bean, Branch 38,
5 Northwest regional president. I'm also in Tab E.
6 I believe one thing in here that I didn't notice
7 that I should have put in here, or it was not
8 noted at the time, was the fact that Branch 18 --
9 okay. I request that my report be accepted.

10 NP BEHM: It will be, thank you.

11 National Chaplain Falu.

12 NCHAP FALU: My report is Tab F, and I
13 submit it for the record, and it should be
14 received.

15 NP BEHM: Thank you, Shipmate.

16 Shipmate Matthews, I need you to go work
17 on -- is there a reason other than -- you need to
18 go work on credentials and if there is a problem,
19 just let me know so we can figure out what it is.
20 Thank you.

21 I now call on the chairmen of the

1 standing and special national committees to
2 render their annual reports. Again, it's not
3 necessary that you move that the chairman move
4 that the reports be received. They have all been
5 received and submitted for the record. Shipmate
6 at the mic.

7 S/M BAILEY: Shipmate Bailey, Branch
8 359. Can we go back to the national chaplain's
9 report? In paragraph two he says I respectfully
10 submit my report as the national vice president
11 of the FRA. That is a typo, a big typo, so it
12 should be changed for the record.

13 NP BEHM: Thank you. Just for the
14 record, I don't know if you heard her, but the
15 national chaplain has eight nights to think
16 ahead, so we might keep that in mind thinking
17 about the national vice president. So we will
18 have that corrected, and thank you, Past National
19 Chaplain Bailey. That's what we want to here,
20 though, thoughts ahead.

21 All right. For Americanism-Patriotism,

1 Richard Ruiz, you're at Tab H.

2 MAA: Shipmates, I'm the national --
3 excuse me, Richard Ruiz, Branch 101. I'm the
4 national AP chairman and I'll probably be
5 chairman next year too. What I want to let you
6 guys know, I only received regional reports from
7 the regional AP chairmen in three out of the
8 eight. There is a new form that you will see
9 coming out, I gave it to National so they should
10 have it. If you haven't noticed, it's
11 everything, from the rules, the cover sheet and
12 everything on the stuff that you're supposed to
13 submit. I want only the AP chairmen on there, on
14 that form. I need their address, I need their
15 phone numbers, I need their email. I want better
16 communications going on this year because it
17 really really matters. So we really need to get
18 this going, and we're working on it. AP, YA and
19 public affairs are all going to be merged into
20 one form, so you really have to be paying
21 attention to what's going on, it's very

1 important. So that's on the side note that you
2 need to know what's going on, so only the AP
3 chairmen with all their information. If you want
4 to be the guy sponsoring, you can add their name
5 next to his, but we really need this information
6 to be there, because I couldn't complete my
7 report.

8 So it is what it is and I'll take, I'm
9 sitting back here as the master at arms. Go
10 ahead and drop off your man of the year, shipmate
11 of the year, whatever it is. I move that my
12 report be submitted.

13 NP BEHM: Thank you. Budget and finance
14 and audit, NED Phillip on behalf of Senior Past
15 John Handzuk. You're at Tab I.

16 NED REID: Shipmate NED Phillip Reid.

17 Before we do that, I want to look at the
18 report of the membership director, she had a
19 family emergency and could not be here, but the
20 report is here and has all the information, quite
21 a bit of statistics, and I would hope that the

1 officer of the branches read that report. I
2 would also encourage you to, one of the things we
3 did this morning, we had a very small turnout,
4 some of the initial first timers were secretaries
5 and treasurers, and they talked about the reports
6 and how can they get better at doing the reports
7 and in figuring out the reports. And the one
8 thing that Christina said to me just to let
9 everyone know is that she will do one on one with
10 the officers. Our information to contact her is
11 on the website, so please please don't wait until
12 the last moment. If you need help with the
13 reports and the information, or even
14 understanding the reports, you should contact her
15 and she will do a one on one with any officer of
16 a branch.

17 And I submit her report as received.

18 On behalf of John Handzuk, I wrote this
19 report and this identifies what the budget and
20 finance committee was doing, this is at Tab I as
21 in India, a very short report. It talks about

1 exactly what the finance committee is doing and
2 they're available.

3 I don't think any of us, we were all
4 startled about the passing of John Handzuk, very
5 quick. One day he was there at midyear and
6 within 30 days or so I was attending his
7 ceremony, so it came very very quick.

8 The report is here, you can speak to
9 anyone on the committee for additional
10 information. I sit on the committee, I have
11 information, and act as the finance officer for
12 that committee as well, and I submit my report
13 for your perusal and for your review.

14 NP BEHM: Thank you Shipmate. Next I
15 will have the constitution, bylaws and
16 resolutions committee chair.

17 PNP JANSKY: Donna Jansky, Branch 31.
18 My report is under Tab J and it has been received
19 for the record with the following corrections to
20 the report. Fourth paragraph first sentence,
21 please change XX resolutions to 19 resolutions.

1 NP BEHM: Thank you, Shipmate. Future
2 planning, Regional President South Central Bruce
3 Talbot, Tab K.

4 RPSC TALBOT: Talbot, Branch 159. My
5 planning committee report is submitted at Tab K
6 for the record.

7 NP BEHM: Thank you. Legislative
8 services, Shipmate Theo Lawson, Tab M.

9 S/M LAWSON: My report is at Tab M.
10 We're going to be having, as you all know when it
11 comes to legislation, it's constantly in motion.
12 So tomorrow morning we are having a meeting, I'll
13 be bring more stuff up and we will finally
14 complete the report. And some of the issues that
15 are coming up, the shutdown, and there is an
16 aggressive push to get the CR passed. So we will
17 get something out later on tomorrow afternoon.
18 If you haven't reached out to your congressman or
19 senator, I encourage everybody to do so, because
20 even concerning the overseas medical providers,
21 it's not the same contract as domestic and the

1 group that is in charge of actually managing
2 that, they are providing funds out of their own
3 bank accounts using loans and this goes back 30
4 days, which we are now, and they don't know
5 what's going to happen. So the goal right now is
6 to come up with a standalone bill to make sure
7 that actually happens.

8 NP BEHM: And is that part of your
9 report that you submitted?

10 S/M LAWSON: It is not because that was
11 done before. So when we have our meeting it's
12 going to be bought up again and it's going to be
13 finalized, so I don't know if it's submitted, but
14 it's an incomplete report because of that.

15 NP BEHM: Thank you. Shipmate Richmond,
16 did you say you have the hospital and welfare
17 report?

18 PRPSE RICHMOND: No. Somebody mailed it
19 to me, on Monday mailed the report to me on the
20 sailor of the year.

21 NP BEHM: Okay, thank you. We will go

1 to membership and retention, NVP.

2 NVP FETRO: Delegate Fetro, Branch 101.

3 We have some good news and we have some bad news,
4 and we have some winners. If you turn to page
5 six of Tab N, I can read them off.

6 The branches with the overall award this
7 year for Group number I was Branch 24, Annapolis,
8 with a total percentage gain of 6.44. Group II,
9 Branch 97, Whidbey Island, with a net gain of
10 49.27. Group III, Branch 346, Panama City, with
11 a gain of 20 percent. Group IV, Branch 154,
12 Baguio City, Philippines with a growth of 45.83.
13 And Group V, Branch 98, Shreveport, Louisiana,
14 with a gain of 34.78.

15 The overall winner for the Rosenberg
16 award, membership award went to Branch 97 of
17 Whidbey Island.

18 And now we go down to the McPherson
19 award, and we are pleased to announce that the
20 Southwest Region Branch 70, a lifetime member,
21 Gerald Miranda won the McPherson award for 2025.

1 On another note, the membership talked
2 about, does everyone remember the (inaudible) to
3 participate with that? We were approached again
4 and we, the new board will be looking at the
5 proposal and the way we see it, and we're going
6 to really check the contract, there would be a
7 minimum of a royalty of doing this project of
8 \$25,000. There would be a minimum membership
9 guarantee of \$25,000, and then there's also the
10 renewal incentive of \$20,000. So if the numbers
11 for the contract are correct, that would be a
12 total guarantee of \$70,000. We're going to
13 really look at that contract and make sure that
14 we don't get into something that is not on this
15 sheet of paper. That's the good news.

16 Now if you go to Tab N, page eight and
17 nine, this is, we've had some positive news and
18 now I'll give you some negative news. On these
19 two pages we have the resolutions for our
20 membership. There are 22 resolutions to debate.
21 Out of those 22 resolutions, 17 have the word

1 either surrender or revoke. Shipmates, I really
2 want you to look at these two pages, because with
3 all the positives that are going on, we have to
4 face the negatives.

5 So, that's my report. Thank you.

6 NP BEHM: Thank you, Shipmate. Public
7 relations, Ed Labao, Tab O as in Oscar.

8 RPSW LABAO: Good afternoon, shipmates.
9 The annual report from the public relations
10 committee is on Tab O.

11 At the beginning of this year, there is
12 the message that the national president wanted
13 the branches to do something different and
14 broached the idea of combining these three
15 committees, Americanism-Patriotism, public
16 relations, and youth activities, to create a more
17 cohesive strategy that benefits our mission. So
18 the committee chairmen from AP, PR and YA were
19 tasked with discussing ideas and concerns, and we
20 kicked off our meeting in December 2024 by
21 reviewing all three reports. In January we had

1 the draft template report in four months, and
2 made more changes. The new addition to the form
3 is the point system. With the 30-day examples we
4 started doing the report. The concept of the
5 consolidated report is that branches still must
6 send three reports to region, and the region will
7 consolidate the report into one report. The
8 consolidated reports were completed and sent to
9 region for review and feedback. The combined
10 committee reports are now named as the committee
11 engagement committee reports. The plan is to
12 have everything placed in the C&BL and SR
13 combined manuals ready for next year's membership
14 vote.

15 I will take this opportunity to thank
16 the Regional President North Central Brian Jones
17 for his service in taking the lead in combining
18 these three reports. It's my honor to serve as
19 the national public relations committee chairman
20 for 24-25. This concludes my report and I move
21 that it be received.

1 NP BEHM: Thank you, Shipmate. Veteran
2 services, PRPEC S. D. Martin, Tab P, this is in
3 Tab PT.

4 PRPEC MARTIN: Good afternoon, National
5 President. Shipmates, my report is located under
6 Tab P as in papa, and I ask that this report be
7 received as presented.

8 NP BEHM: Thank you, Shipmate. Youth
9 activities, Regional President North Central
10 Brian Jones. This is at Tab Q as in Quebec.

11 RPNC JONES: Thank you, Shipmate
12 National President. This is at Tab Q, and the
13 national committee on youth activities report is
14 submitted.

15 I would like to just add on to what
16 Regional President Labao was saying about the
17 combined three committees into one. This will
18 give you an update on where we're at, what we've
19 been achieving this year, and that is, we've got
20 the report, we did a good job with it, brought it
21 to the convention just so that the shipmates have

1 a chance to look at it, get some feedback from
2 it, and we can massage it further, so next year
3 we can vote it in and we can move forward to make
4 this process a little more streamlined for all
5 the branches. I move that my report be received
6 as submitted.

7 NP BEHM: Thank you, Shipmate.

8 JPNP ROBBINS: Shipmate National
9 President.

10 NP BEHM: Shipmate at the mic.

11 JPNP ROBBINS: Let it reflect that I'm
12 in the uniform of the day, with a smile.

13 (Applause.)

14 NP BEHM: Please tell me you'll change
15 that hat for me.

16 We're going to Tab R, and National
17 Executive Director Reid will now read the
18 national board of directors resolutions since our
19 last convention. Oh, I stand corrected. We have
20 to get the credentials report.

21 In the meantime while we're waiting on

1 the credentials to get the business moving
2 forward here, Shipmate Labao, I just happen to
3 have on the time and place for 2026, would you
4 like to talk about your, this next year's
5 convention, when and where, you will be handing
6 out the information for tomorrow?

7 RPSW LABAO: Shipmate National
8 President, I have the flyers here for next year's
9 national convention. It's going to be at the
10 Orleans in Las Vegas, Nevada. So all the
11 information is on this flyer about the hotel,
12 room reservations and the amenities and
13 availability, and of course the price for the
14 room, which is I think the most important part of
15 the delegate attendees. The group rates on the
16 hotel is from Sunday to Thursday, \$101.69; that's
17 including the amenities and the resort fee and
18 the taxes, \$101.69, and then Friday and Saturday
19 is \$127.68, also inclusive of the tax and the
20 resort fee total. Handicapped rooms are
21 available on a first come first served basis.

1 And one of the most important things if you are
2 driving, as we all know, in Vegas you pay a
3 parking fee of \$20 to \$40 a night. At the
4 Orleans, valet parking and regular parking is
5 free. So those are the main things on the flyer.
6 Thank you, Shipmate National President.

7 NP BEHM: Thank you, Shipmate. And you
8 did mention the date? I was in a conversation
9 here, I apologize.

10 RPSW LABAO: I'm sorry. The dates will
11 be September 27th to October 3rd, 2026.

12 NP BEHM: Mark your calendars, 27
13 September to 03 October 2026.

14 RPSW LABAO: And we will provide all
15 this information in a newsletter. Thank you.

16 NP BEHM: All right, shipmates. Does
17 anyone out here have any thoughts? I put a
18 letter out to you telling you about the time and
19 pace for the 2027 convention. I hope somebody
20 read it, because, I hoping shipmates can get
21 together and discuss, to be able to put this

1 together for a branch or a couple of branches,
2 but otherwise I will have to appoint some, but
3 anybody got any ideas where you think we should
4 probably put something together, okay?

5 All right. We're going to take about a
6 30-minute recess while we straighten out the
7 credentials because we can't move forward without
8 them, as you know. I apologize, so let us come
9 back at 1435. Thank you.

10 Shipmate National Chaplain, please close
11 the Bible.

12 NCHAP FALU: Shipmate President, the
13 Bible is now closed.

14 NP BEHM: Thank you, Shipmate.

15 Salute the flag. Two.

16 (Recess.)

17 NP BEHM: Shipmate National Chaplain,
18 will you please open the Bible?

19 NCHAP FALU: Shipmate National
20 President, the Bible is now open.

21 NP BEHM: Thank you, Shipmate National

1 Chaplain. Cover.

2 Okay. We're now going to hear from
3 hospital and welfare. Shipmate Matthews.

4 PRPWC MATTHEWS: My report is hospital
5 and welfare report -- Matthews, delegate, Branch
6 197. My report is at Tab L, I believe, yeah, Tab
7 Lima. I would submit my report for the record.

8 NP BEHM: Thank you, Shipmate. And we
9 now need your first credentials report.

10 PRPWC MATTHEWS: And that report, you go
11 to Tab Victor to fill out that report. I don't
12 need one, okay?

13 The authorized voting strength is --

14 PNC GUNTHER: On your report that you
15 gave for hospital welfare, the fourth one down,
16 PNC Paul Gunther, Branch 182, I'm not PRPEC, I am
17 a 182 delegate and PNC.

18 PRPWC MATTHEWS: I stand corrected, my
19 apologies.

20 PNC GUNTHER: That's okay.

21 PRPWC MATTHEWS: Thank you very much.

1 All right.

2 So Tab Victor, the authorized voting
3 strength for this convention at 3:50 -- oh, he's
4 on west coast time, okay? It's 1451, thank you.

5 The authorized voting strength is 758.
6 The number of branches represented by delegates
7 is 51. The number of votes represented by
8 delegates is 406. The number of branches
9 registered by proxy is 76. The number of votes
10 registered by proxy is 334. The number of
11 branches not registered are three. The number of
12 delegates registered is 102. The registered
13 voting strength is 740. The number of votes not
14 registered is 18. Two-thirds vote is 494.
15 Majority vote is 371. I move that my report be
16 accepted.

17 NP BEHM: Can I have a second?

18 S/M MURRAY: Murray, delegate, Branch
19 40, seconds.

20 NP BEHM: Thank you. Is there any
21 discussion, any questions? Any discussion, any

1 questions on the motion to accept the credentials
2 report?

3 SPEAKER: (Inaudible) delegate. What
4 was the time?

5 NP BEHM: 1451. Shipmate at the mic.

6 RPNC JONES: Jones, Regional President
7 North Central. Shipmate National President, what
8 were the three branches not registered?

9 NP BEHM: Shipmate Matthews?

10 PRPWC MATTHEWS: I do not have that
11 information at this time, I will provide it
12 later.

13 RPNC JONES: Thank you very much.

14 NP BEHM: All right. Any further
15 discussion? All in favor of accepting?

16 (Chorus of ayes.)

17 Opposed?

18 (Scattered nos.)

19 The ayes have it.

20 National Executive -- NED will come up
21 and read the NBRs that we're going to act on,

1 these are resolutions from the board of directors
2 prior to this convention.

3 National Chaplain, please close the
4 Bible.

5 NCHAP FALU: Shipmate National
6 President, the Bible is now closed.

7 NP BEHM: Thank you, Shipmate. Remain
8 standing.

9 We are now going to accept greetings
10 from the auxiliary.

11 Well, you can sit. There are still
12 female members and males. In the meantime, how
13 many of you are first time, very first time?

14 (Applause.)

15 NED?

16 NED REID: Would those first timers
17 raise their hand please? I actually had a first
18 timers breakfast this morning and I had two
19 people show up. So we actually had a breakfast
20 for first timers orientation this morning and I
21 only had two people. It's in the program.

1 (Side chatter.)

2 (Auxiliary past national presidents
3 present.)

4 NP LAFRA PENA: That's all right. First
5 I will apologize because the microphone went away
6 and the NED lowered his voice. What I would like
7 to do is thank you for being here, and all my
8 ducks are in order, if they can find their red
9 caps.

10 (Applause.)

11 PNP LAFRA THOMAS: I am Veralyn Thomas,
12 past president from '23 to '24, and almost ready
13 to slide down the line to veteran. (Inaudible.)

14 (Applause.)

15 PNP LAFRA FULTON: Good afternoon,
16 shipmates. I'm Nadine Fulton, past national
17 president from '22 to '23. I've been asked to
18 give greeting for my husband, PNP Michael Fulton.
19 He is on the board of directors (inaudible)
20 situated in San Diego, and unfortunately he has
21 all these meetings and the things going on

1 because of the shutdown, it was canceled.
2 Unfortunately he wasn't able to make
3 reservations, but he asked me to pass along his
4 greeting. Thank you.

5 (Applause.)

6 PNP LAFRA SUCKOW: I'm the national
7 financial secretary, Pat Suckow, past national
8 president 21-22. My running mate, where are you?
9 There he is, handsome James Campbell. I wish you
10 a very special convention, and thank you.

11 (Applause.)

12 PNP LAFRA MURRAY: Good afternoon, Madam
13 National President, good afternoon, shipmates.
14 My name is Christina Murray, I was national
15 president 2018-2019, my running mate was Bob
16 Washington, who is not with us today, so I hope
17 you all have a fun, humorous time, and that's
18 all.

19 (Applause.)

20 PNP LAFRA WHITAKER: I'm Carolyn
21 Whitaker, I was national president 2014-2015 and

1 Virgil was my running mate, he was also my
2 husband, I'm his former wife. I hope you all
3 have a great convention.

4 (Applause.)

5 PNP LAFRA RODHAM-TUCK: I'm Cindy
6 Rodham-Tuck, I was national president 2009-2010
7 and Gary Blackburn was my running mate. Have a
8 good time and I hope you have a wonderful
9 convention. Thank you.

10 (Applause.)

11 PNP LAFRA ROBBINS: Well, howdy. This
12 crowd looks like it could get a little -- well, I
13 won't go there, let's keep it PG, okay? I didn't
14 have a joke today, but who would have thought I
15 would be the senior past national president by
16 now? 2006-2007. Come on folks. This is my
17 second time I think. Are they trying to tell me
18 something? I appreciate each and every one of
19 you shipmates, all the things that you do, and I
20 wish that you all can get double what you got
21 this year, it will be doubled for next year.

1 That's how we used to talk when I first started
2 coming over 30 years ago, we were always filling
3 up the room, I mean on both sides. Come on now.
4 We ain't old or anything, are we?

5 SPEAKER: Why did you do it?

6 PNP LAFRA ROBBINS: They only let me out
7 for the week. Not really, but I appreciate each
8 and every one of you, I love my FRA, LA FRA.

9 (Applause.)

10 NP LAFRA PENA: Hello, good afternoon,
11 shipmates, it's me again. I'm not a PNP, I am
12 the current national president, I think you're a
13 good looking group, especially those Marines.

14 (Applause.)

15 (Auxiliary PNPs were escorted from
16 hall.)

17 NP BEHM: Shipmate National Chaplain,
18 will you please open the Bible?

19 NCHAP FALU: Shipmate National
20 President, the Bible is open.

21 NP BEHM: Thank you, Shipmate National

1 Chaplain. Cover.

2 I might answer a question that came from
3 the left side, or right side. For the new people,
4 the new shipmates, thank you for coming and
5 welcome to the Fleet Reserve Association, and
6 also your first convention. In the past we
7 haven't had this many gracious shipmates come in
8 on our national convention, so we might have to
9 take a look at having that newcomers on a
10 different day so that everybody could come to
11 that. Because I would have been there too, I
12 didn't know anything about it either, I really
13 didn't, and I apologize, so we'll get back to
14 you, and we'll all make you welcome in the
15 hospitality room. All right. Let's move on.

16 NED, would you like to come up and start
17 working on our NBRs.

18 NED REID: Good afternoon, shipmates. I
19 just want to follow up on the new members.
20 Somebody said why the heck are you having this at
21 0730 in the morning? And so I'm looking at that

1 table over there who's part of the 2026, and my
2 recommendation is we find possibly a lunchtime to
3 have the first timers breakfast moved from 0730
4 in the morning.

5 (Applause.)

6 All right, shipmates, I'm going to
7 return to R, Romeo, and let me get my glasses.
8 Let me say a few things about what we're going to
9 do and how this is going to work.

10 One of the constitution and bylaws rules
11 is that we have, although the national board made
12 these resolutions, they have been to be ratified,
13 approved by the convention. I had a question
14 come to me while we were in recess and they asked
15 if I was going to hand out copies of all of these
16 NBRs. Well, first and foremost, I don't want to
17 kill any more trees, and I sure as hell don't
18 want to pick up the paper after you leave it
19 here.

20 So number two, a lot of these NBRs if
21 they have to do with the constitution and bylaw

1 changes, they are in the book, and they follow
2 these NBRs, you will see the constitution and
3 bylaw resolutions, any NBR that requires C&BL
4 action, they are in here. But some of these
5 literally, they are self explanatory and there
6 was no need. Once, I'm going to read through
7 these very quickly. Once we read through, I will
8 ask, I will move that they be accepted, I'll get
9 a second, we'll have discussion and then we'll
10 have a vote.

11 So you're only voting for those that are
12 not associated with the NBRs that are going to be
13 constitution and bylaw items, those are going to
14 be approved next day.

15 Number two, these NBRs only cover the
16 NBRs from the last convention prior to
17 yesterday's pre-board meeting. Tomorrow you will
18 get a small subset of NBRs that were approved at
19 the pre-board meeting yesterday, and we will have
20 the ratify those as well. Questions about that?
21 Okay. So here we go. I'm going to read them

1 off, and understand that some of these are C&BL.
2 Understand that we're going to read them all off,
3 I will move that they be accepted, I'll get a
4 second and then we'll have a discussion. I'm not
5 going to wait and do it on each one. Here we go.

6 NBR 1-25, national board of directors
7 approved CPA firm GRF for 2025, affirmative 12.

8 NBR 2-25, national board of directors
9 approved Branch 13 use of FRA logo for banner,
10 affirmative 12.

11 NBR 3-25, national board of directors
12 approved the merger for North Central and South
13 Central regions, affirmative 12. That's an
14 example of a C&BL that will be taken up in a
15 later meeting, because that requires a change in
16 the C&BL, that's a change.

17 NBR 4-25, national board of directors
18 approved the bylaw changes of the LAFRA,
19 affirmative 12.

20 NBR 5-25, national board of directors
21 approved NED salary for the upcoming year in the

1 amount of \$113,600. Noted that it has not
2 changed in three years. Affirmative 11, and one
3 person abstained.

4 NBR 6-25, national board of directors
5 approved the following committees, C&BL, B&F,
6 that should be budget, finance and audit so it's
7 B&FA, and future planning, put the A in there.

8 NBR 7-25, national board of directors
9 approved the LAFRA's national president project
10 Pups for Purple Hearts. You still have time to
11 make that donation if you have not made that
12 donation yet. Affirmative 12.

13 NBR 8-25, national board of directors
14 approved a \$1,000 donation to the LAFRA national
15 president's project Pups for Purple Hearts.

16 NBR 9-25, national board of directors
17 approved expenditure from the HWR health and
18 welfare of \$2,500 for Shipmate Joyce Harris,
19 affirmative 12.

20 The national board of directors approved
21 suspension of Branch 018, Seattle branch,

1 affirmative 12.

2 National board of directors approved to
3 revoke the charter of Branch 018, NBR 11-25.

4 NBR 12-25, national board of directors
5 approved expenditure of \$2,500 from HWR for
6 Shipmate Clifton McNanny, affirmative 12.

7 NBR 13-25, national board of directors
8 approved headquarters staff to work three days
9 per week and one day remove, three days in the
10 office and one day remote for a 32-hour workweek.
11 Affirmative 12.

12 NBR 14-25, national board of directors
13 approved the voluntary surrender of Branch 60's
14 charter, affirmative 11.

15 NBR 15-25, national board of directors
16 accepted the 2021 annual audit completed by GRF.

17 NBR 16-25, national board of directors
18 approved the use of the FRA logo to Branch 32 for
19 sale of items at the 2025 national convention.

20 NBR 17-25, national board of directors
21 approved a change to C&BL Article 11, Section

1 1101(d), allowing the merger of FRA North Central
2 and South Central regions, thereby reducing the
3 FRA geographical regions to seven, affirmative
4 12.

5 National board of directors approved
6 changes to Article 8, Sections 8-13(a), 8-19(a)
7 and 8-20(a) to align with the proposed changes
8 approved in NBR 17-25. A point of note: If NBR
9 17-25 on the C&BL is not approved or ratified,
10 18-25 will not take place as well.

11 NBR 19-25, national board of directors
12 approved the voluntary surrender of Branch 156's
13 charter, affirmative 10.

14 NBR 20-25, national board of directors
15 approved the reversal of NBR 43-24 suspending
16 Branch 50. In other words, Branch 50 is now in
17 good order according to them.

18 NBR 21-25, national board of directors
19 approved a change to Section 1203(a), allowing
20 branches to operate with less than ten members if
21 previously authorized by the national board of

1 directors.

2 NBR 22-25, national board of directors
3 approved a change to Section 1204, so it only
4 covers actions to be taken after a branch charter
5 is suspended, and not both suspension and
6 revocation of charter.

7 I'm going to stop right here. Any of
8 these that you see that are kind of detailed,
9 these are changes in the constitution and bylaws
10 and the entire resolutions are included. So if
11 you see one that says anything, what the heck is
12 that, I guarantee you that behind that, the whole
13 resolution is there.

14 NBR 23-25, national board of directors
15 approved a change to Section 1206 renaming the
16 section "revoked charter" and having it only
17 cover actions to be taken after a branch's
18 charter has been revoked.

19 NBR 24-25, national board of directors
20 approved the change to Section 1207 reducing the
21 amount of time required to hold branch funds in

1 escrow to two years.

2 NBR 25-25, national board of directors
3 approved a change to Section 1211, removing any
4 reference to Section 1206.

5 NBR 26-25, national board of directors
6 approved the change to Section 1212, removing any
7 reference to Section 1206.

8 NBR 27-25, national board of directors
9 rejected recommended changes in Article 12
10 Sections 1215(g) and 1216(a). This was included
11 for the purpose of simply tracking all of our
12 NBRs.

13 NBR 28-25, national board of directors
14 approved the revocation of NBR 18-25 dealing with
15 changes to C&BL Article 8, and will be rewritten.

16 NBR 29-25, national board of directors
17 approved changes to C&BL Article 8 Section
18 813(a), 819(a), 820(a), reducing the number of
19 committee members in each instance from eight to
20 seven to align with the work there from eight to
21 seven, to align with the number of regions if the

1 merger of the North Central and South Central
2 regions is approved.

3 NBR 30-25, national board of directors
4 approved changes to C&BL Article 3 Section 306,
5 making initial honorary membership a five-year
6 term and adding rules related to how honorary
7 membership is handled at the conclusion of the
8 five-year term.

9 NBR 31-25, national board of directors
10 approved changes to C&BL Section 1216 related to
11 the required number of branch officers necessary
12 depending on the size of the branch.

13 NBR 32-25, national board of directors
14 approved expenditure of funds from HWRR in the
15 amount of \$2,500 for Shipmate Donald Watkins. I
16 put a D at the end of Donal.

17 NBR 33-25, national board of directors
18 preferred Article 5 charges against an FRA
19 member. This was completed in a national board
20 executive session. So in order to make sure that
21 we don't, from a personnel point of view, that's

1 all you're going to get on that one.

2 NBR 34-25, national board of directors
3 preferred Article 5 charges against an FRA
4 member, completed in a national board of
5 directors executive session.

6 NBR 35-25, national board of directors
7 approved changed to the bylaws of the FRA
8 Veterans Service Foundation.

9 This is, all we're talking about now is
10 up to here. A lot of these, particularly the
11 ones after May 2nd, NBR 17-25, almost through,
12 these are all going to be constitution and bylaws
13 changes. So your homework tonight after you
14 leave the room upstairs, the hospitality suite,
15 you've got to come in and be prepared to talk
16 about these because that's what's going to happen
17 tomorrow.

18 In addition, there will be some
19 additional NBRs and one additional SR that we
20 will consider after that.

21 At this point I move that this assembly

1 approve the NBRs up through 35-25, and I ask for
2 a second.

3 PRPSE RICHMOND: Richmond, past regional
4 president, Branch 22. I second the motion.

5 NP BEHM: And discussion, further
6 discussion? We have a second. Any further
7 discussion on it? Shipmate, go to the mic.

8 S/M GUNTHER: Gunther, Branch 22,
9 delegate.

10 NP BEHM: Shipmate? We've had it
11 seconded twice, so any further discussion on it?
12 That's fine. Any further discussion? All right.
13 Any further discussion? Any further discussion?

14 S/M OLSEN: Shipmate Olsen, Branch 161.

15 NED REID: So behind me you will see
16 constitution and bylaw resolutions, and they all
17 are identified by numbers. And any of those
18 constitution and bylaws that say national board
19 resolution, and I'm looking at one here, national
20 board resolution 21-25, that calls for revocation
21 of charters, this is the entire, this is the

1 entire resolution, and this is what will be
2 presented tomorrow for individuals to vote on
3 individually.

4 PRPNC COMBS: Clarify that some. Combs.

5 NPAR POSEKANY: Those will be removed
6 from the NBR ratification list. Those will be
7 taken care of by the constitution and bylaws
8 committee in their report tomorrow, the next day,
9 or whenever it gets given. So you are not
10 approving the NBRs today, you're not ratifying
11 those if they deal with C&BL resolutions, those
12 have been effectively removed from this NBR list.

13 PNP BLACKBURN: Blackburn, delegate,
14 Branch 274. National President, is my
15 understanding correct that you asked for approval
16 of the resolutions instead of ratifying them?

17 NED REID: I stand corrected.

18 NP BEHM: Thank you, Shipmate.

19 He is restating, he is asking for the
20 ratification? Ratification of the NBRs, so we'll
21 do this again. Question? So it is a

1 ratification, we have to ratify them first for
2 you to make those decisions later on down the
3 road that we need. Okay.

4 So, do I have further discussion? All
5 right. All in favor of ratifying?

6 (Chorus of ayes.)

7 All opposed?

8 (Scattered nos.)

9 The ayes ave it.

10 SPEAKER: I want to abstain.

11 NP BEHM: Oh, you want to abstain, all
12 right.

13 I would like, shipmates, I would like to
14 call now on our national convention chairman, I
15 believe that's Shipmate Jerry Lickteig.

16 PRPNC COMBS: He's not in the room.

17 NP BEHM: In that case we're going to
18 call on his sub Norm Combs. I'll limit you to
19 about two-and-a-half minutes.

20 PRPNC COMBS: Combs, delegate, Branch
21 161, at your service.

1 NP BEHM: Do you have announcements on
2 the convention ?

3 PRPNC COMBS: This evening is the
4 welcome aboard, starting at I believe 1900.
5 There are no trips to Branson tonight, there is a
6 trip to Branson tomorrow night and the following
7 night. Your PRP breakfast in the morning will
8 not be poolside, it will be in the Fire and Ice,
9 which is the hotel restaurant, this is past
10 regionals only, grab your chow, go in, and they
11 will try to lock the door, or at least close the
12 door to interlopers.

13 The auxiliary luncheon will be in the
14 Mojave room, which is up on the mezzanine level.
15 I call it the mezzanine level but it's where the
16 hotel registration is. That's level B. If you
17 can't take the stairs, the elevator will be level
18 B.

19 The hospitality room will be open for a
20 while today, and I think Jerry is inventorying
21 booze up there now, I'm not sure. I'm not

1 answering questions.

2 NP BEHM: What about the welcome aboard?

3 PRPNC COMBS: Welcome aboard, if you
4 show up and don't have a ticket, see me, or see
5 Shipmate Champagne over here in the beard that's
6 squirming. Anyway, tomorrow is the national
7 president auxiliary luncheon, I believe has been
8 moved from Fiji, which is the room over here, I
9 believe it's been moved out to the grand ballroom
10 at noonish, 1200ish. And let me see, is there
11 anything else that I missed?

12 Phillip said they have the tickets in
13 the office if you missed them. There is no one
14 outside the office to pick them up from, and I
15 I'm trying to stay out of this, but they won't
16 let me. Is there anything else, Shipmate
17 National President?

18 Oh, okay. The committee assignments are
19 the same except for, I think it's time and place
20 was supposed to be poolside. That will be up in
21 is Sahara, at the opposite end of

1 Americanism-Patriotism. The ones that have rooms
2 assigned, they're the same, and the ones that are
3 doing most of the judging are in here.

4 SPEAKER: I do have a question. Did you
5 say that if we're going to the PRP breakfast, we
6 go through the buffet line and then go into the
7 restaurant?

8 PRPNC COMBS: Yes.

9 SPEAKER: Then why I am paying ten
10 dollars?

11 PRPNC COMBS: Shipmate, you're charged
12 ten dollars for a reason, and one convention one
13 year, I'm not going to say where it was, but it
14 was not in Missouri, we had a complimentary
15 breakfast and we were charged \$28 for that
16 complimentary breakfast. Now if you can't pony
17 up ten bucks for setting the place up, whatever,
18 that was the plan.

19 But we made an executive decision.
20 We're going to buy you a keg of beer tomorrow
21 night, or tonight. If you don't drink beer,

1 tough. Now, if you want to pay me ten dollars,
2 I'll be glad to take it from you.

3 (Applause.)

4 NP BEHM: Thank you, Shipmate Norm.

5 All right, we're going to have, I will
6 give you the committees, I do believe the
7 committees are listed in your journal, so you
8 should have either that -- here it is, it's on
9 the flyer. So just a reminder, your committees
10 are going to meet starting at 0900 in the
11 morning, and since our convention chair, cochair
12 Americanism-Patriotism is Sahara B, budget and
13 finance Sonoran. Bylaws, Mojave Room. Hospital
14 and welfare, Coco and Maui ballroom. Membership
15 and retention, Kalahari Room. Public relations,
16 Coco and Maui ballroom. Veterans service, Coco
17 and Maui ballroom. Youth activities, Coco and
18 Maui ballroom. Future planning, poolside.

19 Is there anybody in here who is not on a
20 committee that would like to be, one of these
21 committees? If you're not already on one, if

1 you'd like to volunteer and help, it makes it go
2 quicker, and for some of these shipmates that are
3 new, you can learn. And if you get locked in and
4 you want to get in on something, this will be a
5 great way to learn. Just report to one of those
6 rooms, just pick a room and report to one of
7 those, and shipmates will get you set up.

8 We've had some really great chairmen
9 this year, we've always had great chairmen but
10 this year we've done a lot of exceptional work,
11 so I'm sure that any one of these committees
12 would be great. So please volunteer, this is how
13 you learn, and then you can do it in your branch.

14 How many branches -- I hate to put you
15 on here, but I think it's time we understand that
16 the purpose of these committee reports for me in
17 my opinion is that it shows the validity of a
18 branch and what we're doing for our branch, our
19 shipmates and the community, and it's part of why
20 we exist. Any other questions on that?

21 Shipmate?

1 SPEAKER: What time?

2 NP BEHM: 0900, so there will be a mass
3 of people at breakfast and a mass of people
4 heading for those rooms.

5 I would like to just make an
6 announcement here. I would like to see all the
7 female shipmates up here at the end of our
8 meeting. I have a question. You're all in
9 trouble. Shipmate Ursula, do you happen to have
10 a presentation?

11 PRPSC GRUETZNER: My name is Gruetzner,
12 Branch 201, I'm a Marine.

13 My name is Cathleen Ursula, I'm a
14 veterans service representative. I'm also with
15 Branch 201, my last name is Gruetzner, but nobody
16 can ever remember that, so don't worry about it.
17 All right.

18 First of all, Marines, please stand up.
19 All right. That's my man.

20 (Handing out gifts.)

21 Just so you know, I throw grenades.

1 Let's get the Navy and the Coast Guard
2 out of the way now.

3 PRPNC CUNNINGHAM: Shipmates, and Madam
4 National President, I just want to say that our
5 recorder secretary over there is our newest
6 member to the Fleet Reserve Association.

7 NP BEHM: Welcome aboard, Shipmate. He
8 was trying to bribe me last night.

9 PRPNC CUNNINGHAM: Well, he's a Marine.

10 NP BEHM: Shipmate Theo.

11 S/M LAWSON: (Inaudible.)

12 SPEAKER: I work at the Coast Guard, I
13 love my Coast Guard, like my Navy, but I love my
14 Coast Guard.

15 NP BEHM: All right, are we finished
16 with that?

17 SPEAKER: Are you going to leave the
18 Coast Guard out or are you going to buy me
19 dinner?

20 PRPSC GRUETZNER: Are we fighting over a
21 duck? The national president will give up hers.

1 NP BEHM: When Shipmate Ursula popped
2 between the Bible here, I said what about if
3 you're an FMF corpsman, does that mean you get a
4 Marine duck too? You got one for me too? All
5 right.

6 We're going to go under the good of the
7 order now. Is there anyone that would like to
8 come up and speak? I can put the mic back out
9 there and you can just.

10 PRPSC TALBOT: Talbot, delegate, Branch
11 159, future planning committee chair. Our
12 meeting will not be poolside tomorrow, it will be
13 in that other end of the hospitality room that
14 Norm talked about with time and place. It will
15 start at 0900 and it's an open meeting. We don't
16 have an agenda, we want all shipmates to come in
17 and give us their ideas. They could be on paper,
18 they can be verbal and we'll take them down on
19 paper, or you can hand them to me, Marcia, Roger
20 or Bill, anytime throughout the rest of the
21 convention. They will get forwarded and

1 processed and evaluated, so please give us your
2 input.

3 PRPNC COMBS: Shipmate Norm Combs,
4 delegate, Branch 161, in case the newbies don't
5 know me, there's no reason you should. The
6 welcome aboard this evening, for those of you who
7 do not like draft beer, there is a cash bar that
8 has mixed drinks and bottled beer. That's all I
9 wanted to say, but most of the food is finger
10 food, it's not dinner.

11 NP BEHM: It really is finger food.

12 PRPSC GRUETZNER: Gruetzner,
13 G-R-U-E-T-Z-N-E-R, capital area, Branch 201.
14 About the ducks. They were totally out of the
15 Coast Guard, Air Force and army. I got what I
16 can, but I promise you as a U.S. Marine, and we
17 do keep our word, I will have them for 2026. I
18 do not know what style they're going to be, but I
19 promise there will be duckies at '26.

20 (Applause.)

21 S/M MIGLIONIGO: Miglionigo, Branch 117,

1 that's M-I-G-L-I-O-N-I-G-O, Branch 117. Anyway,
2 two quick things. At today's opening ceremony,
3 there was a National Ensign and the Navy flag,
4 there were no Marine Corps, no Coast Guard flag,
5 okay? They should have been there.

6 The other thing, I want to try to get
7 everybody when they signed off, loyalty,
8 protection and service, there should be a comma
9 after protection because it's three separate
10 items, three separate words, so if you don't put
11 a comma after protection, protection and service
12 count as only one. So there's only two.

13 Miglionigo, M-I-G-L-I-O -- thank you for
14 listening.

15 NP BEHM: Anything for good of the
16 order? Anybody else? All right.

17 I will tell you about a project I had
18 this year, I made it into some of the regions,
19 those I made it to. You know, we created, my
20 board and I, we created a board project for the
21 Veterans Service Foundation. I actually made

1 kind of a bet between some of my regional
2 presidents that out of Bob's pocket would come a
3 hundred dollars to the winner of the region who
4 collected the most money. We're still open with
5 that because there's a process of hitting up our
6 regions while we're here.

7 So shipmates, the FRA Veterans Service
8 Foundation, I know you're probably not even aware
9 of it, probably are not aware of the education
10 foundation. Make sure that information gets to
11 the new shipmates here, but the Veterans Service
12 Foundation is a really good foundation, I believe
13 it's going to kind of help us more. I have
14 someone who could probably explain it to you a
15 little bit more. NED, would you like to explain
16 a little bit about the Veterans Service
17 Foundation?

18 NED REID: NED Phil Reid. One of the
19 things I'll tell you is we just reprinted a
20 four-page handout, I don't know if you received
21 in or not, we're going to put them out, and it's

1 the perfect thing if you're trying to explain to
2 individuals who we are, what we do and how they
3 can be part of it. So we just did that.

4 One of the things that we're also going
5 to do is we're going to reprint the pamphlet with
6 your financial information in it, and it has to
7 be filled out, and it's the perfect thing to have
8 when you're trying to do wills and making sure
9 that the individual's next of kin know where
10 everything is and how it is. Now it's on line,
11 but it always seems like this group likes to have
12 it in their hands, this paper.

13 The Veterans Service Foundation was I
14 believe started in 2017. The mission of it
15 really is to assist veterans as far as some of
16 the things that they need, some of the things
17 they require. So if we have veterans with --
18 it's not necessarily the Veterans Service
19 Foundation, the VSO is different, but with this
20 funds are really available to veterans. We have,
21 sometimes our constitution and bylaws can be very

1 tight.

2 So for example, we can only give out X
3 amount of dollars from our health and welfare
4 fund to an individual veteran. This opportunity
5 with the VSF if the board approves it, we can
6 actually provide additional funds to that
7 individual, that veteran who is going through
8 hard times.

9 Excuse my ADD if I'm off a little bit,
10 but one of the things I want to make sure
11 everybody knows is that we have the disaster
12 relief fund, and what's shocking to me is we
13 probably get two or three requests for disaster
14 relief per year, and I only give out \$2,000 out
15 of an \$800,000 relief fund. I'm just startled,
16 and right now it has to be a natural disaster,
17 but when we have these natural disasters, we
18 actually ask the regional presidents to go out
19 and say was anybody hurt by this. And I'm just
20 startled that we get zero requests, and I'm not
21 sure what to say about that or why it happens,

1 but every single time we get a fire in
2 California, we get the floods in Texas and
3 Louisiana, and we go out and we literally look
4 for people who need those funds, and it's just
5 shocking to me that we give out \$2,500 a year
6 maybe.

7 But the Veterans Service Foundation will
8 be available. You heard health and welfare, HWW
9 gave out something. The amount of money they
10 gave out is limited to \$2,500. That may help but
11 sometimes they need a lot more than that, and
12 then what we do with the VSF money is to make a
13 decision to increase the amount of money that we
14 provided in assistance.

15 The Education Foundation, and these are
16 the talks that I give when I try to recruit
17 someone. I don't tell them about the hospital
18 suite or you guys or anything else. I tell them
19 about what we do and what we can do. The
20 scholarship fund, we had a meeting yesterday, we
21 give out \$90,000 a year in scholarships. Those

1 have to be a direct line; in other words, they
2 have to be a grandchild or some relative that's
3 related. I think they said they have 121
4 applications last year and we gave out \$90,000.
5 They're not just for four-year schools, they're
6 also for technical schools and two-year schools.

7 The two individuals that we had here
8 with the color guard this morning, I talked to
9 them and I said this is why you should be part of
10 this, because if you guys wanted to go to junior
11 college over in Fort Leonard Wood for two years,
12 whatever, we've got the money. And again, these
13 funds are very specific and we can't find people
14 to actually apply for those funds. Or for the
15 corpsmen, we have a fund specifically for
16 corpsmen and we can't find people to apply for
17 this.

18 So there are a lot of benefits here that
19 I think that, one of the big big ones, that
20 gentleman over there, that's our legislative
21 director but he's also the headquarters veterans

1 service officer. And one of the things you've
2 got to talk about when you try to recruit people
3 is do people need VSO help. And S.D. Martin,
4 Shipmate S.D., where are you? This gentleman
5 here, so we're talking about VSOs that have the
6 capability of actually going into the VA system
7 and looking at your records.

8 And you know how much it costs? Zero,
9 it's free. When I talk to people that said why
10 didn't you call me before, because I just paid
11 somebody \$3,000 to do the same thing. Well,
12 sorry, but I mean, these are the things you
13 should be selling as far as I'm concerned. We
14 have a lot of benefits that we don't take
15 advantage of, or we don't tell potential members.

16 We give out \$14,000 a year to students
17 in grade seven through 12. We -- my branch is
18 181, and they give awards out at the branch
19 legal, regional level and at the national level.
20 \$1,500 dollars is first prize, a thousand, 750
21 and 500. In my branch, and we go to the schools,

1 I had eight applicants, and all you have to do is
2 write a page on what does it mean to be the
3 250th, and those kind of things.

4 So those are the things that you should
5 be selling as you go out, the Veterans Service
6 Foundation, the health and welfare, and the
7 Education Foundation, the Americanism-Patriotism.
8 These are some great things and somehow we always
9 make them the offer that this is a club and come
10 to the club. And what you'll find is that the
11 younger people don't want to do that, but if you
12 entice them with those benefits, I think that's
13 how you get them to be part of this organization.
14 Thank you.

15 (Applause.)

16 NP BEHM: Thank you, Shipmate NED. So
17 basically what I will be asking you on the
18 Veterans Service Foundation is I will be passing
19 a hat at some point, asking to pass the hat for
20 the Veterans Service Foundation, and a donation
21 to that, okay?

1 NED REID: Actually, one other thing.
2 We're looking for board members to step up and be
3 part of the Veterans Service Foundation, so that
4 we can make your voice heard about how they
5 should be using those funds. We are actually
6 soliciting new branch board members for the VSF.
7 We often miss your name, et cetera, but we are
8 soliciting new board members for the Veterans
9 Service Foundation.

10 NP BEHM: All right. Shipmate, did you
11 have a question? Walk on up and speak loud. I
12 know you can.

13 SPEAKER: (Inaudible), northwest, Branch
14 38. And I don't know why, but I was challenged,
15 and I've got something from the northwest region
16 to give to the -- I don't know if anybody else
17 does that, but I would like to give this to you
18 for the VSF.

19 (Applause.)

20 NP BEHM: Shipmate National Chaplain, we
21 all make mistakes, but everybody's family.

1 National Chaplain, would you please close the
2 Bible, and then we will recess the session.
3 Thank you.

4 NCHAP FALU: Shipmate National
5 President, the Bible is closed.

6 NP BEHM: Thank you, Shipmate.

7 SPEAKER: I made a mistake so somebody
8 else won't next time. That's from me personally.
9 This, I don't know how much this is for, but I
10 know it was written by shipmates from the
11 Northwest region.

12 NP BEHM: It's like Fort Knox trying to
13 get in. It's a hundred bucks, so we have \$200
14 from the Northwest region. Thank you, Shipmate.

15 (Applause.)

16 All right. The master at arms is going
17 to pass his hat now. Shipmate Combs?

18 PRPNC COMBS: The hospitality room will
19 be open as soon as we break here.

20 NP BEHM: That will be as soon as we're
21 finished here. Shipmate at the mic.

1 SPEAKER: National President, for
2 anybody in the room, we'll match 50 for 50 with
3 anybody. I've got one person.

4 SPEAKER: Branch 17 will match the 50.

5 NP BEHM: Shipmates, we are now in
6 recess and we will, don't forget the committees
7 in the morning, and we will see you at 1300
8 tomorrow for our second session.

9 (The first business session adjourned at
9 1607.)

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