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90th NATIONAL CONVENTION 2017

FLEET RESERVE ASSOCIATION

FIRST BUSINESS SESSION

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 20, 2017

1300 HOURS

Delta Hotels Baltimore

245 Shawan Road

Hunt Valley, Maryland 21031

DONALD E. LARSON, National President, FRA

Reported by:

Kelly E. Shaw, Notary Public

1 P R O C E E D I N G S

2 (1309)

3 NP LARSON: This assembly will now come to
4 order. Shipmate Master-At-Arms, will you please
5 invite the shipmates to enter the convention hall,
6 close the door, and silence your cell phones,
7 please.

8 MASTER-AT-ARMS: Shipmate National
9 President, the shipmates are in the hall and
10 [inaudible].

11 NP LARSON: Shipmate, thank you.

12 (Three raps of the gavel.)

13 NP LARSON: Shipmate National Chaplain,
14 please open the Holy Bible.

15 NCHAP PUGH: Shipmate President, the Bible
16 is open.

17 NP LARSON: Thank you, Shipmate National
18 Chaplain.

19 Shipmates, please join me in saluting,
20 rendering honors to the flag. Hand salute. Two.
21 Thank you.

1 (One rap of the gavel.)

2 NP LARSON: I now declare the First
3 Business Session of the 90th National Convention of
4 the Fleet Reserve Association regularly convened.

5 Shipmates, our Convention Reporter, who is
6 to the left of the rostrum, my left, is Miss Kelly
7 Shaw of CRC Salomon.

8 I want to remind all delegates that when
9 addressing the chair on any matter, including the
10 seconding of motions, you must speak into a
11 microphone and you must state your last name and
12 branch number. The recording of this convention is
13 by electronic means. If you do not speak into the
14 microphone, your name, branch, and comments will not
15 be recorded. Motions and seconds will not be
16 recognized and accepted unless you speak into the
17 microphone. Please keep private discussions to
18 yourselves or during the breaks.

19 Shipmates, I've appointed as the
20 Master-at-Arms for the First Business Session
21 Shipmate Past Regional President Charles McIntyre,

1 Branch 101, and Branch 101 Richard Ruiz to assist.
2 Thank you Shipmates so much for volunteering. I
3 appreciate that.

4 Shipmates, my appointee as Timekeeper is
5 Past Regional President East Coast Claire H. Purdy,
6 Annapolis Branch 024. Thank you again for
7 volunteering.

8 I do want to remind all delegates that
9 when a matter is under discussion, that you are
10 limited to a maximum of three minutes, three
11 minutes, speaking at the microphone and that you
12 must confine your remarks to the question. In
13 addition, you may not speak a second time on any
14 question until others have been provided the
15 privilege to speak and those who desire to speak
16 have done so. These rules are addressed in the FRA
17 Standing Rule 4. And I know you all brought your
18 C&BLs with you, right?

19 (Affirmative response.)

20 NP LARSON: Outstanding. Thank you,
21 Shipmates.

1 The National Executive Director will now
2 call the roll of officers.

3 NED SNEE: National President Larson.

4 NP LARSON: Present.

5 NED SNEE: National Vice President

6 Starkey.

7 NVP STARKEY: Present.

8 NED SNEE: National Executive Director

9 Snee, present. Finance Officer Proctor.

10 FO PROCTOR: Present.

11 NED SNEE: Junior Past National President

12 Courneya.

13 JrPNP COURNEYA: Present.

14 NED SNEE: Regional President

15 Northeast/New England Davenport.

16 RPNE/NEng DAVENPORT: Present.

17 NED SNEE: Regional President East Coast

18 Vatter.

19 RPEC VATTER: Present.

20 NED SNEE: Regional President Southeast

21 Robbins.

1 RPSE ROBBINS: Present.

2 NED SNEE: Regional President North
3 Central Combs.

4 RPNC COMBS: Here.

5 NED SNEE: Regional President South
6 Central Talbot.

7 RPSC TALBOT: Present.

8 NED SNEE: Regional President Southwest
9 Davis.

10 RPSW DAVIS: Present.

11 NED SNEE: Regional President West Coast
12 Behm.

13 RPWC BEHM: Here.

14 NED SNEE: Regional President Northwest
15 Burke.

16 RPNW BURKE: Here.

17 NED SNEE: National Parliamentarian Beese.
18 NParl/PNP BEESE: Here.

19 NED SNEE: And National Chaplain Pugh.
20 NCHAP PUGH: Present.

21 NED SNEE: Shipmate National President,

1 all present and accounted for.

2 NP LARSON: Thank you, Shipmate National
3 Executive Director.

4 We will now have the First Credentials
5 Report, Shipmate Chairman Past Regional President
6 Northwest Pete Lazzaretti.

7 Shipmate Master-at-Arms, would you please
8 see if Past Regional President Pete Lazzaretti is
9 out in the hall and invite him in?

10 MASTER-AT-ARMS: [Inaudible.]

11 NP LARSON: He's not ready? Okay. We'll
12 go ahead and proceed.

13 We will now have the presentation of the
14 Annual Reports of the National Officers. In
15 accordance with Section 612 Alpha, C&BL, FRA, all
16 recommendations contained in these reports must have
17 been previously submitted under Section 611, C&BL,
18 FRA. SR-4 refers and applies. All of these reports
19 have been submitted in writing, typewritten, and are
20 included in the delegate kits that each of you
21 should have and brought with you, correct? Very

1 important this week.

2 To expedite the order of business this
3 afternoon, I ask that all National Officers submit
4 their reports for the record and confine their
5 remarks to summarizing the highlights of your report
6 and additional remarks necessary to supplement
7 information in your reports. You may render your
8 reports from the podium or from a floor microphone
9 as desired. There is a step up getting up here, so
10 I would recommend you use the floor microphone.

11 PRPEC PURDY: There's Pete.

12 NParl/PNP BEESE: Let's proceed until we
13 get done the officers' reports.

14 NP LARSON: We'll proceed with National
15 Officer reports. My report as National President is
16 submitted for the record. You'll find a copy on
17 your table, not in the delegate kit. That is no
18 one's fault but my own. But you do have a copy on
19 the table.

20 SHIPMATES: No.

21 NP LARSON: No?

1 SHIPMATES: No.

2 NP LARSON: Then we will skip the National
3 President and proceed. We'll come back to the
4 National President. Shame on him.

5 National Vice President Starkey.

6 NVP STARKEY: Good afternoon. Shipmates,
7 Past National Presidents, Regional Officers,
8 National President Larson, my report is contained in
9 Tab B. I move that it be received.

10 PRPNC CUNNINGHAM: Cunningham, Branch 14,
11 second.

12 NParl/PNP BEESE: No, you don't need a
13 second. Just discussion.

14 NP LARSON: We do not require seconds on
15 these. Shame on me.

16 National Executive Director.

17 NED SNEE: Shipmate President and
18 Shipmates, my report is in Tab Charlie, C, and I
19 move that it be accepted.

20 NP LARSON: Discussion?

21 (None.)

1 NP LARSON: All in favor, please signify
2 by saying aye.

3 (Chorus of ayes.)

4 NP LARSON: Opposed, same signal.

5 (None.)

6 NP LARSON: And for the National Vice
7 President Starkey, Tab B, all in favor of his
8 report?

9 (Chorus of ayes.)

10 NP LARSON: Opposed, same signal.

11 (None.)

12 (One rap of the gavel.)

13 NP LARSON: Passed.

14 Junior Past National President Courneya.

15 JrPNP COURNEYA: My report is at Tab E. I
16 have one amendment to it. I attended the funeral
17 services of Past National President Smits, and
18 [inaudible], and I request that it be received.

19 NP LARSON: Discussion?

20 (None.)

21 NP LARSON: All in favor, please signify

1 by saying aye.

2 (Chorus of ayes.)

3 NP LARSON: Opposed, same signal.

4 (None.)

5 (One rap of the gavel.)

6 NP LARSON: National Finance Officer, Mr.
7 Proctor.

8 FO PROCTOR: Hello. My report is in
9 Section Delta and I request that it be received.

10 NP LARSON: Discussion?

11 (None.)

12 NP LARSON: All in favor, please signify
13 by saying aye.

14 (Chorus of ayes.)

15 NP LARSON: Opposed, same signal.

16 (None.)

17 (One rap of the gavel.)

18 NP LARSON: Regional President
19 Northwest/New England Davenport.

20 UNIDENTIFIED SHIPMATE: Northwest?

21 NP LARSON: Regional President

1 Northeast/New England Davenport.

2 RPNE/NEng DAVENPORT: Davenport, Branch
3 13. As stepping in as the new president, I did not
4 report for the past president, and I notice that he
5 did not submit a report for the period.

6 NP LARSON: Thank you, Shipmate. Well
7 done. Proceeding. Regional President East Coast
8 Vatter.

9 RPEC VATTER: Shipmate National President,
10 National Officers, Past National Officers, and
11 Regional Officers, my report is located in Tab
12 Foxtrot. I have one amendment to that, and that is
13 to indicate we have merged Branches 5 with Branches
14 166.

15 And also, Shipmate President, just a point
16 of order, we are not operating under Standing Rule
17 4, we're operating under Standing Rule 3. That
18 should be reflected in the minutes. And I move that
19 my report be accepted.

20 NP LARSON: Can we get a volunteer to
21 straighten out all the standing rules? Thank you

1 very much, I appreciate that.

2 Regional President --

3 UNIDENTIFIED SHIPMATE: Take a vote.

4 NP LARSON: Oh, all in favor?

5 (Chorus of ayes.)

6 NP LARSON: Opposed, same signal.

7 UNIDENTIFIED SHIPMATE: No.

8 NP LARSON: One no.

9 (One rap of the gavel.)

10 NP LARSON: Passed.

11 Regional President North Central Combs.

12 RPNC COMBS: Shipmate National President
13 and Shipmates, my report is not contained under Tab
14 Foxtrot. You may or may not have a handout with my
15 report in it. If you have a handout, I move it be
16 accepted. If not, I don't know what the hell to
17 tell you.

18 (LAUGHTER.)

19 NP LARSON: Is there a copy someplace --
20 is there an original someplace, Shipmate?

21 RPNC COMBS: We had a little incident

1 where -- [indiscernible; simultaneous conversation].

2 NP LARSON: But it'll be on this

3 convention?

4 RPNC COMBS: We hope.

5 NP LARSON: Ah, Shipmate. Thank you very

6 much. Proceeding. Shipmate Regional President

7 South Central Talbot.

8 RPSC TALBOT: Shipmate National President

9 and Shipmates, my report is contained in Tab

10 Foxtrot. I move that it be accepted.

11 NP LARSON: All in favor, aye.

12 (Chorus of ayes.)

13 NP LARSON: Opposed, same signal.

14 (None.)

15 (One rap of the gavel.)

16 NP LARSON: Regional President Southwest

17 Davis.

18 RPSW DAVIS: Shipmate National President

19 and Shipmates, mine is in Foxtrot. I'd like to have

20 it received.

21 NP LARSON: All those in favor of

1 accepting, aye.

2 (Chorus of ayes.)

3 NP LARSON: Opposed, same signal.

4 (None.)

5 (One rap of the gavel.)

6 NP LARSON: Passed.

7 Regional President West Coast Behm.

8 RPWC BEHM: Regional President Behm, West
9 Coast. I move that Shipmate Past President Roland
10 Shorter's report be received. It is not my report,
11 but I do request that it be received.

12 NP LARSON: Thank you for reporting on
13 that. All in favor of accepting, please signify by
14 saying aye.

15 (Chorus of ayes.)

16 NP LARSON: Opposed, same signal.

17 (None.)

18 (One rap of the gavel.)

19 NP LARSON: Thank you.

20 Regional President Northwest Burke.

21 RPNW BURKE: My report is contained in Tab

1 F. It's under RPNW-1 through 7. It includes the
2 Philippine report from Southwest Regional Secretary
3 Quesnel. I move that it be accepted.

4 NP LARSON: Aye, Shipmate. Always an
5 outstanding report from Shipmate Burke. I think you
6 very much set the example. All in favor of
7 accepting the report, please signify by saying aye.

8 (Chorus of ayes.)

9 NP LARSON: Opposed, same signal.

10 (None.)

11 (One rap of the gavel.)

12 NP LARSON: Passed.

13 National Chaplain Pugh.

14 UNIDENTIFIED SHIPMATE: Southeast.

15 NParl/PNP BEESE: You've gotta call
16 Southeast. You missed it.

17 NCHAP PUGH: Shipmate President and
18 Shipmates, my report is in Tab G. I ask that it be
19 received.

20 NP LARSON: Aye, Shipmate.

21 All in favor, aye.

1 (Chorus of ayes.)

2 NP LARSON: Opposed, same signal.

3 (None.)

4 (One rap of the gavel.)

5 NP LARSON: Okay. Regional President

6 Southeast Robbie Robbins.

7 RPSE ROBBINS: Shipmate National President

8 and Shipmates, Shipmate Robbins. My report is in

9 Tab F under Southeast Regional and I move that my

10 report be accepted.

11 NP LARSON: Shipmate Robbins, thank you

12 very much. All in favor, aye.

13 (Chorus of ayes.)

14 NP LARSON: Opposed, same signal.

15 (None.)

16 (One rap of the gavel.)

17 NP LARSON: Thank you. Passed.

18 I will now call on the chairmen of the

19 standing and special national committees to render

20 their annual reports. These reports have all been

21 received by the National Headquarters, typewritten,

1 and are included in the delegate kits. I ask that
2 each chairman confine their remarks to summarizing
3 the highlights of the reports and providing
4 supplemental information. Again, in accordance with
5 Section 612 Alpha, Constitution & Bylaws, FRA, all
6 recommendations contained in these reports must have
7 been previously submitted under Section 611,
8 Constitution & Bylaws, FRA. SR-4 refers and
9 applies.

10 I now call on the chairmen for their
11 reports to be received.

12 NParl/PNP BEESE: Let's go on to
13 Credentials. We're done with the Regional Officers.

14 NP LARSON: Past Regional President
15 Northwest Pete Lazzaretti, you're ready for your
16 Credentials report?

17 PRPNW LAZZARETTI: Yes, I am.

18 NP LARSON: Okay, Shipmate. You have the
19 mic.

20 PRPNW LAZZARETTI: Good afternoon,
21 Shipmates, Past National Presidents, Past National

1 Officers. This is the First Credentials Report for
2 the 90th Fleet Reserve Association National
3 Convention. The information on credentials can be
4 found in Tab X-ray.

5 Authorized voting strength of this
6 convention is 1403.

7 Number of branches represented by
8 delegates: 66.

9 Number of votes represented by delegates:
10 738.

11 Number of branches registered by proxy:
12 120.

13 Number of votes registered by proxy: 572.

14 Number of branches not registered: 5 out
15 of 191 branches.

16 Number of delegates registered: 113.

17 Registered voting strength: 1310.

18 Number of votes not registered: 93.

19 Two-thirds vote is 874.

20 Majority vote is 655.

21 NP LARSON: Shipmate at the mic.

1 PRPSW FULTON: Shipmate National
2 President, Fulton, 289. I move that the Credentials
3 First Report be received.

4 PRPEC PURDY: Second.

5 NP LARSON: Who are you?

6 PRPEC PURDY: I'm sorry. Claire Purdy,
7 Regional President East Coast, seconds.

8 NP LARSON: It's been moved and seconded
9 that the First Credentials Report be adopted. Any
10 questions? Shipmate at the mic.

11 PNP BLACKBURN: Shipmate National
12 President, I believe that the majority vote should
13 be 656. It's Blackburn, delegate, Branch 8.

14 PRPNW LAZZARETTI: You are correct.

15 NP LARSON: Who are you? Pete Lazzaretti,
16 you said "You are correct"?

17 PRPNW LAZZARETTI: Yes.

18 NP LARSON: That's what I was looking for.
19 Thank you.

20 PRPNW LAZZARETTI: The following branches
21 were not received: Branch 162 and 334.

1 The following were received, but no one
2 has checked in yet: Branch 60, Branch 67, and
3 Branch 99.

4 The following NBR actions remove the
5 following branches from the roster:

6 Branch 5 merged with Branch 166 per NBR
7 20-17.

8 Branch 10, charter revoked per NBR 21-17.

9 Branch 21, charter surrendered per NBR
10 22-17.

11 Branch 36, charter revoked per NBR 24-17.

12 Branch 48, charter suspended per NBR
13 23-17.

14 Branch 66, charter surrendered per NBR
15 19-16.

16 Branch 71, charter surrendered per NBR
17 27-17.

18 Branch 83, charter suspended per NBR
19 25-17.

20 Did everybody get Branch 83?

21 RPNW BURKE: Revoked, not suspended.

1 PRPNW LAZZARETTI: Shipmate Peg just
2 reminded me that Branch 83, the charter was revoked,
3 not suspended, per NBR 25-17. Thank you, Shipmate
4 Peg.

5 Branch 110 merged with Branch 44 per NBR
6 20-16.

7 Branch 111 surrendered their charter per
8 NBR 15-17.

9 Branch 145, charter suspended per 31-17.

10 UNIDENTIFIED SHIPMATE: Say that again.

11 PRPNW LAZZARETTI: Branch 145, charter
12 suspended per NBR 31-17.

13 Branch 160, charter revoked per NBR 7-16.

14 UNIDENTIFIED SHIPMATE: There is no 160 on
15 there.

16 PRPNW LAZZARETTI: Okay, then she pulled
17 it off.

18 Branch 170, charter suspended per NBR
19 35-17.

20 Branch 179, charter surrendered per NBR
21 13-17.

1 Branch 283 merged with Branch 28 per NBR

2 30-17.

3 UNIDENTIFIED SHIPMATE: Repeat that,

4 please.

5 PRPNW LAZZARETTI: Branch 283 merged with

6 Branch 28 per NBR 30-17.

7 Branch 284 merged with Branch 177 per NBR

8 31-16.

9 Branch 296, charter surrendered per NBR

10 14-17.

11 Branch 319 surrendered their charter per

12 NBR 24-16.

13 Branch 327, charter revoked per NBR 18-17.

14 Branch 338 surrendered charter per NBR

15 18-16.

16 Branch 344, charter surrendered per NBR

17 27-17.

18 Branch 376 surrendered charter per NBR

19 30-16.

20 And last but not least, Branch 386

21 surrendered charter per NBR 29-16.

1 Shipmate National President, unless
2 there's any questions or clarifications on the
3 information I just presented, I conclude the
4 information on branch status.

5 NP LARSON: Shipmate, please stand by.
6 Shipmate at the microphone.

7 SHIPMATE BROWN: Shipmate Jim Brown,
8 Branch 226, delegate. Branch 71, you have it was
9 surrendered?

10 PRPNW LAZZARETTI: 371?

11 SHIPMATE BROWN: No, 071.

12 PRPNW LAZZARETTI: Oh, yes. Branch 71 was
13 charter surrendered per NBR 27-17.

14 SHIPMATE BROWN: I thought it was
15 suspended. That's the reason I'm asking.

16 PRPNW LAZZARETTI: I was given information
17 that it was surrendered. I can get the correction
18 on that.

19 SHIPMATE BROWN: Okay. Thank you.

20 NP LARSON: We earlier received a motion
21 and a second. Oh, sorry -- are you done?

1 PRPNW LAZZARETTI: I move this information
2 be received.

3 PRPEC SLAWINSKI: Slawinski, delegate,
4 Branch 181, seconds.

5 NP LARSON: Thanks, Shipmate.

6 Any questions?

7 (None.)

8 NP LARSON: Those in favor of the motion,
9 please say aye.

10 (Chorus of ayes.)

11 NP LARSON: Opposed, say nay.

12 (None.)

13 NP LARSON: Passed. The ayes have it, and
14 therefore it is adopted. Quorum is established.
15 Thank you, Shipmate Chairman.

16 NParl/PNP BEESE: Now we'll go back to the
17 national committee reports.

18 NP LARSON: Okay. Let me go back to the
19 national committee reports and call on
20 Americanism-Patriotism, Past Regional President East
21 Coast James W. Campbell, Branch 40.

1 PRPEC CAMPBELL: Campbell, Branch 40,
2 chairman of the National Americanism-Patriotism. My
3 report can be found in Index I in the --

4 UNIDENTIFIED SHIPMATE: Delegate kit.

5 PRPEC CAMPBELL: Yeah, the blue book.

6 Thank you. I ask that it be accepted.

7 NP LARSON: Discussion?

8 (None.)

9 NP LARSON: All in favor, please signify
10 by saying aye.

11 (Chorus of ayes.)

12 NP LARSON: Opposed, nay.

13 (None.)

14 (One rap of the gavel.)

15 NP LARSON: Passed.

16 Budget and Finance. Past National

17 President Gary Blackburn, Branch 008.

18 PNP BLACKBURN: Blackburn, delegate,
19 Branch 8, chairman of Budget and Finance Committee.

20 National President, Shipmates, my report is in Tab

21 Juliet. I move that it be received.

1 NP LARSON: Discussion?

2 (None.)

3 NP LARSON: All in favor of receiving,
4 please signify by saying aye.

5 (Chorus of ayes.)

6 NP LARSON: Opposed, nay.

7 (None.)

8 (One rap of the gavel.)

9 NP LARSON: Received.

10 Constitution, Bylaws, and Resolutions.

11 Past National President Donald Muccheck, Branch 269.

12 PNP MUCHECK: Muccheck, Branch 269,
13 chairman of the Constitution and Bylaws. My report
14 is in Tab K in the delegate kit. I move that it be
15 received for the record.

16 NP LARSON: Shipmate, thank you. Do we
17 have a second?

18 NParl/PNP BEESE: Discussion. Discussion.

19 NP LARSON: Discussion?

20 SHIPMATE HILL: Hill, delegate, Branch
21 290. Second.

1 NP LARSON: Thank you, Shipmate.

2 Discussion on this?

3 (None.)

4 NP LARSON: All in favor of receiving,
5 aye.

6 (Chorus of ayes.)

7 NP LARSON: Opposed, nay.

8 (None.)

9 (One rap of the gavel.)

10 NP LARSON: Received.

11 Future Planning. S.D. Martin, Branch 166.

12 SHIPMATE MARTIN: National President, Past

13 National Presidents, Shipmates, Future Planning

14 Committee report is located in Tab Lima. There is

15 one correction. The first line where it says PNP is

16 a typo. It should be National Vice President vice

17 PNP. I move that my report be received as

18 corrected.

19 NP LARSON: Received as correction. Thank

20 you very much, Shipmate. Discussion?

21 (None.)

1 NP LARSON: All in favor of receiving,
2 please signify by saying aye.

3 (Chorus of ayes.)

4 NP LARSON: Opposed, nay.

5 (None.)

6 (One rap of the gavel.)

7 NP LARSON: Received.

8 Hospitals, Welfare, and Rehabilitation.

9 Junior Past Regional President Northeast/New England
10 Donna Jansky, Branch 31.

11 JrPRPEC/NEng JANSKY: National President,
12 my report is contained in Tab M and I request that
13 it be received.

14 NP LARSON: Wonderful to see this one,
15 Shipmate. Discussion?

16 (None.)

17 NP LARSON: All in favor of receiving,
18 aye.

19 (Chorus of ayes.)

20 NP LARSON: Opposed, nay.

21 (None.)

1 (One rap of the gavel.)

2 NP LARSON: Received. Thank you very
3 much.

4 Legislative Services. National Executive
5 Director Thomas Snee, Branch 181.

6 NED SNEE: Shipmate President and
7 Shipmates, my report is found in Tab N, November,
8 and I move that it be received.

9 NP LARSON: Discussion?

10 (None.)

11 NP LARSON: All in favor of receiving,
12 please signify by saying aye.

13 (Chorus of ayes.)

14 NP LARSON: Opposed, say nay.

15 (None.)

16 (One rap of the gavel.)

17 NP LARSON: Received.

18 Public Relations. Regional President
19 Northwest Margret Burke, "Peg," Branch 38.

20 RPNW BURKE: Burke. My report is in
21 Section O of the delegate convention thing. I move

1 that it be accepted.

2 NP LARSON: Discussion?

3 (None.)

4 NP LARSON: All in favor of receiving,
5 please signify by saying aye.

6 (Chorus of ayes.)

7 NP LARSON: Opposed, nay.

8 (None.)

9 (One rap of the gavel.)

10 NP LARSON: Received.

11 Veterans Service. NSD Past Regional
12 President East Coast Chris Slawinski, Branch 181.

13 PRPEC SLAWINSKI: Shipmate National
14 President, Slawinski, Past Regional President East
15 Coast, chairman of the Veterans Service Committee.
16 I want to make a correction. Shipmate Burke's
17 activity of Public Relations is in Tab Popeye, not
18 Oscar. I just want to make sure that's correct for
19 the record.

20 NP LARSON: Questions? Discussion?

21 (None.)

1 NP LARSON: All in favor of receiving the
2 report, please signify by saying aye.

3 (Chorus of ayes.)

4 NP LARSON: Opposed, nay.

5 (None.)

6 (One rap of the gavel.)

7 NP LARSON: Received. Thank you,
8 Shipmate.

9 PRPEC SLAWINSKI: Now I will do my report.
10 Shipmate National President, Veterans Service
11 Committee report can be found in Tab Quebec. And I
12 move that my report be received.

13 NP LARSON: Discussion, Shipmates?

14 (None.)

15 NP LARSON: All in favor of receiving the
16 report, please signify by saying aye.

17 (Chorus of ayes.)

18 NP LARSON: Opposed, nay.

19 (None.)

20 (One rap of the gavel.)

21 NP LARSON: Received.

1 Youth Activities - Past Regional President
2 North Central Charles Neureuther, Branch 298.

3 RVPSE RICHMOND: Hi, I'm Regional Vice
4 President Southeast Jim Richmond. I've been
5 appointed to the Youth Activities. The Past
6 Regional President Neureuther, he submitted no
7 annual report this year for Youth Activities. I
8 move that it be accepted.

9 NP LARSON: Regional Vice President
10 Southeast Jim Richmond, thank you very much.

11 Discussion?

12 (None.)

13 NP LARSON: All in favor of receiving,
14 please signify by saying aye.

15 (Chorus of ayes.)

16 NP LARSON: Opposed, nay.

17 (Chorus of nays.)

18 (One rap of the gavel.)

19 NP LARSON: Not received.

20 NParl/PNP BEESE: Proceed.

21 NP LARSON: The National Executive

1 Director will read and the delegates will act on the
2 ratification of actions taken by the National Board
3 of Directors since the last convention.

4 NED SNEE: Shipmate National President and
5 Shipmates, [inaudible] resolved:

6 NBR 1-17: Minutes be approved of the
7 Pre-Convention National Board of Directors Meeting;
8 12 affirmative.

9 NBR 2-17: Pay freeze of the NED's salary,
10 will remain at the current salary of \$108,150.00
11 until budget review; 12 affirmative.

12 NBR 3-17: National President request a
13 member of the National Board of Directors to move
14 the ratification of the referenced listing of the
15 National Standing Committee; 12 affirmative.

16 NBR 4-17: Freeze pay and travel until
17 budget discussed by the budget committee; 12
18 affirmative.

19 NBR 5-17: PNP to have access to their
20 branch's alpha roster on a case by case basis on
21 approval granted by the NED; 12 affirmative.

1 NBR 6-17: LA FRA 2016-2017 National
2 President's Project, soliciting from places to build
3 up money that is currently rapidly depleting; 12
4 affirmative.

5 NParl/PNP BEESE: Move to ratify.

6 NED SNEE: I move that it be accepted.

7 NP LARSON: Shipmate at the mic.

8 PRPSW FULTON: Fulton, delegate, 289. In
9 Tab Tango of the convention delegate kit, we have
10 NBR 7-17 through 20-17.

11 NED SNEE: So noted, Shipmate. Thank you.
12 What was the last one that I called?

13 SHIPMATES: 6-17.

14 NED SNEE: 6-17? Thank you.

15 Okay. So Number 7, which was listed in
16 your delegate book in Section Tango, National Board
17 Resolution 7-17: Resolved, That the National Board
18 of Directors authorize the expenditure of an
19 additional \$250.00 from the Welfare and
20 Rehabilitation Reserve for a total grant of \$750.00
21 as contained in the provisions of Article 9, Section

1 909 Delta, C&BL, FRA; 12 affirmative.

2 National Board of Directors Resolution
3 Number 8-17: Resolved, That the National Board of
4 Directors authorize the expenditure of an additional
5 \$1,500.00 from the Welfare and Rehabilitation
6 Reserve for a total grant of \$2,000.00 as contained
7 in the provisions of Article 9, Section 909 Delta,
8 C&BL, FRA; 12 affirmative.

9 NBR 9-17: Resolved, That Seattle Fleet
10 Reserve Association Branch 18 has permission to use
11 the altered Association logo in celebration of its
12 90th anniversary in promotional and fundraising
13 usage; 11 affirmative, 1 no vote. And that was the
14 Regional President Northwest.

15 NBR 10-17: Resolved, That the Washington,
16 D.C. Branch and Unit 004, through the 2017 National
17 Convention Committee, be authorized to use the
18 official FRA emblem and the FRA and LA FRA Triangles
19 on their marketing materials and on for-sale
20 souvenir merchandise; 9 affirmative, 3 negative.
21 The negatives were the Regional President East

1 Coast, Regional President Southeast, and Regional
2 President West Coast.

3 NBR 11-17: Resolved, That the minutes of
4 the 89th Post-National Convention National Board of
5 Directors Meeting be approved; 12 affirmative.

6 NBR 12-17: Resolved, that Tate & Tyron be
7 rehired as our auditors to conduct the audit for
8 2017; 12 affirmative.

9 SHIPMATES: Proceed.

10 NED SNEE: Thank you.

11 NBR 13-17: Resolved, That Gainesville
12 Branch 179's (Starke, Florida) charter be
13 voluntarily surrendered and approved; 12
14 affirmative.

15 NBR 14-17: Resolved, That Mother Lode
16 Branch 296's (Auburn, California) charter be
17 voluntarily surrendered and approved; 12
18 affirmative.

19 NBR 15-17: Resolved, That Batangas Branch
20 111's (Batangas, Philippines) charter be voluntarily
21 surrendered and approved; 12 affirmative.

1 NBR 16-17: Resolved, That Cavite City
2 Branch 36's (Cavite City, Philippines) charter be
3 placed under suspension due to a lack of
4 communication of branch and secretary and until
5 found to be in good working order; 12 affirmative.

6 SHIPMATES: Proceed.

7 NED SNEE: NBR 17-17: Resolved, That
8 Oakland/San Leandro Branch 10's (San Leandro,
9 California) charter be placed under suspension due
10 to lack of communications to Regional President West
11 Coast requests and until found to be in good working
12 order; 12 affirmative.

13 SHIPMATES: Proceed.

14 NED SNEE: NBR 18-17: Resolved, That
15 Miami Valley Branch 327's (Dayton Ohio) charter be
16 revoked; 12 affirmative.

17 SHIPMATES: Proceed.

18 NED SNEE: NBR 19-17: Resolved, That the
19 National Board of Directors authorize the
20 expenditure of an additional \$2,000.00 from the
21 Welfare and Rehabilitation Reserve for a total grant

1 of \$2,500.00 as contained in the provisions of
2 Article 9, Section 909 Delta, C&BL, FRA; 12
3 affirmative.

4 SHIPMATES: Proceed.

5 NED SNEE: NBR 20-17: Resolved, That
6 Norfolk Branch 5, in accordance with the provisions
7 contained in Section 1212, C&BL, FRA, be merged with
8 Virginia Beach Branch 166; 12 affirmative.

9 SHIPMATES: Proceed.

10 NED SNEE: I move that we ratify these
11 NBRs.

12 NParl/PNP BEESE: We need a second.

13 NP LARSON: Shipmate at the microphone.

14 PRPSW FULTON: Fulton, delegate, 289.

15 Second.

16 NP LARSON: Discussion?

17 (None.)

18 NP LARSON: All in favor of receiving --

19 (Chorus of ayes.)

20 NP LARSON: Stand by.

21 SHIPMATE MARTIN: Shipmate National

1 President, Martin, delegate, Branch 166 President.
2 NBR 20-17 has 28 July paperwork was Branch 5 merged
3 with Branch 166. What was [inaudible] from March?

4 NP LARSON: Shipmate?

5 PRPEC SLAWINSKI: Shipmate National
6 President, Slawinski, Past Regional President East
7 Coast. The justification for why that was held up
8 was Branch 5 requested that they could participate
9 in the East Coast Regional Convention and that their
10 votes would be counted for those shipmates before
11 that merger of the two branches happened. They
12 would not have a voice at the East Coast Regional
13 Convention if it was done sooner. So they requested
14 to have that merger be affirmed after the convention
15 concluded. Thank you.

16 NParl/PNP BEESE: That was a request by 5.

17 NP LARSON: That was a request by five
18 branches.

19 NParl/PNP BEESE: No, Branch 5.

20 NP LARSON: That was requested by Branch
21 5. Does that respond to your question, Shipmate?

1 SHIPMATE MARTIN: My question is, by them
2 doing that, did that cost us voting strength at this
3 election? We should -- we have 23 votes.
4 [Inaudible] their 10.

5 PRPEC SLAWINSKI: Shipmate National
6 President, Slawinski, National Headquarters staff.
7 Actions taken by the board this year do not go into
8 effect until the next membership year, so that if
9 there's a merger between two branches, they do not
10 receive the votes from one of the branches. So the
11 branch that survives retains their votes for that
12 year, and the branch that is no longer -- is merged
13 with the new branch, those votes are null.

14 NP LARSON: 31 March the following
15 calendar year, correct?

16 PRPEC SLAWINSKI: Correct.

17 UNIDENTIFIED SHIPMATE: Membership year.

18 NP LARSON: Membership.

19 SHIPMATE MARTIN: So am I correct in
20 saying that simply because after 31 March, Branch 5,
21 which merged with Branch 166, lost their 10 votes.

1 Am I correct?

2 NP LARSON: Yes.

3 SHIPMATE MARTIN: So you cost me 10 votes.

4 Thank you.

5 NP LARSON: Thank you for the question.

6 Shipmate at the microphone.

7 RPEC VATTER: Shipmate National President,
8 Vatter, Branch 93, delegate, Regional President East
9 Coast. To clarify that, we pushed this resolution
10 through for the board due to the illness of Past
11 National President Tom Leisher. Otherwise, this
12 event would not have taken place until the National
13 Board meeting yesterday, at the Pre-Board. But
14 again, that was at the request of Shipmate Tom
15 Leisher, who put this to a vote during the month of
16 July. And yes, we did in fact hold off until after
17 the East Coast Regional Convention so Branch 5 would
18 have had a voice in our Regional Convention. I hope
19 that clarifies it.

20 NP LARSON: Thank you, Shipmate. Shipmate
21 at the mic.

1 PNP BLACKBURN: Blackburn, delegate,
2 Branch 8. NBR 14-17, I believe you need to
3 investigate. I believe Branch 296 merged with
4 Branch 230, not only just surrendered their charter.
5 We need to investigate that. But it does not affect
6 our voting strength at all.

7 PRPEC PURDY: Who'd they merge with?

8 PNP BLACKBURN: 296 merged with 230. It
9 will not affect the voting strength.

10 NP LARSON: State the NBR number again,
11 please, Shipmate.

12 PNP BLACKBURN: 14. It states that they
13 surrendered their charter. Yes they did, although
14 they merged -- but they merged with Branch 230.

15 NP LARSON: And specified 'merge.' Thank
16 you, Shipmate.

17 All in favor, please signify by saying
18 yay.

19 (Chorus of yays.)

20 NP LARSON: Opposed, nay.

21 (None.)

1 (One rap of the gavel.)

2 NP LARSON: Passed.

3 Shipmate National Convention Chairman Art,
4 are you present?

5 SHIPMATE CALIGUIRAN: Yes.

6 NP LARSON: Do you have any announcements?

7 SHIPMATE CALIGUIRAN: Art Caliguiran,
8 Branch 4, delegate, and also the chairman of the
9 National Convention. There will be free luncheons
10 served in Salon E and F tomorrow and Friday. Only
11 the first 50 guests will be served free. And those
12 who signed up for banquet on Saturday, we now have
13 additional selection of beef. So if you would like
14 to change your selection, stop by Derby Room and you
15 will let us know whether you want the beef or the
16 chicken and fish. Thank you.

17 NP LARSON: Thank you. Shipmate at the
18 microphone.

19 RPSE ROBBINS: Shipmate National
20 President, I apologize; I was sleeping. Robbins,
21 delegate, Branch 91, Jacksonville, Florida. NBR

1 13-17, again, Branch 179 did surrender their charter
2 voluntarily, but merged with Branch 183,
3 Interlachen, Florida. We dealt with that several
4 times over the phone.

5 UNIDENTIFIED SHIPMATE: 179 to what?

6 RPSE ROBBINS: 179 branched with -- 193?

7 SHIPMATES: 183.

8 RPSE ROBBINS: 183.

9 NP LARSON: Branch 179 merged with Branch
10 183.

11 RPSE ROBBINS: Yes.

12 NP LARSON: Aye. Thank you, Shipmate.

13 Shipmates, we're pretty much close to
14 wrapping up this afternoon's first convention
15 session. Do you want to break or do you want to
16 proceed?

17 SHIPMATES: Proceed.

18 NP LARSON: Should we do a roll call vote
19 on that?

20 SHIPMATES: No.

21 NP LARSON: Okay. Before we finish the

1 last part, I apologize, I should have done this
2 earlier, but first-time announcement: All new
3 shipmates, visitors, if this is your first National
4 Convention, I hope you attended the branch workshop,
5 branch convention 101 this morning. But all the new
6 attendees' first National Convention, please rise.

7 (APPLAUSE.)

8 NP LARSON: Normally for convention
9 workshop 101 we have a continental breakfast, but if
10 you didn't make it this morning, you missed out on
11 scrambled eggs, bacon, toast.

12 Okay. Great. Shipmates, you've all seen
13 pretty much the new attendees. I think this is like
14 the largest first-time attendees in quite a while.

15 (APPLAUSE.)

16 NP LARSON: Shipmate at the mic.

17 PNP SMITH: Past President Smith,
18 delegate. Any word on Teresa yet?

19 NED SNEE: Shipmate Past National
20 President and to all the Shipmates, yes, Teresa, as
21 far as we know, has been admitted to the hospital

1 for medical situations -- high blood pressure and
2 this type of thing. Until then, we will let you
3 know as we know from the progress, without giving
4 too much information. As you can understand, it is
5 confidentiality and all those type of things. And
6 we do sincerely appreciate as a staff your concern.
7 However, once that little situation did happen, we
8 did move into action. We do have a backup plan in
9 the Headquarters staff to continue on. The biggest
10 thing is your respective reports for tomorrow. And
11 all we ask is that you make sure you have them. We
12 realize that some may be doing it on your own
13 computers, which is fine, but in the essence of
14 submitting it for the recorder, which it's got to be
15 recorded, please let us know so we can do a
16 checklist.

17 All we know, though, Shipmate, is that
18 she's at the hospital in Towson, Maryland. We do
19 not know anything else. I do know that Past
20 Regional President LA FRA East Coast Deborah
21 Washington was with her when she went to the

1 ambulance, and we have not heard nothing else other
2 than that. But there may be confidentiality and
3 this type of thing.

4 We will keep you up on her. Trust me.
5 She's a very dynamic lady, and I think you all know
6 that from past experience. And just keep her in
7 your thoughts and prayers, please. Thank you very
8 much. As we proceed, I will let you know. Thank
9 you. We will be getting get well cards passed
10 around probably tomorrow so everybody can have a
11 signature, but we will let you know from this mic as
12 to where the cards will be -- I would imagine
13 they'll be right over here by the staff. So you can
14 come over and please sign them. I appreciate it.

15 Shipmate National President, that
16 concludes my report for Teresa. Shipmate Teresa.

17 NP LARSON: Thank you very much on the
18 question, thank you very much on the response. Our
19 prayers are with her. She's a Shipmate, right?
20 She's the backbone.

21 Shipmates, if you see someone in the hall

1 you don't recognize, chances are they're a brand new
2 Shipmate for this National Convention. Please go
3 out of your way to make them feel welcome and get
4 them involved. And with getting involved, we go
5 into the convention committees.

6 Convention committees are to commence
7 their meetings at 0900 tomorrow morning. If you
8 look into your program on page 10, it will be where
9 we have presently put each committee. If the
10 chairmen are not comfortable with that, please let
11 us know.

12 Shipmate at the microphone.

13 PNP MUCHECK: Shipmate National President,
14 Muccheck, chairman of the Constitution and Bylaws.
15 We will meet in Salon Charlie.

16 NP LARSON: So on page 11, I believe,
17 change that to Salon Charlie for Constitution and
18 Bylaws.

19 SHIPMATES: It already says that.

20 NP LARSON: Thank you for that. Just
21 making sure you were paying attention.

1 You are instructed to conduct your
2 deliberations in a prompt and effective manner,
3 complete your committee business, and complete the
4 preparations of your convention committee report.

5 Shipmate Past Regional President East
6 Coast Chris Slawinski, Branch 181, is the Steering
7 Committee Chairman and he is assisted by Shipmates
8 Past Regional President East Coast Robert
9 Washington, Sr., Branch 181 -- Shipmate Washington,
10 raise your hand, please, all right -- and
11 Legislative Programs Director John R. Davis -- raise
12 your hand so they'll know who you are, there you
13 are -- Branch 181.

14 Meeting rooms are listed in the convention
15 program; again, page 10 through 12, I believe.
16 Convention committee chairmen are to pick up their
17 committee forms and rosters from the chairman of the
18 Steering Committee at this time, as soon as we're
19 finished. When convention committee reports are
20 ready to be delivered to the delegates, the chairman
21 will report to the Steering Committee Chairman, who

1 will coordinate and schedule presentation of the
2 reports with the National President. In this
3 manner, an orderly flow of convention business will
4 be scheduled.

5 Convention committee reports will be
6 called commencing with the Second Business Session
7 tomorrow afternoon at 1300. If you do not have your
8 reports ready, please meet with a Steering
9 convention chairperson. What I request is that you
10 go into your committee groups tomorrow relaxed mode.
11 I would request that the chairmen, tomorrow
12 afternoon, be in business attire so we can get a
13 professional picture taken.

14 If you open up to Tab Victor in your
15 delegate kit, which I know you all brought with you
16 today for the first day and for the rest of the
17 week, in Tab Victor is listed who's on what
18 committee. For a large part, you volunteered. For
19 probably a larger part, you've been volunteering.

20 Okay, this is especially for the newbies,
21 also. Excuse me, first-time attendees. No

1 disrespect. If you do not see your name on a list,
2 please seek out the shipmate chairman to get on that
3 committee. This is an excellent opportunity.
4 You're judging the first place from each of the
5 eight regions. This is a chance to look to see what
6 the first place for the regionals are submitting,
7 and then bring this back to your branches, and you
8 beef up your reports for next year. This is the
9 best cheat-sheet possible, to see firsthand what's
10 going on.

11 I would suggest that after your committee
12 has finished, it's recessed, that you bounce into
13 another room and see what's going on there. Do not
14 be shy about volunteering to be part of the
15 committee. You can sit in the audience, but get
16 involved. This is a great opportunity for you. You
17 get to meet shipmates and hear what's going on. And
18 you all know I'm ranting and raving, and we've all
19 been there. But appreciate that. Fantastic.

20 Resolutions that have been referred to
21 National Convention committees are noted on the

1 Steering Committee forms being provided to the
2 convention committee chairmen.

3 UNIDENTIFIED SHIPMATE: Shipmate.

4 NP LARSON: Shipmate, aye.

5 RPSW DAVIS: Davis, Branch 70. I was
6 wondering on the committees, who's the chair for
7 Youth Activities?

8 NP LARSON: Youth Activities. We have
9 volunteer -- actual volunteers. Regional Vice
10 President Southeast Jim Richmond. Jim Richmond,
11 would you please stand?

12 RPSW DAVIS: Thank you very much.

13 NP LARSON: Go to the microphone. This is
14 important.

15 RVPSE RICHMOND: Shipmates, I'm going to
16 be taking over the Youth Activities. So if you have
17 reports --

18 SHIPMATES: Who are you?

19 RVPSE RICHMOND: Oh, I'm sorry. Jim
20 Richmond, Branch 22, delegate. I'll be in the
21 Hospitality Room later tonight, if you want to just

1 bring it into there. Or if you want to -- well, we
2 gotta see them by first thing in the morning, we
3 gotta start judging them. So just meet me in the
4 Hospitality Room tonight. I will be there. I'll
5 stay there till the wee hours, till I get the
6 reports.

7 And then I ask, if you're on the
8 committee, if you look in the delegate kit, it says
9 where we're going to be meeting. I think it says
10 the club. Any members of that committee, if you'd
11 please meet me there tomorrow, it would be great.

12 NP LARSON: Thank you, Shipmate.

13 Okay. There's possibly another fifteen
14 Mikes. Do you want a break? My apologies, I gave
15 you the wrong time. Do you want a break?

16 SHIPMATES: Yes.

17 (Three raps of the gavel.)

18 NP LARSON: Shipmate Chaplain?

19 NCHAP PUGH: Shipmate President, the Bible
20 is closed.

21 NP LARSON: Shipmate Chaplain, thank you

1 very much.

2 Delegates, you want a 10-minute break or a
3 15?

4 SHIPMATES: Fifteen.

5 NP LARSON: Fine. We'll recess until
6 1430.

7 (Recess.)

8 (Three raps of the gavel.)

9 NP LARSON: Shipmate National Chaplain,
10 please open the Bible and invoke the blessing of
11 God.

12 SHIPMATES: No.

13 NP LARSON: Oh, sorry. Please open the
14 Bible.

15 NCHAP PUGH: Shipmate President, the Bible
16 is open.

17 NP LARSON: Shipmate Chaplain, thank you
18 very much.

19 (One rap of the gavel.)

20 NP LARSON: Proceed. We will now call
21 upon the Finance Officer for his presentation.

1 Shipmates, if I may, for those of you not
2 in the know, just a couple months ago, National
3 Finance Officer Nora, who we all have pretty much
4 met and talked to and she's been a godsend and
5 blessing to this association, she had to resign for
6 personal reasons. And we went out and we canvassed
7 the area and we believe we got the best of the best,
8 Mr. Bryan Proctor, and he is now our Finance
9 Officer. If you have not met him, please stop by
10 after sessions this week, introduce yourself, and
11 he's going to do a fantastic job with us.

12 (APPLAUSE.)

13 FO PROCTOR: Thank you. So, you're going
14 to see me doing a lot of running back and forth
15 right now with Chris not being over there, so give
16 me a second while I present the financial report as
17 it was rendered by the Budget and Finance Committee.

18 This report is contained within the
19 delegate kit, with the PowerPoint highlights to be
20 presented up on screen. This agenda -- as you can
21 see, it's animated as well -- it compares 2015 to

1 2016 results, and we'll have income, expenses, as
2 well as investments. We'll also be showing 2017 as
3 of June 30, 2017, with any concerns and room for
4 improvement that the association can make. Our
5 motto for the next year is to move forward.

6 Next slide. This is our income analysis
7 for year over year '15 and '16. The reason we are
8 analyzing '15 and '16 first is these are the last
9 two years that we have final actuals available for
10 FRA. So as you can see, we have three major points
11 that were highlighted in yellow: Our membership
12 dues are down \$81,000 year over year for '15 to '16.
13 However, our rentals were up \$33,000. But our total
14 income did fall by \$125,000.

15 So you can see in the pie chart located
16 here, year over year we were losing money, or we had
17 less revenue come in, in basically all but two
18 facets, which were the rentals and the interest
19 gains from our investments.

20 For our expense analysis, to counteract
21 the decrease in revenue, we also had a decrease in

1 expenses. We spent less money on membership,
2 legislative. FRA Today dropped by \$50k. Our office
3 expenses declined by \$16,000. The convention, we
4 spent \$28,000 less. The Board of Directors spent
5 \$56,000 less. And we spent \$63,000 less on PR and
6 benefits.

7 So, if you're remembering from the
8 previous slide, although our income went down by
9 \$125,000, to counteract that, our expenses were cut
10 by \$275k. So we have tried to ensure that we're
11 running a lean operation and that whenever we do
12 have a decline in revenue, we're more than
13 counteracting with declines in expense.

14 So the next slide will show our cash, year
15 over year. This is basically a more high level of
16 what we just saw. So an income of \$2.872 million as
17 compared to 2016 with \$2.747 million. Expenses:
18 \$3.476 in '15 compared to \$3.201. In 2015, we had
19 to withdraw more because we had a lot more revenue
20 losses. So we withdrew \$1.198, whereas in '16, we
21 only withdrew \$910,000. So we dropped that by

1 another \$200k as well, just to try to save the
2 investments a little bit more.

3 The next slide will show where we are as
4 of 2017. As of 6/30, we have net assets of \$8.175
5 million. We had a revenue decrease of 8 percent,
6 which is consistent with where we've been trending
7 over the past six years. However, our overall
8 expenses are 11 percent under budget. So our
9 membership is 10 percent; legislative is 11; FRA
10 Today, thanks to some magic-making by Bill, wherever
11 he is, is 4 percent under; our salaries are
12 14 percent under budget; and our overall office
13 expenses are 13 percent under budget.

14 These are our primary concerns: Our
15 membership dues and related income streams are
16 decreasing, the investment funds are used to cover
17 the difference between the decreasing revenue and
18 the approved budget expenses, which means the
19 investment fund base is also decreasing, the
20 interest income is decreasing, and the tax liability
21 increased every time we used investment funds to

1 cover operating expenses.

2 We also have improvements, though. It's
3 not all doom and gloom. Expenses for 2017 and 2016
4 were significantly under budget and less than 2015
5 expenses. We've had lower investment withdrawals
6 for the past two years. We have started having a
7 large amount of savings from insourced processes,
8 such as print and design, postage, and our lockbox.
9 And we have better understanding of membership and
10 more opportunities for improvement.

11 Now, the question is how to move forward.
12 We have now done some new membership target
13 programs. We have the Education Foundation, the
14 Student Veteran Program, and as has been mentioned a
15 couple of times during the convention, we have now
16 been approved for a Veterans Service Foundation,
17 which is a 501(c)(3).

18 (APPLAUSE.)

19 FO PROCTOR: That's actually really good
20 news and it will allow us to start doing more with
21 corporations, federal government funding, and stop

1 using so much of our membership dues to help with
2 operational expenses. So the applause that we were
3 getting from the back is more than warranted.

4 So, moving forward, what we need to do is:
5 Continue cost cutting. We reduced the 2018 budget
6 by another 4 percent. We need to keep targeting new
7 members. We have demographic opportunities from the
8 National Executive Director, the Student Veteran
9 Program with Bob, the VSF with Chris, and we are
10 starting -- we just had a new mailer to reach out
11 for nonpayment of dues. That was spearheaded by
12 Bill and -- just Bill right now. And this has
13 actually turned into a 3 percent return of people
14 coming back into the association. So it's been a
15 great mailing opportunity from a direct marketing
16 standpoint and we've actually exceeded the numbers
17 that most direct marketing firms would want to try
18 to hit on a year over year basis, and that's after
19 the first mailing already. We also have a new look
20 for the magazine, as well as we switched advertisers
21 for the magazine to increase interest and revenue

1 that we can be pulling from that revenue stream as
2 well.

3 So what is our overall financial
4 assessment? We are currently moving in the right
5 direction. With everything that's happening with
6 the VSF, with the increase from GLM becoming our
7 magazine advertiser now, and hopefully from all of
8 you guys continuing to grow the membership to a
9 couple more robust numbers, I believe that we'll be
10 long-term okay. If you have any questions or
11 comments, although I am new, the e-mail address is
12 still the exact same that it's been since the FRA
13 e-mail has come around, which is finance@fra.org.
14 And Bill has one more comment.

15 SHIPMATE STEVENSON: Did you share with
16 the shipmates, one of the magazines are [inaudible].

17 FO PROCTOR: Oh -- so, GLM, one of the
18 magazines they already do sales for is the VFW
19 Magazine. So they are the second largest magazine
20 advertising seller that's available for military
21 magazines in the country. And we felt by going with

1 the people who are No. 2 instead of the people who
2 are No. 1, we'd get somebody with a little more
3 hunger. And as you know, a hungry wolf fights ten
4 times harder than a well fed one. So that's the
5 plan that we have for that.

6 Are there any other questions? Concerns?
7 Comments? Okay. Thank you.

8 (APPLAUSE.)

9 NP LARSON: Credit is due all around.
10 Well-worked, well hard -- hard-worked. But from me,
11 from Don, I know we're going to get great things out
12 of Bryan and Bill this coming year and hopefully
13 years to come. So work with them, get out there,
14 and do your job. Again, this is our association,
15 right? We are enlisted and prior enlisted Sea
16 Service association. The largest, oldest, enlisted
17 association that's out there. It's our association.
18 We're not putting Headquarters responsible for
19 promoting and growing our association. It's our
20 association.

21 We will now hear from the FRA Legislative

1 Team for an update.

2 NED SNEE: Good afternoon, Shipmates.

3 SHIPMATES: Good afternoon.

4 NED SNEE: Legislation can be somewhat of
5 a dirty word. I don't have to tell you what's going
6 on in Washington. A week ago, I went to a first
7 meeting with the new Secretary of the Navy,
8 Secretary Spencer. He was just appointed, he was
9 just sworn in. There are a lot of changes that are
10 going on in D.C., if you haven't noticed already.
11 And I'm not going to take to bipartisan or one
12 partisan and all that other good stuff, but I'm just
13 going to give you the facts of what is going on per
14 se on some of the things that we're covering in
15 legislation. It's difficult, at best, to say the
16 least.

17 But before that, I would like to introduce
18 the Legislative Team and also the Legislative
19 Committee. So if they could stand up, please.

20 First of all, your Legislative Team at the
21 Headquarters consists of John Davis, Bob Washington,

1 Chris Slawinski, Brian Condon. And the Committee is
2 Bud Harris, Branch 137; Fred Bolz, Branch 269; Russ
3 Miller, Branch 201; Pete Lazzaretti, Branch 18; Tom
4 Howard, Branch 172; with John and Dana Wallace,
5 Branch 24 -- John, of course, from 181 -- as our
6 advisors.

7 (APPLAUSE.)

8 NED SNEE: A little legislative 101: Once
9 these bills, or once the new year comes around, all
10 bills basically get jumped off. So they have to be
11 renumbered and then they have to go back in and be
12 recycled again, if you will, on all bills that goes
13 in.

14 Our Bill Tracker is the best thing that
15 we've got going that we can show. Right now we're
16 at about approximately -- and I had Brian update
17 this for me last week -- we're up to about 67, 68
18 bills that we've got. I like to look at bills in
19 two fashions. One, you've got the hard bills, which
20 cost money, and then you've got the soft bills that
21 just have name changes. Well guess what -- are

1 getting easier to go on. We've had two bills that
2 the President signed: Choice Program, that's gone,
3 and Vietnam Veteran, that's nice, no money per se.
4 And if you start looking at the money aspect, as I
5 will outline and go into it, with Agent Orange,
6 they're coming back and saying, "You guys fund the
7 money so we can do it."

8 Now, we've already done the surveys on the
9 round down and all that other good stuff, and you
10 know, I don't know about you, but when I was taking
11 social studies, it was up to the House of
12 Representatives to find the money. Somehow there's
13 been a disconnect. But I'm not going to go any
14 further than that per se.

15 Your Leg Team, comprised of the six folks
16 on the Headquarters, not only monitors the action of
17 the bills on the Hill in Congress, but serves on
18 seven military coalition boards and committees.
19 These often require the attendance of many, many
20 visits on the Hill, congressional staff meetings,
21 and they're not an 8-to-5 type of meetings.

1 Sometimes these things start at 7 o'clock in the
2 morning, and some of them, if you ever go on to some
3 of the networks of the Hill, you're gonna find
4 they're still talking, even though some of them are
5 talking to an empty chamber, but we're still there
6 on those issues that apply and have a direct
7 influence on FRA and it's veterans.

8 Stephen Tassin, as you may recall, used to
9 be on the Headquarters staff. Chief Warrant Officer
10 3. He's still on a recall with the United States
11 Marine Corps, and right now he's been extended to
12 March of 2018. We cannot drop him, by federal law,
13 because he still has to maintain a status on our
14 Headquarters staff. Under federal statutes, we must
15 retain his position. Even though it's unpaid from
16 the FRA, we still have to maintain his stature.

17 Let me give you a little example. A
18 friend of mine worked at Navy Federal. He was gone
19 to the Iraq and Afghanistan war for over 10 years.
20 They still had to hold his position at Navy Federal.
21 He came back, he went to work in a different

1 section, but they still had to do it.

2 Today we are tracking, like I said,
3 approximately 67 bills on the Bill Tracker. And on
4 the Bill Tracker, too, one of the nice things about
5 it is if you click on the Bill Tracker, you should
6 be able to click on the bill itself and then it
7 gives you a whole list of good things as to who's
8 doing what, and when, and all that kind of stuff.
9 And if you go to congress.gov, pick the bill, pick
10 who the cosponsors are, guess what you'll get?
11 You'll know it by state, you'll know it by party,
12 you'll know what the whole gamut is of where that
13 support is for those individual bills. Little
14 action can be noticed on that Bill Tracker in
15 Congress with what I call the hard bills and soft
16 bills.

17 Keep in mind that many departmental
18 appointments are still under review within the
19 government. And that's just not DoD. We just got a
20 Secretary of the Navy. He's still looking. The
21 Secretary of Veterans Affairs is still looking to

1 fill positions as well. The budget and NDAA, John
2 will address a little bit more. He's been keeping
3 up on it, not that most of us are not.

4 But the big things right now in Congress
5 are the catastrophic incidents that are happening in
6 Texas along the Gulf Coast and Florida and even on
7 the West Coast. You've got to remember, while
8 they're getting drowned in those areas, they're
9 catching fires out in California. And I don't have
10 to tell you where that situation could get, as to
11 not having water and those type of things. So that
12 is having a major drain. Given the fact of the
13 current combat situation after 16 years -- Secretary
14 of the Navy said we are not at war, we are in
15 combat, a combat situation, because it was never
16 declared. However, it feels like it. That's an
17 issue that is drawing down our resources, it's
18 drawing down our ship port time, it's drawing down
19 our maintenance and training. Just remember what
20 happened to the McKenzie and to the McCain just
21 recently. There was at least two other ships that

1 went aground. That training is very valuable. And
2 some of the things that you hear, we're not jumping
3 into that until the investigations are over, and
4 then again, we shouldn't be saying anything. Any of
5 you that have ever been sitting on the bridge of a
6 ship as a lookout or whatever, you understand those
7 particular situations that can happen; on those
8 ships is what happened. I don't have to tell you
9 that. I used to stand bridge watches as well, as an
10 OOD, and we can say all the claims you want is, but
11 isn't it ironic, though, that you [inaudible] a
12 t-bone? Was that designed or what? I don't know.
13 But you know, as an OOD, it does kinda make me shake
14 a little bit as to what's going on.

15 Our staff ratios, congressional access to
16 these turbulent times, we have one staff member for
17 107 legislators when you take the total number of
18 folks that are in Congress and the House and also in
19 the Senate. In your situation, it's one for three:
20 two senators, one member of House. All you would
21 have to do is just find out where they are locally

1 and their numbers, you click on the bill, call one
2 of us, what is the thing that we're really pushing
3 for, and we will do it. Once we have an identifying
4 bill that we want to, a letter is sent off. It is
5 not sent off, correction: it is faxed over. Because
6 you cannot mail it per se without it going through
7 all the postal changes, all the postal reviews.

8 Remember that white powder stuff called anthrax?

9 Guess where the mail goes? It goes to Ohio. And so
10 it delays it more. We get those letters, sign, and
11 we fax it. It gets right to their office directly.
12 So those type of actions are taking place.

13 Collaboratively, [inaudible] between -- upon what
14 your branches have seen and everything else, I think
15 we can move this thing on.

16 Let me give you a breakdown of the 2017
17 budget of where the spending is. Military, on the
18 total budget for 2017, was only 15 percent. VA is
19 four percent. Medicare and health are 28 percent.
20 Social Security, unemployment, and labor,
21 33 percent. The hardest hits are on the national

1 debt are seven percent, which we can probably start
2 to see decline. If you've had any economics, you
3 can understand that's where it's going to hit.
4 These were known facts from the bills that I had
5 indicated to you that I thought would be of interest
6 to you. Then we have a field day when these members
7 are discussing when realizing were the current tax
8 reforms good or bad of what we're trying to do. And
9 that applies to each and every one of us, no matter
10 where it's at. Just think what happened in the Gulf
11 on the cost of fuel. In Northern Virginia, it went
12 up almost 20 cents a gallon. And I'm sure it even
13 got worse in some other areas. Keep that in mind.
14 Many of these items are what they call
15 non-dashboards, or benchmarks. That's the
16 measurements that they're looking at.

17 Let's talk about Agent Orange. Agent
18 Orange; since the 1990s, we've been fighting this
19 bill. It's that herbicide that a lot of us probably
20 contracted in some way, shape, or form within the
21 territorial waters, and in it's definitions,

1 territorial waters is 12 or 13 miles off the coast
2 of the Republic of Vietnam in Tonkin Gulf. I was on
3 one of those destroyers in 1966. Some of you were
4 on carriers. And so you're talking about the laws
5 of nature. You're talking about fuel getting into
6 the distillation process making fresh water, not to
7 mention the fresh water. Those things are very
8 real. The thing is, we went and sat down personally
9 and talked to Dr. Shulkin, the Secretary of VA.
10 He's got a full plate as he's had it handed to him.
11 He understands it. Unfortunately he's still dealing
12 with the scientific side of this, his staff, and he
13 understands it. However, after that meeting that we
14 had with him, there were a few things he wanted to
15 get from us, which he had within three to four
16 hours. One was the Australian report, which we sent
17 right over to him so he has more information to
18 give. In other words, if you don't have it,
19 Mr. Secretary, the FRA has it and we will give it to
20 you. And we are doing it. And I told the
21 secretary, the reason why you don't find the

1 residuals too much in some of these old ships, and
2 those of you who've gone through shipyards know
3 tanks, fresh water or otherwise for fuel tanks, when
4 they go through a shipyard period, they're cleansed.
5 Thoroughly. That's a credit to our Navy. However,
6 now that we've got to deal with this situation is
7 whether or not there's any residuals from Agent
8 Orange in those presumptive diseases that come
9 about.

10 Today, the House version has 299
11 cosponsors of 435 members, or roughly 69 percent.
12 Last year we had a very high number too. The Senate
13 has 42 out of 100. That's 42 percent. So the
14 numbers are there, but the thing is, it always comes
15 back -- after we had a meeting and John and Chris
16 and I sat down, and we thought we were going to get
17 a calling with Chairman Roe from the House. He was
18 out to a vote. He says tell me how you're gonna pay
19 for it. And that's what he's telling us, how are we
20 gonna pay for it.

21 Now, there's a guy that's up in Vermont,

1 he's an independent, he ran for office, and he came
2 out and gave some great big numbers about Vietnam:
3 We got over 600 trillion folks to go to Vietnam, and
4 if we can send you to war, why can't we take care of
5 you? Daily, we have people that are dying because
6 of the Agent Orange situation, and it's a very
7 personal thing, at least with me, and I know with a
8 lot of folks that are in here. Claims, I
9 understand. It's an issue. A friend of mine is in
10 the Army, boots on the ground type thing. Over 755
11 days he's still waiting for his claim to get
12 through. So you can imagine what it's like with the
13 Agent Orange dealing with our ships. While the
14 submission is to move on these bills, we still are
15 hung up on scientific measures, as I said, by the VA
16 staff. VA presented within 24 hours, as I
17 mentioned, some of the other revenues and different
18 correspondence that we could give to them. We have
19 stressed to the secretary that he can take this
20 action himself; it does not need to be done
21 legislatively. He can do it himself. And by virtue

1 of the fact that some of these predecessors are just
2 drawing the line over the mouth of the rivers. Now,
3 folks, I don't know about you, but you don't stop
4 water flow just by drawing a line in D.C. and the
5 Gulf of Tonkin. That's laws of nature. It's just a
6 commonsense thing.

7 The Leg Team has sat down with Chairman
8 Roe. However, the comments still keep coming back
9 as to how are we going to pay for it. Our surveys
10 have indicated supporting a benefit through round
11 down at a cost of 99 cents per month. I realize
12 that this is money coming out of your pockets. One
13 of the things that we do is when we take a pay raise
14 and then we're getting a deal with COLA and
15 [inaudible] things like that, what is the real
16 benefit of that pay? When you start looking at pay
17 coming into your pockets, but then you gotta throw
18 money out to pay for this and pay for that. That's
19 where the real benefit is. And we're very fortunate
20 with our Military Coalition members that they have
21 done those studies for us. Other VSOs have

1 supported this, but the larger VSOs do not support
2 this course of action because they said it will
3 affect your membership. Slowly but surely, they're
4 coming around to the commonsense factor and saying,
5 "Wait a minute. What is the right thing to do?"

6 So I ask you, I have the congressional
7 states as I ran them off last week if you want to
8 find out which of your state representatives, who is
9 supporting it and who's not supporting it. And it's
10 not a matter of just saying, click, "Yes, I support
11 it." What are you doing to get this thing to a vote
12 on the floor? And that's where it's gotta be. And
13 I'll be more than happy during this convention to
14 share that list with you.

15 Shifting grounds to the Basic Allowance
16 for Housing, it's still a money issue. That's when
17 you guys and gals remember -- when you went into
18 housing, how much money was being taken when you
19 weren't being taken for housing? Right now from my
20 understanding, active duty, it's up to 100 percent.
21 It's cut to 96 percent, so they have to make up the

1 four percent. I know this for a fact because my
2 daughter, when she lived in Goose Creek in housing
3 there, she had to pay five percent in addition to
4 being in housing. And those housing things, by the
5 way, you don't have department of public works.
6 Those things are all put out. So more is coming.
7 The pay, what we've got is either 2.1 and 2.4.
8 Nothing's been settled between the House and the
9 Senate.

10 Commissary and exchanges. This week we
11 are going -- I sit on the DeCA committee in
12 Washington, and I will ask them, since they're just
13 down the street, "Would you please come to our
14 convention and sit down and talk about commissaries
15 and exchanges?" Commissary and exchanges, as of
16 today, there's no real problem per se. However,
17 when you start looking at commissaries, you're
18 talking about shelf-life, you're talking about
19 de-labeling that goes on and those things, and then
20 you've got de-patronage. We even had a situation
21 where they say, well, let's take Norfolk as an

1 example, and then I'm sure San Diego and
2 Jacksonville have the same thing, you've got a
3 numbers of exchanges and commissaries, so if you
4 start cutting down on those commissaries and
5 exchanges, the patronage is going to be this way.
6 Do I want to wait in line? Do I find a parking
7 spot? Or do I leave those shops open? And that's
8 where the situation is, especially with exchanges.
9 It's appropriation to non-appropriation. Different
10 labelings are coming about.

11 Right now our biggest competition is
12 Walmart and some of those other stores. And we're
13 at the top. Yes, you will be seeing price index
14 going up in the commissaries and exchanges. That's
15 just to maintain that competitive load. The
16 individual will be here tomorrow from DeCA and will
17 be able to answer all those questions from within
18 your geographic area. One thing you've got to
19 understand is the patronage usage, it's primarily
20 E-5s and E-6s active duty and their retired
21 communities. That's where the biggest patronage is.

1 We have sailors, Marines, Coast Guardsmen, airmen,
2 and soldiers that are on food stamps that are in
3 that. You will not get the cost, or shall we say
4 the numbers, of how many on food stamps are using
5 the commissary and exchanges by federal law. But
6 they're out there. They're out there and they're in
7 that. Isn't that sad that they have to use food
8 stamps even with the cost of living given?

9 Please, I ask you, get involved with your
10 commissary and exchange boards. Say, "I'd like to
11 be on your boards" and look at values. You always
12 see those things on those carts in the
13 commissaries -- look how much you save by not going
14 to Walmart -- or something like that. But you know
15 there is a voice for the retired community within
16 your exchanges. Please, they do all that. Again,
17 we're going to have a person from DeCA who's going
18 to be here to give you that. Stay involved in the
19 exchanges and the commissaries. We do not want them
20 to go. If you remember what they call the murky
21 murk, they wanted to get rid of those things. We're

1 not into the shopping business of foods, the
2 department stores. They're still around. We've got
3 to stay involved. Don't be shocked that on November
4 the 11th of this year, as you start seeing online
5 ordering by the veterans. That is coming. Yes,
6 it's taking a little time to get under that to do
7 the online shopping and all. If you've got a
8 problem, please go to your local exchanges and ask
9 them to talk to the managers there as to how you can
10 get online so you can do more of that online
11 shopping rather than actually physically going into
12 the exchanges themselves.

13 Our discussion points are monthly with the
14 commissary and exchanges. We belong to The Military
15 Coalition, of which FRA is now one of the co-chairs.
16 And it just happened within the last month that we
17 are pushing those type of things. And that's what
18 it is with being on The Military Coalition with the
19 representation of a little over 3.5 million
20 representation across the country. We need you to
21 get involved in the way of exchanges and

1 commissaries. I'm not advocating and saying you
2 gotta go out there and set up a booth or anything of
3 that nature, because I think that is a membership
4 issue. That's an individual cry, if you will. It
5 depends on your own individual commands. On those
6 things, you've got to talk to, shall we say, the
7 officers in charge of those things, and see if
8 they'll let you set up a booth. But when you do,
9 you cannot bring anything that says 'I am
10 recruiting.' You pass out information. And you
11 will, and you sometimes can do it.

12 We've made an awful lot of drive with the
13 commands of the Navy Resale System. We met up with
14 the JAG, and about two months ago I sat down with
15 the Ethics Committee up in Newport. What is it that
16 we can do to get on these bases? What is it we can
17 do to get in these exchanges? It's still up to the
18 individual commanders. And I can't say that enough.
19 The exchange -- the command master chief says there
20 is no problem with setting up a booth because other
21 VSOs are doing the same thing. And I'm sure you've

1 all seen this. And you talk about "What's the JAG
2 Corps?" We got a lot of the JAG Corps folks,
3 they're the hawks of this, you know, who's doing
4 what. And they're out there. We just got a request
5 the other day from the recruiting command because
6 the [inaudible] is coming out in January, and we had
7 to list everything that we're going to be doing as
8 an association -- as one of the associations -- of
9 everything that we're going to be giving to the
10 [inaudible]. So the JAG hawks are out there.

11 However, we have made contact with them. And just a
12 point of reference, the command master chief of the
13 JAG Corps holds a JD degree. In other words, she's
14 a lawyer. So she understands all these things and
15 the ins and outs, if you will.

16 In summary, making waves. We put it out
17 there, all you've got to do is click on it. If
18 you've got a concern or you've got a problem getting
19 in there, call us up. All you've got to do is put
20 your ZIP Code in there, you get your congressional
21 side, whether it's your congressman or your

1 senators, and make these things move. The Bill
2 Tracker is out there. We try to keep it up to date
3 as much as we can based on what we have. Reflect a
4 commitment. It's just not a matter showing
5 interest, it's a matter of showing a total
6 commitment of what we believe in in our basic form
7 of the situation with legislation.

8 Now, you may be seeing this: September
9 26th is national voting. We're gonna be setting up
10 a little thing -- I haven't got the full thing
11 because I haven't got all the information yet, but
12 it's at the Headquarters -- to ensure that people
13 are registered voters. You may be seeing this type
14 of flier in your area. Get involved if you can to
15 stay in there. It's okay to wear your cap to ensure
16 that people are registered voters and to assist them
17 within your respective jurisdictions.

18 That's all I have from my part. And now I
19 will turn it over to -- who's next? We got John.
20 He'll be up there with the next section.

21 MASTER-AT-ARMS: Shipmate National

1 President, the Ladies might be visiting us. What do
2 you want me to do?

3 NP LARSON: Shipmate, are they out in the
4 hall?

5 MASTER-AT-ARMS: They were.

6 NP LARSON: Are they ready to come in? If
7 you would, let them know we'll need at least ten
8 minutes.

9 MASTER-AT-ARMS: [Inaudible.] However,
10 earlier the Ladies were here asking, but I said I
11 can't interrupt.

12 NP LARSON: Aye, Shipmate Master-at-Arms.
13 I appreciate your patience in working with us. It
14 is now 1510. Tell them at 1520 we want to meet
15 them.

16 MASTER-AT-ARMS: Okay.

17 NP LARSON: Thank you, Shipmate. John?

18 DLP DAVIS: Good afternoon, Shipmates.

19 SHIPMATES: Good afternoon.

20 DLP DAVIS: I believe all of you know me.

21 If you haven't, at least, you know, come over and

1 say hi when I'm walking around during the
2 convention. John Davis, Director of Legislative
3 Programs. I'm also co-chair of the TMC Retiree
4 Policy Committee. I've been with the Fleet Reserve
5 Association for about twelve years now, and I've
6 been co-chairman of the Retiree Committee -- Policy
7 Committee for eleven years now.

8 What's happening on Capitol Hill? Well,
9 I'm sure you've probably all heard. Tax reform,
10 health care, the so-called "Dreamers" -- you know
11 what those are, funding for disasters since we've
12 got two major disasters going on at once, and
13 another one that hits us pretty hard is readiness.
14 According to certain -- if you've been reading the
15 NewsBytes, the Armed Services Committees, both on
16 the House and Senate [inaudible], and they find that
17 half the aircraft in the Marine Corps and the Navy
18 can't be flown right now because they don't have the
19 spare parts. So that's a pretty big situation.

20 Another thing that's big up there is
21 sequestration. That's where if they spend too much

1 money, there's automatic cuts to Defense and to
2 non-Defense items. The problem is that Defense
3 makes up about 15 percent -- one five -- 15 percent
4 of the budget, but when these sequestration cuts cut
5 in automatically, they take 50 percent from Defense.
6 So it hits Defense really hard and it's been a big
7 problem. The last couple of years, they've lifted
8 the caps on sequestration for a couple years, but
9 that does not apply to the next budget coming up in
10 FY 2018. Also, the debt ceiling is big. The debt
11 has reached \$20 trillion. I bring that up because
12 that has an impact on Defense spending.

13 The U.S. Coast Guard budget. As you know,
14 the President submitted a budget late because he had
15 just gotten into office. That budget actually had a
16 cut to the Coast Guard budget, and the Navy and the
17 Marine Corps got about a 9 percent increase. The
18 House has passed all its budget over to the Senate,
19 and that budget allows Coast Guard to get a 7.3
20 percent increase. It's not 9 percent, but it still
21 is a pretty good increase.

1 We're also working on concurrent receipt
2 for you. I was very much involved, because I'm the
3 co-chairman of the Retiree Committee, in setting up
4 an amendment to the next Senate Defense
5 Authorization bill. We could not get that in. It
6 did not get called. We just passed the Senate
7 Defense Authorization bill, and there were very,
8 very few amendments of any substance that got even
9 considered. So they moved, basically, the Senate
10 bill over as is to the House. And the House already
11 passed its bill, I think back in July. So we'll be
12 setting up a conference committee to resolve the
13 differences between the two bills and going forward
14 from there. The concurrent receipt bill is S.66 --
15 that's Dean Heller from Nevada. And also we've got
16 two bills in the House: Bilirakis from Florida --
17 that's H.R. 303; and Sanford Bishop from Georgia --
18 that's H.R. 333. Those bills are on the Action
19 Center for your information. We're also very much
20 involved with the Special Survivor Indemnity
21 Allowance for widows that expires May of 2018.

1 We've gotta work on that.

2 UNIDENTIFIED SHIPMATE: Would you explain
3 what that is?

4 DLP DAVIS: Sure. It's complicated, but
5 we have the SBP/DIC offset. That means that the
6 people thought they got two of those, but they
7 didn't. They'd actually offset the SBP, or Survivor
8 Benefit Program, based on how much DIC is paid. So,
9 Congress wrestled with this for a long time, but the
10 [inaudible] of the pay were pretty significant, so
11 they finally came up with a solution to do basically
12 an offset to the offset -- that's what I call it --
13 and they give you money via separate checks to
14 counter the offset. The offset is about \$1200,
15 \$1300 dollars. It's a big chunk of change every
16 month that they lose. They first started this
17 offset -- the offset to the offset started at about
18 \$50 a month. But now they're up to about \$310,
19 which is about 25 percent of the SBP/DIC offset. So
20 we're trying to get them to increase it. The
21 problem is they keep on sunseting it and we have to

1 fight to have the sunset extended. And we kind of
2 use all our gun power dealing with extending the
3 sunset rather than increasing the amount of money.
4 We want them to gradually increase it to cover the
5 full offset. I hope that explains it to everybody.
6 It's a complicated issue and we're short on time
7 here.

8 We have two bills, then, for the SBP/DIC
9 offset. Again, those are on the Action Center, and
10 I welcome you to use the Action Center. Can I ask,
11 how many people here have used the Action Center?
12 Just about everybody. Thank you very much. That's
13 great. I just want you to know we're at about
14 70,000 people -- there's been 70,000 messages sent
15 to Capitol Hill this year. That's pretty good.
16 We've had steady increases over the last -- since
17 I've been here running the Action Center since 2006.
18 It started out, we had about 2500 users in 2005.
19 And since I gotten here, now, like I said, we're at
20 70,000. Looking at election cycle, which is a
21 two-year for Congress, we're well past 100,000

1 messages going to Capitol Hill. Believe me, that
2 has a big, big impact on us getting in to lobby on
3 your behalf. When they get a thousand e-mails
4 saying do something, support concurrent receipt, or
5 extend the SSIA, that means something to them.
6 Because those are voters back home. So they get the
7 message. So feel free to use the Action Center when
8 you want to and as often as you can. It's like
9 voting in Chicago -- you can vote early and you can
10 vote often.

11 Also I just wanted to briefly touch on FRA
12 testimony this year. As I said, we had a new
13 administration coming in and like all new
14 administrations, they were unable to get the budget
15 in by February. So they ended up getting it in on
16 May 22nd. So that sped up the process, and Congress
17 was trying to catch up with the process and get
18 stuff done on time. So there have been limited
19 opportunities for public testimony on Capitol Hill.

20 I did want to say, though, Don Larson, our
21 National President, was able to testify on March

1 12th in front of a joint hearing of the House and
2 Senate Veterans Affairs Committees and he did a
3 great job for us, representing us. We also
4 submitted testimony to the House Veterans Affairs,
5 one of the subcommittees of the House Veterans
6 Affairs Committee, on Agent Orange Blue Water Navy.
7 This is the first time in a long time that the House
8 has had a hearing on the Agent Orange Blue Water
9 Navy issue. So that was a big plus for us. Also,
10 last year, last session of Congress, the Senate had
11 a hearing on it. So it's getting more exposure out
12 there. Last year there were 335 cosponsors for the
13 Agent Orange bill. That had more cosponsors than
14 any other bill in Congress. And that is being
15 noticed up there. That is being noticed. That's
16 why they came to Tom and to us to talk about
17 compromises. They are feeling the pressure. They
18 are feeling the pressure that this should be
19 rectified. So we're hopefully gonna get something
20 done as soon as possible.

21 So with that, I'll switch it over to Bob

1 Washington, our Healthcare Advisor. Thank you very
2 much.

3 NParl/PNP BEESE: Thank you, John.

4 (APPLAUSE.)

5 HCA WASHINGTON: Good afternoon,
6 Shipmates.

7 SHIPMATES: Good afternoon.

8 HCA WASHINGTON: As you can see, the
9 keynote speaker this morning just absolutely killed
10 my brief because everything he talked about this
11 morning is in line with what we have right here.
12 So, my question to you would be is there anything
13 that you didn't understand that he mentioned this
14 morning that needs to be explained further?

15 UNIDENTIFIED SHIPMATE: [Inaudible.]

16 HCA WASHINGTON: So, here's a little
17 analogy for you that we don't normally see, but in
18 the beginning, [inaudible] started talking about
19 TRICARE Select, and we have here a proposal
20 comparison on -- TRICARE Select, as he stated this
21 morning, is also TRICARE Standard. And as you know,

1 the TRICARE Standard beneficiaries have never had to
2 enroll, never had to pay an annual fee. Well, those
3 who are present will not have to, they will be
4 automatically enrolled. And anybody after 1
5 January 2018 will have to then decide TRICARE Prime
6 or TRICARE Standard. When they rolled this out, the
7 Administration wanted to -- wants to repeal the
8 grandfathered fee. In other words, make those folks
9 right now that are presently under Standard also pay
10 the enrollment fee. The House wants to keep it the
11 way it is. The Senate wants to repeal it and get
12 rid of it.

13 They're proposing new TRICARE For Life
14 fees. The Administration proposed no, the House
15 said no, and the Senate said no. So, I can tell you
16 this from experience, the TRICARE For Life folks are
17 very well protected. So when they passed this in
18 2001, you and I was promised free health care when I
19 joined. So to overcome that, Congress decided okay
20 then we will establish TRICARE For Life, which will
21 be a wraparound for Medicare.

1 He talked about fee increases. The
2 Administration proposed tripled fees over 10 years
3 for the pharmacy program. The House wants to keep
4 it remaining indexed to COLA, which is our
5 retirement. So you know, sometimes we get maybe
6 1.7 percent or 1.8 percent, and the pharmacy fee
7 will increase at that amount. The Senate wants to
8 do the 10 year thing, as well as the Administration.

9 And they want to base the fee indexing on
10 the National Health Index, and that averages about a
11 17 percent per year increase. The House wants to
12 keep it the way it is now and based on COLA again.
13 And the Senate, again, wants to use the Health
14 Index.

15 So as you can see, the House is our
16 friend. We've been fighting this TRICARE fee and
17 fee battle for a long time. And when it came to the
18 House of Representatives, you know, they say we are
19 sick and tired every year of these TRICARE fees, so
20 why don't we just leave it alone and leave the folks
21 in their program alone. But then we've still got

1 the Senate and the Administration that wants to
2 increase the budget.

3 He spoke this morning also about the new
4 regional contractors. It went from three regions
5 down to two. As he stated, East will be
6 administered by Humana and the West will be
7 administered by Health Net. And again, that will
8 help particularly in the area of active duty as when
9 they move to one region to the next to next, now
10 they only have two to deal with: Move from the East
11 to the West, or West to the East. And that's the
12 only problem they would have right there.

13 Does anyone have any question that they
14 don't understand what's coming 1 January? If not,
15 thank you very much for your time.

16 (APPLAUSE.)

17 NP LARSON: Thank you, Shipmate
18 Washington.

19 NSD/PRPEC SLAWINSKI: We're almost done.

20 MASTER-AT-ARMS: Shipmate National
21 President, I see the Ladies coming down the hall.

1 (Three raps of the gavel.)

2 UNIDENTIFIED SHIPMATE: Bible.

3 NP LARSON: Shipmate National Chaplain,
4 please close the Bible.

5 NCHAP PUGH: Shipmate President, the Bible
6 is closed.

7 NP LARSON: Thank you, Shipmate National
8 Chaplain.

9 (LA FRA members enter the room.)

10 (SYNCOPATED CLAPPING.)

11 (One rap of the gavel.)

12 MS. WHITAKER: My name is Carolyn
13 Whitaker. I was National President 2013-2014 and
14 subsequently was Junior Past, and then this year I
15 was appointed as Junior Past again. So I'm kind of
16 a veteran as a Junior Past. I'm glad to be here. I
17 have a joke this time. This joke was told to me by
18 my three-year-old great-grandson:

19 What did one burp say to the other burp?

20 "Let's be naughty and go out the other
21 end."

1 (LAUGHTER.)

2 MS. WHITAKER: Have a good convention.

3 (APPLAUSE.)

4 MS. COURNEYA: I lost my gavel. Anyway,

5 I'm Helen Courneya, Past National President

6 2010-2011 -- my running mate was Jim Scarbro; Past

7 National President 2015-2016 -- my running mate was

8 Virgil Courneya; and the current National

9 President -- my running mate is Don Larson.

10 I hope you have a successful convention.

11 I'm happy to be here, and keep up the good work.

12 Thank you.

13 (APPLAUSE.)

14 MS. COURNEYA: Like I said, I lost my
15 gavel this morning, so I'm still looking for it.

16 MS. MAURATH: Hi, y'all. I'm Dot Maurath,
17 President '99-2000, and John Johnson was my
18 counterpart. And I don't think he's here. He
19 hasn't been coming to conventions lately.

20 So far I've survived this year the passing
21 of my husband, who most of you -- a lot of you know

1 him. People say, "Yeah, Red got everywhere." And
2 so, I know a lot of you knew him.

3 Hope you have a great convention. Looks
4 like you've got a lot of guys here, and that's
5 great. And some of the women. Getting more and
6 more all the time. When the ladies used to have to
7 join the Auxiliary, now they can join you. So have
8 a great day.

9 (APPLAUSE.)

10 MS. DOLOWAY: Good afternoon, gentlemen.
11 I'm Gail Doloway, National President 2007-2008.
12 Larry Boudreaux was my counterpart. It's great to
13 see all of you. It's so many of you here. It's
14 wonderful. Hope you have a great convention.

15 (APPLAUSE.)

16 MS. FRI: Doris Fri, I was National
17 President '14-15. I'm now currently the NES. And
18 last year I told them, and I have to keep my word,
19 this is the last year you all can tell me
20 [inaudible]. But here I am, back again on the
21 board. And I told some of the guys out there,

1 you're a lot prettier than them people over in that
2 other room.

3 (LAUGHTER.)

4 MS. FRI: And I want to tell you, I just
5 talked to some guy here who's a friend of mine, a
6 veteran of the Army, he was an Afghanistan soldier.
7 He's in Baltimore. We never got a chance to connect
8 because I said I'm in a hotel with a whole bunch of
9 sailors, Marines, and Coast Guards. And what a nice
10 place to be. Thank you, Shipmates. Have a good
11 convention and I'll see you later.

12 (APPLAUSE.)

13 MS. LARSON: Hi, I'm Gini Larson. I was
14 National President 2011-2012. My running mate was
15 Jeff Gilmartin. And you have the pleasure of having
16 my husband here now. So have a great convention,
17 and I'll try to be on my best behavior.

18 (LAUGHTER, APPLAUSE.)

19 MS. LARSON: That's a joke, you know.

20 MS. HOOVER: Hello, I'm Diane Hoover from
21 Annapolis, Maryland, the home of the Naval Academy.

1 I served 2012-2013 with Mark Kilgore, and I'm sorry
2 that Mark couldn't be here today. I have a tiny
3 joke, not a long one:

4 I asked my daughter if she knew where my
5 newspaper was. She told me that newspapers is
6 old-school. She said that people don't use
7 newspapers, they use tablets. So she handed me her
8 iPad. That fly didn't have a chance.

9 (LAUGHTER, APPLAUSE.)

10 MS. RODHAM-TUCK: I'm Cindy Rodham-Tuck,
11 Past National President 2009-2010. I served with
12 Gary Blackburn. I'm from -- my unit is
13 Quonset-Davisville in Rhode Island. Gary and I
14 traveled over 56,000 miles together by car, and
15 that's C-A-R, automobile.

16 (LAUGHTER.)

17 MS. RODHAM-TUCK: Thank you very much. I
18 hope you all have a wonderful convention.

19 (APPLAUSE.)

20 MS. ROBBINS: Good afternoon, I'm Sandra
21 Robbins. I served in 2006-2007. And I also want to

1 thank you at this moment in time for those of you
2 that came last year when the hurricane came to
3 Jacksonville, but you still came to Jacksonville, so
4 I appreciate that. I served with Jerry Sweeney and
5 he's not with us here today, but he's close by and I
6 know he's got us in his thoughts.

7 I'm gonna tell you a little bit about --
8 and I won't call names because you may know this
9 individual -- it's about a Navy chief and his
10 parrot. The old Navy chief finally retired and got
11 the chicken ranch he always wanted. Can you believe
12 he wanted a chicken ranch? He took with him his
13 longtime pet parrot. First morning at 0430, the
14 parrot squawked loudly and said, "Reveille,
15 Reveille. Up all hands. Heave out and trice up.
16 The smoking lamp is lighted, now Reveille."

17 The old chief told the parrot, "We no
18 longer have to do that. We're not in the Navy
19 anymore. Go back to sleep."

20 The next morning, the parrot did the same
21 thing. Chief once again told the parrot, "If you

1 keep this up, I'll put you out in the chicken pen."
2 Again the parrot did it, and true to his word, the
3 chief put the parrot in the chicken pen.

4 At 0630 the next morning, the chief was
5 awakened by one heck of a ruckus in the chicken pen.
6 He went out to see what was the matter. The parrot
7 had 40 white chickens at attention in formation, and
8 on the ground was three bruised and beaten brown
9 chickens. The parrot was saying, "By God, when I
10 say fall out in dress whites, I don't mean khakis!"

11 (LAUGHTER, APPLAUSE.)

12 MS. BOUDREAUX: Hi, I'm Pat Boudreaux. I
13 served in 2005-2006. My running mate was Big Ed
14 Zerr. You can't beat that, people. It's really
15 great seeing so many of you all here. And I have to
16 tell you, I am the only Past National President that
17 was lost by an FRA employee that, I won't tell you
18 who, but Chris will tell you all about it.

19 (LAUGHTER.)

20 MS. BOUDREAUX: You all have a good
21 convention.

1 (APPLAUSE.)

2 MS. HUYLEBROECK: Hello, Shipmates. My
3 name is Doreen Huylebroeck and I served with Bill
4 Combs in the year 1990-91. And unfortunately Bill
5 is not here. He took a little bit of a tumble on 17
6 steps. So we wish him well.

7 But I do have a joke: A sweet
8 grandmother-sounding woman telephoned St. Joseph's
9 Hospital. She timidly asked, "Is it possible to
10 speak to someone who can tell me how a patient is
11 doing?"

12 The operator said, "I'd be glad to help
13 you, dear. What's the name and room number?"

14 The grandmother, in her weak voice, said,
15 "Barbara Smith in Room 302."

16 The operator replied, "Let me place you on
17 hold while I check it out with her nurse."

18 After a few minutes, the operator returned
19 to the phone and said, "Oh, I have great news. The
20 nurse just told me that Barbara is doing well. Her
21 blood pressure is fine, her blood work just came

1 back normal, and her physician, Dr. Cohen, has
2 scheduled her to be discharged on Tuesday."

3 The grandmother said, "Thank you very
4 much. That's wonderful news. I was so worried.
5 God bless you for the good news."

6 The operator replied, "You're more than
7 welcome. Is Barbara your daughter?"

8 The grandmother said, "No, I'm Barbara in
9 Room 302. No one tells me anything."

10 (LAUGHTER.)

11 And one more thing. I do bring greetings
12 from Faye Hatfield. I spoke to her the other day.
13 She had been in rehab for about four months the end
14 of last year. Now she's in a senior housing and
15 close to her son and daughter-in-law in Des Moines.
16 So she's up, she wanted me to say hi to everybody.
17 Okay? Thank you. Have a good convention.

18 (APPLAUSE.)

19 NP LARSON: Past National Presidents, you
20 know your duties.

21 (Three raps of the gavel.)

1 (LA FRA members exit the room.)

2 (SYNCOPATED CLAPPING.)

3 NP LARSON: National Chaplain, please open
4 the Bible.

5 NCHAP PUGH: Shipmate National President,
6 the Bible is open.

7 NP LARSON: Shipment National Chaplain,
8 thank you.

9 (One rap of the gavel.)

10 NSD/PRPEC SLAWINSKI: Good afternoon,
11 Shipmates.

12 SHIPMATES: Good afternoon.

13 NSD/PRPEC SLAWINSKI: We're continuing our
14 Legislative Programs update. I'm the National
15 Service Director, Chris Slawinski. I am your voice
16 not only to VA issues, or veterans issues, on
17 Capitol Hill, but also at the Department of Veterans
18 Affairs. Currently, I have been elected as one of
19 the co-chairs for the TMC, The Military Coalition's
20 Guard and Reserve Committee. I am a retired
21 Reservist and I've been on that committee since my

1 tenure started at FRA in 2004. I also serve on the
2 Veterans Committee for TMC. So a lot of these
3 issues not only affect just those in the room, but
4 also affects all veterans.

5 The first thing that's mentioned here is
6 the end of individual unemployability for vets over
7 age 62. When the Administration put their budget
8 proposal together, what they did is they put in a
9 section of their proposed budget some pay-fors. The
10 pay-fors that they recommended to Congress to
11 consider were COLA round-down, which you've already
12 heard about, and the Committee on Veterans Affairs
13 is trying to get Coalition support for that for Blue
14 Water, the Blue Water legislation. We had a long
15 discussion with our TMC members. There are other
16 ways that we can get this resolved. And we know
17 that we can do that.

18 The other issue was the end of individual
19 employability for veterans over age 62. What that
20 means is when you become Medicare eligible, when you
21 become eligible to receive Social Security, you

1 would no longer receive individual unemployability.
2 We adamantly oppose that, and we've shared with
3 Congress and with the VA that this is very much
4 against what the principles of VA is supposed to do.
5 Individual unemployability is supposed to help take
6 care of a veteran who loses his wage earning
7 capacity because of service-connected disabilities.
8 The Administration has since backed off of that, and
9 we will continue to fight anything that takes
10 benefits and reduces them.

11 The next thing, the CFPB is the Center for
12 Finance -- oh gosh. They take care of -- they're
13 the watchdogs. They keep an eye on lending
14 practices and banking industries and making sure
15 predatory lenders get caught. And they have powers
16 to literally make changes to rules. One of the
17 rules that they did that we were strongly supporting
18 is the removal from forced arbitration for bank fees
19 and things like that. For a lot of servicemembers,
20 when they go to a lending company and they get
21 deployed, they get the opportunity, basically, to

1 get their rates reduced. Well, if they're away at
2 service, some of these lenders have tried to
3 basically use loopholes to increase the amount of
4 money that they're charging in interest. So instead
5 of going back to them and saying, "Hey, you did
6 wrong to a lot of people, we want to get this
7 corrected," through basically a class action suit,
8 what they want to do is go onesie-twosie because
9 they hope that the whole group doesn't catch on of
10 the errors that they made.

11 Wells Fargo, as you know, did -- they
12 opened accounts for people that didn't know they had
13 accounts. So that was one of the things that these
14 protections and this office, put together by the
15 Treasury, kind of keeps an eye on and makes sure
16 that -- you know, it protects those who serve.

17 The Forever GI Bill, one of the big
18 victories that happened this legislative season so
19 far. What it provides -- the first thing it
20 provides is that those who enlisted since 2013,
21 their VA GI benefits, Post-9/11 GI benefits will

1 never expire. Before, the way the legislation, the
2 way CFR 38 states, they had 15 years to use that
3 benefit from the time they left service. Well, for
4 a lot of military members, they come back, they take
5 a few years to think about what they want to do, or
6 they go right into the workforce but later want to
7 improve on their opportunities with further
8 education. So this provision provides the
9 opportunity for them to basically use their GI
10 benefit throughout their lifetime.

11 Other improvements improved to the Reserve
12 Component and basically upping some of the monies
13 that they get for the Post-9/11 GI Bill. Survivor
14 benefits, the Fry Scholarship for those who --
15 basically survivors of those killed in service, and
16 other benefits that also occurred. It was a big win
17 for us.

18 As was mentioned earlier, the Choice
19 Program. The choice program was put together
20 because of the wait times that happened at the
21 Phoenix medical center. Choice is still a valid

1 option and the Department is doing what they can
2 right now to try to make improvements to that
3 program so that you as a veteran have the
4 opportunity to get the best care anywhere, and if
5 you can't get within the VA medical care system, you
6 should be able to go out to the community and get
7 that service for yourself. And if you have a
8 service-connected disability or you don't have a
9 service-connected disability, you should be
10 utilizing your VA health care benefits.

11 And then the last item here is the
12 expansion of the VA Caregivers act. A few years
13 back, they provided through legislation, for those
14 caregivers for servicemembers from post-9/11 period,
15 they have a program where they receive a stipend,
16 you have training, you have an opportunity to get
17 other additional benefits as a caregiver for a
18 severely injured, severely disabled veteran. What
19 this legislation does is expands it to those prior
20 to. One of the largest communities of caregivers
21 that do a lot for their veteran spouses is the

1 Vietnam era. And again, due to exposures to Agent
2 Orange, posttraumatic stress and other ailments,
3 this is a big piece of legislation. And Congress is
4 very much in favor of doing it. It's just, again,
5 going to the bottom line, trying to find the money
6 to do it.

7 And with that, I said I was going to keep
8 mine simple and brief, the last individual we'll
9 hear from is Assistant Director of Legislative
10 Programs, or Veterans Programs, Brian Condon.

11 (APPLAUSE.)

12 ADVP CONDON: Good afternoon.

13 SHIPMATES: Good afternoon.

14 ADVP CONDON: I have a number of jobs
15 around the FRA Headquarters. I've been with them
16 for about two years now, coming up on two years in a
17 couple weeks. One of my various jobs is to make
18 everybody else on the Legislative Team look pretty
19 good. Add on top of that, I do work with a lot of
20 them on various topics with Chris and John. With
21 Stephen Tassin currently serving on active duty

1 until March, I have taken over a lot of his
2 legislative duties. But John and Chris have covered
3 a lot of that, so I'm gonna cover a couple of other
4 things that we have done over this past year.

5 One of them is if you remember about 10
6 months ago, we sent out a survey about the Arlington
7 National Cemetery. The Arlington National Cemetery
8 Commission that was formed a few years ago is
9 looking for ideas and they reached out to the
10 veterans services community and they want feedback.
11 Well, we got great response from everybody, and
12 about 92 percent of those who responded suggested
13 that Arlington National Cemetery expand before they
14 even consider limiting the eligibility for burials
15 there. And we passed that information along and we
16 are continually following it. At current rates,
17 Arlington National Cemetery is estimated to close
18 for first interment burials around 2041. And the
19 commission's goal is to ensure that the cemetery
20 stay open for another 150 to 200 years. Hopefully
21 they will come up with a solution that everybody can

1 agree upon, but until then, we are talking to them
2 regularly to ensure that our members' voices are
3 being heard.

4 For those active duty personnel, we do
5 publish what's called OnWatch. This is a
6 publication that's put out quarterly, and it's
7 specifically geared to those active duty and
8 reservists. These issues range from -- past few
9 editions have dealt with an issue called 12304
10 Bravos, which affected reservists. When they got
11 called up to active duty, they were given specific
12 orders. These were called 12304 Bravos. And what
13 it did was allowed them to be activated, but because
14 of what Congress did back in 2012, they were denied
15 the benefits. And this was an issue that was
16 brought up by the reservists, and a great many
17 veterans service organizations took to the Hill and
18 said this is wrong; they're being called up on
19 active duty, they deserve all the benefits. And
20 they got a great response, again, from everybody in
21 the veteran community. And Congress did act. Past

1 other editions included blended retirement and
2 predatory lenders that Chris alluded to earlier, the
3 Consumer Financial Protection Bureau.

4 And Tom I know talks a lot about the Bill
5 Tracker. This is something that I do spend a lot of
6 time on. Every Congress -- Congress introduces
7 literally thousands of bills. Out of those
8 thousands, less than one percent will ever become
9 law. And out of those thousands are hundreds of
10 bills that will affect and would affect veterans,
11 active duty, and reservist retirees at some point or
12 another. And it's very time consuming to go through
13 all these bills to find out which ones would affect
14 you, which ones we need to take action on, and which
15 ones we want to focus our efforts on. The Bill
16 Tracker is located on our website, and when you get
17 a chance, please take a look at it. These are bills
18 that we are currently following, we have currently
19 sent either a letter of support on or a letter of
20 opposition on, and these will -- if they were to
21 pass and become law, these would directly affect

1 you. So I would greatly appreciate any kind of
2 feedback you have. If there is an issue that you
3 are curious if bills are being introduced on, I'd
4 love to hear from you. And if you have any general
5 comments about its overall look and appearance.

6 SHIPMATE THOMAS: Shipmate Thomas, Branch
7 126, delegate. I don't know if you realize that the
8 ANC is also doing a survey for civilian population
9 as to what their thoughts are on the Arlington
10 Cemetery and if you take the survey, you'll find
11 that they put lots of questions that cover money
12 issues, how much it's going to cost to do the
13 Arlington Cemetery extension, or continue it. We
14 need for us veterans to get on there and make our
15 voice known because if you leave it up to the
16 civilians out there and they see the money and
17 they're going to say oh no, they'll close Arlington
18 to save us all this money. We need to get on that
19 survey. Thank you.

20 ADVP CONDON: Yes, sir. You are correct.
21 Both Tom and I attended a committee meeting about

1 Arlington where the commission discussed just that
2 survey for the general public. They were looking
3 for feedback from the veterans service community
4 specifically, and they're also reaching out to the
5 public at large. They are looking for feedback as
6 to what to do. And you're absolutely correct. And
7 they will be there here later this week.

8 And with that, I am done. Are there any
9 other questions? Very well. Thank you.

10 (APPLAUSE.)

11 NP LARSON: A couple of quick
12 announcements. A few minutes ago, Shipmate National
13 Executive Director Snee received a phone call from
14 Shipmate Teresa. We all know who Teresa is,
15 correct? We all know she's a Shipmate, correct?
16 She called to report that she's being admitted over
17 night for observation and will find out tomorrow
18 morning. We'll let you know tomorrow afternoon
19 1300, Second Business Session, what we learned last
20 about her. Thoughts and prayers.

21 I'm in a little bit of thunder here from

1 the Convention Committee -- well, first of all, when
2 we're done here, it's going on 1600, about 1600,
3 1615-ish. If you go to page 4 in your program, we
4 have a 1600 workshop: FRA Leadership Training for
5 Outgoing and Incoming Board Members. Includes
6 snacks.

7 SHIPMATES: Page 10.

8 NP LARSON: Page 10. What did I say?

9 SHIPMATES: Page 4.

10 NP LARSON: Okay. So, it's a workshop for
11 the outgoing and incoming board members. But it is
12 open to all hands. If you're not a board member
13 yet, stand by, you will be before you know it.
14 Sometimes again. But Shipmate, if you could pass on
15 and announce that we're not gonna wait till 1630,
16 but we'll try to do it 1600, 1615. Also with that,
17 tonight is the Welcome Aboard ceremony, as been
18 announced. Shipmate Past Regional President New
19 England Floyd Hunt wanted to announce that he will
20 be the DJ. He has a DJ voice. We are serving a
21 light Philippine cuisine --

1 PRPNE/NEng HUNT: We would like all you
2 guys to show up tonight. We're gonna put a little
3 skit on, Branch 4 is, before I start playing my
4 music. But one of the things why I really wanted to
5 do this was it was U.S. Navy that trained me to be a
6 disc jockey. In fact, the guy that I met that
7 sought me to be a disc jockey -- I'm Floyd Hunt.

8 Getting back to what I started to tell you
9 guys, this has to do with membership. I just want
10 to throw this out here. There's a website on there
11 called U.S. Navy on Facebook. In other words, it's
12 a group. You're going to meet more shipmates that
13 you thought were dead or where the hell they went to
14 or whatever. This guy came on there and we were
15 commenting about the aircraft carrier Independence.
16 And he said he was on WIND Radio aboard the
17 Independence. And I came back and I said, "So was
18 I." And he saw my name and he goes, "Floyd, I
19 haven't seen you in 46 years, how you doing?" and
20 all this stuff. A couple more messages I sent him,
21 I sent him an application and he's joining the FRA,

1 just like that. He said, "If you're in that, I'll
2 get in it." Just like that.

3 I would suggest to you guys if you get on
4 Facebook -- a lot of you are -- go to Facebook, get
5 into U.S. Navy groups, and you're gonna see a lot of
6 your old shipmates in there. And you might be able
7 to get some new people into this organization, which
8 is what we're looking for. I think all the people
9 on that row up there would agree with me. That's
10 all I wanted to say, but show up tonight. Thanks.

11 (APPLAUSE.)

12 NP LARSON: Well put, Shipmate.

13 The West Coast Beer Club wishes to have me
14 convey to you that they will meet -- and he's making
15 his way to the microphone -- will meet tomorrow
16 evening, right now projected at 1900 in Suite 1052,
17 an office between 1052 and the outside platform
18 right across the passageway, and will congregate and
19 make light noises.

20 Shipmate at the mic.

21 PNP BLACKBURN: Blackburn, delegate,

1 Branch 8. I am the hops-keeper for the West Coast
2 Regional Beer Club. For those of you who are
3 members who know about it, please attend tomorrow
4 evening. We will have a short meeting and tell a
5 few tales to each other, have a great time, get
6 together, and pay dues. If you are not a member,
7 please think seriously about coming over and joining
8 us. It's \$20 for joining. You get your beer mug,
9 you get your pin. We don't just drink beer. We do
10 have pop. But drink a few beers if you would like.
11 But part of the monies that we take in, we donate to
12 the Education Foundation and we donate to the LA FRA
13 National President Project. So \$100 to each of
14 those. That's part of what your dues go to.

15 Because of our -- as with everything
16 else -- because of the decline in membership, I have
17 a list with a whole lot of names on it; however,
18 they don't attend and pay their dues. I don't know
19 why that happens. Nonpayment of dues in this
20 association as well. Consequently, we did vote on
21 it at our meeting that next year's dues will

1 increase to \$10. So for those of you who are
2 members, I recommend you get in and pay your \$5 dues
3 this year. I hope to see you all there, and thank
4 you. 1900 tomorrow night.

5 (APPLAUSE.)

6 NP LARSON: Outstanding, Shipmate. Thank
7 you very much.

8 Branch and Unit 4 has put in an awful lot
9 of effort and work for this convention. Who's all
10 been part of a national convention in the past,
11 involved? You haven't got a clue, right? Right now
12 during the hurricane and various other reasons, a
13 lot of our shipmates and Auxiliary members have
14 canceled their reservations for this convention.
15 [inaudible], I understand. They try to make up in
16 other ways. They're taking the breakfast that was
17 \$18 in the morning, and I'm not sure how we pay, how
18 that works, but my understanding is that the
19 breakfast in the morning, they're putting the buffet
20 out here and asking for donations. Please, if you
21 think this is worth -- for these donations, if you

1 think this breakfast you're going to have is worth
2 \$2, please do not show. They've gone through a lot
3 of effort on this. It's for donations for the
4 breakfast. Be there.

5 UNIDENTIFIED SHIPMATE: What time?

6 NP LARSON: 0630 till 0830, correct?

7 UNIDENTIFIED SHIPMATE: Yes.

8 NP LARSON: It's a great breakfast. The
9 eggs are not green, so come on out.

10 Last thing here and we'll go ahead and go
11 into recess is, may I get Past Regional President
12 North Central Marcia Cunningham -- Marcia, Marcia,
13 Marcia -- to stand.

14 This brave young shipmate is taking over
15 the responsibilities of Membership and Retention
16 Committee chairperson --

17 UNIDENTIFIED SHIPMATE: National.

18 NP LARSON: National. So she'll be
19 chairing that committee tomorrow.

20 (APPLAUSE.)

21 NP LARSON: I know you'll give her your

1 support, right? Of course.

2 Okay. Let me find my notes. Do we have
3 any other announcements? Shipmate at the mic.

4 PRPEC SLAWINSKI: Shipmate National
5 President, Slawinski, delegate, Branch 181, National
6 Headquarters, all that other stuff.

7 Shipmates, please, this room will be used
8 for the Welcome Aboard Party tonight, so please take
9 everything you brought in here with you out so that
10 they can shift the room around and get it ready for
11 the Welcome Aboard Party. Just wanted to kinda give
12 everybody a heads up on doing that, so please do
13 that to help make things go a lot faster.

14 Thank you, Shipmate National President.

15 NP LARSON: Aye. Shipmate?

16 SHIPMATE CALIGUIRAN: Art Caliguiran,
17 Branch 4, delegate. In connection with Shipmate
18 Chris Slawinski's announcement, the Hospitality Room
19 will open soon after we recess, but it will be
20 closed at 1800 at the start of the Welcome Aboard
21 Party. It will be closed. Okay?

1 Another announcement is this is a reminder
2 that the VA representatives will be here in the
3 morning. If you are interested in talking to one of
4 them concerning education and vocational rehab and
5 the eBenefits, please sign up at the registration
6 desk or in the Derby Room. Okay? Thank you.

7 NP LARSON: And as soon as you're done
8 talking to VA reps, [inaudible] to a committee room,
9 correct?

10 Junior Past National President, 1615 is
11 fine for your workshop? 1615 in whatever page 10
12 says. Salon Alpha, A.

13 This concludes the First Business Session
14 of the 90th National Convention. We will now be
15 recessed. The Second Business Session will commence
16 promptly at 1300 tomorrow in this room.

17 Shipmate National Chaplain, if you will
18 close the Bible, please.

19 (Three raps of the gavel.)

20 NCHAP PUGH: Shipmate National President,
21 the Bible is closed.

1 NP LARSON: The convention stands in
2 recess until the Second Business Session at 1300
3 Thursday afternoon.

4 (The First Business Session concluded at
5 1601.)

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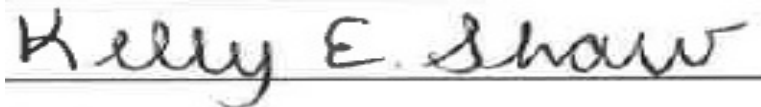
20

21

1 State of Maryland,
2 County of Carroll, to wit:

3
4 I, Kelly E. Shaw, a Notary Public in and
5 for the State of Maryland, County of Carroll, do
6 hereby certify that the within transcript was
7 recorded electronically and transcribed by me and is
8 a true record of the proceedings.

9
10 I further certify that I am not of counsel
11 to any of the parties, nor an employee of counsel,
12 nor related to any of the parties, nor in any way
13 interested in the outcome of this action.
14 As witness my hand and Notarial Seal this 15th day
15 of November, 2017.

16
17
18 

19 Kelly E. Shaw, Notary Public

20
21 My Commission expires: November 21, 2019

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