

FRA 88th and LAFRA 83rd NATIONAL CONVENTION  
 FLEET RESERVE ASSOCIATION and LADIES AUXILIARY OF THE  
 FLEET RESERVE ASSOCIATION  
 SPOKANE, WASHINGTON  
 Wednesday, October 14th, 2015  
 0900 - 1000

PRPNW LAZZARETTI: Shipmate National Master-at-Arms, you will invite the Shipmates, Auxiliary members, and guests to enter the hall and close the door. Shipmate National Master-at-Arms is everybody in the hall?

MASTER-AT-ARMS WYNN: Yes

PRPNW LAZZARETTI: Thank you, Shipmate.

National Officers, Past National Officers, Shipmates, Auxiliary members, and distinguished guests, I am PRPNW Pete Lazzaretti, of Seattle Branch 18, along with PRPNW Peg Burke of Inland-Empire Branch 38, Spokane, we are your Co-Chairs of the 88th Fleet Reserve Association National Convention.

With me is Ladies Auxiliary PRPNW Sharon Holloway, of Wyoming Unit 59, and she is the Chairwoman of the 83rd Ladies Auxiliary National Convention. Together, we would like to welcome you to Spokane and to the Joint Opening Ceremonies of our convention.

Our National Master-at-Arms are RPNW-Elect JJ Wynn and PRPNW Dean Miller. Sergeant-at-Arms for the Auxiliary is Ernestine Combs.

Will the Side Boys from Navy Operations Support Center, Spokane, please take your places.

Shipmate National Master-at-Arms, will you please escort our keynote speaker, the Honorable Congresswoman Cathy McMorris Rodgers of the Fifth Washington Congressional District, to the rostrum.

(SYNCOPATED CLAPPING.)

PRPNW LAZZARETTI: Side Boys, dismissed. Thank you, Shipmates.

(APPLAUSE.)

PRPNW HOLLOWAY: Sergeant-at-Arms and Marshal, will you please escort the National President LAFRA, Doris Fri, to the rostrum.

(SYNCOPATED CLAPPING.)

PRPNW LAZZARETTI: Will Colonel McDaniels, the Commanding Officer of the 92nd Air Refueling Wing of Fairchild Air Force Base, please acknowledge yourself.

(APPLAUSE.)

PRPNW LAZZARETTI: Shipmate National Master-at-Arms, you will escort the National President of the Fleet Reserve Association, John Ippert, to the rostrum.

(SYNCOPATED CLAPPING.)

PRPNW LAZZARETTI: I now have the honor to present the Rogers High School Air Force Junior ROTC unit of Spokane to present the colors.

Hand salute.

Two.

Shipmate National Chaplain, please invoke the blessing of God.

NCHAP HALL: "Almighty God, the creator of all things, we humbly beseech Thee to accept our devotion, have mercy on the souls of our departed Shipmates, guide us in all our undertakings that we may truly please Thee. Amen."

PRPNW LAZZARETTI: Thank you, Shipmate National Chaplain.

Please recite with me the "Pledge of Allegiance."  
Hand salute.

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

PRPNW LAZZARETTI: Two.

Rogers High School Air Force Junior ROTC, please post the colors.

(Colors were presented.)

PRPNW LAZZARETTI: Two. Let's give them a round of applause.

(APPLAUSE.)

PRPNW LAZZARETTI: Shipmates, you will recite with me the Preamble to the Constitution of the Fleet Reserve Association

ALL SHIPMATES: "With reverence for God and Country and being ever mindful of the glorious traditions of the United States Navy, Marine Corps, and Coast Guard; our duty to uphold and defend the Constitution of the United States of America; our responsibility to aid in maintaining adequate defense for our beloved country; our desire to assist in obtaining the best type of personnel for our sea services; our interest in the welfare of those who served and are now serving; our devotion to our shipmates, in good fortune or distress; our reverence for the memory of our departed shipmates; we associate ourselves together and declare this to be the Preamble to the Constitution of the Fleet Reserve Association."

PRPNW HOLLOWAY: Auxiliary members, please recite with me the Preamble to the Constitution of the Ladies Auxiliary.

ALL AUXILIARY MEMBERS: "Having a keen sense of responsibility, being true Americans, and bearing in mind the Preamble of the Fleet Reserve Association, we, the members of the Ladies Auxiliary of the Fleet Reserve Association, do band together to aid, assist, and promote in all matters pertaining to welfare, social, and patriotic work for the benefit of the Fleet Reserve Association, its members and their families. Thus do we associate and declare these principles to be the foundation and the Preamble to the Constitution of the Ladies Auxiliary of the Fleet Reserve Association."

(One rap of the gavel.)

PRPNW HOLLOWAY: Thank you, Shipmates, Auxiliary members, and distinguished guests. It is now my privilege to introduce the following:

First, I would like to introduce the eight Regional Vice Presidents who were elected and installed at the recent Regional conventions. Please stand as I call your name, and hold your applause until all the introductions in each group.

Northeast/New England, Eileen Hyland;  
 East Coast, Shirley Vatter;  
 Southeast, Vera Thomas;  
 North Central, Past Regional President Christina Drew;  
 South Central, Past National President Gini Larson;  
 Northwest, Renee Shaw;  
 West Coast, Kelly Pena;  
 Southwest, Gloria Walker.

Next, I would like to introduce our Regional Presidents-Elect. Please stand as I recognize you. They are:

RPNE/NEng-Elect PNP Cindy Rodham-Tuck;  
 East Coast, Katherine Bearden;  
 Southeast, Pat Suckow;  
 North Central, Past National Chaplain Teresa Norton;  
 South Central, Past National Chaplain John Neal;  
 Northwest, Lauren Wynn;  
 West Coast, Mary Ann Frank;  
 Southwest, Claudia Goldner.

(APPLAUSE.)

PRPNW HOLLOWAY: Thank you, ladies. Next, I would ask that any Past National Officer of the LAFRA please stand if you are able. Thank you. Past.

(APPLAUSE.)

PRPNW HOLLOWAY: Please be seated, as you already are. I will now introduce the Past National Presidents of the LAFRA. Stand when I call your name and hold your applause:

Ruth Eblen, Loretta Roberts, Dorothy Maurath, Pat Boudreaux, Sandra Robbins, Gail Doloway, Gini Larson, Diane Hoover

(APPLAUSE.)

PRPNW HOLLOWAY: Thank you. Please be seated. I would like to now -- what did I miss?

UNIDENTIFIED VOICE: Cindy Rodham-Tuck.

PRPNW HOLLOWAY: I didn't think she felt like standing up. I'm glad we're friends, Cindy.

(LAUGHTER.)

PRPNW HOLLOWAY: I would like to now introduce the LAFRA National Officers of 2014-2015.

National Chaplain, Teresa Norton.  
 National Parliamentarian, PNP Gail Doloway.  
 Regional Past Northeast/New England, PNP Cindy Rodham-Tuck.

(APPLAUSE.)

PRPNW HOLLOWAY: Regional President East Coast Toni O'Neill;  
 Regional President North Central Christine Drew;

Regional President Southeast, Pat Suckow. I'm sorry; we'll talk later.

(LAUGHTER.)

PRPNW HOLLOWAY: Regional President South Central Pauline Wampler; Regional President Northwest Lauren Wynn; Regional President West Coast Polly Stonich; and Regional President Southwest Bea Parco, and I know she's here.

(APPLAUSE.)

PRPNW HOLLOWAY: JrPNP Carolyn Whitaker; National Executive Secretary, Jean Smith; National Financial Secretary, Christine Murray. National Vice President Doris -- nope.

PRPNW LAZZARETTI: You forgot Karen.

PRPNW HOLLOWAY: National Treasurer Karen Snee. And, finally, our National President Doris Fri

(APPLAUSE.)

PRPNW LAZZARETTI: Thank you. Please be seated.

I'd first like to ask the FRA National Regional Vice Presidents to stand as I introduce you. Please hold your applause until all are introduced as a group.

Northeast/New England, David Sharp;  
East Coast, Thomas Vatter;  
Southeast, Charlie Hines;  
North Central, NRPNC Norm Combs;  
South Central, Bruce Talbot;  
Northwest, Mark Thompson;  
West Coast, Roland Shorter;  
And Southwest, Bruce Davis.

(APPLAUSE.)

PRPNW LAZZARETTI: Thank you, Shipmates. Please have a seat.

Next I'd like to introduce the Regional Presidents-Elect. Again, please stand when I introduce you. Please hold your applause until all are introduced.

Northeast/New England Donna Jansky, Past Regional President; East

Coast, Penny Collins;  
 Southeast, Dave Davis;  
 North Central, Marcia Cunningham;  
 South Central, Don Gibson;  
 Northwest, JJ Wynn;  
 West Coast, PRPWC, Past National Chaplain, Pat LeClaire; Southwest,  
 Don Kelley.

(APPLAUSE.)

PRPNW LAZZARETTI: Thank you, Shipmates. Please have a seat. Next, I would like to introduce the Past National Officers of the FRA. Would you please stand to be recognized.

(APPLAUSE.)

PRPNW LAZZARETTI: Thank you, Shipmates. Now I have the honor of introducing the Past National Presidents of the Fleet Reserve Association that are present. Please stand when I call your name.

Jim Eblen, Bob Beese, John Johnson, Dick Smith, Joe Maez, Larry Boudreaux, Gary Blackburn, Jim Scarbro, Jeff Gilmartin, and Marcus Kilgorus the First -- I mean Shipmate Mark Kilgore, currently Acting Junior Past.

(APPLAUSE.)

PRPNW LAZZARETTI: Thank you, Shipmates. Here is your 2014-2015 Fleet Reserve Association National Board of Directors.

National Chaplain, Bill Hall;  
 National Parliamentarian, PNP Jim Eblen;  
 RPNE/NEng Floyd Hunt;  
 RPEC JJ Willis;  
 RPSE Larry Cox;  
 RPNC Curry Sanders;  
 RPSC Don Gibson;  
 RPNW Mike Archer;  
 RPWC Larry Briggs,  
 And last, but not least, RPSW Gus Hermes.

(APPLAUSE.)

PRPNW LAZZARETTI: We also have National Executive Director Tom Snee;  
 JrPNP Mark Kilgore;  
 NVP Virgil Courneya;  
 And of course our National President, Shipmate John Ippert.

(APPLAUSE.)

PRPNW LAZZARETTI: Thank you, Shipmates. Please have a seat. Shipmate National Executive Director Tom Snee, will you please introduce our Keynote Speaker.

NED SNEE: Good morning, Shipmates. Good morning, Auxiliary members. It is truly an honor to introduce our Keynote Speaker, the Honorable Cathy McMorris Rodgers. Her bio is contained in our booklets, but I would just like to give a few highlights.

First of all, she is a rising star in Congress. If you have ever watched C-SPAN, she is there. She knows what she is doing and she has got direction. And not only that, but she's got it focused. She's known on Capitol Hill for her hard work, conservative principles, bipartisan outreach, not to mention her strong leadership of cooperation and collaboration.

As someone who grew up on a farm, she worked with her family's small business and later became a Navy wife, a mom of three. As Chair of the House Republican Conference, she is the forth highest Ranking Republican in the House and the highest ranking woman in Congress.

Of the 72 bills signed into law in 2013, Congresswoman Rodgers authored two of them: The Hydropower Regulatory Efficiency Act and the National Pediatric Research Network Act of 2013. A long-time advocate for members of the military and their families, she is also a Co-Chair of five Congressional Caucuses, the Military Family, Downs Syndrome, Lumber, Neuroscience, and the Rural Health Coalition.

In 2006, Congresswoman Rodgers married Brian Rodgers, a Spokane native and retired 26-year Navy veteran Navy Commander. Cathy has become a leader in the disabilities community. She has two daughters and she is the only Member of Congress in history to give birth three times while in office, so she knows what it is to be a mom.

(APPLAUSE.)

NED SNEE: One of the things that I just, as I was talking to the Congresswoman, is I would like to thank her for her support to FRA initiatives on the congressional side. And one side note, because she is also a member with the Chairman of the Energy Committee. Energy is not just about fuels, fossils, water, hydro. It is a collective in what it does and serves for all of us throughout the United States. So it is with deep honor that I introduce you our

Keynote Speaker, Congresswoman Cathy McMorris Rodgers of the Fifth Congressional District of Washington State.

(APPLAUSE.)

CONGRESSWOMEN MCMORRIS RODGERS: Thank you very much, Tom, for that kind introduction. Welcome to Spokane. It's great to be among our service members and women. I hope you have a great time here. I wanted to share with you some thoughts and I look forward to talking to all of you.

You know, America's history is one of heroism. And I think it's so important that we do have heroes and that we celebrate and we remember our heroes. And as I think about those of you who have served, or are currently serving, in our military, you are our heroes. You give us so much and we would all do well to learn from your legacy. Your stories provide us an opportunity to learn and to understand about service and sacrifice.

You represent to our country the hope that we need, even in the darkest hour. And this morning I wanted to share one of those stories that has always inspired me and it goes back to World War II. It is the story of four chaplains. Maybe some of the chaplains in the room know this story.

There was a convoy of 902 young GIs crossing the Atlantic Ocean and around 1:00 in the morning a Nazi submarine fired at the ship, causing an explosion and the sudden death of many young men below the deck. You can imagine, panic spread as the power and as the radio cut out. But among the chaos stood four chaplains.

There was a Catholic priest, two Protestants, and a Jewish rabbi. And they called out to the crying and the screaming young men around them to have courage. They passed out life jackets and when they ran out of life jackets, they gave up their own. As the ship sunk into the icy Atlantic the chaplains held onto one another continuing their call for courage and they prayed. They continued to pray and they prayed until they were lost at sea.

Our Nation was built on self-sacrifice. Service before self, such that these four chaplains displayed. And without it, we can no liberty. Without those willing to serve, without those willing to sacrifice, we have no self-government.

So before I go any further I think we need a round of applause for all of you in this room.

(APPLAUSE.)



CONGRESSWOMEN MCMORRIS RODGERS: It's not Congress or the President that make this country great. It's the men and women like you all around this country who are courageous and take risks in the name of defending our values our freedoms, our way of life. You are our greatest resource. And you deserve our thanks.

So often as I walk up the steps of the Capitol or I walk around the Halls of Congress, I see paintings, I see statues of our rich military history. And I'm reminded of those who have served, those who are currently serving, and you know what and I am challenged to recommit in my focus in making sure that I make it a priority to honor the sacrifice and the service of those that serve in our military.

I believe that we cannot be a diplomatic power without being a military power. And we can't be a military power without being an economic power. So the best way that I have to thank you is to ensure that our country remains strong, that the fruits from generations of sacrifice are not endangered by short-term political goals or policy fantasies that Members have at times. Yet too often you see that that is just the case.

And even right now the House and the Senate are working on the National Defense Authorization Act. And at a time when we don't agree on a lot too often between the House and the Senate, we have come together and agreed on this Defense bill, which I think is very important. And it has been sent to the President's desk. And I am hopeful that we don't allow other policy and political priorities to get in the way of getting this bill signed into law.

The NDAA is vitally important to our national security with funding for a wide array of weapons systems and programs. Twelve F-18 Super Hornets for the Navy; six F-35b's for the Marines; 200 million for cyber defense against China, Russia, Iran and North Korea; 700 million to help Iraqi forces against ISIS; 300 million to help Ukraine. In Ukraine they are fighting right now for self-determination and freedom. The measure contains the most sweeping reforms to our Defense procurement system in 30 years, reforms that are really essential to preserving our technological superiority.

This bill impacts the everyday life of a million service members and their families. Provisions about retirement pay, health care, and child care. It merges the DOD and VA drug list so that someone with prescriptions while they are serving is not denied them in their retirement. DOD will be required to clear child care waiting times, that right now are on average three months.

And the best thing I can say about this bill is that it has been adopted by 70 Senators and 269 House Members from both political parties in every region of this country. If this bill were a person, he would be the Speaker right now.

(LAUGHTER AND APPLAUSE.)

CONGRESSWOMEN MCMORRIS RODGERS: At a time when some people can only see Congress as being dysfunctional, it is really through this Defense Authorization that we are seeing an example of how Congress should work, finding common ground for the welfare of the Nation. So let's make sure it becomes law and I urge you to call and voice your support.

Now, if you're not aware, Spokane is a military family and a military community. If you haven't been to Spokane before, I urge you to come back in May for our annual Armed Forces Torchlight Parade. You would be a part of 100,000 people who come to the streets to stand and applaud and show our gratitude to those who have served and those who are currently serving. It is so good to be a part of that parade every year.

We are proud to be home to the Fairchild Air Force base. The number two requested Air Force base. Some base in Hawaii is number one.

(LAUGHTER.)

CONGRESSWOMAN CATHY MCMORRIS RODGERS: And because of the tremendous support that this community has for the military, many choose to retire here and it is my honor to represent them all.

Before joining the House leadership team, I served for three terms on the Armed Services Committee. And as was mentioned, my husband, Brian Rodgers, served for 26 years in the Navy. He enlisted right out of high school and then he actually was recruited to go to the Academy and ended up flying for the Navy. He is now commanding a different crew, our three young rambunctious children. We met after he was retired, but his experience as really helped open my eyes even further to the realities of military service, and especially the impact that it has on families.

Whenever I might be grumbling about being away from my family for a few days, it's Brian who will say, "Cathy, think about those military families." Clearly, when someone joins the military, it's not just a job. It's a family commitment to our community. And that's why in 2009, Sanford Bishop and I founded the Congressional Military Family Caucus. We really did create a forum and put a

microphone in front of our military families, connect them with military leadership and with Members of Congress and their staff, and to highlight some of the challenges that they were facing.

We have worked with Joining forces, lead by Michelle Obama and Jill Biden, and we have also been intentional in taking the caucus outside of Washington, D.C., to bases around the country so that we could go to where the military families are.

Certainly, when a spouse rotates to a different military installation the entire family is uprooted and that family has to create a new life. Kids have to start school, identify new caregivers, sometimes it means new jobs. And through the caucus, we have been able to really highlight some of these critical issues that are unique to military families. Whether it is mental health, Wounded Warrior support, health care, military spouse employment, multiple deployments, the impact of multiple deployments on families, education. We have raised the awareness on these critical issues on Capitol Hill and we helped promote legislation to help them.

Another way that we can show our support, and what I believe to be a very important priority for us in Congress, is to make sure we have a VA that is meeting the needs of our veterans. Too often I hear the stories of veterans who feel like when they contact the VA they are more of a burden than having a VA that is there to roll out the red carpet and to say, "How can we help you?"

I would like to imagine a VA where we don't have waiting lists and where you could book your appointments maybe online, 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. And I believe that it is possible. The entire country was outraged a year ago when it was exposed the waiting list and it was especially focused on Phoenix. But then, unfortunately, it was throughout the VA system where we were seeing so many veterans who were having to wait.

Congress immediately took action in response and we passed legislation within weeks that, you know, allowed the VA to fire underperforming employees. We authorized more money to hire doctors, health care personnel. We called for an independent medical review of every VA hospital in America.

But you know what? A year later, 50 percent more veterans are on waiting lists for a month or more than when we started. And right around that same time there was a company that approached me. They were called ZocDoc. I don't know how many of you are familiar with ZocDoc. Has anyone heard of ZocDoc?

They were founded by a guy who landed at JFK, ruptured his ear drum, and couldn't find a doctor to help him. And he was in all kinds of pain and had to wait five days to get an appointment. And he said, "There has to be a better way." And he founded this company called ZocDoc that now, in the private sector, is booking 5 million people a month. It is really easy to use. And he approached me and said, "You know what? I think we could help the VA."

And it is interesting to note that it was his employees who came up with the idea. They were so burdened by what they had heard about what was going on at the VA they spent a weekend coming up with a proposal that said: We could help the VA. He approached me and I connected them. Unfortunately, the VA has not been as responsive as I had hoped. I connected them and then I met with the Secretary, and you can imagine I got like a 38-page letter from them as to why it wasn't going to work.

So now I'm introducing legislation to call for a six pilot projects, because I really think that there is a better way. And we need to be open to better ways to make sure that we are getting our veterans the care that they need. It is a way that we show our gratitude to those who have served. And that is something that we can all unite around, Republicans, Democrats and Independents.

So this is just one of the ways that we need to rally around showing our gratitude to our service members by keeping the promises that we have made to you and the commitment that we made as our country.

Certainly, there is continued unrest around the world. We hear about it every time that we listen to the news. Increased threats on a number of fronts. We see the rise of Islamic terrorism. The numbers are pretty staggering.

According to a report by the State Department just last year, 33,000 people were killed in over 13,000 terrorist attacks in 95 countries just last year.

The Marines, the Navy, the Coast Guard are our defense against the global chaos. When our military needs materiel, we cannot politicize it. We have to equip them. You are the cream of the crop. You can't be if you don't have the resources that you need.

And that's why getting legislation like the Defense Act signed into law is so important. And those that are out there protecting our way of life need to have the assurances that the people back home are standing by you and that we have your back.

Thank you for who you represent. Thank you for your service, your

sacrifice. And may God continue to bless the great United States of America. God bless you.

(APPLAUSE.)

PRPNW LAZZARETTI: Shipmate National Master-at-Arms, would you please escort Congresswoman McMorris Rodgers out. Thank you for speaking to our assembly today, Congresswoman.

(SYNCOPATED CLAPPING.)

PRPNW LAZZARETTI: Shipmate National Chaplain, please prepare for the Two Bell Ceremony.

(Bell rings twice.)

(Three raps of the gavel.)

NCHAP HALL: The toll of the ship's bell --

(Bell rings once.)

NCHAP HALL: -- reminds us of the reverence we owe to our departed shipmates.

(Bell rings once.)

NCHAP HALL: And to those who guard the honor of our country

(Bell rings once.)

NCHAP HALL: Upon the sea, under the sea.

(Bell rings once.)

NCHAP HALL: In the air and upon foreign soil.

(Bell rings once.)

NCHAP HALL: Let it be a reminder of the faith that they confide in us.

(Bell rings once.)

NCHAP HALL: Let us who gather here not forget our obligations --

(Bell rings once.)

NCHAP HALL: -- and in silence breathe a prayer for our absent shipmates.

(Bell rings once.)

NCHAP HALL: Each in his own words and each in his own way, bow your heads and let us pray --

(Bell rings once.)

NCHAP HALL: -- offering a silent prayer for our departed shipmates --

(Bell rings once.)

NCHAP HALL: -- who are now serving on the staff of the Supreme Commander.

(Bell rings once.)

NCHAP HALL: This moment of reverence we dedicate to the memory of the following shipmates: Hugh "Tommy" Thomason.

(Bell rings once.)

NCHAP HALL: Thomas A. Whitaker.

(Bell rings once.)

NCHAP HALL: Benedict A. Robbins.

(Bell rings once.)

NCHAP HALL: John P. Carroll.

(Bell rings once.)

NCHAP HALL: Robert L. French.

(Bell rings once.)

NCHAP HALL: B. Charles Blair.

(Bell rings once.)

NCHAP HALL: Russell E. Belt.

(Bell rings once.)

NCHAP HALL: Victor Miranda.

(Bell rings once.)

NCHAP HALL: William J. Roberts.

(Bell rings once.)

NCHAP HALL: Stephen T. Kopec.

(Bell rings once.)

NCHAP HALL: Julian R. Dracon.

(Bell rings once.)

NCHAP HALL: National Vice President Roger Mitchell.

(Bell rings once.)

NCHAP HALL: Past National President George Brown.

(Bell rings once.)

NCHAP HALL: Past Regional President Northwest Frank Hood.

(Bell rings three times.)

(One rap of the gavel.)

(Taps was played.)

(One rap of the gavel.)

PRPNW LAZZARETTI: Shipmate National Executive Director, would you please read some convention greetings

NED SNEE: Shipmate Chairman, as this week's convention begins, I would like to take a moment to recognize the tremendous efforts by those who have made it all happen. This week's events could not take place without the phenomenal team effort that includes a lot of hard work and significant contributions of our convention committee, the hotel staff, the FRA National Headquarters team, and our corporate sponsors. Please join me in thanking all of them.

(APPLAUSE.)

NED SNEE: I'd like to extend a special thanks to our corporate sponsors who have contributed to the production of the convention program and have sponsored many of the workshops and seminars that we will be enjoying -- and I hope that all of you can somehow find time to go to them, because they are very enriching to continue our progress -- and the seminars that we will enjoy for the next few days.

They are acknowledged in the program and in the signs you will see around the hotel. Many of them have information tables just outside this room. Please be sure to stop by their booths and thank them personally for their generous support.

Our Platinum. We would like to thank our Platinum sponsors who are:

Mercer, the administrator of the Fleet Reserve Association-endorsed insurance products and strong supporter of FRA's Education Foundation.

USAA, provider of FRA's credit card and other financial services. In addition to their convention sponsorship, they also produce the booklet, "Personal Affairs." USAA's Bob Wiedower is also sponsoring a luncheon workshop later today on things to consider before and after retirement.

United Concordia Dental, the provider of dental insurance coverage for active duty personnel and their families.

Our Gold members. Special thanks to our Gold level sponsors:

GEICO. GEICO is not only a convention Gold sponsor, but also helps produce our "Communicate with your Elected Officials" guidebook. They also support a variety of FRA initiatives. They are also hosting outside this door and stop by and see them for a drawing that they are planning to have.

Delta Dental provides dental insurance coverage for TRICARE's military retiree plan.

Express Scripts is the company that administers TRICARE's home delivery program, ensuring beneficiaries get their maintenance prescription medications by mail. And especially to Tracy Egler of Express Scripts, who will be presenting a luncheon workshop on Thursday as part of their sponsorship.

TriWest Healthcare Alliance, the organization working to establish health care networks for veterans using the Department of Veteran Affairs VAChoice program.



Our Silver level sponsor:

Spectrum Healthcare Resources provides civilian staffing resources for military treatment facilities.

Our Bronze contributor:

International SOS, a sponsor for this week's convention. International SOS provides medical, clinical, and security advice.

So let's have a round of applause for our sponsors.

(APPLAUSE.)

NED SNEE: Our convention would not be what it is unless we have some of those that have come back many, many years, constantly coming back to conventions. But we need to honor another group of folks and those are what we call our First-timers, whether they are from the FRA or the Auxiliary.

Welcome to the FRA and Auxiliary's National Conventions. As we kick off this great annual event, I'd like to recognize those who are attending their first National Convention. If this is your first time, please stand.

(APPLAUSE.)

NED SNEE: Please remain standing. Shipmates and Auxiliary members, please take a look around. If you see one of these folks in a business meeting, the passageway or hospitality room, please say "Hello" and make them feel welcome.

UNIDENTIFIED VOICE: Hello.

NED SNEE: Hello! You are right.

(LAUGHTER.)

NED SNEE: To make them a little more noticeable, we have got leaf stickers for their name tags to identify exactly who they are. If any of you First-timers need a sticker, please raise your hand or see people at the registration.

And lastly, we have a number of letters and greetings that we have that will be spread out for the week. And the one that came in just last week before we left, and it is addressed and says:

"October 2nd, 2015.

"I send greetings to all those gathered in Spokane for the 88th National Convention of the Fleet Reserve Association and the 83rd Ladies Auxiliary of the Fleet Reserve Association.

"America endures because of an unbroken line of patriots who have answered the call to serve. With unwavering honor and distinction, those who wear our Nation's uniform show us that -- as long as we are joined together in common purpose -- our country's journey will continue moving forward and our best days will always lie ahead.

"By supporting service members and veterans of the United States Navy, Marine Corps, and Coast Guard, your organization is helping our people live up to one of our most sacred duties: Ensuring that no one who has fought to protect America ever has to fight to take part in its success. As long as we stay true to that commitment and draw on the spirit of the service demonstrated each day by our troops, our veterans, and their families, I know we can shape a brighter future for all of those who have put their lives on the line to defend ours.

"As you join together on this special occasion, you have my best wishes for an outstanding event.

"Signed, Barack Obama  
President of the United States  
From the White House."

(APPLAUSE.)

PRPNW LAZZARETTI: Finally, I would also like to give some public thanks to the National Convention staff who has worked hard to bring this convention to you. Past Regional President Northwest Peg Burke, my Co-Chair.

(APPLAUSE.)

PRPNW LAZZARETTI: PRPNW Sharon Holloway, our Auxiliary Chair; RPNW Mike Archer; PRPNW Dan Holloway; National Chaplain Bill Hall; the Shipmates of Cheyenne, Wyoming Branch 59, who are running our Hospitality Suite;

Regional President Lauren Wynn, for coordinating our drawings; Regional Secretary/Treasurer Northwest Mary Archer, for running our meals and Auxiliary registration;

Regional President-Elect JJ Wynn for coordinating the ceremonies;

Shipmate Combs, Auxiliary members Greg and Peg Burke, the members of Inland-Empire Branch 38 for all the logistical help.

Additionally, thank you to the National Headquarters staff, especially Teresa, Steve Cox, Chris Slawinski, and Penny Collins, who have been a great help in getting everything coordinated.

(APPLAUSE.)

PRPNW HOLLOWAY: Madam National President, would you please join me at the podium. We of the 83rd LAFRA National Convention committee wish you a productive and harmonious and enjoyable convention, and I would now like to invite you to speak to the assembly.

NP FRI: She deserved that. Welcome to Spokane. Shipmates, Auxiliary members, National Officers, Past National Officers, and guests, it is a great honor for me to be standing here. I'm very pleased to be here. I've enjoyed this year. I just wanted to say a few words.

I wanted to thank everyone for their generous donations to my National Planning Project, "Building Homes for Heroes," and for all the welcome hospitality that I have experienced this year as I've traveled. Right now, I think it's approximately 34,000 miles and I'm not done yet. But I've enjoyed it. It's been a pleasure. It's been a loving experience.

It's one of those things I'm glad I did it, but I'm not too sure I want to do it again. But as you all know, I'm sure you heard we do have candidates running for our National President and I'm one of them. So if I do it again next year, I will do the same and run as hard as I did this year. Thank you very much.

(APPLAUSE.)

PRPNW LAZZARETTI: I would like to ask National Executive Director Emeritus Joe Barnes to briefly speak about the FRA Education Foundation.

NEDE BARNES: Thank you. It's a pleasure to be here. This morning I speak briefly about the FRA Education Foundation.

Education is very important to our service members, veterans, their spouses and families. And for many years, the Fleet Reserve Association has been an outspoken advocate for enhanced education benefits.

The association has also been offering education scholarships to

deserving students for over two decades. To help expand the programs, FRA launched the FRA Education Foundation in 2009. As specified in FRA Standing Rule 14, the Foundation is a separate 501(c)(3) nonprofit charitable organization with distinct governing documents, a separate board of directors, and a special IRS designation.

Foundation finances are maintained in separate accounts and audited annually. In addition, the Foundation reports to the FRA National Board of Directors.

The Foundation's work is directly related to FRA's mission and founding principles and we've been authorized to participate in the annual Combined Federal Campaign administered by the Federal Office of Personnel Management.

Foundation scholarships can make a substantial difference in the lives of our recipients and their families, and we are asking for your help to sustain and hopefully expand this program to help more deserving individuals.

The cost of education continues to rise and there is a growing need for assistance. In addition, the troubling unemployment rate for our veterans is a major concern. Through the Foundation, we can assist those pursuing education necessary to advance their careers, achieve personal goals, and/or reintegrate into the civilian workforce.

It may be helpful to review who is eligible to apply for Foundation scholarships. FRA Shipmates; spouses; dependent biological, step, or adopted children; biological, step or adoptive grandchildren or great-grandchildren of FRA members.

The Foundation takes pride in maintaining very low administrative costs in conjunction with this program. We are fortunate to have dedicated volunteers that make this possible. Corporate and individual contributions of any amount are tax deductible and welcomed in support of this program. In addition, opportunities are available by making contributions at any of four levels.

Each of us can help by telling family members, other FRA Shipmates, and nonmembers who qualify for membership about the scholarship program. Please also contact the guidance department at your local high school and tell them about the program and ask if you could provide brochures and posters, items that are available through National Headquarters.

Participants in the Americanism essay contest -- particularly

students in grades 11 and 12 -- should also be informed about the program.

A couple of final points: We have estate-designated awards and were unable to present them due to the low number of applicants, or incomplete applications which are also a major problem. In particular, I speak about the Colonel Hazel Benn U.S. Marine Corps Scholarship, which may be presented to the dependents of Navy corpsmen who served in support of Marine Corps units. Please help spread the word about these scholarships among current or retired Navy corpsmen.

The 2016 Foundation scholarship cycle commenced on September 1st and the scholarship application deadline is April 15th, 2016. All applications, including those for the LAFRA scholarships, are available via the FRA website at [FRA.org/foundation](http://FRA.org/foundation).

Thank you for your strong and continued support of the Foundation. A special thanks to individual shipmates and branches for their generous contributions to the program. And please, help spread the word about the FRA Education Foundation. Thank you.

(APPLAUSE.)

PRPNW LAZZARETTI: Thank you, Shipmate Joe. Shipmate National President, would you please join me at the podium. It is my pleasure to present you with your gavel --

(LAUGHTER.)

PRPNW LAZZARETTI: -- and wish you a successful convention.

(APPLAUSE.)

PRPNW LAZZARETTI: Would you please now address the assembled shipmates and the Auxiliary members.

NP IPPERT: I'll think about it. Good morning.

SHIPMATES AND AUXILIARY MEMBERS: Good morning.

NP IPPERT: National Officers, Past National Officers, Auxiliary members, Shipmates and honored guests, it is indeed an honor to be here as this is my last weekend as your National President.

It's been quite an experience; one I wouldn't trade for anything. It didn't quite get done everything I wanted to get done.

I want to thank you -- all of you who have prayed and sent cards and well wishes for my health and Marjorie's health issues, and my daughter's. And I mean that from the bottom of my heart. Without that, I probably wouldn't be standing here. Prayer does work.

That's about all I'm going to say. I too want to echo the sentiment of thanking the Co-Chairs, Pete Lazzaretti and Peg Burke, for their excellent job of running this convention. Again, it has been really wonderful from what I have seen so far.

(APPLAUSE.)

NP IPPERT: I have a lot more to say, once we start our business sessions. So proceed.

PRPNW LAZZARETTI: Just a couple of quick convention announcements. The Past National Presidents luncheons are in Salon I and II during lunch today. We do still have some meal tickets available for the banquet on Saturday. You must have your ticket with you to eat. No ticket, you hand me money at the door.

Tomorrow evening at 6:30, 7:00, and 7:30, there will be shuttles going up to the casino again. We had a decent turnout last night. I'd like to see another good turnout Thursday night.

UNIDENTIFIED VOICE: Just don't let Randy go.

PRPNW LAZZARETTI: And I would like to invite everybody back here this evening, starting at 1900, for our Welcome Aboard Luau honoring both National Presidents, John Ippert and Doris Fri.

I now invite the National Presidents of Fleet Reserve Association and the LAFRA to convene their respective conventions.

NP IPPERT: I now declare the 88th National Convention of the Fleet Reserve Association --

NP FRI: And the 83rd National Convention of the Ladies Auxiliary of the Fleet Reserve Association --

NP IPPERT: Regularly convened.

(One rap of the gavel.)

(APPLAUSE.)

PRPNW LAZZARETTI: All right. We will now break for lunch. Regular sessions. Shipmate National Chaplain, would you please close the

Bible.

(Three raps of the gavel.)

NCHAP HALL: Shipmate Chairman, the Bible is closed.

PRPNW LAZZARETTI: Thank you, Shipmate Chaplain. Registration will reopen at 10:30 a.m. and lunch. And we will reconvene here at 1300 for the First Business Session. Ladies Auxiliary will be meeting in the Spokane Falls ballroom right outside the lobby at 1300 for their First Business Session.

Tuxedo fittings will be in the Shades conference room starting at 4 o'clock.

(Thereupon, the Joint Opening Ceremonies were adjourned at 1000.)

FRA 88th NATIONAL CONVENTION  
FLEET RESERVE ASSOCIATION  
SPOKANE, WASHINGTON  
FIRST BUSINESS SESSION  
Wednesday, October 14, 2015  
1300 - 1507

(One rap of the gavel.)

NP IPPERT: This assembly will come to order. Shipmate Master-at-Arms, will you invite the Shipmates to come in the hall and close the doors.

(One rap of the gavel.)

NP IPPERT: I said will this assembly please come to order. Shipmate Master-at-Arms, will you invite the Shipmates into the hall and close the doors.

MASTER-AT-ARMS: Shipmate National President, the doors are closed and the Shipmates are in the hall

NP IPPERT: Thank you. Shipmate National Chaplain, you will please open the Bible.

(3 taps of the gavel.)

NCHAP HALL: Shipmate National President, the Bible is open.

NP IPPERT: Thank you, Shipmate. Salute the colors. Hand salute. Ready. Two.

(One rap of the gavel.)

UNIDENTIFIED SHIPMATE: Speak into the mike.

NP IPPERT: I now declare the First Business Session of the 88th National Convention of the Fleet Reserve Association regularly convened.

JrPNP KILGORE: Shipmate National President.

NP IPPERT: Shipmate at the rear mike.

JrPNP KILGORE: Let the record reflect, Junior Past National President Mark Kilgore Branch 22 is in the proper uniform of the day.



(CHEERS AND APPLAUSE.)

NP IPPERT: So noted. So noted. National Executive Director, do we have any VIPs to be introduced? Not at this time? Okay.

Shipmates, our convention reporter who the right of the rostrum is Joe Strickland of Metro Reporters. Thank you for being here.

(APPLAUSE.)

NP IPPERT: I want to remind all delegates that when addressing the Chair on any matter, including the seconding of motions, you must speak into a microphone and you must state your last name and Branch number and whether you are a delegate or a proxy. The reporting of this convention is by electronic means. If you do not speak into a microphone, your name, Branch, and comments will not be recorded. Motion and seconds will not be recognized or accepted, unless you make them into the microphone.

Please keep private discussions to yourself and please turn off, or put on vibrate, your cell phones. Thank you.

I have appointed Master-at-Arms for this Business Session Shipmate Past Regional President Northwest Dean Miller. Thank you, Dean. And my appointee as timekeeper is Keith Kaider from Branch 182. Thank you, Keith.

I want to remind all delegates that when a matter is under discussion, that you are limited to a maximum of three minutes speaking at the microphone, and that you must confine your remarks to the question.

In addition, you may not speak a second time on any question until others who have the privilege of the floor have had the opportunity to speak. These rules and others are addressed in FRA Standing Rule 4.

The National Executive Director will now call the roll of officers

NED SNEE: National President Ippert.

NP IPPERT: Present.

NED SNEE: National Vice President Courneya.

NVP COURNEYA: Present.

NED SNEE: National Executive Director Snee. Present.

Junior Past National President Kilgore.

JrPNP KILGORE: Present.

NED SNEE: Regional President Northeast/New England Hunt.

RPNE/NENG HUNT: Here.

NED SNEE: Regional President East Coast Willis.

RPEC WILLIS: Present.

NED SNEE: Regional President Southeast Cox.

RPSE COX: Present.

NED SNEE: Regional President North Central Sanders.

RPNC SANDERS: Present.

NED SNEE: Regional President South Central Gibson.

RPSC GIBSON: Here.

NED SNEE: Regional President Southwest Hermes.

RPSW HERMES: Here.

NED SNEE: Regional President West Coast Briggs.

RPWC BRIGGS: Here.

NED SNEE: Regional President Northwest Archer.

RPNW ARCHER: Present.

NED SNEE: National Parliamentarian, Past National President Eblen.

NParl/PNP EBLEN: Present.

NED SNEE: National Chaplain Hall.

NCHAP HALL: Present.

NP IPPERT: At this time we will have the first Credentials report. Shipmate Chairman Jerry Brice, are you in the hall and ready to give

your report? He sure is.

PRPSE BRICE: Shipmate President, First Report Credentials Committee.

Number of branches: 211.

Authorized voting strength: 1,588.

Number of branches represented by delegates: 73.

Number of votes represented by delegates: 818.

Number of branches registered by proxy: 94.

Number of votes registered by proxy: 493.

Number of branches not registered: 44.

Number of delegates registered: 137.

Registered voting strength: 1,311.

Number of votes not registered: 277.

Two-thirds vote is 874.

Majority vote is 656.

Branches not registered in descending order -- everybody got their book out? Tab X-ray in the back of your orange-colored book -- salmon-colored book. Whatever you want to call it. Okay?

Branches not registered in descending numerical order:  
371, 364, 346, 325 --

SHIPMATES: Wait.

PRPSE BRICE: 324, 319, 311, 299, 292.

Shipmates, I don't have the book up here with me, so when we get to the bottom of the page, somebody holler.

291, 284, 283, 278, 273, 264, 256.

(Unidentified Shipmates cheering.)

PRPSE BRICE: Thank you. 251, 250, 248, 234, 227, 221, 215 --

UNIDENTIFIED SHIPMATE: Wait.

PRPSE BRICE: Thank you. 188, 186, 179, 177, 147, 145, 130, 112, 111, 110, 109, 102, 89, 83, 73, 64, 55, 36

UNIDENTIFIED SHIPMATE: Hang on.

PRPSE BRICE: How far back do you want me to go? 55, 36, 25, 17, 12.

Shipmate President, that concludes the First Credentials Report.

NP IPPERT: Motion?

PRPSE BRICE: Say again.

NP IPPERT: Would you make a motion.

PRPSE BRICE: All right. I move my report be received.

PRPEC SLAWINSKI: Slawinski, delegate, 181, seconds.

NP IPPERT: It's been moved and properly seconded that the First Credentials report be received.

Any discussion, if any? Discussion?

There being no discussion, all those in favor of the motion, signify by saying aye.

All those opposed, nay.

The report is received, accepted, and adopted. Thank you.

Shipmates, we will now have a presentation of the Annual Report of the National Officers. In accordance with Section 612(a) C&BL, FRA, all recommendations --

UNIDENTIFIED SHIPMATE: Can't hear you.

UNIDENTIFIED SHIPMATE: Speak into the mike.

NP IPPERT: All recommendations contained in these reports must have been previously submitted under Section 611 C&BL, FRA. SR-4 refers and applies. All of these reports have been submitted in writing, typewritten, and are included in the delegate kits that each of you should have received.

To expedite the order of business this afternoon, I ask that all National Officers submit their reports for the record and confine

your remarks to summarizing the highlights of your reports and additional remarks necessary to supplement information that is not in your reports. You may render your report from the podium or from the floor microphone as desired. I will commence with my own report.

My report is located in Tab Alpha of the delegate kit and the only thing I want to add to it is everything that is in it is correct as far as the mileage and all the different entities I visited and participated in.

I would just add and reiterate that I just want to thank everyone for their thoughts and prayers during my illness and I wish I could have done a lot more than I did. There is a lot to be done and I want to be there every waking moment for Virgil in his effort to help out our membership.

I move my report be received.

PRPEC PURDY: Shipmate Purdy, Branch 24, seconds.

NP IPPERT: Thank you. It's been moved and seconded that the National President's report be received.

Any discussion? Discussion?

There being no discussion, all those in favor, signify by saying aye.

Opposed, nay.

(One rap of the gavel.)

NP IPPERT: The ayes have it.

Next would be the National Vice President, Virgil Courneya.

NVP Courneya: My report is in Appendix B. It is correct and I move that it be received.

PRPNC COMBS: Combs, delegate, Branch 161, seconds.

NP IPPERT: It has been moved and seconded that the National Vice President's report be received.

Any discussion? Discussion?

There being no further discussion, all those in favor signify by saying aye.

Opposed nay.

(One rap of the gavel.)

NP IPPERT: Ayes have it.

Next up, Finance Officer's report is in the delegate kit at Tab Delta, and I move that it be received.

PRPNE MUNDAY: Munday, delegate, Branch 124, second.

NP IPPERT: It has been moved and seconded to receive the Finance Officer's report.

Any discussion? Discussion?

There being no discussion, all those in favor, signify by saying aye.

Opposed, nay.

(One rap of the gavel.)

NP IPPERT: The ayes have it.

Next up, Junior Past National President Mark Kilgore.

Whoops. Delete my last. Make that NED Tom Snee. You're not getting by with it today. It's been a rough year. Sorry.

NED SNEE: Shipmate President, you are right. It has been a rough year. Anyway, I move that my report be accepted and to be received, with the exception of one addition in there is that we did have a reenlistment at the headquarters that Shipmate Sean from Oak Harbor was present there and I neglected -- I did not put it in. However, you will find that a copy of my report is in delegate kit at Tab C. I move that it be received.

SHIPMATE JUSTIN: Justin, delegate, Branch 42, second.

NP IPPERT: It has been moved and seconded that the report of the National Executive Director be received.

Any discussion? Discussion?

There being no discussion, all those in favor, signify by saying aye.

Opposed, nay.

(One rap of the gavel.)

NP IPPERT: The ayes have it.

Now we will have the Junior Past National President Mark Kilgore.

JrPNP KILGORE: Shipmate President, Kilgore, delegate 22. The Junior Past National President's report appears in Tab Echo and I move it be received.

SHIPMATE JUSTIN: Justin, delegate, Branch 42, second.

NP IPPERT: It has been moved and properly seconded that the Junior Past National President's report be received.

Any discussion? Discussion?

There being no discussion, all those in favor signify by saying aye. Opposed nay.

(One rap of the gavel.)

NP IPPERT: The ayes have it.

National Chaplain Bill Hall.

NCHAP HALL: Shipmate National President, National Chaplain Bill Hall. My report is in Appendix G and I move that it be accepted as written.

SHIPMATE JUSTIN: Justin, delegate, Branch 42, second.

NP IPPERT: It's been moved and seconded that the National Chaplain's report be received.

Any discussion? Discussion?

There being no discussion, all those in favor signify by saying aye. Opposed nay.

(One rap of the gavel.)

NP IPPERT: The ayes have it.

Next, Regional President Northeast/New England Floyd Hunt.

RPNE/NEng HUNT: My report was submitted to National Executive Director Tom Snee back in September. I move that that be accepted. All credentials are in today. All received.

NP IPPERT: What tab is your report in? Foxtrot?

RPNE/NEng HUNT: Yes.

NP IPPERT: I have a motion.

PRPNE MUNDAY: Munday delegate Branch 124 second.

NP IPPERT: It has been moved and seconded that the report for the Regional President Northeast/New England be received. Any discussion? Discussion?

All those in favor, signify by saying aye.  
 Opposed, nay.  
 Ayes have it.

Next up Regional President East Coast J.J. Willis.

RPEC WILLIS: Shipmates, my report is included in Tab Foxtrot and I move that it be received. Thank you.

SHIPMATE DUNCAN: Duncan, Branch 182, delegate, seconds.

NP IPPERT: It's been moved and properly seconded that the Officer's Report for the Regional President East Coast be received.  
 Any discussion? Discussion?  
 There being no discussion, all those in favor signify by saying aye.  
 Opposed nay.

(One rap of the gavel.)

NP IPPERT: Ayes have it.

Regional President Southeast Cox.

RPSE COX: Shipmate President, Cox, Regional President Southeast.  
 My report is included in Tab Foxtrot and I move that it be received.

JrPRPSE HILL: Shipmate National President, Hill, delegate,  
 Branch 290, seconds.

NP IPPERT: It has been moved and properly seconded to receive the report of the Regional President Southeast.  
 Any discussion?  
 There being no discussion, all those in favor signify by saying aye.  
 Opposed nay.

(One rap of the gavel.)

NP IPPERT: Ayes have it.

Regional President North Central Sandy Sanders -- Curry Sanders; I'm sorry.

RPNC SANDERS: Thank you, Shipmate President. My report is in Tab Foxtrot. I move that my report be received.

PRPNC POSEKANY: Marty Posekany, delegate, Branch 298, Grand Rapids, second.



NP IPPERT: It has been moved and properly seconded to receive the report of the Regional President North Central.

Any discussion?

There being no discussion, all those in favor signify by saying aye. Opposed nay.

(One rap of the gavel.)

NP IPPERT: Ayes have it.

Okay. Now we have Regional President South Central, Don Gibson.

RPSC GIBSON: Shipmate President, this is my fifth day, so all I can report is I had a good flight up here and I hope a lot more to go.

But I couldn't give you a report when I wasn't Regional President.

And I move my report be accepted.

RVPSC TALBOT: Talbot, delegate, Branch 159, seconds.

NP IPPERT: It's been moved and seconded to receive the report of the South Central Regional President.

Any discussion?

There being no discussion, all those in favor signify by saying aye. Opposed nay.

(One rap of the gavel.)

NP IPPERT: Ayes have it.

Regional President Southwest Gus Hermes.

RPSW HERMES: Shipmate President, my report is in Tab F of your delegate kit, and I move that it be received.

RPWC BRIGGS: Briggs, delegate, 192, second.

NP IPPERT: It has been moved and properly seconded to receive the report of the South West Regional President.

Any discussion?

There being no discussion, all those in favor signify by saying aye. Opposed, nay.

(One rap of the gavel.)

NP IPPERT: Ayes have it.

Regional President West Coast, Larry Briggs.

RPWC BRIGGS: Shipmate National President, my report is in Tab F. I move that it be received.

PRPWC LECLAIRE: Pat LeClaire, Branch 192. I second it.

NP IPPERT: It has been moved and properly seconded to receive the report of the West Coast Regional President.

Any discussion?

There being no discussion, all those in favor signify by saying aye. Opposed nay.

(One rap of the gavel.)

NP IPPERT: Ayes have it.

Last but not least, Regional President Northwest Mike Archer.

RPNW ARCHER: Shipmate President, my report is in Tab F. I ask that you accept it and believe it.

(LAUGHTER.)

PRPNW JORDAN: Jordan, delegate, Branch 18, Seattle. I second that.

NP IPPERT: It has been moved and properly seconded to receive the report of the Northwest Regional President.

Any discussion?

There being no discussion, all those in favor signify by saying aye. Opposed nay.

(One rap of the gavel.)

NP IPPERT: The ayes have it.

Okay. I will now call on the Chairman of the Standing and Special National Committees to render their annual reports. These reports have all been received by National Headquarters, typewritten, and are included in the delegate kits. I ask each Chairman to confine your remarks to summarize the highlights of your reports and provide supplemental information as required.

Again, in accordance with Section 612(a) C&BL, FRA, all recommendations contained in these reports must have been previously submitted under Section 611, C&BL, FRA. SR-4 refers and applies.

First up will be Americanism-Patriotism, Junior Past Regional President Northwest Daniel E. Holloway, Branch 382.

JrPRPNW HOLLOWAY: Shipmate National President and Shipmates, my report is in Tab J and I move that it be accepted.

PRPNW JORDAN: Jordan, delegate, Seattle Branch 18, second.

NP IPPERT: It has been moved and seconded to receive the report of the Americanism-Patriotism Committee.

Any discussion?

There being no discussion, all those in favor signify by saying aye. Opposed nay.

(One rap of the gavel.)

NP IPPERT: Ayes have it.

Now is Budget and Finance. Past National President Gary C. Blackburn, Branch 8.

PNP BLACKBURN: Shipmate National President, my report is in Tab Kilo, I move that it be received at this moment without discussion.

PRPWC NASH: Nash, 192, delegate chairman, second.

NP IPPERT: It's been moved and seconded to receive the Budget and Finance report.

Any discussion?

All those in favor signify by saying aye.

Opposed nay.

(One rap of the gavel.)

NP IPPERT: Ayes have it.

Okay. I skipped ahead of myself a little bit. It is not necessary that the Chairman move that their reports be received. The Chairman renders the report and sits down and no vote is needed to be taken.

If the Committee Chairman's report has recommendations, then the recommendations should be referred to the appropriate National Convention Committee.

Constitution, Bylaws and Resolutions, Don Mucheck. However, Don could not make this convention, so Shipmate please state your name.

SHIPMATE QUESNEL: Shipmate President, Quesnel, Branch 289, standing in lieu of Shipmate Mucheck. His report is under Tab L, along with a letter of recommendation and I move that it be accepted.

NP IPPERT: Received.

SHIPMATE QUESNEL: Received. Thank you.

NP IPPERT: Employee Pension Plan is not applicable. Future Planning, Past Regional President Pete Lazzaretti, Branch 18.

PRPNW LAZZARETTI: Shipmate National President, Lazzaretti, Branch 18, Chair of the Future Planning Committee. Our report is on Tab November. I ask that it be accepted. And the recommendation contained herein is to be sent back to Future Planning for resolution.

NP IPPERT: Thank you. Again, it's not necessary for these reports to be -- a motion to be made to receive these reports. It's just noted that they are in the delegate kit.

Next up is Hospitals, Welfare, and Rehabilitation. Junior Past Regional President Northeast/New England James Brown, Branch 226.

JrPRPNE/NEng BROWN: Thank you, National President. Our report is in Tab O. There is a recommendation -- but I don't know what committee would do this -- and that is a review of the HWR Manual, which is a little bit behind. I think the latest revision was 2001. The laws have changed quite a bit. And I just recommend that that be reviewed and appropriate action taken. I move that the report be received.

NP IPPERT: So noted. Tom? You got that? Okay.

Legislative Service, National Executive Director Thomas Snee, Branch 181.

NED SNEE: Legislative is contained in Section Papa. All the particulars are in there that are needed. Please note the legislative victories that we had. It also contains -- we would like to add there are no recommendations, except this year we would like to check -- it's called the Pinnacle Award. Instead of the Pinnacle Award, we are recommending that we have the Military Sea Service Legislative Award instead.

We also have -- we've made quite a few differences within the military compensation and review. Agent Orange is up there as our number one. Agenda 2015 and 2016 has been submitted and approved. And the surveys that we did -- which recently it was probably a little disappointing, because we received only a little over 1,100 out of all the membership. And we also suggest and recommend highly that you use your Bill Tracker. Shipmate President, that concludes

my report.

NP IPPERT: Thank you. Membership and Retention, Regional President East Coast-Elect Penny Collins, who is also the Membership and Retention Director.

RPEC-Elect COLLINS: Shipmate National President, the committee, National Committee on Membership and Retention report is in Tab Quebec. I move that it be accepted.

NP IPPERT: It is in tab what?

RPEC-Elect COLLINS: Quebec. Q.

NP IPPERT: Quebec. Got that. Thank you.

Public Relations. Past Regional President North Central Leon Zalewski. Is he here?

PRPNC ZALEWSKI: My report is in Tab R, with the Public Relations.

NP IPPERT: Thank you. So noted. Youth Activities. Past Regional President West Coast Shane S. Dunstan, Branch 185, is not here. I'm not sure of the Shipmate's name, but he is coming up to identify himself.

UNIDENTIFIED SHIPMATE: Mark Melton.

NP IPPERT: That's right. I just wrote it down, too. Go ahead.

SHIPMATE MELTON: Shipmate National President, under Tab S is a report for Youth Activities and I request it be approved.

NP IPPERT: Your name and Branch?

SHIPMATE MELTON: Mark Melton, Branch 90.

NP IPPERT: Thank you. At this time the National Executive Director will read, and the delegates will act, on ratifications of actions taken by the National Board of Directors since the last convention.

NED SNEE: Shipmates, I will be going through this slowly. I will only read the "resolved" part of each of these. And I will go slowly, identifying it by the NBR number and then the "resolved."

NBR 1-15: Cleveland Branch 206's (Bowling Green, Kentucky) charter be revoked.

NBR 2: That Detroit Branch 27's (Detroit, Michigan) Charter be revoked.

NBR 3: That Fort Wayne Branch 348 (Fort Wayne, Indiana) Charter be revoked.

NBR 4: That the previous NBOD meeting minutes be approved.

NBR 5: That the salary of the NED be set at the amount of \$108,258.

NBR 6: That a wreath will no longer be presented at the USS Arizona Memorial.

NBR 7: That pilgrimage committee was dissolved due to the death of the chairman, and having no contact person regarding the Theodore Roosevelt Pilgrimage, no further wreath is given to said pilgrimage.

NBR 8: "In the case of a vacancy in the office of the Regional President, the Regional Vice President, or in any Regional Office and unless the Regional Bylaws provide, as stated in SR-19(d), the National Board of Directors appoints a successor who completes the unexpired term of office."

NBR 9: "The National Financial Secretary records all receipts, and makes proper entry of any increases to funds by way of moneys and interest reported. Monthly, or more often if desired, prepares an itemized list of all monies received, from whom, for what, and forwards the list to the National Treasurer, with checks and money orders. The National Treasurer acknowledges receipt of the monies, via e-mail, to the National Financial Secretary for the files."

NBR 10: That approval be granted for the 2014-2015 LA FRA National President's Project -- Homes For Heroes.

NBR 11: That appointments to certain special and standing national committees be ratified.

NBR 12: "The Regional President will take action when membership of a Unit decreases to less than five members in good standing.

NBR 13: "Each Unit is entitled to elect one delegate to each of the Regional and National Conventions, and in addition, one delegate for each fifteen members in good standing or a major fraction thereof."

NBR 14: "The Northwest Region shall provide the sum of six hundred dollars (\$600) annually in cash or checks for the Regional winners of the Americanism Essay Contest, grades 7 through 12. Prizes will be awarded as follows: First Place, six awards of \$50. Second

place, six awards of \$30. Third place, six awards of \$20." Additionally, paragraph SR-4(f)1 was added: "Any award checks not cashed within 365 days of issue shall be returned to the Regional Essay Contest Fund."

Shipmate Regional President Northwest?

RPNW ARCHER: At this time, I would like to make --

UNIDENTIFIED SHIPMATE: Go to the mike.

RPNW ARCHER: At this time, I would like to make a pen-and-ink change, an addendum. It used to be 365 days. My understanding is that most banks will not honor that check after 180 days. So we would like to just make a pen-and-ink from 365 to 180. I ask that we can do that.

PRPNC COMBS: Shipmate National President, Combs, delegate, Branch 161. I move that we approve all the NBRs up to this point.

NP IPPERT: Going to need a second.

PRPNC POSEKANY: Marty Posekany, Branch 298, delegate, second.

NP IPPERT: It's been moved and seconded to ratify all of the NBRs from 1-15 to 14-15, as amended.

PRPNC COMBS: Combs, delegate, Branch 161. To clarify that, approve all up to this point so we don't have to go back?

NP IPPERT: It is 1 through 14.

PRPNC COMBS: It's 1 through 13. We are working on 14 now; right? 1 through 13. Up to this point.

NP IPPERT: He did make a motion. All right. I correct myself. Approve the NBRs 1-15 through 13-15. Is there any discussion? There being no discussion, all those in favor signify by saying aye. Opposed, nay.

(One rap of the gavel.)

NBRs 1-15 through 13-15 are approved, as amended.

NED SNEE: We will proceed to 15-15.

NP IPPERT: Yes, we have to vote on 14-15 because of the change.

Shipmate at the rear mike.

PRPSW KATZENBERGER: Katzenberger, delegate, Branch 163. We are looking at measures that were approved by the National Board of Directors. That was approved by the National Board of Directors. To change it, it has to go back and be reviewed.

NP IPPERT: According to the National Parliamentarian, it doesn't. It's just a scribner's error. A pen-and-ink change should suffice. It's just a matter of fact that banks won't keep checks longer than 180 days. It's just a minor administrative technicality.

UNIDENTIFIED SHIPMATE: It's housekeeping.

NP IPPERT: It's housekeeping. Exactly. Okay. I think -- didn't we have a second? I believe we had a second.

PRPNC COMBS: Combs, delegate, Branch 161, moves that the pen-and-ink change to 180 days in 14-15.

NP IPPERT: 14-15, yes.

PRPNC COMBS: Okay. I second that.

NP IPPERT: It has been moved and properly seconded to ratify the change to NBR 14-15 to make it 180 days, instead of 365 days. Any discussion? Any discussion?

There being no further discussion, all those in favor signify by saying aye.

Opposed, nay.

(One rap of the gavel.)

NP IPPERT: Ayes have it.

NED SNEE: NBR 15-15: That the Budget and Finance Committee appointments be ratified.

NBR 16: That the Constitution, Bylaws and Resolutions Committee appointments be ratified.

NBR 17: That this resolution be presented to the National Board of Directors for an e-mail vote (please respond to Teresa at [adminfra@fra.org](mailto:adminfra@fra.org) by Tuesday, December 23rd, 2014, and be sure to follow up by a signed hard copy.)

Resolved Number 2: As there is no further financial or legal liability to the Association, the FRA National Committee on



Employees Pension being terminated.

NBR 18 --

NP IPPERT: Shipmate at the rear mike.

PRPNEng LOVELESS: Loveless, delegate, Branch 156. I move that any NBR that affects the C&BL or Standing Rules be referred to committee as they should have been.

JrPNP KILGORE: Kilgore, delegate, 22, seconds.

NP IPPERT: It's been moved and seconded that NBRs -- that certain NBRs that should have been referred to the Budget and Finance or the Constitution and Bylaws -- any committee be referred to same. Now -- Gary Blackburn?

PRPNEng LOVELESS: They want me to restate my motion. I want to refer any NBR that refers to changes to the C&BL or Standing Rules be referred to the proper committee before they're adopted. We're talking about any NBR, and there's a number in there.

NP IPPERT: Okay. The motion on the floor is to refer any NBR to the appropriate committee, as it probably should have done. You were referring to that one specific NBR?

PRPNEng LOVELESS: No.

NP IPPERT: No, I didn't think so. He's referring to all of them. Okay. I'm going to take a five-minute recess until I can get this ironed out in my own head. Pardon me.

(3 taps of the gavel.)

NP IPPERT: Shipmate Chaplain, please close the Bible.

NCHAP HALL: Shipmate National President, the Bible is closed.

NP IPPERT: All right. Be back here at 1400.

(Recess.)

NP IPPERT: I call this meeting to order. Master-at-Arms, please get the Shipmates into the meeting hall and close the doors. Shipmate Chaplain, please open the Bible.

(Three raps of the gavel.)

NCHAP HALL: Shipmate National President the Bible is open.

NP IPPERT: Thank you Shipmate National Chaplain. What we are going to do is we're going to go through these one at a time and the ones that do not conform to Section 1401 C&BL will be considered out of order, and I will make that announcement as he brings them up.

UNIDENTIFIED SHIPMATE: Not in order?

NP IPPERT: Not in order. Tom, proceed.

NED SNEE: NBR 17-15: That this resolution be presented to the National Board of Directors for an e-mail vote (please respond to Teresa at adminfra@fra.org by Tuesday, December 23, 2014, and be sure to follow up by a signed hard copy.)

Resolved, as there is no further legal or financial liability to the Association, the FRA National Committee on Employees Pension be terminated.

NP IPPERT: I declare this NBR to be not in order, because it is not in compliance with Section 1401.

(One rap of the gavel.)

NP IPPERT: I so rule.

NED SNEE: NBR 18: That the request of Pioneer Valley (Springfield, MA) Branch 246 to voluntarily surrender the Branch Charter be approved; and

That by copy of this resolution, the Secretary of Branch 246 via the Regional President Northeast/New England is requested to forward all Branch funds and property to the Finance Officer as soon as possible; and

That the Chairman, Membership and Retention Committee is directed to transfer all remaining members to the Membership-at-Large Roll on December 30, 2014; and

That the following Resolution is presented to the National Board of Directors for an e-mail vote (please respond to Teresa at adminfra@fra.org by December 29, 2014, and be sure to follow up by a signed hard copy.)

Resolved, That the request of Pioneer Valley, (Springfield, MA) Branch 246 to voluntarily surrender the Branch Charter be approved.

NBR 19: Resolved, Rescind the present Section 1313 and replace with the following:

"Section 1313, NBR C&BL. Branch Suspension/Effect on the Unit. When a Branch is under suspension, a Unit of the FRA Auxiliary sponsored by the suspended Branch, shall not be permitted to conduct Auxiliary business, and all activities are prohibited while the sponsoring Branch is in suspension and/or revocation." And; be it further

Resolved, That this resolution be presented to the National Board of Directors for an e-mail vote.

NP IPPERT: I consider this NBR to not be in accordance with Section 1401, C&BL, FRA, and to be not in order.

(One rap of the gavel.)

NP IPPERT: And I so rule.

NED SNEE: NBR 20: Resolved, that Junior Past National President Virgil P. Courneya is appointed to serve as a member of the FRA Education Foundation Board of Directors.

Resolved, That this Resolution be presented to the National Board of Directors for an e-mail vote.

NBR 21: Resolved, That the request of the Lower Columbia (Longview, WA) Branch 363 to voluntarily surrender the Branch Charter be approved; and

That by copy of this Resolution, the Secretary of Branch 363 via the Regional President Northwest, is requested to forward all Branch funds and property to the Finance Officer as soon as possible; and

That the Chairman, Membership and Retention Committee, is directed under transfer all remaining members to the Membership-at-Large Roll on March 31st, 2015; and

That the following Resolution is presented to the National Board of Directors for an e-mail vote.

NBR 22: Resolved that the 87th Post-National Convention meeting minutes be approved.

NBR 23: Resolved, The Section 811 be amended by adding Sub-Section 811(f) to read: "Section 811(f). The committee shall over see the operation of the Employee's 401(k) Pension Plan as provided by law

and regulations. The Employee 401(k) Pension Plan consists of contributions from the FRA and employees participating in the plan and all earnings, profits, increments which accrue therefrom. The committee may appoint a Plan Administrator for the Plan. The committee shall annually report the annual contribution required from the Association and any recommendations concerning the plan when presenting the annual proposed Association budget."

NP IPPERT: NBR 23-15 is not in order, because it does not comply with Section 1401, C&BL, FRA.

(One rap of the gavel.)

JrPNP KILGORE: Shipmate National President.

NP IPPERT: Shipmate at the rear mike.

JrPNP KILGORE: Kilgore, delegate, Branch 22. Shipmate National President, that was submitted two years ago to the National Board of Directors. It's been through C&BL. It's been through Budget and Finance. Those two resolutions, 23 and 24, the NBRs, were supposed to be submitted to the Committee on Budget -- excuse me, the C&BL Committee. They were supposed to be written up from the Board of Directors as C&BL Resolutions for the midyear meeting.

If you Rule 23 and 24 out of order, you still have a Pension Committee. That's all.

NP IPPERT: Unfortunately, if they were not submitted to the C&BL Committee for them and to have a C&BL Resolution put in, it's still not in conformance with 1401, as I understand it. Therefore, both 23 and 24 are not in order.

(One rap of the gavel.)

NED SNEE: NBR 25: That Branch/Unit 91 to host 2016 -- 89th FRA National Convention in Jacksonville, Florida, be approved.

PNP GILMARTIN: Shipmate National President.

NParl EBLEN: That has not been ratified by the committee.

PNP GILMARTIN: Shipmate National President.

NP IPPERT: Shipmate at the rear mike.

PNP GILMARTIN: Gilmartin, 207, delegate. Now, as I understand it, the delegates in Corpus Christi awarded that convention through a

special committee, over the bid of Branch 4. Now we found out that the National Board of Directors has said, No, we are going to ignore what the delegates in Corpus Christi said and we are going to go ahead and give it to Branch 91.

Now, the justification for bypassing Branch and Unit 4 was that they weren't prepared and the Special Committee was. And now, we are giving it -- we are going against what the delegates in Corpus Christi said?

NVP COURNEYA: Shipmate National President, delegate, Branch 274, Courneya. In Corpus Christi, yes, there was a Special Committee formed. And as far as Branch 4, they were not ready. They backed out. They said they would reconsider for 2017. So they backed out completely.

UNIDENTIFIED SHIPMATE: They were coerced.

NVP COURNEYA: I don't know whether they were coerced or not, but they backed out.

PRPSE ROBBINS: Shipmate National President, delegate, James Robbins, Branch 91.

NP IPPERT: Shipmate at the rear mike.

PRPSE ROBBINS: It was a Special Committee. The Branch did decide this they were not ready. This was brought up. There was a proposal that went out and it came back to Branch 91. It was submitted to the National Board and it was approved, waiting on to be approved by the delegates. Nobody was coerced. Nobody was beat out of their convention. It is up to the Shipmates here on the floor to make a decision.

NP IPPERT: Okay. One more. Shipmate at the rear mike.

SHIPMATE PEDERY: Claudio Pedery, Branch 4. We were rejected. Not coerced. But Bob Washington said no one would take the 2016. Branch 4, are you ready? And I said we are ready. But we didn't come there to bid for the 2016. We planned to do the -17. But because nobody has volunteered, so we sacrificed ourselves. Not coerced.

(APPLAUSE.)

NP IPPERT: Thank you. All right. I want us to vote on NBR 25-15 right now.  
All those in favor of ratifying NBR 25-15, signify by saying aye.

Opposed nay.

(One rap of the gavel.)

NP IPPERT: 25-15 is ratified by the delegates.

NED SNEE: NBR 26: That amendments to the West Coast Region's Bylaws and Standing Rules be approved.

NBR 27: That Branch 226's (Staten Island, New York) request for permission to sell grave markers bearing the FRA logo be approved.

NBR 28: That the National Convention Committee's request for permission to use the FRA logo for T-shirts and other merchandise sold at the 88th National Convention be approved.

NBR 29: That Tate & Tryon be approved to conduct the 2015 Fiscal Year Audit.

NBR 30: That the National Board of Directors appoint Past National President Mark A. Kilgore to the Office of Junior Past National President.

UNIDENTIFIED SHIPMATE: No. Sacrifice.

(LAUGHTER.)

NED SNEE: Shipmates I have one more Resolved, if you want to wait.

That the following Resolution is presented to the National Board of Directors for an e-mail vote.

NBR 31: That the request of San Luis Obispo (San Luis Obispo, California) Branch -- okay, so I need to take Spanish -- Branch 272 to voluntarily surrender the Branch Charter be approved; and

That by copy of this Resolution, the Secretary of Branch 272 via the Regional President Southwest, is requested to forward all Branch funds and property to the Finance Officer as soon as possible; and

That the Chairman, Membership and Retention Committee is directed to transfer all remaining members to the Membership-at-Large Roll on July 31st, 2015; and

That the following Resolution is presented to the National Board of Directors for an e-mail vote.

NBR 32: That this Resolution be presented to the National Board of

Directors for e-mail vote (please respond to Teresa).

National Board Resolution 32: Resolved, that the FRA is authorized to distribute FRA Educational Foundation scholarship solicitation funding letters (at Foundation expense) via USPS and electronically to its members annually in support of the Foundation's scholarship contribution campaign.

NBR 33: That the Lifting of the Suspension of Branch 145's Charter be granted; and

That the following Resolution is presented to the National Board of Directors for an e-mail vote (please respond to Teresa).

NBR 34: That the Lifting of the Suspension of Branch 327's Charter be granted; and

That the following Resolution be presented to the National Board of Directors for an e-mail vote:

That the National Board of Directors, in accordance with Article 12, Section 1203, lift the Charter suspension of Miami Valley (Dayton, Ohio) Branch 327.

NBR 35: That the following Resolution is presented to the National Board of Directors for an e-mail vote.

That the National Board of Directors authorize the expenditure of an additional \$2,000 from the Welfare and Rehabilitation Reserve for a total grant of \$2,500, as contained in the provisions of Article 9, Section 909(d) C&BL.

NBR 36: That the National Board of Directors authorize an over-expenditure of budget line Item 5510-00-50-0 (Salary -- FRA Employees) in the amount of \$100,000; and

That the following Resolution be presented to the National Board of Directors via e-mail.

That the National Board of Directors authorize an over-expenditure of budget Item Number 5510-00-50 (Salary -- FRA Employees) in the amount of \$100,000.

NBR 37: That Greater St. Louis Branch 267, in accordance with the provisions contained in Section 1212, C&BL, be merged with Mo-Kan Branch 161; and

That the following Resolution be presented to the National Board of

Directors for an e-mail vote:

That Greater St. Louis Branch 267, in accordance with the provisions contained in Section 1212, C&BL, FRA, be merged with Mo-Kan Branch 161.

NBR 38: That the request of Asheville, North Carolina Branch 361 to voluntarily surrender the Branch Charter be approved; and

That by hard copy this Resolution, the President of Branch 361, via the Regional President East Coast, is requested to forward all Branch funds and property to the Finance Officer as soon as possible; and

That the Chairman, Membership and Retention Committee is directed to transfer all remaining members to the Membership-at-Large Roll on August 31st, 2015; and

That the following Resolution is presented to the National Board of Directors for an e-mail vote:

Resolved, That the request of Asheville, North Carolina Branch 361 be voluntarily surrender their Branch Charter be approved.

NBR 39: That the National Board of Directors authorize the Finance Officer to sign a contract with Alonzo Ours Construction, Incorporated for \$63,462 for the immediate repair of roof, replacement of skylights, and other exterior work and the costs to be paid from the Capital Improvement Reserve Fund; and

That the following Resolution be presented to the National Board of Directors for an e-mail vote:

That the National Board of Directors authorize the Finance Officer to sign a contract with Alonzo Ours Construction, Inc., for \$63,462 for the immediate repair of roof, replacement of skylights, and other exterior work with costs to be paid from the Capital Improvement Reserve.

The following NBRs are additional from the Board Resolutions from the Pre-Board yesterday. This doesn't require a change. This says October 25th, 2011 -- it should read "2015."

NBR 40 -- just clarifying it, Shipmates.

NBR 40: That the previous mid-year meeting minutes were approved.

NBR 41: Resolved, That an additional \$2,000 be provided from the



Welfare and Rehabilitation Reserve Fund to Shipmate Truck Moring to help with medical expenses for a total of \$2,500.

NBR 42: That the Charter for Branch 119 (West Monroe, Louisiana) be revoked.

NBR 43: That the Charter for Branch 120 (Oxnard, California) be suspended.

NBR 44: That changes to the North Central Region's Bylaws be approved.

NBR 45: That changes to the Northwest Region's Bylaws be approved.

NBR 46: That changes to the Southwest Region's Bylaws be approved.

Shipmate President, that's all the NBRs.

NP IPPERT: Shipmate at the rear mike.

PRPEC GUNTHER: Gunther, 182, delegate. Question on NBR 35-15. Yesterday, during the Pre-Board, it was mentioned that that would require two-thirds vote by the Board before it was approved, instead of a 6-5.

NP IPPERT: Right. There was a Resolution that was defeated because it did not make the two-thirds requirement. And that was NBR --

PRPEC GUNTHER: 35-15.

NP IPPERT: -- 35-15. You're correct. 35-15 was denied. Shipmate at the front mike.

PRPNC COMBS: Combs, delegate, Branch 161. I move these be approved, except for the ones you ruled out of order.

NP IPPERT: Not in order.

PRPNC COMBS: Not in order.

PRPEC SLAWINSKI: Shipmate National President.

NP IPPERT: Shipmate at the front mike.

PRPEC SLAWINSKI: Slawinski, delegate, 181, seconds.

NP IPPERT: It's been moved and seconded to ratify the aforementioned Resolutions, except for the ones deemed not in order.

PNP GILMARTIN: Shipmate National President.

NP IPPERT: Shipmate at the rear mike.

PNP GILMARTIN: Gilmartin, 207, delegate. Just a point of order, 32-15 also failed the two-thirds, vote 6-5.

NP IPPERT: Okay. We are on a motion now, so we will get to that in a second.

PNP GILMARTIN: You are ratifying it.

NP IPPERT: All right, 32 -- you're right. 32-15 was another one that was rescinded because it did not meet the two-thirds majority.

Any discussion on the other Resolutions discussed?

There being no further discussion, all those in favor signify by saying aye.

Opposed, nay.

(One rap of the gavel.)

NP IPPERT: Ayes have it.

Okay. For your information, the 32-15 "Resolved" was that the Resolution be -- okay. That the FRA is authorized to distribute FRA Education Foundation scholarship solicitation funding letters via USPS and electronically to the members annually in support of the Foundation Scholarship and Contributions Campaign. That was defeated because of the two-thirds majority requirement.

Okay. We are back -- do we have anything further greetings, Shipmate National Director?

NED SNEE: Not at this time.

NP IPPERT: Okay. Now, if I could have your attention for a moment. We are engaged -- trying to engage the services of the Brodie-Collins Consulting to help FRA develop strategies for addressing our membership challenges. This firm has a rich background in working with nonprofit organizations in the United States and abroad to develop strategic membership and fund-raising plans.

BCC's former and current clients include the U.S. Naval Memorial Foundation, the American Air Museum in Britain, the Galapagos Conservancy, the Chesapeake Bay Foundation, and the American

Pharmacists Association Foundation, just to name a few.

We have honored to have Michael Brodie with us today to tell us a bit about the work he and his firm will be doing for us in the coming year. Mr. Brodie, could you come up here please.

MR. BRODIE: Good afternoon, ladies and gentlemen. Thank you for this opportunity to speak with you today.

UNIDENTIFIED SHIPMATE: Speak into the mike.

MR. BRODIE: Can you hear me? Okay. Thanks again for the opportunity to be with you today. And, again, congratulations on your 88th National Convention, which I think is just remarkable. And I hope that the next three days are productive and that you are winners at the casino tables and that you consider putting some of that proceeds towards the scholarship fund.

That's a little pitch. I couldn't help it, as a fund-raiser. As you know, we have been selected to look at your membership and retention programs. And what I was going to do today is walk through a brief presentation on what our strategy was going to be to do that over the next few months.

But before I get to that I'd just like to say first that I think all of you should take great pride in the fact that this organization has been a viable force in the United States for 91 years. That's an incredible accomplishment that you should all be proud of.

And I can't think of anything that is more important than seeing to it that our current sea service personnel, retired veterans, and families are protected. Their benefits are protected and the benefits of future generations are protected. And it's this organization that does that. So you all should be very proud of what you've done over the years.

Now, I'd also like to say that I looked at -- the year 1924 means something to me as well, very close to my heart as it is to you, and that is that it's my father's birthday. And so he will turn 91 on Saturday. He just happens to be U.S. Navy World War II LST gunner's mate.

(APPLAUSE.)

MR. BRODIE: I think it was LS -- I don't know about the Unit, but I think it was LST 477. But what I did was, since he needs a birthday gift, he is now a new member of FRA.

(CHEERS AND APPLAUSE.)

MR. BRODIE: A gift membership. And I bought him a hat too, because he loves hats.

So now that we can -- the goal here is to continue the mission, continue to deliver on the mission. And to ensure that we need to keep an engaged, expanding membership. I think that's obvious to everybody here.

And we need to keep challenging Washington when they want to reach into your pockets because of budget deficits, and other things, to take the money away from benefits that are well-deserved by folks who have spent a good part of their lives defending -- spending their lives for this country. So I think it's extremely important.

The more members you have -- this is coming from somebody who lives in Washington for 30 years and has worked with advocacy organizations around the country -- the more members you have, the more clout you have. The more people will listen to you on the Hill, like the Congresswoman who was here earlier today. Which is why I am here.

So I have a brief slide show. I'm not going to go into a lot of the details. We haven't gotten into the analysis yet. We have yet to speak to all of the staff, but I do expect to speak to all of the staff. But let me take you through four slides and give you a sense of what we are going to do over the next few months. And then we will come back through the appropriate channels with our report and, hopefully, we will be able to -- and I am very confident that we can provide you with some good steps moving forward to put some more people in this room.

Okay. So as I said, our goal again is to perform what we call in the fund-raising business an audit. It's not an audit like a financial audit, but an overview of the Membership and Retention Program to reverse its downward trend by improving retention and acquisition rates. That is our goal.

So a little bit about us first of all. I know you have heard a tiny bit. Our mission is to build -- is to work to strengthen nonprofit organizations through fund-raising, communications, and constituency building. As you know, we have worked with the Navy Memorial. We have worked with Air Force too, the Air Force Museum in England that was built really with American funds in honor of the Eighth Air Force, if anyone has ever been at Duxford.

Yes, sir?

NP IPPERT: Excuse the interruption. I really apologize. But we need the Past National Presidents out in the hall to escort the ladies so they can introduce their new officers, please.

(3 taps of the gavel.)

(SYNCOPATED CLAPPING.)

JrPNP LAFRA CAROLYN WHITAKER: I'm Carolyn Whitaker. I'm the Junior Past National President, as you can tell by the funny hat. Virgil was my running mate.

I have a little joke. The Devil challenged God to a baseball game. And God said, "You know, I've got a bunch of good players. Joe DiMaggio, Babe Ruth, Mickey Mantle. The Devil said, "That's okay. I got all the umpires." Have a good convention.

(LAUGHTER AND APPLAUSE.)

PNP LAFRA RUTH EBLEN: I'm Ruth Eblen. I was National President in 94-95, I think. And I have one thing I can say in my favor. I did it a year before he did.

(LAUGHTER AND APPLAUSE.)

PNP LAFRA D. LORETTA ROBERTS: Hi, I'm D. Loretta Roberts. I was National President 96-97. Reno was my convention area. And my cohort at that time was Bob Fudge who, sorry, has gone to the Supreme Commander. Thank you. Have a good convention.

(APPLAUSE.)

PNP LAFRA DOT MAURATH: I'm Dot Maurath, President 1999-2000. My counterpart was John Johnson and he is here this year. I hope you have a great convention.

(APPLAUSE.)

PNP LAFRA PAT BOUDREAUX: Hi, I'm Pat Boudreaux. I was National President in 2005-2006, Regional President in 96-97, and my Regional President partner was Larry, my husband, and my National President was Ed Zerr. Y'all have a great time.

(APPLAUSE.)

PNP LAFRA SANDRA ROBBINS: I'm Sandra Robbins and I was National President 2006-2007 with Jerry Sweeney, and I get to talk to him

from time to time as he is traveling and everything. He downsized really good and has just got that little coach and everything. And, hopefully, if you all let us, I will be back speaking to you about coming to Jacksonville next year.

(APPLAUSE.)

PNP LAFRA GAIL DOLOWAY: Hi, I need the mike a little lower. I'm Gail Doloway. I was President -- National President 2007-2008. My counterpart is Mr. Larry Boudreaux. And I just placed a flower in our triangle for my partner as Regional, Vic Miranda.

(APPLAUSE.)

PNP LAFRA CINDY RODHAM-TUCK: Guess who I am.

UNIDENTIFIED SHIPMATE: One more thing.

PNP LAFRA CINDY RODHAM-TUCK: "One more thing!" I am Past National President Cindy Rodham-Tuck. National President 2009-2010. My partner was Gary Blackburn from Branch 8. And I hope you all have a great convention.

(APPLAUSE.)

PNP LAFRA GINI LARSON: I am Past National President Gini Larson, 2011-2012. And my running mate was Past National President Jeffrey Gilmartin, and I hope you have a fabulous convention.

(APPLAUSE.)

PNP LAFRA DIANE HOOVER: Hello, I'm Diane Hoover, and I was National President 2012-2013. My running mate is Mark Kilgore.

(APPLAUSE.)

PNP LAFRA DIANE HOOVER: And while I have your attention -- I do have a joke for you -- but while I have your attention, I would just like to thank the Shipmates, the Past National Presidents, the Past National Chaplains, and all the Branches that sent Don and I a card on behalf of the death of our son. So it was very heartfelt and thank you very much.

(APPLAUSE.)

Now for the joke. Never argue with a child. A little girl was talking to her teacher about whales. The teacher said it was physically impossible for a whale to swallow a human being because,

even though it was a large mammal, his throat was very small.

The little girl said that Jonah was swallowed by a whale. Irritated, the teacher reiterated that a whale could not swallow a human. It was physically impossible.

The little girl said, "When I get to heaven, I'm going to ask Jonah." And the teacher replied, "What if Jonah went to hell?" The little girl replied, "Then you ask him."

(LAUGHTER AND APPLAUSE.)

(3 taps of the gavel.)

(SYNCOPATED CLAPPING.)

(One rap of the gavel.)

MR. BRODIE: Now, that's a tough act to follow. I'll tell you. Anyway, back to the business of fund-raising and membership development.

Just a little bit about us. We work in fund-raising, communications and constituency develop. And when you talk about membership, you are talking about the entire organization, because it really encompasses everything. So we are going to take a look from top to bottom to see what we can do to improve this membership picture.

And as John has said, we work with a variety of organizations around the world really, and on a number of areas. Campaigns, membership, and advocacy, and things of that nature. We've been around for 17 years. Our anniversary is coming up on December 11th. Most of the people in my group have varied backgrounds and they are all senior people, senior people like myself. So we are very glad to be here and very proud to be able to represent the organization in this effort.

Let's get to the next slide. Initial impressions of the organization. You know, when I first look at this organization from just seeing it on paper, it's one thing. But when I come to the convention, it's totally different. I see the camaraderie here, and the energy and the emotion here. It's just really great to see. And the number of Chapters and the number of members is really inspiring.

So the mission of the organization -- we always look at the missions of the organizations first to see if they are relevant, they're timely. Are you achieving goals against your mission? The mission

drives everything in an organization. So you want to be true to your mission to continue to protect the benefits and improve the quality of lives of the people you serve. So the mission to me is a very strong one. You want to stay true to your mission. So that's very important.

And as I said, the history is obvious. But it's not obvious to people who are outside of your circle. But it can be used as a marking device. 1924 was a long time ago; 91 years of success is an important milestone. In the nonprofit world, if you have success over a period of time, that means you're relevant, that means you're capable of doing good things, of creating outcomes that are working. Very few organizations can say that right now in America. And if you can say you are unique in what you do, it's even better. And I think you can say that.

Reach. You know just looking at the Chapters, I look at the hats I see here, there are people from all over the United States. And it's just really a wonderful thing to see for me and it inspires me to do what we can to see that this can be replicated.

And then the dedication of the folks from the staff level. We have spoken to a number of staff on two occasions, and the dedication of the staff is extraordinary. And I have no doubt that the dedication of the people in this room, and the people who are not here, is also the same. So these are good kinds of things that we see.

Best practices in the nonprofit world drive performance. And I'd just wanted to talk to you about a few of those things. First is consistent messaging. We have to keep hammering home -- especially if you have 211 organizations throughout the continental and I suppose over in Hawaii, obviously, and other places -- consistent messaging, especially with an organization this wide and diverse as yours, is important. Sometimes messages can get confused and messages can get muddled, messed up in a way. So you want to always be on message, as they say.

Retention is really important and I'm glad that you have a committee that is working on membership acquisition and retention. It's a lot easier to keep someone than it is to find someone new. As a matter of fact, it is less expensive and easier to do. Now, the hardest part is to keep somebody, acquire somebody, and then have them make a second gift or a renewal. So it's smart to have a 2-year new member opportunity, because that second year is always the toughest. As a matter of fact, for most nonprofits they lose -- three out of every four people don't renew. That's a national average. So it's something to focus on. So retention is really important.



And most nonprofits in America retain -- that is a member from one year to the next -- 40 percent of their people. So we are going to look closely at how we inch up those numbers, because that means dollars to the bottom line.

Outcomes drive loyalty. The more you can demonstrate to your membership that you are having an effect on the legislative agenda in the U.S. Congress, and you can express outcomes that make a difference in the lives of your members -- not only your members but the millions of others who are not your members who you work on behalf of -- the better off you will be. So outcomes are really important. And in the nonprofit world, outcomes can be everything today.

And we like the idea of mini campaigns to drive traffic. Traffic in the form of people who want to find out about you, people who want to make a special gift to you, people who want to join because they see something that is an extraordinary success. So it could be a particular legislative issue that could rise to the surface that you could use like a poster child: This is the legislative issue of today. And we form mini campaigns around those. So to the extent that you can do that, it's a tactic that really works.

And then in the nonprofit world today, we are really three generations of people in America today. You have Millennials, the younger folks; you have Baby Boomers; and then you have what they call Matures. My dad is a mature, for sure.

But what is happening is with social media and e-mail and the rise of the Web, you have to use all of these channels when you communicate with your constituents. And that's called multi-channel fund-raising or multi-channel approaches.

So what we try to do in membership development and acquisition and renewal is use the two most popular, and that is direct response -- which would be something that you get in the mail -- and then on-line. So those are the two big things. What you want to do is integrate them with messages that are complementary. So if you do that, you're with the bulk of the folks that you are competing against. And there is competition in this world for members and funds, because there is something to the tune of a million nonprofits in the United States today. So that's why messaging, again, is also very important.

Okay. So what's the reward if we do all of this? Obviously, it's clout in D.C. We talked about this before. The better we can do retaining members -- and I don't know what your retention rate is,

but I'm going to find out and we can inch the retention rate up -- and the more we can be successful in acquiring new people, the more people we will have and the more clout we will have in Washington, D.C. This also means more money you have in the operating budget to do initiatives that you can't do now because you can't afford it. It also means money to the Foundation, so that you award more scholarships to young people, you know, the people who are going to be the leaders of the future.

And then I think it also means that once we do this analysis and overview, look-see at the organization, we can help guide you or at least we will have some recommendations on a pathway to the hundredth, in nine years. Nine years in a strategic point of view is nothing. We have gone through strategic plans that have taken three to five years to put on paper. So you are in a perfect position right now, I think, to be thinking about the future and where you will be, where you want to be when you turn that page.

So it's just we always look at those kinds of milestones for organizations as the organizing principles. We are organizing events. We are always organizing towards those kinds of things. Remarkable. I don't know many organizations that are looking at a hundred years of service, so it is a tremendous milestone.

Okay. I think -- so the approach would be we are going to interview key people within the organization and outside of the organization -- well, the people who are in the membership. We would like to talk to some people who sit on the Membership and Retention Committee. We want to talk to some of the Branch Presidents. We are going to talk to National Board Members. We're going to speak to everyone on the staff with a series of questions to get their advice and their input on membership retention, organizational structure, et cetera. Anything that we think will impact our ability to retain and acquire members.

We are going to take a look -- obviously we are going to take a close look at mission again. On vision, part of our discussion is going to be vision in the future. What do we see the organization in years down the road, where do we want to be and how do we get there?

And then culture, this is the beginning of my kind of diving into what the culture of the organization is. And it's been a real treat so far for me. And then, obviously, we are going to look at the current program -- the current program of acquisition and retention -- and see if there are some immediate tweaks we can do just to improve it in the short-term. There may be some easy things we can do to make it easier for somebody to become a member or renew

or whatever. And then we are going to look at opportunities that exist that you haven't seen. And then we are going to make those kinds of recommendations to you.

Deliverables. There is a written report. And then we meet, we sit down with the leadership in Washington and we talk them through that report. And then I would imagine that report would come up through the channels through whatever committees would be most appropriate and come back and present that to those groups. And I imagine it will take a couple of months to do that.

We would, as part of that, we would want to enhance the current membership model, because we know it needs enhancing. Enhance organizational effectiveness. If we think there are certain things we think you need to consider, we will put that down. As consultants what we can do is observe and make recommendations based on best practices, and then it's up to you to decide what you want to do. We don't impose our will on anyone. We give you choices and you choose.

Improve membership communications and messaging. As I said before, we want to have a consistent message. Consistency and commitment equals loyalty and support. So we want to keep doing that. And then we will come back with a timeline and a budget for next year. Is it calendar year? Fiscal year? For your next fiscal year. For your next fiscal year. So you will have some idea if there are improvements that need to be made that costs money, we will give you some sense of what those would be. And I think that's it.

So, again, I thank you very much for the opportunity to stand here before you and give you some sense of what we're about to do. As I said, it should take a few months because it's a top-to-bottom kind of overview. I already have one card from someone who said they would give me some advice or would take a phone call. We may reach out to groups, as I said, to some of you for your advice. I know there has been some polling before. We are going to look at that; look at all kinds of data sources we can to get as much information as possible.

So I will be here for the rest of the day today if anybody would like to come and chat about these issues. In the meantime we are looking forward to getting to work when we get back to Washington, and looking forward also to delivering some good recommendations to you in the coming months. So, thank you very much. It's good to be here.

(APPLAUSE.)

NP IPPERT: Shipmate National Convention Chairman, do you have any announcements? Is he in the room?

PRPNW LAZZARETTI: Shipmate National President, Lazzaretti, Convention Chair.

NP IPPERT: Proceed.

PRPNW LAZZARETTI: Announcements?

NP IPPERT: Yes.

PRPNW LAZZARETTI: I'm sorry. I have been running amok trying to get everything taken care of. Five o'clock this evening in the Shades Conference Room will be tuxedo rentals. \$95 including tax for the fittings. We will be running shuttle service Saturday to the tuxedo shop to pick those tuxes up for any final fittings to make sure they are poverty fit.

For those Shipmates who wish to take their wives or other Auxiliary members with them to the casino tomorrow evening, we will have a signup list so we will have a better idea of how many numbers to give the casino.

Additionally, I still have some banquet tickets available and I will be selling them through Friday. Immediately following this session this afternoon, there is the Leadership Training session. And that's all I have, Shipmate National President.

NP IPPERT: Thank you, Shipmate Pete. I understand our NED has one more greeting.

NED SNEE: Message to the 88th Fleet Reserve Association National Convention.

This year marks the 70th anniversary of our victory on the seas in World War II. And on behalf of the men and women of the Department of Defense, it is my honor to celebrate the bravery and sacrifice of Fleet Reservists.

The unwavering valor of our sea services -- U.S. Navy, Marine Corps, and Coast Guard -- won that victory and you are the legacy of those great patriots. Your devotion to duty maintains our unmatched naval capability across the world and you serve as the tip of the spear that ensures a peaceful and prosperous world for our children.

As you celebrate your 88th year, I thank you and your families for answering the call to serve. I am immensely proud of everything you

have accomplished and I salute your contribution to the strength of our country.

To those gathered in Spokane, I wish you fair winds and following seas. May God bless you and the great Nation we serve.

Sincerely,

Ash Carter  
Secretary of Defense.

(APPLAUSE.)

NP IPPERT: Convention committees commence their meetings at 0915 tomorrow morning. You are instructed to conduct your deliberations in a prompt and effective manner, complete your committee business, and complete the preparation of your Convention Committee report.

Shipmate Past Regional President East Coast Chris Slawinski, Branch 181, is the Steering Committee Chairman, and he is assisted by Shipmate Past Regional President East Coast Bob Washington, Sr., Branch 181, and the DLP John Davis, Branch 181. Meeting rooms are listed in the convention program. Convention Committee Chairmen are to pick up their committee forms and rosters with the Chairman of the Steering Committee at this time.

When convention committee reports are ready to be presented to the delegates, the Chairman will report to the Steering Committee Chairman, who will coordinate and schedule presentations of the report with the National President. In this manner, an ordinary flow of convention business will be scheduled.

Convention Committee reports will be called commencing with the Second Business Session tomorrow afternoon at 1300. Resolutions that have been referred to National Convention Committees are noted on the Steering Committee form being provided by the Convention Committee Chairman. The list is in your delegate kit and will be submitted for the record. Appointment of convention committees, is what I am saying. Shipmates, we will now commence with FRA Leadership Training.

PRPNW LAZZARETTI: Shipmate National President.

NP IPPERT: Shipmate at the rear mike.

PRPNW LAZZARETTI: Lazzaretti, Convention Co-Chair. I was quite politely reminded forcefully by my Co-Chair to promote the Welcome

Aboard Luau in this room at 1900 hours.

NP IPPERT: Right here at 1900. Bring your hula skirt.

PRPNW LAZZARETTI: And I understand that Shipmate National Director will be leading the hula.

(LAUGHTER.)

NP IPPERT: I don't think. So, okay, the First Business Session of the 88th National Convention will now be recessed. The Second Business Session will commence, as I said, promptly at 1300 tomorrow afternoon in this room.

Shipmate National Chaplain, you will close the Bible.

PNP JOHNSON: Shipmate National President?

(3 taps of the gavel.)

NP IPPERT: Shipmate at the rear mike.

PNP JOHNSON: Johnson, delegate, Branch 104. I have been here for two days, and everybody should know what yesterday was, and I haven't heard anybody talk about it or say anything. The 240th birthday of the Navy. Hurrah!

(APPLAUSE.)

NP IPPERT: National Chaplain, please close the Bible.

NCHAP HALL: Shipmate National President, the Bible is closed.

NP IPPERT: Thank you, Shipmate National Chaplain.

(One rap of the gavel.)

(Thereupon, the First Business Session was adjourned at 1507)

FRA 88th NATIONAL CONVENTION  
FLEET RESERVE ASSOCIATION  
SPOKANE, WASHINGTON  
SECOND BUSINESS SESSION  
Thursday, October 15, 2015  
1300 - 1440

(One rap of the gavel.)

NP IPPERT: This meeting will now come to order. Shipmate Master-at-Arms, invite the Shipmates into the meeting hall and close the doors. Thank you, Shipmate Master-at-Arms.

(Three raps of the gavel.)

Shipmate National Chaplain, please open the Bible.

NCHAP HALL: Shipmate National President, the Bible is open.

NP IPPERT: Thank you, Shipmate. Please join me in saluting the colors.

Hand salute. Ready. Two.

(One rap of the gavel.)

NP IPPERT: I now declare the Second Business Session of the 88th National Convention regularly convened. Shipmate Tom, do you have any introductions to make?

UNIDENTIFIED SHIPMATE: Into the mike, please.

NP IPPERT: Okay. Shipmate National Executive Director, do you have any special guests to introduce?

NED SNEE: Yes.

NP IPPERT: We have a special guest.

NED SNEE: Yes, shipmates, we have a special guest. A presenter --

(One rap of the gavel.)

NED SNEE: -- from Excelsior College from Albany, New York.

And we have the last greetings that we have. It's addressed to myself, but it's meant for the National President.

"Please extend gratitude to the men and women of the Fleet Reserve Association as the organization commemorates 92 years of service.

"Founded in 1921 by Navy Chief Yeoman George L. Carlen and chartered in 1924, the Fleet Reserve Association has grown into the largest enlisted assembly of the United States Coast Guard, Navy, and Marine Corps personnel in the Nation.

"Just as the members of these Sea Services carried the mantle of loyalty, protection, and service to our Nation, the Fleet Reserve Association is dedicated to maintaining and improving the quality of life for Sea Service personnel and their families.

"I salute your continued efforts and unwavering commitment to support the needs of our active duty, reserve, and retired military members. In the spirit of a long-standing maritime blessing, I wish you all "fair winds and following seas."

Sincerely,

Jeh Charles Johnson  
Secretary, Homeland Security for the Coast Guard."

NED SNEE: Thank you.

(APPLAUSE.)

NED SNEE: One of the groups that we have a close association with from the education side is Excelsior College, which has that affiliation that you receive brochures. And it's one of three that we deal with.

Excelsior College is up in New York. It used to be called the old Regents College and they changed their name a few years ago.

But without further ado, we do have a representative from Excelsior College from Albany, New York. And I'm sure that he's got a lot to give and you tell you.

And also, if we don't have time for questioning from the podium, he will be outside with the purple drape that you will see outside.

(APPLAUSE.)

MR. BERNARD "BUDDY" RAY: Good afternoon. It's a pleasure to be here. And right off the bat, I would like to say "thank you" for your service, because without your service we wouldn't be here. And



I really think that the important that we recognize that and it's a shame that more people don't recognize that.

I have worked in military education for many, many years. I started out in 1975 at the University Center for Undeclared Majors at a time where someone thought it was a smart thing to give a 22-year-old guy the responsibility of advising 300 freshmen women. As a result of that experience, I have stayed in higher education ever since and have loved every minute of it. And being here is another one of those great moments.

I would like to thank your National President John Ippert, and the other National Officers and Board of Directors, for the opportunity to come and speak to you today. And especially "thank you" to Executive Director Tom Snee, who is an Excelsior College alumni and who I had a wonderful time talking to today, as he was able to tell me how he has had important people recognize his degree and how they were proud that he had an Excelsior College degree and it was an important thing for him to have.

Excelsior College, just so you know, is a nonprofit, regionally accredited on-line college. And something that you all need to know is that there is a difference between regionally accredited colleges and nationally accredited colleges. And as you are talking to your kids and grandkids and the subject comes up, they do need to know if they decide to attend a nationally accredited college that any credits they get from a nationally accredited college will not transfer to a regionally accredited college.

So it is important for people to make sure, when they know what degree they are wanting to get, that they determine the school they are going to. There are some degrees where you can go and get a degree from a nationally accredited school and it will work fine. But for many degrees, if you have a degree from a nationally accredited school and you want to go on and get your bachelors's or you want to go on and get a master's or a doctorate, you will find the credits will not transfer and you need to be aware of that up front.

Excelsior College has over 4,200 veterans and 11,500 military students enrolled in degree programs, which make up approximately 40 percent of the Excelsior College student population.

Now, as far as the Fleet Reserve Association is concerned, we are actually having it start up a little bit now. Since the partnership started in June of 2014, we had our first graduate. An FRA student has graduated in July of 2015. So you notice that was the person enrolled in 2014, and got the degree in 2015.

An important thing that Excelsior College and any of the military-related schools offer is credit for your military training and your corporate training. This is something that you people need to be aware of, because it can in some cases -- I had a lady this morning I was talking to, we were talking about the Bachelor's of Nuclear Engineering Technology degree where students actually get 74 hours of college credit when they start the degree. So these are folks without prior college who, as a result of their military training, start college as second-semester juniors. So this is a fairly significant thing and it will help everyone, no matter what the ratings. They do get credit for it and it is an important thing.

So we have had our first FRA graduate and 22 FRA folks have enrolled, seven at the graduate level and 15 at the undergraduate level. Four students have applied with the next step to enroll and 13 students have inquired about attending Excelsior College and have identified themselves as FRA members.

What I'm hoping is that we will have a few more of you all after this week. And the big thing I'm finding though is really that I'm giving out more information for folks to pass on than folks are going to need for themselves. But I think that is a great thing too.

FRA members and their spouses or domestic partners can receive a pre-evaluation review and bypass the application process and application fee for associate's and bachelor's degrees and go right to enrollment.

Prospective students provide their unofficial military and civilian transcripts to the school and it can be evaluated to the degree to which they are closest, or to a particular degree, in one to two weeks.

The next two days you can meet with me and I'll be happy to talk with anyone and provide you with the information and the different folks to contact. FRA members and employees receive special pricing for degrees. Reduced tuition and fees for associate's and bachelor's degrees are given to you. The tuition is \$300 less per course for FRA members than it is for non-FRA members.

A tuition discount is available for master's degrees, undergraduate, and graduate degrees bearing certificates. And I have lots of informational fliers that I will be happy to give you. I don't have any giveaways though. I had more giveaways than I usually take to a thing and I got cleaned out today. And I'm happy about that because

that means I don't have to carry them back. Good job folks.

Now, to get your degree through Excelsior College, if you wanted to or if you pass this information on, the students you have to take 12 hours through Excelsior College. And we actually have people who do that. As you all know and you remember, you take courses over the years and those courses mount up and then you have a ton of credits, but they're just a ton of credits. They haven't been put towards a degree plan. Well, you can get that done at Excelsior College and they will set it up for you to the point that you only need to take four classes -- three classes, three or four, depending if they are 4-hour or 3-hour classes -- to get the degree.

And we have found that there are a lot of folks that they are that far along with it. Especially the Chiefs. I see a lot of Chiefs, about 18-and-a-half years in the service. And to get those Chiefs in there and they all have jobs waiting on them on the outside, but the jobs want to pay them more money than they can get without a degree. So they come to us and we get them a degree as quick as we can and try to get them so that that job, when they get out there and are ready for it, that job is ready for them.

Most traditional college requires you to take at least 30 credits with them before getting a degree. And the students take six credits a year and, as long as you take six credits a year -- and everybody is going to take six credits a year -- then there is an annual fee that you don't pay. We like to let people know, take two classes a year. Then in that case there is no annual fee.

There is an 800-number, and I'm just to call it out a couple of times. Because if anybody has any questions about Excelsior College the 800-number at the Military Help Desk, which is 888-647-2388, extension 1352. That was 888-647-2388, extension 1352. That is the number for the Military Help Desk at Excelsior College.

The best thing about Excelsior College is the Military Help Desk. Because we are a school where you are taking your classes online, and the biggest frustration with online classes is when you have a problem, you have a glitch, and you have to send an e-mail and someone has to respond to that e-mail and it takes a week. It might take two weeks, in which time you're shot. You don't have time to get finished with what you are doing.

At Excelsior College, you call that 800-number, which I call several times a day. You reach a room that is full of the counselors who work full-time and have been there for 20 years and they answer your questions right there at that time. And if not, they will put you

through to the person that does and then check with you to make sure that you have it all right. That 800-number is invaluable and is big reason why Excelsior has done from 16th to 10th in the number of students in military education over the last three years.

The Center For Military Education assists service members, military spouses, family members, veterans, and DOD civilians and their spouses, in making the most of your credits and education benefits. You can talk to a counselor and they will be happy to provide you with any of the information that you need. And I'll be happy to provide you with information myself outside.

Also in terms of support services we have the Lieutenant Colonel Bryant Murray Online Veterans Center, which is full of helpful resources: A veteran mentoring program, a 24/7 tutorial service, an online writing lab, and the online Excelsior College Library. And for those people that are terrible at math, the thing that we have that other people come to Excelsior to take math, is because we use what is called MyMathLab. In MyMathLab you have a case where, rather than just you, the teacher, and the book, it's you, the teacher, the book, and MyMathLab. With MyMathLab, it's a computer program that enables you to put in other numbers for the problems you are being asked to solve and they will help work through the problems for you, providing you with a solution which provides you with a way to pass calculus. That's the big thing that we try to do, is get people to pass calculus. Now, if you can't pass calculus, we have lots of degrees that you don't need that, letting you know.

In conclusion, thank you for allowing me the time to present this information on our educational partnership and Excelsior College student support services. I would please ask that if any of you have any interest, or have grandchildren or whoever -- as I'm hearing earlier today -- that might be interested, do come by and talk to me and let me see if I can provide you with some information that might help them attain their educational goals and save y'all money in the process.

Thank you very much for your time.

(APPLAUSE.)

NP IPPERT: At this time I'd like Jerry Brice to give a second Credentials report. Are you here, Jerry?

PRPSE BRICE: Brice, 187, delegate. For the record, the first Credentials Committee report was as of 1230 yesterday. This report is as of 1300 today.

A correction to yesterday's: I read off that Branch 325 was not registered. Well, the reason Branch 325 was not registered, it doesn't exist. It should have been 327. It doesn't make any difference in the voting, but it makes the X in the block correct.

We do have changes, so I will read the whole thing off.  
Total number of Branches is still 211.

Authorized voting strength is 1,588.

Under the Second Report of the Credentials Committee: B is 75.  
Charlie, 839. Delta, 95. Echo, 486. Foxtrot, 41. Golf, 139.  
Hotel, 1,325. India, 263. Juliet, 883. Kilo, 663.

This ends the Second Credentials Committee Report, and I move it be accepted -- received, or whatever it's supposed to be.

SHIPMATE ROSEMARY POSEKANY: Rosemary Posekany, Wolverine  
Branch 298, Grand Rapids, Michigan, seconds the motion. Delegate.

NP IPPERT: It has been moved and seconded to receive the Second  
Credentials Report.

Shipmate at the rear mike?

PRPEC GUNTHER: Gunther, 182, delegate. Are we going to go over  
which Branches were reregistered or not registered?

PRPSE BRICE: Wait one. My bad. There were three Branches listed  
as not registered that are now registered: 371, 311, and 251.  
Again, 371, 311, 251.

NP IPPERT: Do we have a motion to accept this report, or receive  
this report as amended?

SHIPMATE ROSEMARY POSEKANY: Rosemary Posekany, delegate,  
Branch 298, seconds the report, as amended.

NP IPPERT: It's been moved and seconded to receive the second  
Credentials, as amended.

All those in favor, signify by saying aye.  
Opposed, nay.

(One rap of the gavel.)

NP IPPERT: Ayes have it.

Okay. We will commence receiving reports of National Convention

Committees. First, we will start with the National Convention Committee on Constitution, Bylaws and Resolutions. To present this report will be John Quesnel, Branch 289, Acting Chairman.

SHIPMATE QUESNEL: Good afternoon, Shipmates. The National Convention Committee on Constitution, Bylaws and Resolutions met in the Parkside I Room of the Spokane City Center DoubleTree Hotel, Spokane, Washington, at 0915 on October 15th, 2015.

In attendance were myself, John Quesnel, Acting Chairman.

Members: PRPNE David Munday  
PNP Mark Kilgore  
Nicole Talbot  
PNP Robert Beese  
NP John D. Ippert, Ex-Officio.

Advisor was PNP Lawrence J. Boudreaux, Branch 275.

Visitors: NVP Virgil P. Courneya, Branch 274  
PNP Marvin W. Johnson, Branch 104  
NParl Jim Eblen, Branch 289  
PNP Jeffrey Gilmartin, Branch 207  
PRPNE Bill Starkey, Branch 57  
RVPSE Bruce Davis, Branch 70  
RVPNC Tony Quintero, Branch 161  
PRPNC Les Wilson, Branch 268  
PRPSC Marty Posekany, Branch 298  
NChap Bill Hall, Branch 382  
PRPSC Leo McCann, Branch 70  
PRPEC Paul Gunther, Branch 182.

The same procedure that has been used for the past several years will be followed. The Chairman will read the pertinent resolved portion of the resolutions, at which time it becomes pending automatically. No motion or second is necessary. The Chairman will then read the committee's recommendations and give the rationale, after which the presiding officer will call for discussion.

Please remember, you are voting on the resolution itself and not on the committee recommendation.

First general Resolution from Potomac Region Branch 207:

Resolved, That actions taken by the National Board of Directors which require immediate action be classified as a National Board Authorization.

CBL&R recommendation: To adopt.

Rationale: This is an administrative addition, since the National President and the National Board of Directors already have the authority to issue National Board Authorizations.

NP IPPERT: You have heard the recommendation of the CBL&R Committee to adopt this resolution. Is there any discussion on the resolution? It is on GR-1 in your tab -- Tab Papa. Is there any discussion on GR-1?

Shipmate at the rear mike.

PRPNEng LOVELESS: Loveless, delegate, Branch 156. That still requires ratification by this body at the next convention; correct?

NP IPPERT: No, that's what we're doing now.

PRPNEng LOVELESS: No, what I'm saying is if you pass an article under this proposal, we still vote at the next national convention up or down on that; correct?

NP IPPERT: No. Shipmate at the rear mike.

JrPNP KILGORE: What the NBA is going to do -- and I was going to do it my year and Virgil was going to do it his year anyway -- as an example was the need to fix the roof repairs and expend the money. That currently is an NBR which has to be ratified on the floor of the convention. If we have already spent the money and you all say "no," it's kind of OBE. So the National Board Authorizations are for stuff that has to happen during the year. Because if you read the Bylaws, the Board of Directors is in charge between conventions

NP IPPERT: Right, on emergency items. And this is already in place. It was done several years ago. But I'm told that over eight, nine years ago they tended to get away from using NBAs in lieu of NBRs on matters that required immediate attention.

PRPNEng LOVELESS: So this would not make changes to the C&BL?

NP IPPERT: No, it's already in there. That's why this is a general --

PRPNEng LOVELESS: No, what I'm saying is you could not make changes to the C&BL with one of these resolutions.

NP IPPERT: Absolutely not. Any further discussion on GR-1? There

being no further discussion, all those in favor of adopting this resolution signify by saying aye.  
Opposed nay.

(One rap of the gavel.)

NP IPPERT: The ayes have it.

SHIPMATE QUESNEL: Constitution, Bylaws Resolution Number 1 appears on Tab V, page C&BL-1:

Resolved, That Article 3, Section 309(c), C&BL FRA, be amended to read: "Article 3, Section 309(c). A request for transfer in compliance with Section 309(b) will be processed by Member Services Department and noted on the monthly report of membership forwarded to each Branch."

Recommendation: Adopt. The rationale: This resolution just changes the responsibilities from Chairman, Membership and Retention Committee, to Member Services Department who actually are processing the changes.

NP IPPERT: Shipmates, you have heard the recommendation of the C&BL Committee to reject -- I'm sorry, wrong one -- adopt the Resolution. Is there any discussion on this resolution, CBL&R 1?

RPEC-Elect COLLINS: Shipmate National President, Penny Collins, delegate, Branch 24. The Resolved says Article 3, Section 309(c), a request for transfer compliance with Section 309(b) will be processed by the Member Services Department and noted on the monthly report of membership forwarded each Branch. It is already noted on the monthly report forwarded to each Branch. Any transfers in and out are noted on the monthly report to each Branch. Period.

NP IPPERT: I see.

RPEC-Elect COLLINS: It's already there. Okay? Now, maybe the author of this Resolution had never seen that before, but it's already on the monthly report. Transfers in/transfers out.

NP IPPERT: Okay. Now, this Resolved portion amended to read --

RPEC-Elect COLLINS: It says "as noted on the monthly report of membership."

SHIPMATE QUESNEL: That part of the amendment will stay the same. The change taking out "Chairman, Membership and Retention Committee" and replacing it with "Member Services Department."



RPEC-Elect COLLINS: Services Department. Right. I just want to make sure that we know that that is already on the monthly report. Okay?

NP IPPERT: Any further discussion? Shipmate at the rear mike.

PRPNEg LOVELESS: We just want to make sure that don't change.

NP IPPERT: Any further discussion on C&BL Number 1?  
There being no further discussion, all those in favor of adopting the resolution as recommended by the committee, signify by saying aye.  
Opposed nay.

(One rap of the gavel.)

NP IPPERT: Ayes have it.

SHIPMATE QUESNEL: Constitution and Bylaws Resolution Number 2.

PRPNE STARKEY: Shipmate National President, Starkey, Branch 57. Bylaws amendments require two-thirds vote for adoption and cannot determine that by a voice vote.

NP IPPERT: Wait one. I don't think so. Two-thirds can be determined without -- with a voice vote, assuming there is no nays. And I didn't think there was any. So we will do it again.

All those in favor of adopting the amendment, signify by saying aye. Those opposed, no.

PRPNE STARKEY: I stand corrected. Mr. National President.

(One rap of the gavel.)

NP IPPERT: The ayes have it.

SHIPMATE QUESNEL: Constitution and Bylaws Resolution Number 2:  
Resolved, That Article 4, C&BL, FRA, be amended to read as follows:  
"Section 401. Dues payments.

"Section 402. Effective 1 April 2016, minimum dues shall be \$30 and shall be for the membership year or part thereof. The membership year starts 1 April and ends the following 31 March. Dues will be applied toward member for life, and will be credited directly to the individual's membership account, as established in Section 403 below. Once the appropriate full membership has been paid into the

account, no further payments shall be required.

"Section 403. Effective 1 April 2016, those eligible for FRA membership who have not attained the age of 41 before 1 April of the current year may become member for life upon payment of \$250; those who are between ages 41 and 50, upon payment of \$230; those who are between 61 and 70, upon payment of \$180; those who have attained the age of 71 and over, upon payment of \$140. Initial and annual renewal of \$30 as specified in this Section. Additional payments may be made at any time. When the membership is paid in full, it continues throughout the member's life.

"Section 404. Effective 1 April 2016, those attaining the age of 80 no person eligible for membership in the FRA shall be required to pay either additional dues or the balance due of the existing account, and shall be immediately declared a member for life in the FRA.

"Section 405. No refund of membership dues is authorized subsequent to receipt by the Finance Officer, except as provided for in Article 5, Section 511.

"Section 406. Membership dues collected by any member are the property of the FRA until prorated and distributed.

"Section 407. Dues of members residing in the Republic of the Philippines shall be payable to the Finance Officer.

"Section 408. Any member of the FRA, or persons eligible for FRA membership, who is the recipient of the Medal of Honor, shall be granted continuous membership without payment of dues with all privileges of a dues paying member.

"Section 409. Distribution from Life Membership Fund will be made annually during the life of a paid member, as follows:

"To the Branch: \$12 per paid member.

"To National Headquarters: \$15 per paid member.

"Section 410. Every year divisible by three, the National Board of Directors shall conduct an internal audit, based on sound actuarial study, for the purpose of adjusting the membership dues and distribution from the Life Membership Fund. If during the triennium, the Board concludes that emergency action is necessary to keep the Life Membership Fund valid, the Board will take action to preserve the integrity of the fund;" and be it further.

Resolved, That Sections 914(c) and 914(d) have been superseded and

are hereby deleted as having served their original purpose; and be it further.

Resolved, That Section 401(b) and Subsection 401(b)(2), 401(b)(3), and 401(b)(4); Section 401(c), Section 401(d), Section 401(e), Section 401(f), Section 401(h), Section 401(i), Section 401(j), Section 401(k) and 405(g) have been superseded and are hereby deleted as having served their original purpose; and be it further.

Resolved, That Section 402 and Subsections 402(a), 402(b), and 402(c), are hereby renumbered Section 411, Section 412, Section 413, and Section 414 respectively; Section 403 is hereby renumbered Section 415; Section 404 and 404(a) and 404(b) are hereby renumbered Section 416, Section 417, and Section 418, respectively; and be it further.

Resolved, That this amendment become effective 1 April 2016.

CBL&R Recommendation is rejection.

Rationale: Too great a financial impact on smaller Branches and an overall financial impact on the Fleet Reserve Association.

NP IPPERT: You have heard the reading of the C&BLR Number 3. Is there any discussion?

UNIDENTIFIED VOICE: Two.

NP IPPERT: Number 2. Apologies. Number 2? Is there any discussion on C&BLR Resolution Number 2?  
Shipmate at the front mike.

RPNC-Elect CUNNINGHAM: North Central Region President-Elect Marcia Cunningham, Branch 14, also a delegate. I'm just a little bit confused. Is this changing the year that -- if somebody's dues are in March, are they going to hold off until April? Everybody is going to be paid once a year on their dues, instead of every month, is how I'm reading this. And then are they going to take cumulative dues payments, if somebody who is 70 years old has been pays for 20 years, they have already paid in their 140. Or is it they have to pay an extra 140 and they get their lifetime dues? It is a little confusing the way I am reading it.

Okay. I'm hearing the recommendation is not to adopt this.

SHIPMATE QUESNEL: Yes, the recommendation was rejection because of the financial hardship.

RPNC-Elect CUNNINGHAM: All right. That's what I wanted to confirm.

NP IPPERT: Anything further discussion on C&BLR Number 2? Shipmate at the rear mike?

PRPEC HOOVER: Hoover, delegate, Branch 24. On the first Section 403 paragraph we list the ages that we are using and we are using 41 to 50 upon payment of \$230, and those who are between 61 and 70 a payment of \$180. What happened to those that are 51 to 60? Left out.

NP IPPERT: Shipmates, there are a number of problems with this Resolution, not especially the fact that if it was adopted it would be too expensive for the Branches and the FRA overall. So the recommendation of CBL&R is to reject it. So we could probably find those numbers for you, but is there any more discussion on CBL&R Number 2 with the idea that if you vote for it -- if you vote aye, you vote for the Resolution -- not the recommendation -- and to vote -- no, it says right in the front that you are voting for the Resolution, not the recommendation. Okay? Any further discussion on this Resolution? All those in favor, signify by saying aye. Opposed, nay.

(One rap of the gavel.)

NP IPPERT: The nays have it. It is rejected.

SHIPMATE QUESNEL: Constitution and Bylaws Resolution Number 3 from the Potomac Region Branch 207.

Resolved, That Article 4, Section 401(e), C&BL, FRA, be amended to read:

"Article 4, Section 401(e). Disabled members may be excused from payment of dues when payment would inflict a hardship. Branches shall judge for their membership. The Director, Membership Development, shall make the decision for Membership-at-Large Roll members. Branch secretaries shall make an annual report in the month of March to the Director, Membership Development, listing the names and membership numbers of all disabled members affiliated with the Branch. If no report is received, members previously reported as disabled will be terminated effective 30 June unless payment of dues has been received by the Finance Officer. The Member Services Department shall notify the Branch secretary during the month of July of those terminated members."

CBL&R Recommendation is to adopt.

Rationale: Changing Chairman, Membership and Retention Committee to Director, Membership Development throughout Section 401(e). Also, the second to last line where it states from Chairman, Membership and Retention Committee to Member Services Department.

NP IPPERT: You have heard the recommendations from the CBL&R Committee regarding CBL&R Number 3. Is there any discussion? Is there any discussion?  
All those in favor of the resolution, signify by saying aye.  
Opposed nay.

(One rap of the gavel.)

NP IPPERT: Ayes have it.

SHIPMATE QUESNEL: Constitution and Bylaws Resolution Number 4 from Potomac Region Branch 207.

Resolved, That Article 4, Section 402(a) and Section 402(b), C&BL, FRA, be amended to read:

"Section 402(a). The Director, Membership Development, shall, and the Branch secretary who so desires, may notify all members in writing of their approaching dues expiration date to enable members to maintain continuous membership and earn continuous membership awards.

"Section 402(b). The Director, Membership Development shall, and Branch secretaries who so desire may, notify the members in arrears in dues in writing once a month during the 90-day grace period."

CBL&R Recommendation: To adopt.

The rationale: Changing Chairman, Membership and Retention Committee, to Director, Membership Development. Also, the second from the last line again, Chairman, Membership and Retention to Member Services Department.

NP IPPERT: You have heard the reading of the "Resolved" portion of C&BL Number 4. Any discussion? Any discussion? All those in favor of the resolution, signify by saying aye. Opposed nay.

(One rap of the gavel.)

NP IPPERT: Ayes have it.

SHIPMATE QUESNEL: Okay. Shipmates, I'm going to read C&BL

Resolution Number 12 right now, because the decision on that one will substantiate other OBEs that are in our package. So please turn to Resolution Number 12.

Resolved, That the title of Article 8, Section 808, C&BL, FRA, be amended to read:

"Section 808. Duties of the National Executive Director."

Resolved, That Article 8, Section 808(g) be amended to read:

"Section 808(g). The National Executive Director shall maintain record of all members registered with the Secretary of the Senate and the Clerk of the House of Representatives as accredited representative of the Fleet Reserve Association as required by the Federal Regulation of Lobbying Act. He/she shall further designate members to register with the Department of Veterans Affairs as accredited representative of the Fleet Reserve Association." and be it further.

Resolved, That this amendment become effective under provisions of Standing Rule 4(j) of the 2016 National Convention; and be it further.

Resolved, Although not part of the amendment, but important to our members, attached to this resolution is the proposed National Executive Director job description and a copy of attorney drafted employment agreement.

CBL&R Recommendation: Rejection.

Rationale: This should be an FRA member who embodies loyalty, protection, and service and understands the functioning of the FRA, and has a grass-roots awareness of what the FRA does.

NP IPPERT: You have heard the reading of CBL&R Number 12 and the committee's recommendation to reject. Is there any discussion? Is there any discussion? Remember that if you vote aye, you are voting for the resolution. If you vote nay, you are voting to reject it. All those in favor of CBL&R Number 12, signify by saying aye. Those opposed nay.

(One rap of the gavel.)

NP IPPERT: The nays have it.

SHIPMATE QUESNEL: Constitution and Bylaws Resolution Number 5. It is on page C&BL 4-5.

Resolved, That Article 4, Section 404, C&BL, FRA, be amended to read:

"Section 404(a). The Member Services Department will provide each Branch a comprehensive monthly report listing the members who have paid dues at the Branch and National levels, the new expiration dues date for the members, and the present address and any other changes that have occurred in the Branch membership.

"Section 404(b). The Member Services Department will provide each Regional President with a monthly membership status report for each Branch in the respective region detailing all membership transactions occurring in the region."

CBL&R Recommendation: To adopt.

Rationale: Changing Chairman, Membership and Retention Committee to Director, Membership Development. Also, the second to the last line, changing from Chairman, Membership and Retention Committee to Member Services Department.

NP IPPERT: You have heard the committee's recommendation for CBL&R Number 5. Is there any discussion? Any discussion? There being no discussion, all those in favor of adopting the resolution signify by saying aye.

Opposed nay.

(One rap of the gavel.)

NP IPPERT: Ayes have it.

SHIPMATE QUESNEL: Constitution and Bylaws Resolution Number 6.

Resolved, That Article 4, Sections 405(e) and 405(f) be amended to read as follows:

"Section 405(e). Life membership fees may be made to the Finance Officer using the following installment plans:

- (1) Payment in full at the time of submitting the life member application.
- (2) Quarterly (four equal payments over a 12-month period.)
- (3) Monthly (12 equal payments over a 12-month period.)

"Section 405(f). All installment payments will be completed within 12 months from the date the first payment is received. If using the installment payment plan, the first payment will be counted towards

the payment of regular annual dues at a minimum of \$30, which will entitle the members to be a regular member in the FRA, but not a life member until all payments have been received. Once an installment plan is initiated, money held in escrow will not be returned or prorated for further dues payment."

Resolved, That this amendment become effective January 1, 2016.

CBL&R Recommendation is to adopt.

Rationale: In concert with the Budget & Finance Committee paying the initial \$30, then the rest of the Life Membership in 12 months ensures members' membership continuity and prevents dues lapse the following years while on a current life membership installment plan.

NP IPPERT: You have heard the reading of CBL&R Resolution Number 6, the "resolved" portion and the recommendation of the CBL&R Committee. Any discussion? Any discussion?  
There be no discussion, all those in favor of adopting CBL&R Number 6, signify by saying aye.  
Opposed nay.

(One rap of the gavel.)

NP IPPERT: In the opinion of the Chair, the ayes have it.

SHIPMATE QUESNEL: Constitution and Bylaws Resolution Number 7.

Resolved, That Article 7, Section 701(a), 701(b) and 701(d) C&BL, FRA, be amended to read:

"Section 701(a). The National Officers of the Fleet Reserve Association shall be: National President, National Vice President, National Executive Director, Finance Officer, and Regional President of each region, Junior Past National President, National Parliamentarian, and National Chaplain."

"Section 701(b). The National Board of Directors of the Fleet Reserve Association shall be: National President, National Vice President, Regional President of each region, and the Junior Past Regional President."

"Section 701(d). The annual national convention shall elect for a one-year term the National Vice President and the National President"; and be it further

Resolved, That this amendment become effective under the provisions of Standing Rule 4(j) of the 2016 National Convention.



CBL&R Recommendation: Ruled not in order.

Rationale: OBE, due to actions taken on C&BL Resolution 12.

NP IPPERT: I hereby declare CBL&R Number 7 not in order.

(One rap of the gavel.)

SHIPMATE QUESNEL: Constitution and Bylaws Resolution Number 8.

Resolved, Fleet Reserve Association Constitution, Bylaws and Rituals, Article 7, Section 701(b) be amended to read:

"The National Board of Directors of the Fleet Reserve Association shall be: National President, National Vice President, President of each region, and Junior Past National President.

CBL&R Recommendation: Reject.

Rationale: There is no need to create an odd voting number.

NP IPPERT: You have heard the reading of the resolved of CBL&R Number 8. Is there any discussion? Is there any discussion? Remember that voting aye will vote to approve this CBL&R and nay will reject it, as recommended by the committee. All those in favor of adopting this resolution, signify by saying aye. Those opposed nay.

(One rap of the gavel.)

NP IPPERT: The nays have it.

SHIPMATE QUESNEL: Constitution and Bylaws Resolution Number 9.

Resolved, That the shipmates of the Sierra-Tahoe Branch 137 do solicit the vote of each Branch delegate at the 88th National Convention in Spokane, Washington, on October 13-18, 2015, to support this resolution and change the provisions of FRA, C&BL, Section 701(d) to permit 2-year terms.

Resolved, Section 701(d) be revised to reside as follows:

"Section 701(d). The Annual National Convention shall elect for a 2-year term the National Vice President and the National President, and for a 3-year term, the National Executive Director in a year the number of which is divisible by three."

CBL&R Recommendation: Rejection.

Rationale: The resolution's whereas's do not adequately support the resolved's premise.

NP IPPERT: You have heard the resolved portion of the CBL&R Number 9. Is there any discussion? Is there any discussion? There being no further discussion, all those in favor of adopting this resolution signify by saying aye. Those opposed nay.

(One rap of the gavel.)

NP IPPERT: The nays have it. The resolution is rejected.

SHIPMATE QUESNEL: Constitution and Bylaws Resolution Number 10.

Resolved, That Article 7, Section 702(a), C&BL, FRA, shall be amended to read:

"Article 7, Section 702(a). Each region of the Fleet Reserve Association shall elect s Regional President and Regional Vice President, or a First Vice President and Second Vice President, if desired."

Resolved, That Pinetree Branch 156 urges all Branches of the Fleet Reserve Association to support and endorse the above resolution.

CBL&R Recommendation: Rejection.

Rationale: The National Bylaws should not direct the number of Regional officers. If the regions wish to have a First and Second Vice President, then it needs to be incorporated into the Regional Bylaws.

NP IPPERT: You have heard the reading of CBL&R Number 10. Any discussion? Shipmate at the rear mike.

PRPNEng LOVELESS: Shipmate Loveless, delegate, Branch 156. If you refer to the CB&L, that section reads, "Each region of the Fleet Reserve Association shall elect a Regional President and a Regional Vice President," which does not allow you to do a First and Second Vice President.

NP IPPERT: Thank you. He is incorrect.

PRPNEng LOVELESS: All it does is allow the region to elect. Right

now the region cannot do it according to this book right here.

NP IPPERT: Any further discussion on the CBL&R Number 10? Shipmate waddling up to the rear mike.

JrPNP KILGORE: I'm sorry; I didn't say this before. Junior Past National President Kilgore, delegate 22.

NP IPPERT: Not in the uniform of the day.

JrPNP KILGORE: My hat's over there. Come on. Through the Chair to Shipmate Past Regional President Loveless, the Red Book doesn't say that the regions can elect a secretary or the regions can elect a treasurer. If you notice, those two are omitted from the Red Book. They said "a President and Vice President." If your bylaws go to say, okay, we want to have a Second Vice President, then why not? The book does not prohibit it. It says, "you shall elect a Regional President and Vice President." It doesn't say you can't have a second one. Thank you.

PRPNEng LOVELESS: When we originally submitted our joint Branch -- I mean our joint bylaws, it was rejected because we could not substantiate it in the CB&L. That is why the change was made.

NP IPPERT: That should not have been. I see.

Any further discussion? Oh, by the way, that was Paul Loveless.

Okay. You have heard the recommendation of the committee is to reject. And since -- well, I'm not going to get into that. Here comes Past National President John Marvin Johnson, the Third. Proceed.

PNP JOHNSON: Johnson, delegate, Branch 104. If we pass this one here, then you are going to force the regions into it, because it says "shall elect."

NP IPPERT: You "shall" elect those, but you "can" elect others as well.

PNP JOHNSON: Right.

NP IPPERT: It doesn't say specifically --

PNP JOHNSON: So, I'm saying if you pass --

PRPNEng LOVELESS: If you so desire.

PNP JOHNSON: Yeah, but I know how these things go. I support rejection.

NP IPPERT: Any further discussion on this resolution?  
All those in favor of adopting this resolution, signify by saying aye.

Those opposed nay.

In the opinion of the Chair cannot determine whether that was two-thirds or not. Shall we try it one more time?

All those in favor of adopting the resolution, signify by saying aye.

Opposed nay.

(One rap of the gavel.)

NP IPPERT: That's two-thirds. Rejection.

PRPNE STARKEY: Shipmate National President, Starkey, Branch, 57.

NP IPPERT: Shipmate at the rear mike.

PRPNE STARKEY: On a two-thirds vote, Roberts Rules doesn't say you can have a voice vote on a two-thirds vote unless it in your bylaws. What I would do -- we are not requiring a roll call vote -- do a standing vote. Those who are in favor, please stand. Then you do a quick count and sit down.

NP IPPERT: Shipmate at the rear mike, the motion has already been rejected. Shipmate at the front mike.

PRPNC COMBS: Point of order. We only needed a two-thirds majority to pass it, not to reject it.

NP IPPERT: That's true. They did not reach the two-thirds to pass it. It didn't even get a majority. Okay.

JrPNP KILGORE: Shipmate National President.

NP IPPERT: Shipmate at the rear mike.

JrPNP KILGORE: Let the record reflect the Junior Past National President is in the proper uniform of the day, which happens to be Winter Uniform Echo at this time. Thank you.

(APPLAUSE.)

NP IPPERT: You're too late, Shipmate.

SHIPMATE QUESNEL: Constitution and Bylaws Resolution Number 11.

Resolved, That Article 8, Section 808(g), C&BL, FRA, be amended to read:

"Section 808(g). He/she shall, with other designated Members, register with the Secretary of the Senate and the Clerk of the House of Representatives as accredited representative of the Fleet Reserve Association, as required by the Federal Regulations of Lobbying Act. He/she shall further designate members to register with the Department of Veterans Affairs as accredited representative of the Fleet Reserve Association."

CBL&R Recommendation: Not in order.

Rationale: OBE, due to the recommendations on Resolution 12.

NP IPPERT: You have heard the reading of C&BL Resolution Number 11, and the committee's recommendation. Any discussion?

UNIDENTIFIED SHIPMATE: Out of order.

NP IPPERT: There should be no discussion. All right. It is out of order. So ordered.

SHIPMATE QUESNEL: Constitution and Bylaws Resolution Number 13.

Resolved, That Article 8, Section 810(a), C&BL, FRA, shall be amended by adding:

"Section 810(a)(11). National Committee on Veterans Service" and be it further

Resolved, That Article 8, C&BL, FRA, is amended by adding:

"Section 821. Duties of the National Committee on Veterans Service.

"Section 821(a). The Committee shall consist of the Director, National Service or designated FRA accredited national representative as a permanent Chairman, and eight members, one from each region. A member's term shall be for three years with a minimum of two members replaced or reappointed each year by the in-coming National President.

"Section 821(b). Committee members shall be either VA accredited as veterans service officer representing FRA or designated as an FRA Representative or Deputy Representative for the VA Voluntary Service

program at a VA medical facility.

"Section 821(c). It shall solicit the cooperation of Branch Chairman of this committee and instill the importance of this committee at the Branch level.

"Section 821(d). Duties of the committee shall be to oversee the FRA, VSO and VAVS programs, providing education and outreach of same to the membership of the Association, including the policies and regulations associated with these programs; to report the number and activities of FRA accredited VSO representatives and the VAVS in each region; to solicit Branches and Shipmates to become involved in Department of Veterans Affairs services on the State, local or national level, including VA Regional offices, medical facilities, State or National veteran cemeteries or veteran homes; and to annually recognize outstanding service by a Shipmate in service to veterans.

"Section 821(e). The Chairman shall make an annual report to the National Board of Directors and the National Convention."

CBL&R Recommendation: To adopt.

Rationale: This committee is necessary for assisting current and prospective members and is directly supportive of our three cardinal principles: Loyalty, protection, and service.

NP IPPERT: Shipmates, you have heard the reading of C&BL Resolution Number 13 and the committee's recommendation to adopt. Any discussion? Any discussion?  
There being no further discussion, those in favor of adopting the resolution signify by saying aye.  
Opposed nay.

(One rap of the gavel.)

NP IPPERT: The ayes have it. The resolution is adopted.

SHIPMATE QUESNEL: Constitution and Bylaws Resolution Number 14.

Resolved, That Article 8, Section 810(a), C&BL, FRA, be amended by adding:

"Section 810(a)(6). National Committee on Veterans Services, Hospitals, Welfare, and Rehabilitation"; and be it further

Resolved, That Standing Rule 7, SR-7(a)(2) C&BL, FRA, be amended to read:

"(2) Each Branch shall submit the following reports if the Branch President has appointed such committee; Americanism-Patriotism; Veterans Services, Hospitals, Welfare, and Rehabilitation; Public Relations; Youth Activities, to the Regional Chairman of the appropriate committee prior to the convening of Regional conventions. A copy of these reports shall be forwarded to the Regional President and one copy retained in the Branch files."

CB&LR Recommendation: Not in order.

Rationale: OBE, due to the adoption of C&BL Resolution 13.

NP IPPERT: This resolution is not in order and I so declare.

(One rap of the gavel.

SHIPMATE QUESNEL: Constitution and Bylaws Resolution Number 15.

Resolved, That Article 8, Section 812, C&BL, FRA, be amended to read:

"Section 812. Duties of the National Committee of Legislative Service.

"Section 812(A). The committee shall be composed of the annually appointed Chairman and six members with terms of three years, two members being replaced or reappointed each year by the incoming National President. The National President may appoint additional members in an advisory capacity.

"Section 812(b). The primary duty of this committee is to diligently study legislation pending in the House of Representatives and the Senate of the United States which may affect the personnel of the Navy, Marine Corps, and Coast Guard (active, reserve, and retired) and their dependents.

"Section 812(c). The chairman shall make a report to the National Board of Directors and the National Convention reporting legislative accomplishments and actions, pending legislation, a legislative agenda for the next association year, and any pertinent recommendations. Recommendations requiring action by the National Convention be shall be submitted in accordance with Section 612."

Recommendation of the CBL&R: Not in order.

Rationale: OBE, due to action taken on C&BL Resolution 12.

NP IPPERT: You have heard the reading of the "resolved" portion of C&BR Resolution Number 15, and the committee's recommendation. And I declare this resolution not in order.

(One rap of the gavel.)

SHIPMATE QUESNEL: Constitution and Bylaws Resolution Number 16.

Resolved, That Article 8, Section 813, C&BL, FRA, be amended to read:

"Section 813. Duties of the National Committee on Membership and Retention.

"Section 813(a). The committee shall consist of a Chairman and eight member; the best recruiter from each region as determined by the Fourth Quarter Membership Report dated 31 March of the current calendar year. The Director of Membership Development shall act as an advisor.

"Section 813(b). The primary duty of this committee is to devise ways and means of increasing FRA membership, improving membership retention, and publicizing the aims and purposes of the Fleet Reserve Association among eligible potential members.

"Section 813(c). The Chairman shall make an annual report to the delegates at the National Convention reporting the status of Association membership, programs, and retention; a membership and retentions program for the next Association year and any pertinent recommendations. Recommendations requiring action by the delegates at the National Convention shall be submitted in accordance with Section 612."

CBL&R recommendation: Rejection.

Rationale: Proposed Section 813(a) is unrealistic as fourth quarter membership reports does not address or identify top recruiters either on the National, Regional or Branch levels.

NP IPPERT: You have heard the reading of the "Resolved" portion of the CBL&R Number 16, and the committee's recommendation to reject. Is there any discussion? Is there any discussion? There being no discussion, all of those in favor of the CBL&R signify by saying aye. Those opposed nay.

(One rap of the gavel.)

NP IPPERT: The nays have it.



SHIPMATE QUESNEL: Constitution and Bylaws Resolution Number 17.

Resolved, That Article 8, Section 816, CB&L, FRA, be amended to read:

"Section 816. Duties of the National Committee on Veterans Services, Hospitals, Welfare and Rehabilitation.

"Section 816(a). The incoming National President shall appoint a Chairman annually. The committee shall be comprised of six members for terms of up to three years, with two members replaced or reappointed each year. It is recommended the National President consider VA-accredited Veterans Services Officers, designate FRA-accredited National Representative, or Deputy Representative for the VA Voluntary Service program at a VA medical facility for at least one of these members.

"Section 816(b). Duties of the committee shall be:

(1) To provide oversight and guidance to the FRA National Service Director, who manages the FRA VSO and VAVS programs.

(2) To solicit Branch and Shipmates to become involved in Departments of Veterans Affairs at the State, local, or national level, including VA regional offices, medical facilities, State or National Veterans Cemeteries or veterans homes; and to annually recognize outstanding service by a Shipmate in service to veterans.

(3) To foster and maintain relations between the Fleet Reserve Association and the hospitals, to extend praise and commendation to those units which have rendered outstanding service, and to investigate allegations that shipmates and dependents are not receiving full benefits of existing laws and regulations.

"Section 816(c). The Chairman shall make an annual report to the delegates at the National Convention.

CBL&R Recommendation: Not in order.

Rationale: Was not properly drafted; excludes the current 816(c) which addresses welfare assistance.

NP IPPERT: I find this CBL&R Number 16 not in order, and I so rule.

(One rap of the gavel.

SHIPMATE QUESNEL: Constitution and Bylaws Resolution Number 18.

Resolved, That Article 11, Section 1101(a) shall be amended to read as follows:

"Article 11, Section 1101(a). The North Atlantic Region: Connecticut, Maine, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New York, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, Vermont, and all Branches overseas in the Atlantic, north of the 40th parallel, north."

Resolved, That Section 1001(c) becomes Section 1101(b) and all following subsections of 1101 be redesignated to follow standard lettering form; and

Resolved, That the Pinetree Branch 156 urges all Branches of the Fleet Reserve Association to support and endorse the above resolution for the name change of the Northeast/New England Region.

CBL&R Recommendation: Rejection.

Rationale: The 2015 Northeast/New England Regional Convention voted not to adopt the proposed name change.

NP IPPERT: You have heard the reading of CBL&R Number 18 and the committee's recommendation to reject. Is there any discussion? Is there any discussion?

Remember, to adopt this resolution means to rename the region; to reject it means to not rename the region.

All those in favor of CBL&R Number 18, signify by saying aye. Those opposed nay.

(One rap of the gavel.)

NP IPPERT: The nays have it.

SHIPMATE QUESNEL: Last one. Constitution and Bylaws Resolution Number 19.

Resolved, That the shipmates of the Sierra-Tahoe Branch 137 do solicit the vote of each Branch delegate at the 88th National Convention in Spokane, Washington, on October 13-18, 2015, to support this resolution and change the provisions of FRA's C&BL, Section 1217(a) to permit two-year terms.

Resolved, That Section 701(d) of the FRA C&BL be revised to read as follows:

"Section 1217(a). Except as hereinafter provided, nominations for Branch officers, including those submitted by a nomination

committee, shall be opened at a meeting in either March, April, or May, as specified in the bylaws of each Branch. They shall remain open until a meeting in the month following the opening of nominations, then closed and officers elected for a period of two years."

Recommendation: Rejection.

Rationale: Branch business; should not be directed by National.

NP IPPERT: Shipmates, you have heard the reading of CBL&R Number 19, and the committee's recommendation to reject. Is there any discussion?

There being no further discussion, all those in favor of adopting the resolution signify by saying aye.

Opposed nay.

(One rap of the gavel.)

NP IPPERT: The nays have it.

SHIPMATE QUESNEL: As a sidenote from my committee, it was proposed that C&BL resolutions need to be forwarded to the National Chairman when received at National Headquarters to allow sufficient time to review and return to originator, if needed, for minor corrections so they have time to resubmit them for National Conventions.

Shipmate President, that concludes my report.

NP IPPERT: Let's hear it for John. I think he did an excellent job.

(APPLAUSE.

NP IPPERT: Shipmate Chaplain.

(Three raps of the gavel.)

NP IPPERT: Would you please close the Bible.

NCHAP HALL: Shipmate National President, the Bible is closed.

NP IPPERT: Thank you, Shipmate National Chaplain.

Let's be back here promptly at 1430.

(Recess).

NP IPPERT: Shipmate Master-at-Arms, invite the shipmates into the

meeting hall and close the doors.

(3 taps of the gavel.)

NP IPPERT: Shipmate National Chaplain, if you will open the Bible.

NCHAP HALL: Shipmate National President, the Bible is open.

NP IPPERT: Thank you, Shipmate National Chaplain.

We have just have a few things left to do this afternoon. I probably should have looked at my agenda before the early recess or the early break. Oh --

(One rap of the gavel.)

NP IPPERT: -- sit down. Here is what I want to do. I want all active duty members please stand.

(CHEERS AND APPLAUSE.)

NP IPPERT: Only one? Thank you, Shipmate. Appreciate it.

Okay. Another thing I'd like to do is all first-time National Convention shipmates please stand. All First-timers to a National Convention please stand.

(APPLAUSE.

NP IPPERT: Okay. Thank you. I just have one more announcement. Pete Lazzaretti, Convention Co-Chair, do you have any announcements?

PRPNW LAZZARETTI: Shipmate National President, Lazzaretti, Convention Co-Chair, Branch 18, Seattle. Just to let everybody know we do have the casino trip this evening. Buses -- shuttles are at 1830 and 1900 and 1930, with returning trips at 2100, 2130, and 2200.

The cost is \$5 a head. I start taking tickets for that 10 minutes before the shuttle leaves. And let me know if you are going, so I can at least give the casino better numbers of what to expect.

Additionally, I still do have some tickets available for the National Presidents of the Auxiliary's luncheon tomorrow which is an open meal, and I have banquet tickets for Saturday evening for anyone that is interested.

NP IPPERT: Thank you, Shipmate Pete. Anything else?

PRPNW LAZZARETTI: That will do it for now.

NP IPPERT: Does anyone have anything before we close this Second Business Session? Here comes Past National President Gary Blackburn, Chairman of the Budget and Finance Committee.

PNP BLACKBURN: Shipmate National President, Shipmates, Blackburn, delegate, Branch 8. What am I? The Beer Keeper? Beer Tender? Beer-meister? The Keeper of the Keys?

Whatever, the West Coast Regional Beer Club, for those of you that are members and potential members, the Beer Club will meet in the Hospitality Room at 1900 tomorrow evening. Tomorrow happens to be Friday, for those of you who were not aware of that. And, hopefully, if you go to the casino and if you are a member, be sure to save \$5 for the Beer Club. And if you are not a member, bring a bright shiny or an old, used \$20 bill and you will be a member. And I hope to see many, many of you at the Hospitality Room tomorrow evening. Thank you National President.

NP IPPERT: Thank you, Shipmate Gary.

(APPLAUSE.

NP IPPERT: Shipmate at the rear mike.

SHIPMATE SMITH: Shipmate National President, Smith, delegate Branch 70. Were we going to get a copy of the proposed budget before we adjourn today?

NP IPPERT: It is my understanding that there is only one change from the budget that's in the book.

SHIPMATE SMITH: Okay.

PNP BLACKBURN: Shipmate National President. Are you going to recognize me or am I on my own?

NP IPPERT: Shipmate at the rear mike.

PNP BLACKBURN: Thank you, Shipmate National President. Blackburn, delegate, Branch 8. Chairman, Budget & Finance Committee.

Shipmates, the budget is printed in your delegate book. There are no changes at the moment to the budget as printed. Anything -- as we go along, any questions, we will address them from the podium when I give my report tomorrow. Hopefully, it will be very minimal.

And, hopefully, there will be very minimal changes, if any. Thank you.

(APPLAUSE.)

NP IPPERT: Thank you, Shipmate Past National President Gary Blackburn. Anyone else have any announcements? Okay.

(3 taps of the gavel.)

NP IPPERT: Shipmate National Chaplain, please close the Bible.

NCHAP HALL: Shipmate National President, the Bible is closed.

NP IPPERT: Thank you, Shipmate National Chaplain. The convention stands in recess until tomorrow at 0730 -- 0930. I knew I'd wake you up. 0930 tomorrow right here. Same time, same -- oh, take your stuff out of here. They need this room. Remove your stuff, or it will be removed for you.

(One rap of the gavel.)

(Whereupon, at 2:40 p.m. the Second Business Session was adjourned.)

FRA 88th NATIONAL CONVENTION  
FLEET RESERVE ASSOCIATION  
SPOKANE, WASHINGTON  
THIRD BUSINESS SESSION  
Thursday, October 16, 2015  
0930 - 1122

NVP COURNEYA: (Presiding) Master-at-Arms, please invite the Shipmates into the hall and close the doors.

MASTER-AT-ARMS: The Shipmates are in the hall and the doors are closed.

NVP COURNEYA: Thank you, Shipmate Master-at-Arms. Shipmate National Chaplain, please open the Bible. Uncover.

NCHAP HALL: Shipmate National Vice President, the Bible is open.

NVP COURNEYA: Thank you National Chaplain

Salute the colors. Hand salute. Ready. Two.

(One rap of the gavel.)

Shipmate at the rear mike

JrPNP KILGORE: Shipmate National Vice President, let the record show -- Kilgore, delegate, 22 -- the Junior Past National President is in the proper Uniform of the Day. Today it is the Undressed Bravo. We are wearing red in memory of Past National President Ed Zerr and Red Shirt Friday.

(APPLAUSE.)

NVP COURNEYA: Thank you, Shipmate Junior Past. Shipmates, I will be up here taking the National President's place. He was called away for a little bit and he will be back. And so we will continue on with the meeting.

I now declare the Third Business Session of the 88th National Convention regularly convened. NED, are there any guest speakers to be introduced?

NED SNEE: Yes, Shipmate National Vice President. Good morning.

SHIPMATES: Good morning.

NED SNEE: Good morning.

SHIPMATES: Good morning.

NED SNEE: Thank you. You were gambling out there way too late for me. I hope you are making some money. Any of your winnings, give it to Shipmate Pete or Peg. They could always use the extras.

We have no more letters, but today I have a distinct honor to introduce our guest speaker today. I'm just going to make one side comment -- and don't take it in a derogatory way -- the only enlisted person to come to our convention to speak. And I think that says an awful lot about what is going on in Washington that this Sergeant Major has decided to come here. And a very busy man. I don't need to go through his entire bio. You can all read it.

But I will say this on the side that Sergeant Major Spadaro was born and raised in New Brunswick, New Jersey, and went to boot camp at Parris Island. And I got that differentiation about sunglasses and sand from the National Vice. I got that lesson already, and I will leave it at that.

Of course, there was a comment about either Orlando or San Diego or Great Lakes. For the sailors, Cape May, you have always been very into your situation there, but we won't go into that.

Sergeant Major Spadaro assumed his present duties in August of 2013. His current billet is as Force Sergeant Major for the Marine Force Reserves, Marine Forces. Let's give a very warm welcome to the Sergeant Major of this group, Sergeant Major Spadaro.

(APPLAUSE.)

PNP SMITH: Shipmate NED. Smith. Let the record show, Sergeant Major is a member in good standing of Branch 70, Poway, California.

(APPLAUSE.)

NED SNEE: Shipmate Past National President, aye aye.

SERGEANT MAJOR ANTHONY SPADARO: Good morning Shipmates. You know, brother, you stole my thunder. I wanted to open up today and say: I'm Tony Spadaro, a proud member of FRA Branch 70. But you took it from me. Thank you very much. All right?

(APPLAUSE.)



SERGEANT MAJOR ANTHONY SPADARO: I don't know about this crowd. Between the Master Gunnery Sergeants here and the Master Chiefs, I don't know who to start beating up first. So line up in the back and take your beatings.

How is everyone today? I got to tell you, I am ecstatic to be up here. I had a couple of notes, and I think just with the emotion right now of meeting some of the people that I walked in here, meeting some of the people last night, I don't really need notes. And I'm going to go a little bit, I think, what you expect from a senior enlisted of our naval forces and you want to hear what is going on.

Today, when we start to talk, if we have questions at any time for what is going on -- and I know you have some really important business. And I got the Master Guns, they know when to give the Sergeant Major the stink eye. And I have a Command Master Chief over there that just probably killed the mike on me. But if you have any questions when we are talking, please feel free to bring them up.

I am going to be here for two days with you all. I know a lot of people like to do sidebars. You know the expression "sidebar"? Did you get that one? As long as you got that. Was that a good joke? I just thought of that. Are they doing okay, the casino thing? I thought all the donations have to go to the FRA. Because I was reading that orange book. I did read it. I fell asleep, but I did read the orange book. It worked like a charm. I needed no Scotch last night. I got to page 3 and went whoa! That's why the National President left, I take it.

But you know there is are a couple of things I wanted to talk about. I know the National President, John, had to take off right now. And I know what that important thing is. I want to thank him, because I got the letter from him. But then I also have a very new close friend in the room that I'd need to need to personally acknowledge and thank. That is my Shipmate Tom Snee over here. We got the invitation and we contacted him. And I want to tell you why I am here. I get invites to a lot of places and I get to go to a lot of places and meetings. And a lot of them I turn down, because it's a chance to be with Marines and sailors and now Coast Guardsmen, I like to do that. But when I read your mission statement, and being the only enlisted association that represents us on the Hill, I said: It's my God given right that I have to be here today. And one of the reasons why is you give us --

(APPLAUSE.)

SERGEANT MAJOR ANTHONY SPADARO: -- you give us the voice that we can't do while we wear the uniform. One common bond that we share in this room, we all swore to that beautiful, glorious flag right there. But now you are out, and I'm still in. And I have to be careful of what I say sometimes or could I think. But reading the mission mind-set and what is going on between loyalty, protection, and service with the FRA, you do give us the voice we need as enlisted within our naval services right now. To me, I'm here to say two very important words to you. First off: thank you. And second, the most important words and you are never going to believe a Sergeant Major is about to say this, but I love you all. I mean that.

(APPLAUSE.)

SERGEANT MAJOR ANTHONY SPADARO: You don't have to be politically -- well, I have to be. I don't like that word, "politically correct." That is a stupid term. You ever heard about that term? Everything has to be politically correct today. I hate that term.

When you are right, you are right. And when you believe in something, you are right. And why do I have to have that based on what I can and cannot say. And that's why I said when I am with my brothers and sisters here of the greatest naval force that has ever been seen on God's good earth, you are going to get what you want from the Sergeant Major.

And I have to warn you. I know that the Master Guns are going to groan right now and the Command Master Chiefs are going to try to figure out this one out. But you gave the Sergeant Major a mike. Did you all make head calls? Is the coffee charged? Because we might need some grog in a little bit.

This is what I want to say, why I am here. The important and I did read your stuff. And I'm not saying that as a joke. I did read through everything and I read through the great magazines, Lauren. And a couple of years ago when I joined the FRA, there is a great friend of mine who is not here, Master Gunnery Sergeant Lou Irving from Branch 70. And he asked me to be a guest speaker for Memorial Day observation at the Poway Branch. And that's important to us all here, Memorial Day, and what it means to us. And it was an honor.

And after it was all done, that group of gentlemen -- was that politically correct?

UNIDENTIFIED SHIPMATE: Shipmates.

SERGEANT MAJOR ANTHONY SPADARO: Let's say the right term. That

group of great Shipmates over there, I joined. And to be forthright, I didn't know what I was joining. No idea. Master Gun said: Join. Sign here. Pay here, right now. And I went aye-aye Master Gunnery Sergeant. And I got home and decided to look it all up. And then I started reading about the FRA, and I knew I made the right decision right there. And I knew the Master Guns, like any great Master Guns, is looking out for the Sergeant Major, and that's why I joined.

So it's certainly a privilege right now to stand in front of you as a member. But more importantly, what do you want to hear right now and what you need to hear is what is going on with our Marines, our Sailors, and our Coast Guardsmen. I am pretty blessed with my job and who I get to represent. And with my command, we have 109,000 Marines and Sailors. And that is huge. And we get to interact a lot with the Coast Guard.

And one reason I was telling our publicist over here, the PAO -- a great retired Coast Guardsman -- how I love the Coast Guard. And will I got to tell you in the room why a Marine loves the Coast Guard, because if I didn't join the Marine Corps, I would have been a Coast Guardsman. I'll tell you why. When they go to work every day they go locked and loaded. You have to think about what our Coast Guardsmen do out there every day protecting us.

You know, as a Marine we just beg to go to war. And we just got to wait until they send us to go to war. But your Coast Guardsmen out there every day, when they go out there they are locked and loaded. And they are going after bad guys. So, please, can we give a round of applause --

(APPLAUSE.)

SERGEANT MAJOR ANTHONY SPADARO: -- to -- wait. This is a hard crowd. You understand the Coast Guard is smaller than the New York Police Department. So that's why. That small, mighty force that defends how many miles of coastline and they keep us from harm. That's why we congratulate. Now you can clap.

(CHEERS AND APPLAUSE.)

SERGEANT MAJOR ANTHONY SPADARO: You know, we all have a classic naval battle in front of us right now, and that's this thing called the MCRMC. And I know you're very involved with that, Tom. And I read your testimony to the Senate.

And here is what we need in help from you right now. We do need your help. We need your voice up on the Hill right now, because if

you read through the 1,915 pages of the National Defense Authorization Act -- which I attempted to do a couple of weeks ago, and I tried to cut through it and I went "wow." And there is some impacts there. There is impacts to the active component; there is impacts to the reserve component; but more importantly there is impacts to our retirees.

We need to start this classic naval battle. And we need to get the battleships out of commission and start surrounding the Hill. I need a carrier battle group outside there, Tom, and we need to start engaging the people who supposedly are elected to represent our due interests right now. We need your help, because there are a lot of things that could be affected.

Now, let me tell you, you don't need to worry so much. Some of the concern is about the force of the future. We mean the force of the future, that is the young man or women right now who is getting ready to come in the Navy, the Marine Corps, or the Coast Guard. What are their reasons -- and not to put you in shock -- the reasons might be a little different from the same reasons that we all came in. Because a lot of people right now, if you thought about it, 9/11 happened how long ago? If you do math for Marines, that was 14 years ago. Did the Master Guns just figure that out?

NVP COURNEYA: Don't go there, now.

SERGEANT MAJOR ANTHONY SPADARO: But, you know, that young man or women when 9/11 happened, they were 4 years old, if they are coming in at 18. A lot of us don't recognize that. They are coming in and they want to serve our Nation, but they do have other reasons. There are a lot of forces that could affect their reasons for patriotism that we all extol why we love our flag.

So the reasons, though different, they are still signing up. We have had no problem in any of the sea services right now attracting the best and brightest that we have in this Nation. But you have to understand, the best and the brightest, there are other reasons they may might want to go. They may want to do something else.

A lot of people, they blame it on a job economy why someone is going to coming in the services. I think that is an insult. I don't think that we are getting the second-place person. That is what they imply when they say that. The economy is bad; go join the military. That's an insult. Because we are not second place. We only take first-teamers. And we are getting them right now.

I get to see what is coming in. I get to watch them grow and I ask them why are they coming in. And a lot of the reasons are, believe

it or not, is one, they want to serve. But two, a lot of them don't know how long.

Now, you have to consider that every year the services -- and this is the collective all of the services from the Army, the Navy, the Air Force, the Coast Guard, the Marine Corps -- 67 percent of the force get out every year. 67 percent. And then, believe it or not, practically only 11 to 14 percent of anyone that signs up will go on to a 20- or 30-year career.

So what you all represent is a very small minority right now with a very powerful voice to effect change. And this is where we need you. We need that voice. You heard why. The retirement is changing. You have heard about effects on the retirement. But you have to understand, the young ones of today they are a little savvy. And we are hoping that, if the retirement -- it will change. What we do need your support on is getting financial education classes. That is going to be critical.

Because, go back to when you were a young Lance Corporal or young Seaman. Can you do that? It's a little hard. But go back and remember what you were doing with your paycheck. It was going away, wasn't it? Some of you saved, I know that, but think about most of us all. Or think about that drunken Sailor on liberty. Where did that whole paycheck go to?

NED SNEE: Bailing the Marines out of jail.

SERGEANT MAJOR ANTHONY SPADARO: Did you hear that? Bailing the Marines out of jail, because we were beating someone up that made fun of a Sailor. How is that? We were beating up a soldier who made fun of a Sailor. That's why we went to jail. You think you are going to beat me, Master Chief?

NED SNEE: Give me an A for effort.

SERGEANT MAJOR ANTHONY SPADARO: You understand the motivations of who's coming in. We need to get their awareness, because we are thinking if we are going into attack with this retirement getting cut right now, they are going to need financial education. Because the young Marines are going to spend that money right away. There will be no money for them unless we emphasize -- now, that is in the NDAA, a very small part of it, getting financial education. This is where I need your help. You are sitting there and you're getting to talk to the young Sailor, or young Marine or Coast Guardsman, to sit them down and give them life advice. Because, believe it or not, they do listen.

This is where I see the FRA could make a definite point of emphasis and help to us. When you are with the young ones, educate them on this stuff. This is how I need your help.

I saw on some of your things you want to start to exploit social media, and I agree with you. Social media is the key. But the problem is some of us still don't know what Facebook is and Instagram and SnapShot and this chat and up this and you that. I don't get it. They say the young ones, that's all they communicate with. And you know what I say on that? I want to use a dirty word right now. That's right. Thank you. Who said that? Master Sergeant, I bet, said that over there.

Nothing replaces kneecap-to-kneecap, face-to-face, eyeball-to-eyeball engagement. And this is what we are all classic with. I am not going to communicate with a Marine vis-a-vis a little smartphone. I'm going to grab, then I'm look to look them in the running lights, and I'm going to talk to them about life. And this is where I still need your engagement.

I look at your magazine and I see once in a while, I see a young Sailor in one of the pictures. I see a Marine or Coast Guardsman. When you talk to them and spend five minutes of your time with them and you pass on your wisdom, your knowledge, your experience, you're giving them what any social media thing could never give them. You are giving them real life and that's what I need from you right now.

But, yes, continue to exploit social media. Your National President -- I think I even got a line from him on social media engagement. I did read it. I don't want to steal Tom's "press on," because I kind of like "press on." I got it right here. Your National President said this. He goes, "About social media, think outside the box." Does that come from the National President?

That's where I need your help. Think outside the box. This is what I need when you are thinking outside the box. Embrace technology. Learn technology. But nothing will ever replace kneecap-to-kneecap, face-to-face, eyeball-to-eyeball engagement. Are you with me on that one?

(APPLAUSE.)

UNIDENTIFIED SHIPMATE: Press on.

SERGEANT MAJOR ANTHONY SPADARO: What's that? Press on? I bet that was a Senior Chief that said that.

This is where I could give you some advice. I need you to be

visionaries in your recruiting efforts. And what I mean by visionaries, I need you to start developing succession plans. And when I say succession plans, remember we are all replaceable. Even the Master Gunnery Sergeants, you are replaceable.

Stop thinking about today and think about tomorrow. Develop a succession plan. We are doing that now in the military. Before we used to really be good on what we did lately. What was good the last days. And that doesn't work anymore. The problem is that sometimes when we fight wars, we keep fighting the last war and we don't look what the next war is. But now we are starting to do that.

And in the Marine Corps, we had a visionary called General Joseph Dunford, who is now our Chairman of the Joint Chiefs Staff. And he was replaced by General Miller. And both of them had the same message: We have got to start being visionaries in fighting the next war now. We've got to start looking at that. They said to us: We are all replaceable. There is someone out there who is going to be sitting here. There is going to be a National Convention 50 years from now and the ones that we recruit now are going to be the people that will be sitting in this room.

So what is that succession plan? What are you developing now? For Lauren, what is the social media engagement? How are you going to get that out? I read how the National President said: Hey, we started making phone calls to members to renew your membership. I was one of those guys that got that phone call. Was that you? It wasn't you, but I got the phone call. Now, I didn't answer. I listened to the message. But I let me fingers do the walking and I got online and I signed up right now. How is that? I don't like to talk on the phone. My wife blames me on that all the time. I'm not a phone talker.

But it worked and it got me to renew that way. But what else? Social media? Yeah. Is that how you are going to get the word out to the young ones? That may be your plan. Don't be afraid to get them to come out to certain events. When you get us old guys, we could have some effects on who we could enlist for you. Maybe you could start there and give them a temporary membership. And maybe when you give them a temporary membership, the next year when they get that phone call they might sign up for the next year. And then sign up for the next year.

Now, I know that is at great cost. And I know, when you are talking and budgets and everyone's is tight right now. But think about that. If you could go up to a young Sailor or young Marine or young Coast Guardsman and say: Here is a temporary membership to the FRA.

And the next year when they get that phone call, or reminder, or they get a little message on their phone, they go: You know what? I've started to check out the FRA. And you have to keep emphasizing you are the only enlisted association out of all the VSOs right now that represents us on the Hill fighting for us. I guarantee you, some of them will keep signing up and they will keep signing up. And guess what? Fifty years from now there will be a kick-ass convention one more time. That's what I need from you.

As I said, we have a new Commandant of the Marine Corps. We have a new Chief of Naval Operations. The Coast Guard's Chief has been out there about a year now, but he is awesome. I got to meet him the other day. I got to have a great conversation with him. But we have had some change in the upper leadership and I don't think business is going to change right now. I like what General Miller is saying. His buzz word is, "Let's go do this." "Let's go do this." Sort of like "press on," Tom. "Let's go do this." And when he says that to the Marines -- "Let's go do this" -- is that there is going to be other battles, there is going to be other fights. If you stay in the Marine Corps, we are going to make sure that you have the best equipment, you have the best training, because we will defeat our Nation's enemies, because there is no second place for that. Are you with me on that one?

(APPLAUSE.)

SERGEANT MAJOR ANTHONY SPADARO: One thing I could say about the young ones right now, they intuitively know what it is to serve with the finest people on their left and right. Some of you get to see some of them. Some of your children are serving. Probably some of your grandchildren are serving. And some of you, I dare say, great grandchildren. They are serving. I bet you a lot of those reasons is because you served and you continue that legacy to this Nation that we keep getting patriots to sign up to defend our country.

But I've got to tell you, they do know. I am with these young men and women. I look them in their eyes and they are, sometimes, no different than you. If I could roll back the clock right now and put you back in uniform, when you were a young Lance Corporal or young Sergeant or young Petty Officer Second Class, I could see that right now in this room. They are serving for the right reasons.

But this is where I need your protection. They don't care about the NDAA, because they can't even spell the NDAA. They don't. All they care about is they are paid every two weeks and they are thanked for their service along the way. The benefits have been more generous than ever. Think about when you came in and think at the benefit of the average Sailor or Marine gets -- or Coast Guardsman gets on the



way out now.

There is a great 9/11 -- we call it the GI Bill, which is fantastic and what it provides for them. You want to know something, why I love the Sailors and Marines and Coastguardsmen? When they take advantage of the GI Bill and they graduate, they are going to be running the Nation one day. So why not give them the opportunity to have a top flight education so they can get out, maybe become that guy on the Hill, Tom, that you have to engage with. But at least they can say they served.

You can see the shifting sands right now, Tom, in Congress where more and more we are starting to get more veterans that have served. And these are the people we are going to need to affect. If we get FRA involved with them, they are going to start realizing. Because some of them -- right now we actually have enlisted men and women that are running for seats. And we get them involved and there is our wedge point.

So we call that the force of the future. Where is this force of the future? They are still enlisting. The Marine Corps, our end state right now is 184,000. I know the Navy, they are cutting down a little bit right now. But you know what they did in the Navy? They did something interesting. Something some of you Navy men remember a couple of years ago. They started getting rid of the Master Chiefs and the Senior Chiefs, and some of the Chiefs right now, so there is more opportunity for the Petty Officers to start moving up because they are ready to take the reins. The Coast Guard, well, the Coast Guard stays the same at 39-4. God bless the Coast Guard. We have more in the Marine Forces Reserve right now, but I don't want to rub that in. But they are mighty.

So that is what is going on. It's an honor to stand in front of you all, because when I look at you -- I've always told a lot of people, I got to be a Sergeant Major because I had Master Gunnery Sergeants who raised me. When I was a young Sergeant on the USS Germantown, I had a Master Chief that became my mentor and he got me my Enlisted Surface Warfare Qualification. Yeah. It was a Marine that earned it.

And my little sea story on that was Master Chief Nelson, who was the Command Master Chief of the USS Germantown, I started to do my Enlisted Surface Warfare, because we were on the Germantown for 9 months. One of those long deployments. And I quit it after a little while. I thought this is ridiculous. I am never going to learn this. This is 1991.

And it was a little different when you had to earn your ESWS back

then. A little different. And I remember, I just quit. I said: I'm not going to do this anymore. I go down with the snipes and I'm sitting there and all you see is my eyes, because I'm covered in crap.

(APPLAUSE.)

SERGEANT MAJOR ANTHONY SPADARO: Right? You know what I'm talking about. I'm trying to learn the ship's engines rooms, and I'm trying to learn ship's electrical systems. I had no clue. And I guess the word got up to Master Chief that Sergeant Spadaro just stopped. And I am in my berthing area and I got a phone call from the Master Chief. He said, "Sergeant Spadaro, it's Master Chief Nelson. How are you doing?" I said, "I'm doing good, Master Chief." He goes, "Do me a favor. Come by my berthing." "Aye aye, Master Chief."

I go down to his berthing and walk in and -- boom -- I get thrown up against the bulkhead. And he said, "Why did you quit, Marine? And I said, "Master Chief, I'm a Marine. Just give me a gun, I'm fine. It's like that." And he goes, "Meet me in my berthing every night at 2000." And for the next week I would sit down with Master Chief Nelson at 2000 to about 0100 in the morning. And for one week straight, he peppered me with everything I needed to know.

And all the sudden I went into my board and it started on a Thursday at 10 o'clock in the morning. And about 1700, we quit because I was answering questions -- I couldn't even answer yes-and-no questions, they said: We are going to start this again on Friday at 1000. They started again. About 1500, the CO of the ship, Commander Marshall, walked in and started asking some questions. Walks out. The XO came in, started asking some questions. And the Master Chief came in and started asking some questions. And they went to me, "You're dismissed."

All right. I thought -- I didn't know what I was answering at this point. The best part was when they went up to me and one of the electronics guys, one of the EW guys goes up to me and he goes, "Hey, how did power get to that light right there?" I thought it was a trick question, so I went to the light switch and I turned it on and off.

(LAUGHTER AND APPLAUSE.)

SERGEANT MAJOR ANTHONY SPADARO: That wasn't the answer. And the next thing I know -- one of the greatest days of my life as a Marine happened when all the sudden on the 1MC it said, 'Sergeant Spadaro, report to the 06 level.' And I go up to the 06 level and there and they were. It was the ship's complement of Sailors and the

detachment of Marines. And they read the original mandate that created the United States Marine Corps in 10 November 1775 that said, "Such that two battalions of Marines will be put forth. As such, they will be able seamen." And then they pinned on my Enlisted Surface Warfare designator.

(APPLAUSE.)

SERGEANT MAJOR ANTHONY SPADARO: That's why I say I was raised by Master Chiefs. I was raised by Master Gunnery Sergeants. And that's how I got to be a Sergeant Major standing in front of you.

So, are there any questions at this time? Nothing? You want to take a picture? You are rolling up for a question?

PRPNC COMBS: Sarge -- you mind if I call you Sarge?

SERGEANT MAJOR ANTHONY SPADARO: How about you call me Tony or Shipmate.

PRPNC COMBS: Shipmate. That will work too. Combs, delegate Branch 161. I've got to tell the reporter that over there. Plus this Marine here can't remember anyway.

Last year when Secretary of Defense Hagel left office, he told DOD to allow the VSOs back on the bases. Are they taking that at heart?

SERGEANT MAJOR ANTHONY SPADARO: Did everyone hear the question, about are we going to get veteran services organizations back on the bases? Is that what the essentially? All right.

What we know right now is there has been a lot of VSOs created because of 9/11. And if you notice in the old days, you had FRA. You had the American Legion. You had the Veterans of Foreign Wars. For us, we had the Marine Corps League. You had the Navy League. And then all the sudden you notice after the war a bunch of different organizations popped up. Some of these organizations, their charters weren't in the best interest of the servicemen and women. It was in the best interest of raising a lot of money for a lot of people for a lot of bad reasons. And some of you are aware of that. And we had to kick a lot of people off base. And I know that upset a lot of our veterans, because they have just as much right to be on that base as anybody.

So we had to take a look at it. That is one of the reasons why the VSOs went away for a while. What they are doing right now is they are still scrubbing it. I know the classics of FRA, the Marine Corps League, they are protected. And they will get them on base

and I can guarantee that to you. But the issue is we still have to do some background checks on a lot of these groups. And that is what is causing the consternation. Sometimes some of you all are members of multiple organizations. Not that I'm saying do not become members of multiple organizations. No. But some of them, you have to sit and look and you might have thought it was for the right reasons. And some of these ones you still have to do scrutiny.

That is what has caused this big churn. I know I had a nice conversation with Tom yesterday about we can start getting those things involved. Part of my job as Sergeant Major for Marine Forces Reserve and Marine Forces North, and I get to spend two weeks out of each month in Washington, D.C. And I have some contacts at the Pentagon and tend to exploit that, to see especially about getting FRA involved. I do think it is important.

Again, there is are lot of people who do not understand that you are the only enlisted association that protects our enlisted men and women. Did that answer your question, sir?

PRPNC COMBS: Partially.

SERGEANT MAJOR ANTHONY SPADARO: Partially? Yes, sir?

NVP COURNEYA: Is that the reason they are still going through the JAG on the bases?

SERGEANT MAJOR ANTHONY SPADARO: Yes. Before I go to the head, I ask the JAG right now. It's gotten so involved right now and so much things have happened because of this long war. And literally, before I make a head call -- just to get this trip alone this had to be approved by the JAG that I could come up here. Because everything is scrupulously checked, because we have people out there that are doing some really bad things right now and are representing some really poor things out there.

He is finding a mike he could use.

PRPNC COMBS: It comes up to my mouth and I can talk into this -- again.

NVP COURNEYA: Shipmate, please identify yourself for the reporter.

PRPNC COMBS: Combs, delegate, Branch 161. The reason I ask this is back in '98, we resurrected a Branch in Indianapolis. And I visited the Reserve Center there. It was called the Reserve Center then, it's a NOSC now or support center, whatever you want to call it. It

had a beautiful building. I talked to the CO and he said: We will do what we can. The CO at the Reserve Center at the time. And he took us up on the sixth level, sixth deck. They had a nice ballroom, kitchen, everything. And he said: Not only when you get resurrected, you can hold your meetings here. Well, he left and the next CO threw them out. That's the reason I asked.

SERGEANT MAJOR ANTHONY SPADARO: I understand. Did everyone here that if the VSOs could actually use the Government facilities? Is that the question?

PRPNC COMBS: Here today and gone out tomorrow.

SERGEANT MAJOR ANTHONY SPADARO: That is a tough one and I don't have the answer for that one. Again, if someone is doing that, they have to get permission. Because that is a Federal building. And they have to be protected right now. And I've got to tell you, we are sensitive right now about what is going on at our Reserve sites. And if you read the paper about what happened on July 16th, we got to be real smart about it. That was one of my units and I was there on -- I got there on July 18th and I got to spend time there.

So we are getting tight with what is going on at the Reserve sites right now. They are sitting right out there in the open. And not that I'm saying that you guys are the bad guys. God no. But you have to take a look at it. But we will find out. I can't make any promises definitely up here. And I think the Sergeant Major has a lot of power on that one. But I have to be careful about promises that I make. I don't want to make promises I can't keep. We will find out for you.

Another one is jumping up.

RPNE/NEng HUNT: I have a question on the same matter. I'm Floyd Hunt, delegate, from Branch 214. And about a month ago, I had to go to a graveside ceremony for one of our Shipmates who died about year ago. They finally decided to bury his ashes. But my question came up, I wanted to go to the Naval Reserve Center nearby. I had a question for the Navy. So my Branch President directed me where it was. I got there and I couldn't get in, because there was a big gate up. Apparently, what had happened I found out later was that, since this incident that you brought up down in Chattanooga, Tennessee, where the four Marines were shot and killed --

SERGEANT MAJOR ANTHONY SPADARO: And one Sailor.

RPNE/NEng HUNT: And one Sailor died, that now what you have to do -- what I was instructed and I want to find out if it was true --

you have to call the Reserve Center up, if you can get their phone number. That is the number one thing. You call them first and let them know when you are coming. And you have to actually be there at that time so they can open this gate up. They had this huge gate closed. It isn't everyday business anymore, you can just drive is.

So is that true? You have to call them ahead of time?

SERGEANT MAJOR ANTHONY SPADARO: I've heard that -- on behalf of everybody here, is how are you going to get into the Reserve site, and you are saying they are saying you have to call. I think every one is going to be different. There is nothing standard right now. Calling is probably one of the best ways to identify if you want to go visit one, Good Sir. Everyone might have different procedures. There is nothing set right now. We have put instruction down, if someone wants to come to the Reserve site -- because it's the same thing as someone's spouse is coming. Because you are probably going to have to meet them. We are guarding and we are building up our actually how you are going to get into the Reserve site.

RPNE/NEng HUNT: Exactly, that's what I was instructed. Correct.

SERGEANT MAJOR ANTHONY SPADARO: A lot of time the DOD type card, that kind of helps. But you wouldn't believe who shows up at our Reserve sites now. The Marine Corps is going to be starting the Toys for Tots soon, and we have to be careful on what ask going to be -- support the Toys for Tots; right? I can tell you a lot about Toys for Tots, but time is getting short here.

I would recommend, sir -- getting a number? I could tell you how to get the number for the Reserve sites for the Marine Corps right now. If you could only get one number, I bet you could call to the Marine side and they could direct you how to the Navy side and how to get to the right side. I would recommend, sir, giving a call. That might be a smart answer.

RPNE/NEng HUNT: Thank you very much.

JrPNP KILGORE: Sergeant Major, Kilgore, delegate, Branch 22. I just wanted to let you know, you've done Master Chief Nelson proud. He and I were -- is that a right term -- teetotalers together.

SERGEANT MAJOR ANTHONY SPADARO: Shipmates.

JrPNP KILGORE: Always shipmates, but you have done him proud, Sergeant Major.

SERGEANT MAJOR ANTHONY SPADARO: Thank you, sir.

(APPLAUSE.)

NVP COURNEYA: Anymore questions?

SERGEANT MAJOR ANTHONY SPADARO: Could I do a toast real quick?

NVP COURNEYA: Go ahead.

SERGEANT MAJOR ANTHONY SPADARO: I want to do a toast. Anything you got. I don't care what it is. Water is good. I could bless it.

(Three raps of the gavel.)

SERGEANT MAJOR ANTHONY SPADARO: Ready for this toast? I thought this one up in the room. This is a good one. Okay?

So I want to toast. I want to toast the FRA.

SHIPMATES: Hear, hear.

SERGEANT MAJOR ANTHONY SPADARO: I want to toast the Auxiliary, the beautiful ladies who are involved with it. I want to make a toast to all the enlisted men and women who defend our naval forces right now.

SHIPMATES: Hear, hear.

SERGEANT MAJOR ANTHONY SPADARO: So with that toast to the FRA and all that wore the cloth of this great Nation, raise your glasses. And if you agree with me, keep them up there. And if you don't agree with me, raise your standards.

SHIPMATES: Hear, hear.

(One rap of the gavel.)

SERGEANT MAJOR ANTHONY SPADARO: You know what, if I was a young sergeant again, I'd be going like this all day.

(Rapping the gavel.)

SERGEANT MAJOR ANTHONY SPADARO: I'd have people going up and down all day. What is four? Oh, four is for kneeling? Can I say thank you?

NVP COURNEYA: You can say whatever you want.

SERGEANT MAJOR ANTHONY SPADARO: Shipmates, Master Chief up here. The Navy never gave me hot water anyway. If I had hot water, I might take a shower on a ship.

All right. Let me finish with this. How do you spell time?

UNIDENTIFIED SHIPMATE: T-I-M-E.

SERGEANT MAJOR ANTHONY SPADARO: You think you spell it T-I-M-E? This is how Spadaro spells time: L-O-V-E.

(APPLAUSE.)

SERGEANT MAJOR ANTHONY SPADARO: When you sit there and I get to spend this time with you all, it's my simple way of giving my time back to tell you that I L-O-V-E you all. Thank you all, Shipmates.

(APPLAUSE.)

NVP COURNEYA: Since the National President isn't here, on his behalf we have a little gift for you. A token of our appreciation for you being here and being a Shipmate. And, you know, what he did say -- he said how Sergeant Majors, we mentor them and everything. But usually there's a running joke when you get to be an E-9 in the Marine Corps, on the working side of the house, he wanted to know if I could count earlier. They are known as 99. 99, do you know what that is? That's an unskilled laborer. That's why they needed to train.

(LAUGHTER.)

NVP COURNEYA: All right. Thank you.

SERGEANT MAJOR ANTHONY SPADARO: Thanks everybody.

(APPLAUSE.)

UNIDENTIFIED SHIPMATE: You have got to open it up.

SERGEANT MAJOR ANTHONY SPADARO: There are a lot of gifts in here. All right. Which one should I open first?

NED SNEE: Your choice.

SERGEANT MAJOR ANTHONY SPADARO: I'll go with the big one. Oh, it's a business card. Wow. Oh, wow. The Chief. Is that great or what? Look at that.



(APPLAUSE.)

SERGEANT MAJOR ANTHONY SPADARO: With a cup of coffee on a fan tail. And just as I remember, Master Chief Tom Nelson right there over-watching his Marines. I am going to put this high. Especially my brother who works next to me, the Command Master Chief of the Marine Forces Reserve, he is going to love this while it's sitting over there. I guess I can't do Popeye jokes anymore. Oh, wow. One more. Look at that letter opener right there. That's nice. This is a weapon. I love it. I love weapons. Thank you, guys. Thank you so much. What's next? Do I have to hit it?

(One rap of the gavel.)

SERGEANT MAJOR ANTHONY SPADARO: I could be the President!

NVP COURNEYA: And you guys said Marines couldn't be trained.

(LAUGHTER.)

NVP COURNEYA: Shipmate at the rear mike. Who you are?

RVPWC LECLAIR: Pat LeClaire, delegate, Branch 192. If I may approach the podium.

NVP COURNEYA: Come on up.

SERGEANT MAJOR ANTHONY SPADARO: Thank you very much. You're in trouble. I've got a challenge going. Drink up, Shipmates. Drink up.

NVP COURNEYA: Anybody need a break before we continue on with the Credentials report?

(3 taps of the gavel.)

NVP COURNEYA: Shipmate National Chaplain, close the Bible, please.

NCHAP HALL: Shipmate National Vice President, the Bible is closed.

NVP COURNEYA: Thank you, Shipmate National Chaplain. Be back in the room at 1030.

(Recess).

NVP COURNEYA: Shipmate Master-at-Arms, invite the Shipmates into the hall and close the doors.

MASTER-AT-ARMS: Shipmate National Vice President, the Shipmates are in the hall and the doors are closed.

NVP COURNEYA: Thank you, Shipmate Master-at-Arms.

Shipmate National Chaplain, will you please open the Bible.

Uncover.

NCHAP HALL: Shipmate National Vice President, the Bible is open.

NVP COURNEYA: Thank you, Shipmate National Chaplain.

(Three raps of the gavel.)

NVP COURNEYA: I was practicing.

(LAUGHTER.)

JrPNP KILGORE: Shipmate National President, you were talking about him? Kilgore, 22, delegate.

NVP COURNEYA: I didn't have my shoes off.

Could I have the Credentials Chairman. Shipmate Brice.

PRPSE BRICE: Brice, 187, delegate, Chattanooga, Tennessee.

Third report of the Credentials Committee. As of 0900 this morning. I am going to read the whole thing because it's easier than going through and change this, change that.

211 branches total.

1,588 is the voting strength.

Bravo, 75. Charlie -- the top line.

UNIDENTIFIED SHIPMATE: Hold on.

PRPSE BRICE: What's the matter, Shipmates? This is the same form we've been using since we got here.

Third report of the Credentials Committee. You look under there, it says B. It has a period after it. Bravo is 75. Charlie, 839. Delta, 96. Echo, 488. Foxtrot, 40. Golf, 141. Hotel, 1,327. India, 261. Juliet, 885. Kilo, 664.

We have one Branch that registered, 299. Take it off your Branches not registered.

On the tally sheets in the back of your book, I'm going to go through and read the NBRs that are applicable to the Branches concerned. These are in descending order.

Branch 363, NBR 21-15, charter was surrendered.  
 Branch 361, NBR 38-15, charter was surrendered.  
 Branch 348, NBR 03-15, charter was revoked.  
 Branch 327, NBR 34-15, was reinstated. The votes are 3.  
 Branch 313, NBR 21-14, charter surrendered.  
 Branch 300, NBR 28-14, surrendered.  
 Branch 288, NBR 22-14, surrendered.  
 Branch 272, NBR 31-15, surrendered.  
 Branch 267, NBR 37-15, merged with Branch 161.

Next page.

Branch 249, NBR 20-14, surrendered.  
 Branch 246, NBR 18-15, surrendered.  
 Branch 241, NBR 26-14, surrendered.  
 Branch 206, NBR 01-15, revoked.

Next page.

Branch 203, NBR 25-14, merged with Branch 201.  
 Branch 160, NBR 36-14, surrendered.  
 Branch 145, NBR 33-15, reinstated, 4 votes.

Next page.

Branch 120, NBR 42-15, suspended.  
 Branch 119, NBR 41-15, revoked.

Next page.

Branch 50, NBR 23-14, surrendered.  
 Branch 43, NBR 31-14, revoked.

Next page.

Branch 32, NBR 33-14, merged with Branch 161.  
 Branch 28, NBR 34-14, suspended.  
 Branch 27, NBR 02-15, revoked.

Does anybody need me to repeat any of these?

UNIDENTIFIED SHIPMATE: The first two.

PRPSE BRICE: The first two were -- 363 was NBR 21-15, charter was surrendered. 361, NBR 38-15, surrendered.

Anybody else?

RPNC-Elect CUNNINGHAM: Marcia Cunningham, delegate, Branch 14. I've got a question about the status of Branch 283. We are showing it as not registered, but I'm their proxy.

PRPSE BRICE: 283 has never -- nobody representing 283 has come to the table and registered.

NVP COURNEYA: Shipmate Cunningham, go ahead and take care of that and we will get you in the next report. We will do another report.

RPNC-Elect CUNNINGHAM: Thank you. This was given to me. I thought it was done.

NVP COURNEYA: Get with the Credentials Chairman and make sure you sign in for that Branch and you can get included in the next report.

PRPSE BRICE: Shipmate National Vice President, this concludes my report. I move that it be accepted.

NVP COURNEYA: I have a motion to accept the Credentials Report as read.

PRPNC COMBS: Combs, delegate, Branch 161, seconds.

NVP COURNEYA: I have a motion and a second. Are there any questions? If there are no questions, the report will be accepted.

(One rap of the gavel.)

NVP COURNEYA: At this time we are going to move on to committee reports. I would like the Chairman for Future Planning to give his report at this time, Pete Lazzaretti. Shipmate Lazzaretti?

PRPNW LAZZARETTI: Good morning, Shipmates. The National Committee on Future Planning met in Salon IV, northeast corner of the Spokane City Center DoubleTree Hotel, Spokane, Washington, at 0915 on October 15th, 2015.

In attendance were myself as Chairman, PRPNW Pete Lazzaretti, Seattle Branch 18.

Members: PRPNC Norm Combs, Branch 161.  
PRPWC Rick Fetro, Branch 101.

And we had three visitors: Shipmate Vanetta Charles and Shipmate Dan Cheche of Branch 99, and of course Paul Gunther jumped in as the photographer.

Shipmate National President, National Officers, Past National Officers and Shipmates, first I would like to thank you for the privilege of serving on this committee for the last three years and as Chairman this year.

Secondly, we the National Committee on Future Planning are making the following recommendations to the National Board for action:

Number 1. With most outside sources of income for National Headquarters coming from premiums generated from sales and services to the Association membership, we recommend that the National Board of Directors direct National Headquarters to investigate and pursue opportunities upon approval of the National board to generate a sustainable and viable income that does not require our membership to purchase services or goods outside of FRA logoed items.

Number 2. With the recent approval of Former Secretary of Defense Chuck Hagel to open bases to veteran service organizations, we recommend that the National Board of Directors direct the FRA National Headquarters Staff and the Director of Membership Development to draft a cover letter to military bases with a copy of the SECDEF direction for Branches to use as a marketing tool to be able to set up recruiting tables onboard local military installations.

And Number 3. In order for the Future Planning Committee to come up with ideas to help bolster our membership with younger Shipmates, we recommend, upon direction from the National Board of Directors, that the National Executive Director reach out to the Master Chief Petty Officer of the Navy, the Master Chief Petty Officer of the Coast Guard, the Sergeant Major of the Marine Corps, and their Reserve counterparts and invite their input to the committee. Additionally, we believe that any future Chair of this committee should invite younger Shipmates to participate in and on the committee in order to get a younger perspective.

This concludes the report of the National Committee on Future Planning. I move that our recommendations be adopted. In loyalty, service, and protection, Pete Lazzaretti, Chairman, National Committee on Future Planning.

NVP COURNEYA: It has been moved that the report be adopted. Do we have any questions?

PRPNC COMBS: Combs, delegate, Branch 161, seconds.

NVP COURNEYA: We have a second. No questions?

(One rap of the gavel.)

NVP COURNEYA: And received.

All those in favor.  
Opposed.

Ayes have it.

We will now hear from the Chairman of Legislative Services, NED Tom Snee.

NED SNEE: Thank you, Shipmate National Vice President. National Officers, Past National Officers, Past Regional Officers, and Shipmates, the National Convention Committee on Legislative Service met in Salon III of the Spokane City Center DoubleTree Hotel, in Spokane, Washington, at 0915 on October 15th, 2015.

Chairman, myself, was present.

Members: PRPWC Joe Nash, of Branch 192.

Advisor: John Davis, Branch 181.

Guests that were included -- and it was quite extensive, so please bear with me. And they were also Shipmates and Auxiliary members:

Roland Shorter, Branch 8  
Michelle Davis, Branch 38  
Paul Phelps, Branch 40  
Shirley Vatter, Branch 93  
Tom Vatter, Branch 93  
RPNC Curry Sanders, Branch 161  
Dorothy Sanders, Unit 161  
Marcia Cunningham, Branch 14  
RPSW-Elect Don Kelley, Branch 289  
Marlan Tryersen, Branch 210  
Frank Gates, Branch 293  
Arthur Caligurian, Branch 4  
Myrus Caligurian, Branch 4

Caluido Pedery, Branch 4  
 Emilie Dearing, Unit 4  
 RPSC Don Gibson, Branch 11  
 Eugene Miller, Branch 24  
 Gary Miller, Branch 136  
 Cristina Dixon, Unit 4  
 Cathleen Ursula Gruetzner, Branch 201  
 PRPWC Joe Nash, previously mentioned, Branch 192  
 Vanetta Charles, Branch 99  
 Rex Faubian, Branch 10  
 NP John Ippert, Branch 46  
 Mark Thompson, Branch 104  
 Janese Truelsen, Branch 210  
 PRPEC Paul Gunther, Branch 182  
 Les Wilson, Branch 268  
 NVP Virgil Courneya, Branch 274

The National Legislative Service Committee met and reviewed the report to the Delegates of the 88th National Convention, which includes the minutes from the April 2015 meeting that we had.

Areas that we are looking at:

Expand health care options:

- Health care reform.
- Oppose excessive TRICARE enrollment fees.
- Support adequate funding for Defense Health Agency, commonly called DHA.
- DOD/VA health care resource sharing.
- Pharmaceutical drug benefits.
- Allow military retirees to pay for health care with pretax dollars.

Under the protection of personnel programs:

- Active duty pay.
- Portable TSP for those who served less than 20 years.
- Ensure early retirement benefits for involuntarily separated personnel.
- Defense budget.
- Military resale system, which includes the commissaries and exchanges, just for clarification.
- End strengths be reviewed.
- Basic allowance for housing be reviewed.
- PCS reform.
- Tuition assistance for Navy and Marine Corps Reserves.
- SCRA enforcement/predatory lending protections

- Coast Guard parity.
- Impact Aid programs.
- Reservists out-of-pocket expenses.
- Sea service recruiters.

Under veterans issues:

- Monitor the implementation of the VA Choice card program.
- Improve Department of Veterans Affairs funding.
- Support Blue Water Navy Agent Orange disability claims.
- Oppose access fees.
- Improve VA health claim processing.
- Expand VA Caregivers Act.
- Education enhancements.
- Reserve retirees veterans' status.

Under the safeguard of the retiree benefits:

- Protect military retired or retainer pay.
- Concurrent receipt.
- Reserve retirement age.
- USFSPA.
- Retention of final month's retired pay.
- SBP/DIC offsets.
- Paid-up SBP at age 67.
- And what we normally call BRAC, is base closures.

The National Committee on Legislative Service also recommends the following:

That the Honorable Tim Walz of Minnesota receive the FRA's 2016 Pinnacle Award to be presented at the ceremony in April 2016, in conjunction with the National Board of Director Hill visits.

I wish to thank the members of the National Convention Committee and Legislative Service for their efforts, advice, and assistance on this report, and for your contributions during the past year.

This concludes the report of the 88th National Convention Committee on Legislative Service, and I move the adoption of this report and legislative agenda recommendations contained therein.

In Loyalty, Protection, and Service, Thomas J. Snee, Chairman.

NVP COURNEYA: The report has been moved. Do I have a second?

PRPNE MUNDAY: Munday, Branch 124, delegate, seconds.



NVP COURNEYA: We have a second on the report of the Legislation Committee. Is there any discussion?  
 All those in favor, signify by saying aye.  
 Opposed.  
 The ayes have it.

(One rap of the gavel.)

NVP COURNEYA: At this time we will have Honorary Membership and Certificate of Merit. Shipmate McIntyre.

PRPWC MCINTYRE: Good morning, Shipmates. The report of the Chairman of the 88th National Convention Committee on Honorary Membership and Certificate of Merit, Spokane City Center DoubleTree Hotel, Spokane, Washington, October 15, 2015.

The National Committee on Honorary Membership and Certificate of Merit met in Salon room IV of the Spokane City DoubleTree Hotel, Spokane, Washington, at 0915 on October 15th, 2015.

In attendance was Chairman, PRP Charles McIntyre, me, Branch 101.

Members: JrPRPSE Fredrick A. Hill, Branch 290  
 Rosemary Posekany, Branch 298.

Visitor was RPSC Donald R. Gibson, Branch 11.

The committee reviewed three resolutions for Honorary Membership and one resolution for Certificate of Merit, all of which met the requirements of the Bylaws of the FRA.

Before I start, I'd like to gets on a soap box. The Committee and I felt that Honorary Membership had to have -- not only go by the Bylaws, but had to have something quantitative -- I like that word -- something you can count that the person did for the FRA. Something tangible. And now I'll get off my soap box.

I will read each recommendation on a proceed basis. If a Shipmate has a question, please state your question. If a Shipmate has an objection, please say "objection" and I will then put a motion on the floor for discussion.

Number 1. Captain Gil J. Miller; committee voted recommendation for selection for Honorary Membership in accordance with Article 3, Section 306, C&BL, FRA.

Mr. William Bryan; committee voted recommendation for selection for Honorary Membership in accordance with Article 3, Section 306, C&BL,

FRA.

UNIDENTIFIED SHIPMATE: Proceed.

PRPWC MCINTYRE: Ms. Rachael Maguire; committee voted recommendation for Honorary Membership in accordance with Article 3, Section 306, C&BL FRA.

UNIDENTIFIED SHIPMATE: Proceed.

PRPWC MCINTYRE: And for the Certificate of Merit, Shipmate Arturo M. Mendoza, Branch 171; committee voted recommendation for Certificate of Merit in accordance with Article 15, Section 1505, C&BL FRA.

Shipmates, this concludes the report of the Honorary Membership and Certificate of Merit Committee. Shipmate National President and Shipmates, on behalf of the committee, we truly enjoyed serving and we thank you.

I move that the committee report be sapped.

In Loyalty, Protection and Service,  
Charles R. McIntyre, Chairman.

PRPEC GUNTHER: Shipmate National Vice President.

NVP COURNEYA: Shipmate at the rear mike.

PRPEC GUNTHER: Gunther, delegate, Branch 182, seconds.

NVP COURNEYA: We have a second. The report has been moved and seconded. To accept the report, All those in favor, signify by saying aye.  
Opposed, nay.

(One rap of the gavel.)

NVP COURNEYA: The report is accepted. Thank you, Shipmate.  
We will now move on to -- go ahead, Shipmate.

RPEC-Elect COLLINS: Shipmate National President, Collins, delegate, Branch 24. The awards and plaques for these honorees have been approved by the delegates are here on the table over to my right. So they could be picked up by the appropriate person or the region.

NVP COURNEYA: Will you ensure that they get to the right people?

RPEC-Elect COLLINS: Correct.

NVP COURNEYA: All right. Thank you, Shipmate.

Our next report being on Membership and Retention.

RPEC-Elect COLLINS: Shipmate National President, National Officers, Past National Officers, Regional Presidents, Past Regional Presidents, and Shipmates, the National Convention Committee on Membership and Retention convened at DoubleTree Hotel on Thursday, October 15th at 9:15 a.m.

In attendance were myself as the Chair, Penny Collins, Branch 24.

Members of the committee included:

RPNW-Elect Marcia Cunningham, Branch 24  
 PRPSE James E. Robbins, Jr., Branch 91  
 PRPNW Dean F. Miller, Branch 29  
 Shipmate William S. Matthews, Branch 197

Advisor:Shipmate Franklin C. Gates, Branch 293.

Visitors were as follows:

RPSC Don Gibson, Branch 11  
 Shipmate Paul Phelps, Branch 40  
 Shipmate Rex Faubion, Branch 104  
 RPNC Curry Sanders, Branch 161  
 Shipmate Bertha Newton, Branch 301  
 Shipmate Albert L. Davenport, Branch 13  
 Shipmate Robert L. Campbell, Branch 263  
 RPNE/NEng Floyd Hunt, Branch 214  
 Shipmate Calvin Bradley, Branch 63  
 RPNW-Elect Julian J. Wynn, Branch 46  
 PRPEC Paul Gunther, Branch 182.

The 2015-2016 Membership Marketing Plan was discussed. The committee plans to do the following:

- A. Continue overall recruiting and retention programs to stabilize membership.
- B. Conduct active duty membership seminars (where invited.)
- C. Connect retiree and veterans membership seminars (where invited.)

- D. Identify and continue to participate in major outreach events to conduct awareness of the FRA to prospective members.
- E. Revise and reprint recruiting literature as needed.
- F. Continue the Branch Membership Development Program.
- G. Continue FRA's "Recruit and Retaining" Membership Recruiting Awards Program for the period April 1, 2015, through March 31st, 2016.
- H. Develop improvements to the Recruiting Awards Program for the period April 1st, 2016, through March 31st, 2017, to include a new pin design.
- I. Continue the 100 percent Branch Award Recognition Program.
- J. Continue the Recruiting 32 Members Program.
- K. Continue the Recruiting Incentive Awards Program for Recruit 5 and Retain 10.
- L. Continue the Recruiting Incentive Awards Program to bring back previous FRA members.
- M. Promote the Life Membership Program to increase life members to 10,000, which is currently at 8,368.
- N. Provide mailing labels (by ZIP Code) to Branches that make a request for Member-at-Large, terminated, and/or prospective members who joined the FRA between January 1st to December 31st, 2015.
- O. Support FRA's Project Outreach Program.
- P. Continue complimentary memberships for active duty enlisted sea service personnel on a national and branch level. Follow up with these members to encourage renewal.
- Q. Continue to establish new Branches.
- R. Continue promoting the Calls Program.
- S. Continue bimonthly conference calls for the National Committee on Membership and Retention.
- T. Establish a mentoring program for new members.
- U. Develop a new category of membership, i.e., non-sea service,

commissioned officers, and/or associate membership.

V. Recommend a new category for Membership Shipmate of the Year for regional conventions.

W. Consider acquiring similar organizations into FRA, such as National Enlisted Reserve Association (NERA) and/or Association of the U.S. Navy (AUSN.)

Having completed all of the business, the committee proceeded to review the statistics for individual and branch membership awards. The committee recommends the following Shipmates and Branches as award recipients for the 2015-2015 membership year:

Note: The committee did not consider members transferred into a Branch from a Branch merger or those transferred from MAL in making these decisions.

FRA's 100 Percent Award. Now, that's the gold streamer ribbon that I have already passed out to all of the Regional Presidents-Elect to be distributed to the various Branches within their region.

Of the 214 Branches, 36 Branches or 16.8 percent, qualified for the award for the 2014-15 year. These Branches qualified with the percentage of recruiting gain or no loss. There is a number of Branches that are listed here. You can refer to them and I will not read them all for the essence of time. They are noted in Tab X -- X-ray -- pages M&R-6 and -7.

Moving right along, New Recruiting Incentive Awards Program. On June 7, 2013, the National Committee on Membership and Retention announced a new awards program to provide incentive to Branches.

NVP COURNEYA: Shipmate at the rear mike.

PRPNC COMBS: Shipmate National Vice President, Combs, delegate, Branch 161. I notice on page M&R-7, Group 3, there is no Branch listed there.

RPEC-Elect COLLINS: Correct.

PRPNC COMBS: Okay. I will refer you to page 5 and 6, back where the Branches are listed by region. Branch 161 started the 2014-15 membership year with 286 members. Last October -- somewhere along there -- Branch 32 merged with Branch 161 and they had 64 members. That should have moved the baseline from 286 up to 350. Branch 161 ended the year with 354 members. Is that not a gain?

RPEC-Elect COLLINS: Yes, as I stated in my report, the committee did upon not consider members transferred into a Branch from a Branch merger, or those transferred from MAL in making their decision. Branch mergers do not count for the review of the awards.

PRPNC COMBS: We are not counting the members, except that they actually moved. Branch 161 recruited around 30 members. They get no credit for that? No recognition? Is that what you are saying?

RPEC-Elect COLLINS: Yes.

PRPNC COMBS: That's what you're saying?

RPEC-Elect COLLINS: Yes. You recruited, during the time frame from April 1st of 2014 to March 31st, 2015, but you also had a merger as well.

PRPNC COMBS: So if a Branch has like 100 members and they go out and recruit 200 new members, and a Branch with one member merges, they're screwed? Is that it?

RPEC-Elect COLLINS: Well, I wouldn't call it screwed.

PRPNC COMBS: I would.

NVP COURNEYA: Shipmate, let's finish the report and then, when we get to the discussion, let's finish the discussion. Let her finish the report and then we will go back to this under discussion.

PRPNC COMBS: The Chairman referred to a couple of pages there and then moved on. I wanted to stick with that page.

NVP COURNEYA: Under discussion, we will go back to it.

PRPNC COMBS: Thanks, Shipmate President.

RPEC-Elect COLLINS: All right. Continuing on with the report. New Recruiting Incentive Awards Program. And I wanted to make note of certain people and Branches that had done a stellar job in recruiting during the membership year April 1st, 2014, through March 31st, 2015.

On June 7th, 2013, the National Committee on Membership and Retention announced a new awards program to provide an incentive for Branches to recruit former members of the FRA. The objective was to provide a \$100 cash award to one Branch from each of the Groups I through V who were successful in recruiting the highest number of previous FRA members.

The winning Branches for 2014-2015 membership year are:

Group I: Branch 24, Annapolis, Maryland. East Coast Region. 44 rejoined members.

Group II: Branch 97, Whidbey Island, Washington. Northwest Region. Number of rejoins, 31.

Group III: Branch 293, Elizabeth City, North Carolina. East Coast. Number of members rejoined, 20.

Group IV: Branch 186, Hernando, Florida. Southeast Region. Number of rejoins, 7.

Group V: Branch 247, Dagupan City, Philippines, Northwest Region. 8 rejoins.

Congratulations to each Branch for an outstanding effort to bring back previous members of the FRA. I have the checks with me for those Branches that I called upon and if you would see me at the break, I could give -- if you are currently here -- for the Branch -- Branch 24, Branch 97, Branch 293, Branch 186 or Branch 247 -- I have your check.

If the Branch's delegates are not here currently, if the Regional President or the proxy will see me to pick up the checks, so it can be presented. There is a cover letter that accompanies the check thanking those five Branches for doing a stellar job.

For New Branches Chartered, we had none during that period.

The Charles E. Lofgren Award for Branches. In accordance with Standing Rule 7(c)(1), the Charles E. Lofgren Award for Branches will be awarded to one Branch in recognition of excellence in membership promotion and completion with the Branches within the same group.

The committee recommends the following Branches to be awarded the Captain's Bell, which I have over here to your right on the table. I have the various awards to present to the Branches and/or the Regional President, if they would like to present it to them as a later time.

Group I: Branch 269, Goose Creek, South Carolina, had a 6.64 percent gain, or 58 members.

Group II: Branch 94, Corpus Christi, Texas, had 5.01 percent gain, or 18 members.

Group III: There were none.

Group IV: Branch 90, Clark County, Nevada, had a 8.77 percent gain, or 10 members.

Group V: Branch 13, Atlantic City, New Jersey, had a 40 -- I'm sorry?

UNIDENTIFIED SHIPMATES: [Unintelligible.]

RPEC-Elect COLLINS: Group I was 269; Group II was 94; Group III, there were none; Group IV, it was Branch 90, Clark County, Nevada; Group V, Branch 13, Atlantic City, New Jersey, with a 40.32 percent gain, or 25 members.

Do I need to repeat that? Okay.

The Charles E. Lofgren Award for Individuals. In accordance with Standing Rule 7(c)(2), the Charles E. Lofgren Award for individuals will be competitively awarded to one Shipmate from among the Branches within each group. The determining criteria will be the FRA member who recruited the greatest number during the preceding April 1 through March 31st period.

The committee recommends the following shipmates be awarded a Shore Station Wall Clock -- let me repeat that -- a Shore Station Wall Clock with engraved plate. These awards are over here to your right that are sitting over here on the table to each of the individuals.

Group I: RPNW-Elect Julian Wynn, Branch 46, Honolulu, Hawaii. Number of members recruited, 52.

Group II: PRPSC Donald Larson, Branch 94, Corpus Christi, Texas. Number of members recruited, 18.

Group III: Franklin C. Gates, Branch 293, Elizabeth City, North Carolina. Number of members recruited, 44.

Group IV: Shipmate Mark Melton, Branch 90, Clark County, Nevada. Number of members recruited, 11.

Group V: Robert J. Campbell, Atlantic City, Branch 13. Number of members recruited, 35.

The committee believes each person who recruited new, reinstated, or rejoined members should be recognized by their Branch and the Association for their hard work and dedication. This is



accomplished through the Recruiting Awards Program where members who recruit others receive special commemorative pins. Overall, 3,151 new, reinstated, or rejoined members joined the FRA during the 2014-2015 recruiting period. This was a 9.45 percent increase from 2014.

The FRA partnered with Harris Connect, a fund-raising organization, to develop an FRA Member Album highlighting our member's service in the Navy, Marine Corps, Coast Guard. Statistically, 28,809 members responded to the announcement about the album program by phone or Internet; 10,971 purchased a product, either a book or a CD; and 545 rejoined the FRA.

The products will be shipped to the members on October 30th. This program was very successful as a fund-raising opportunity and membership enhancement. As a result of these additional members, the FRA experienced a gain in membership during the month of March 2015 of 18 members. Gaining and retaining members is a top priority for all.

The Abraham M. Rosenberg Membership Award. In accordance with Standing Rule 7(c)(3), the Abraham M. Rosenberg membership Trophy shall be awarded to one of the Branches awarded the Charles E. Lofgren Membership Award for outstanding membership promotion.

The committee recommends Atlantic City Branch 13, Atlantic City, New Jersey -- with a recruiting gain of 40.32 percent -- as the overall winner from the five membership groups to receive the Abraham M. Rosenberg Membership Plaque for excellence in Membership Promotion.

The Frank J. McPherson Memorial Award. In accordance with FRA Standing Rule 7(c)(4), Regional Presidents shall forward their region's nominee for the Frank J. McPherson Memorial Award, along with supporting documents, to the Chairman, National Committee on Membership and Retention at the conclusion of their respective regional convention, but not later than seven days prior to the convening of the National Convention.

Nominations for the Frank J. McPherson Memorial Award were submitted by regions on behalf of the following Shipmates. And I must add here that I have been trying to get our regions to submit a nominee from each region of our eight regions and only one region this year did not submit a nominee. But I had seven nominees for the Frank J. McPherson Memorial Award and I'm very, very happy about that.

The nominees were:

RPNW-Elect Julian J. Wynn, from Branch 46, Honolulu, Hawaii.

Shipmate Franklin C. Gates, Branch 293, Elizabeth City, North Carolina.

Shipmate Richard Waltman, Branch 201, Austin, Texas.

Shipmate Rick Athenour, Branch 137, Minden, Nevada.

Shipmate Richard Priest, Branch 298, Grand Rapids, Michigan.

Shipmate William Nixon, Branch 115 Lehigh Valley, Pennsylvania.

And Shipmate Laurie A. Bailey, Branch 269, Goose Creek, South Carolina.

The committee reviewed nominations received for the Frank J. McPherson Memorial Award, which was established in 1991 to acknowledge one Shipmate who exemplifies the three cardinal principles of the Fleet Reserve Association, especially in membership endeavors.

The award recipient for the Frank J. McPherson Memorial Award for 2014-2015 is Shipmate RPNW-Elect Julian J. Wynn, Branch 46, Honolulu, Hawaii.

(APPLAUSE.)

RPEC-Elect COLLINS: I will ask RPNW-Elect Wynn to come forward to receive your plaque.

(APPLAUSE.)

RPEC-Elect COLLINS: Shipmate National President, this concludes our report. On behalf of all the members of this committee, we thank you for asking us to serve.

I move to adopt this report and the recommendations contained therein.

In Loyalty, Protection, and Service,

Penny Collins, Chairman.

NVP COURNEYA: Shipmates, we are not going to move to accept the report at this time. We will table it until after lunch. I know we have some lunches to go to. It is 11:20 now. They start at 11:30. Hopefully, Shipmate Norm and Shipmate Penny can get this ironed out before we get back. So we will stand in recess until 1300.

(3 taps of the gavel.)

Shipmate National Chaplain, will you shut the Bible, please.

Uncover.

NCHAP HALL: Shipmate National Vice President, the Bible is closed.

NVP COURNEYA: Thank you, Shipmate National Chaplain. We stand in recess until 1300.

(Whereupon, at 1122, the Third Business Session was recessed, to reconvene at 1300.)

FRA 88th NATIONAL CONVENTION  
FLEET RESERVE ASSOCIATION  
SPOKANE, WASHINGTON  
FOURTH BUSINESS SESSION  
Friday, October 16, 2015  
1300 - 1615

(One rap of the gavel.)

NP IPPERT: Shipmate Master-at-Arms, you will invite the Shipmates into the meeting hall and close the doors.

MASTER-AT-ARMS: National President, the Shipmates are in the meeting hall and the doors are closed.

NP IPPERT: Shipmate National Chaplain please open the Bible.

(Three raps of the gavel.)

NCHAP HALL: Shipmate National President, the Bible is open

NP IPPERT: Thank you, Shipmate National Chaplain.

PRPEC GUNTHER: Shipmate National President.

NP IPPERT: Shipmate at the rear mike.

PRPEC GUNTHER: Gunther, delegate, 182. I would like to say greetings from Shipmate Robertson on the East Coast, Past Regional President Robertson. Would like to say he wishes to be here, but is sorry he can't be here.

(One rap of the gavel.)

NP IPPERT: Shipmate at the rear mike.

JrPNP KILGORE: Shipmate National President, let the record show, Kilgore, delegate, 22, Junior Past National President is in the appropriate uniform of the day.

NP IPPERT: So noted.

(APPLAUSE.)

JrPNP KILGORE: Still Uniform Bravo. I haven't changed the shirt.

NP IPPERT: All right. I now declare this Fourth Business Session of the 88th National Convention of the FRA regularly convened. I should have done it earlier. At this time, I want to ask Jerry for our Fourth Credentials Report.

PRPSE BRICE: Shipmate National President, Brice, Branch 187, delegate. Fourth and Final Credentials Report.

Shipmates, again, I'm going to read from the Credentials sheet.

We still have 211 Branches. 1,588 is the voting strength.

Under the heading of Fourth Report of the Credentials Committee:

Bravo, 75. Charlie, 839. Delta, 97. Echo, 491. Foxtrot, 39. Golf, 142.

Registered voting strength: Hotel, 1,330.

India, 258.

Juliet, two-thirds vote is 867.

Kilo, majority vote is 666.

630, half of that is 665.

Majority vote is 666.

NP IPPERT: Proceed.

PRPSE BRICE: One of the Shipmates asked for a repeat on line item India is 258.

Shipmate National President, at this time I would like to thank -- give me just a second, please.

(Pause.)

NP IPPERT: Shipmate at the rear mike.

PRPSE BRICE: Shipmate National President, line item J, two-thirds vote, should be 887, vice 867.

Also, 283 -- Branch 283, take that off your Not Registered list on your tally sheet. That was the one that came in.

And at this time I would like to thank Shipmate PNP Mark Kilgore,

PRPEC Claire Purdy, and PRPNW Pete Lazzaretti for their assistance in doing this. One person can't do this by themselves. They were a tremendous help, along with the other people that worked at the Registration Desk.

Shipmate National President, that concludes my report and I move that it be accepted

NP IPPERT: Shipmate at rear mike.

JrPNP KILGORE: Shipmate National President, Kilgore, delegate, 22, seconds.

NP IPPERT: It's been moved and seconded to receive the Fourth Credentials Report. Is there any discussion? There being no discussion, those in favor signify by saying aye. Opposed, nay.

(One rap of the gavel.)

NP IPPERT: The ayes have it.

And I, for one, want to thank the Credentials Committee for doing an outstanding job.

(APPLAUSE.)

NP IPPERT: At this time I would ask that Membership Development Chairman -- or Director, Penny Collins, finish what she started, whatever that was.

RPEC-Elect COLLINS: Shipmate National President, my report was concluded. And on behalf of all of the members of this committee, we thank you for serving. And I move to adopt this report and the recommendations be accepted therein

NP IPPERT: Shipmate at the rear mike.

PRPNE MUNDAY: Munday, Branch 124, delegate, second

NP IPPERT: It's been moved and seconded to adopt the Membership report as presented by Director Penny Collins. Any discussion?

PRPNC COMBS: Shipmate National President, before I get back -- Combs, delegate, Branch 161. Before I get back to the heartburn over the 100 Percent Award, I have a question on the Lofgren awards. You have an individual and a Branch recruiting award, as I understand it. At least that's what I read in the rules.

We have an individual recruiter, Shipmate Gates, from Branch 293 in Elizabeth City, recruited 44 members. That's on the bottom of page M&R-5. At the top of page M&R-6 in Group III, there is no Branch there for recruiting members, when in fact at least 44 were recruited by that Branch. At least 44 were recruited

NP IPPERT: Shipmate Combs, I'll let the Regional President-Elect Collins address that.

RPEC-Elect COLLINS: Thank you, Shipmate National President. The not unusual for a person to be a top recruiter in their Branch -- because we are talking about two different reports -- and that Branch not be the number one Branch in that Group. It's not unusual.

PRPNC COMBS: There are no branches in that Group listed --

RPEC-Elect COLLINS: In Group III; correct. Correct. Shipmate Gates recruited 44 people in that group. He was the top recruiter. But Branch 293 had a loss in membership due to deaths and non-renewals, so they had a loss.

PRPNC COMBS: Why do deaths and non-renewals -- this is a recruiting award, not a membership award.

RPEC-Elect COLLINS: The recruiting award for the Branch, as I explained before, it depends. Shipmate Gates recruited 44 people, but the Branch had a loss because of non-renewals. And he can explain that to you. So there is -- and he is in Group III. So there is no award for the Lofgren Award for a Branch in Group III.

Now, to talk to you about your Branch 161. Branch 161 had a merger 2012-2013. Did not qualify for the Branch award for Lofgren. Branch 161 had a merger 2013-2014. Not qualified for the Lofgren award. Moving forward, Branch 161 has another merger in year 2015-2016. So next year, your Branch will not be considered for the Lofgren Award because of mergers. We did acknowledge Branch 161 in 2012; 2013-2014, same; and 2015-2016, same.

PRPNC COMBS: I don't believe Branch 161 received a 100 Percent Award in any of those years. However, this past year, I do not believe using mergers as a way to deny a Branch that went out and recruited 30 members -- as using a merger as an excuse to deny them an award.

NP IPPERT: Shipmate Combs, I believe your question has been answered. Is there any further discussion on the motion?

PRPNC COMBS: All I'm saying is that, if I was a Membership Chairman, I would be looking for a reason to give an award out instead of denying it. Thank you

NP IPPERT: Is there any further discussion on the motion? There being no further discussion, all those in favor signify by saying aye.

Opposed, nay.

(One rap of the gavel.)

NP IPPERT: Ayes have it. Thank you Penny.

Next up, Americanism -- no, next up, Budget and Finance. Chairman Gary Blackburn. This ought to be fun. Gary Blackburn, Budget and Finance up next. I see him right here. I'm staring right at him.

Shipmates, could we have your attention, please. This is an important report and we want to try to get through it as expeditiously as possible. Thank you.

PNP BLACKBURN: Thank you, Shipmate National President. Shipmates, first and foremost, has everybody gone through and lost sleep over the budget last night? Does anybody read it to make sure they are with me on the budget? It's Tab Kilo in your book. We told you yesterday that the budget is printed. There are no changes.

That being said, Shipmate National President, I would to thank you for giving me the honor of serving my Shipmates.

UNIDENTIFIED SHIPMATE: You said there was one change. What is that one change?

PNP BLACKBURN: There is no change at this time. Shipmates, the National Convention Committee on Budget and Finance met in the Parkside II Room of the Spokane City Center DoubleTree Hotel, Spokane, Washington, at 0945, October 15th, 2015.

In attendance were: Chairman, PNP Gary Blackburn.

Members: PRPNEng Paul F. Loveless, Branch 156.

PRPWC Nathan "Joe" Nash, Branch 192.

PRPSE Gerald Brice, Branch 187.

JrPRPSW Michael F. Fulton, Branch 289.

Advisors: NED Thomas J. Snee, Branch 181.

The Finance Officer Stephen Cox was contacted by telephone.



VisitorsNP John Ippert.  
 Randy Phillipp, Branch 182.  
 PRPEC Paul Gunther, Branch 182.

A lot of you didn't visit. Obviously you were not overly concerned with our budget.

Finance Officer Steve Cox was contacted by phone for input on the posting of the \$30,000 bequeath of funds that went into the fiscal year 2015 budget income.

The committee discussed the financial impact of the Brodie-Collins Consulting proposal on the fiscal year 2016 budget and will reserve comment until the BCC recommendations are received and considered by leadership, management, and the Budget and Finance Committee.

The Budget and Finance Committee made recommendations on the following C&BL resolutions:

The C&BL Resolution Number 2, changing -- actually, this is immaterial so I'm going to skip this part, because you have already voted on this. You voted the same way we did. There is no reason to repeat that.

The last item in discussion was the request by USAA to become our sole auto and household insurance provider. For example, to replace GEICO. The Budget and Finance Committee makes no recommendation, because we have no idea what the financial implications would be. The committee does ask that the delegates consider our long-standing affiliation with GEICO.

The committee adjourned at 11:40 a.m. That being said, and no questions, I move the adoption of the 2016 budget.

In Loyalty, Protection, and Service,  
 Past National President Gary C Blackburn, Chairman

NP IPPERT: Shipmate at the rear mike.

PRPWC NASH: Nash, delegate, Branch 192, seconds.

NP IPPERT: It has been moved and properly seconded to adopt the proposed budget for 2016.

Shipmate at the rear mike.

SHIPMATE SMITH: Smith, delegate, Branch 70. A couple of questions

on this budget, Gary. First of all under convention business --

PNP BLACKBURN: I'm sorry?

SHIPMATE SMITH: This convention -- the 88th National Convention, this is it; right? This budget is for next year.

PNP BLACKBURN: Yes, 2016 budget, yes.

SHIPMATE SMITH: Okay. How did we get money for this year's convention on this budget? 54100040 Alpha.

PNP BLACKBURN: 54100040 Alpha. 54100040 Convention Business. Go ahead. Which item?

SHIPMATE SMITH: Alpha.

PNP BLACKBURN: Alpha. National Headquarters staff members' travel and per diem, 88th National Convention? National Convention -- that's a typo. I'm sorry; it should say 89th.

SHIPMATE SMITH: Okay. How about dropping down then to 54300040, is that another typo by Spokane, Washington?

PNP BLACKBURN: National Board of Directors travel and per diem should also it be 89th, yes. It should state Jacksonville vice Spokane.

SHIPMATE SMITH: Okay. 5506-

PNP BLACKBURN: You are finding all the typos; correct?

SHIPMATE SMITH: No, I don't think it's a typo.

PNP BLACKBURN: 5506 --

SHIPMATE SMITH: -- 0050 Alpha.

PNP BLACKBURN: Electric services?

SHIPMATE SMITH: Why the \$22,000 increase? That's a big increase, isn't it?

PNP BLACKBURN: I'm sorry?

SHIPMATE SMITH: Big increase.

PNP BLACKBURN: 22,000 from where, Shipmate?

SHIPMATE SMITH: It says there's a 22,530 increase.

NP IPPERT: Shipmate at the front mike.

PRPEC SLAWINSKI: Shipmate National President, Slawinski, Facilities Manager, FRA Headquarters staff and delegate. Last year when we put the budget together with us leasing the third floor, we took into consideration the income that was coming from the tenant and offset the expenses by the one-third they would be paying for those expenses, i.e., electrical.

Those bills are being -- they're basically reassumed. They are being paid by the association. So in all fairness to make sure that it's appropriately funded and appropriately paid from the correct account, we had put that amount back in. So that's why there is it that increase.

SHIPMATE SMITH: Okay. Thank you.

PRPEC SLAWINSKI: You're welcome.

SHIPMATE SMITH: Same line item Echo.

PNP BLACKBURN: Obviously, you didn't sleep last night; right, Dick?

SHIPMATE SMITH: The janitorial expenses doubled this year?

PRPEC SLAWINSKI: Same reason, yes.

SHIPMATE SMITH: Okay. Thank you. And will under item Sierra, could you explain this build-out principal payment. I'm lost on that.

PNP BLACKBURN: Okay. The build-out principal payment, Shipmate, if you will go back to the first page of where the income is and look at that. And go down to Miscellaneous Income. All right? Are you with me? Of the \$163,068.04, that is the rental fee that we have. The build-out is paying the loan -- what am I trying to say? What did we -- line of credit. That's what it was, for the build-out.

SHIPMATE SMITH: Remodel loan?

PNP BLACKBURN: That's the payment back to that -- repayment of the money borrowed. Are you with me, Shipmate? Repayment of the money that we borrowed.

SHIPMATE SMITH: Thank you. Thank you, Chris.

NP IPPERT: Is there any further discussion on the motion to adopt the budget for 2016, as amended -- the typos being amended? Okay. If there is no further discussion, all those in favor of adopting the 2016 budget, as amended, signify by saying aye.

Opposed, nay.

Ayes have it.

(One rap of the gavel.)

NP IPPERT: Thank you, Shipmate Gary. That was wonderful.

PNP BLACKBURN: Thank you. Thank you, Shipmates.

(One rap of the gavel.)

NP IPPERT: Okay. At this time I would like to go to Americanism-Patriotism, which is Past Regional President Northwest Dan Holloway.

PRPNW HOLLOWAY: Good afternoon, Shipmates and National Officers. The National Committee on Americanism-Patriotism met in the Hospitality Room at 0915, October 15th, 2015.

Present were myself: JrPRPNW Dan Holloway, Branch 382.

PRPSE Bobby Smith, Branch 194.

JrPRPWC Pete McNamara, Branch 274.

PRPSW Gordon Hewson, Branch 90.

Shipmate Richard Ruiz, Branch 101.

Visitors: PRPNEng Phil Justin, Branch 42.

PRPEC Paul Gunther Branch 182.

We had a fair selection to work from. A couple of Regions didn't submit reports. I don't remember which ones they were right now.

Anyway, the results of evaluating the committee reports are as follows.

For first place:

Group I, Branch 46.

Group II, Branch 175.

Group III, Branch 101.

Group IV, Branch 186.

Group V, Branch 294.

Second place:

Group I, Branch 24.  
 Group II, Branch 93.  
 Group III, Branch 201.  
 Group IV, Branch 59.  
 Group V, Branch 229.

Third place:

Group I, Branch 99.  
 Group II, Branch 22.  
 Group III, Branch 276.  
 Group IV, Branch 192.  
 Group V, Branch 6.

The Walter "Step" Rowell Award for the first place overall report goes to Branch 101, Santa Clara, California.

The Leonard "Swede" Nelson Award for Shipmate of the Year goes to PRPNC Leon Zalewski, Branch 14.

(APPLAUSE.)

PRPNW HOLLOWAY: There were no submissions for the Robert Doherty Award.

The committee recommends the theme for the 2016-2017 Americanism Essay Contest be: "What Memorial Day Means to Me."

The committee also recommends that all submissions for awards include the Shipmate's bio, and it needs to be legible. In other words, typed. Some of the Regions and Branches put down a Shipmate for an award with absolutely no other information. Therefore, we had nothing to judge.

The committee members also asked for clarification from the National Staff on the parental authorization to use photos and essays. Apparently, it created a lot of questions in the Branches and they called the committee members and they just don't understand what the reasoning is. If we could send that out in a newsletter.

The National Chairman needs a list of all Regional Chairmen as soon as possible. I couldn't find a list of those Chairmen anywhere. I ended up calling Regional Presidents to find out who their Chairmen were. And that needs to be on the National Web site, if we can get it there, which I'm sure we can.

Regional judges, when you get these essays from the National Chairman, it should include a grading sheet. You need to fill out that grading sheet for each essay and return it to the National Chairman. We need those numerical scores in order to determine a winner. If you just send us a name of your First Place winner with no numerical score, we can't use it.

UNIDENTIFIED SHIPMATE: Why?

PRPNW HOLLOWAY: Because the winners are determined by an overall score.

NP IPPERT: Shipmate at the rear mike.

SHIPMATE PHILLIPP: Phillipp, delegate, Branch 182. Why make more work for yourself and just leave it to the Regions?

PRPNW HOLLOWAY: I don't understand you question.

SHIPMATE PHILLIPP: You just said you want us to send the results to you; right?

PRPNW HOLLOWAY: I want you to send the numerical score for each essay. The sheet that is sent out with the essay.

NP IPPERT: Shipmates, I understand what Dan is trying to say and we will take that under advisement and address it another time. I think I understand the confusion and we will work on that. Thank you.

So if you could proceed with your report, it would be great. Thank you.

PRPNW HOLLOWAY: Shipmates, that concludes my report. And I really want to thank all the Shipmates who assisted me with the National Awards and all the Regional Chairman and Shipmates who took the time to read these essays and grade them. I move my report being received.

PNP GILMARTIN: Shipmate National President.

NP IPPERT: Shipmate at the rear mike.

PNP GILMARTIN: Gilmartin, 207, delegate, seconds.

NP IPPERT: It's been moved and seconded to receive the report of the Americanism-Patriotism Committee. Is there any discussion -- accept the report of the Americanism-Patriotism Committee.

PNP GILMARTIN: Shipmate National President, Gilmartin, 207, delegate. Not to pile on too much, but what the Chairman has just said about submitting the Regional grade sheets into National, the Chairman might be reminded those are subjective upon the judges at the Regional level. What you are doing is tying the hands of the National judges. A subjective grading report shouldn't be relied on at a different level.

NP IPPERT: Just a moment.

PRPNW HOLLOWAY: What I meant was the National Committee should use those grading forms. Regional can use whatever they want. Does that clarify it?

NP IPPERT: Any further discussion on the motion to accept the Americanism-Patriotism report? Any further discussion? There being no further discussion, all those in favor signify by saying aye.  
Opposed, nay.

(One rap of the gavel.)

NP IPPERT: The ayes have it. Thank you, Shipmate Dan.

Next up will be Hospitals, Welfare and Rehabilitation.

PRPNW HOLLOWAY: Shipmate National President.

NP IPPERT: Shipmate at the front mike.

PRPNW HOLLOWAY: Holloway, delegate, Branch 382. I forgot to mention, I have the ribbons for the winners at my table. If you want to get with me after the meeting, I will be happy to hand them out.

NP IPPERT: Thank you, Shipmate. Junior Past Regional President Northeast/New England James Brown, Branch 226, are you here?

JrPRPNE/NEng BROWN: I'm right behind you. Shook him up a little bit, huh? Okay. This is the report for the Hospitals, Welfare and Rehabilitation.

Report of Chairman, 88th National Convention Committee on Hospitals, Welfare and Rehabilitation, Spokane City Center DoubleTree Hotel, Spokane, Washington. October 15, 2015.

The National Convention Committee on Hospitals, Welfare and

Rehabilitation met in the Salon II Room of the Spokane City Center DoubleTree Hotel, Spokane, Washington, at 0915 on October 15, 2015.

In attendance:

Chairman: JrPRPNE/NEng James E. Brown, Branch 226.

Vice Chairman: Jack O'Neill, Branch 24.

Members: RPSE-Elect Dave W. Davis, Branch 290,

Ray King, Branch 298.

Cathleen Ursula Gruetzner, Branch 201.

RPSW-Elect Donald L. Kelley, Branch 289.

Mark W. Thompson, Branch 104.

RPWC-Elect Patrick H. LeClaire, Branch 192.

Visitors included:

PRPEC Paul Gunther, who was effectively taking pictures, Branch 182.

Michelle Davis, Branch 38.

Please note that the representative from the Northeast, David LaGraves, Branch 23, was absent.

The committee voted and the following were selected First, Second, and Third Place winners in Groups I through IV. Everybody got their pencils ready?

UNIDENTIFIED SHIPMATE: Groups I through V.

JrPRPNE/NEng BROWN: Here we go. Groups I through V. That's what I said. I have a New York accent. I also operate in a New York minute. You know what I mean?

Here we go.

First Place:

Group I Branch 46.

Group II, Branch 290.

Group III, Branch 117, which I think is right down here.

Group IV, Branch 298.

Group V, Branch 118.

Second place:

Branch 269, for Group I.

Group II --

UNIDENTIFIED SHIPMATE: Whoa. Slow down.



JrPRPNE/NEng BROWN: I will start over with Second Place. How is that? I will slow it down just a little bit. Okay.

Group I, Branch 269.  
 Group II, Branch 261.  
 Group III, Branch 162.  
 Group IV, Branch 186.  
 Group V, Branch 274.

Here we go with Third Place:

Group I, none.  
 Group II, Branch 136.  
 Group III, Branch 101.  
 Group IV, none.  
 Group V, Branch 223.

The committee has selected the following Shipmate to the National Shipmate of the Year award: Ray King, Branch 298. Congratulations, Ray.

(APPLAUSE.)

JrPRPNE/NEng BROWN: In an attempt to make this report a little more fulfilling, I elected to have an accumulation report from all of the Regions as I got them. I was able to get seven of the eight Regions to submit the data. I will just read through, so it will give you an idea of the scope of what the work is throughout the year with HWR and Disaster Relief. The data contained in this report was based on the Regional reports.

Hours spent visiting and assisting ill or incapacitated Member:  
 9,290.

Miles driven visiting same, 19,053.

Hours spent assisting needy families of Shipmates: 949 hours.

Miles assisting needy families of Shipmates: 2,703.

Hours of volunteer work performed at hospitals by Shipmates:  
 12,928 hours.

Widows assisted: 174 people, using 1,660 hours.

Number of Shipmates donating blood: 212. Number of pints, 65.

Just a note on that, many people who volunteer to give blood don't necessarily get to the table to draw the blood, because of some medical issue. That is the reason for the change in that.

Number of rituals performed: 619.

Shipmates participating in those rituals, 4,346.

Contributions made to the FRA Disaster Relief Fund: Branches contributed \$14,955. Members contributed \$665.

Other donations: One of the Regions gave donations to a needy family in the form of an electric range at \$1,200 figure -- \$1,195, during Thanksgiving; and \$2,500 for medical mission services, which I thought was noteworthy and I just wanted to pass along to you.

As far as Disaster Relief goes, which is cognizant under this Committee, the National President, National Board approved three requests as I know it so far for Disaster Relief totaling \$5,000: Shipmate Joe Boswick, Truck Moring, and Shipmate Gary Farris. If there is any others, I don't know about it. Now, one Region did not give me the data in time to submit on this report, but I will attempt to amend it. I have the data on my table over there. And we will see what we can do about adding that in.

Okay. One of the things that came up during our discussions at the meeting was health care. And just to conclude, what we summarized was that there is pending legislation in Congress as we speak right now that will affect certain parameters of TRICARE, as well as Medicare, et cetera. And we'll have to analyze that data as the bills go through.

So in the form of recommendations, I'm going to recommend a complete review and update of the guidelines to the Hospitals, Welfare and Rehabilitation Chairman and Committee members, and the forms need to be updated as well. We found several errors in there. And I'd like to point out that some of the entries need to be changed to reflect the technology of today. Best way to put it is the telegraph system is gone. We are into these gadgets that we carry around in our pockets, and things like that have to be addressed and brought up to speed. So I think I'm going to be engaged in this activity again, and I'll probably wind up doing most of the yeoman work on this.

Another comment I just want to make, which is not in the report, to reflect what was said just a moment ago about quality of reports. Guys, some of you I don't know where you went to grammar school for penmanship. Some of you write o better than chickens. You know what I mean? So you've got to get the quality on this thing a

little higher up. Type them out. Do something. Print it. It's probably easier.

That being said, the other thing is one important thing -- and we had several incidents on our committee where we had to disqualify several reports because they simply were not signed. You've got to sign the reports. The Chairmen and you Regional Presidents, you've got to be on top of all of these Chairs, the Standing Committees, and make sure that the quality of the report is reported at your convention and that the President of the Region countersigns off on this thing.

The only one that I had a quality document from was Posekany up in the North Central. Great job. That package was perfect. We went right through it.

When I started the meeting off, I hardly had anything. And all of the sudden the books came out of the woodwork. So we had to sort that all out first and get that yeoman's stuff out of the way. It's a big pain. So do a little more due diligence on your report before you send it in.

With that said, this concludes the report of the National Committee on Hospitals, Welfare and Rehabilitation, and I move that it be received.

SHIPMATE ROSEMARY POSEKANY: Rosemary Posekany, delegate, Branch 298, Grand Rapids, Michigan, seconds.

NP IPPERT: It's been moved and seconded to accept the report of the Hospitals, Welfare and Rehabilitation. Any discussion? Shipmate at the rear mike.

SHIPMATE QUESNEL: Shipmate National President, Quesnel, Branch 289, delegate, Chair. I just had a comment concerning the Group I listing. I know from our, Region, our Branch was number one in that grouping, so I'm a little perplexed as to why they didn't get mentioned in any of the top three spots until a little information was fed to me that our report somehow did not get here. So my comment is whoever does Regional Chair positions, you need to make sure these reports get turned in or don't take the job.

NP IPPERT: Point well taken. Any further discussion? Any further discussion?

There being no further discussion, all those in favor of the motion to accept the Hospitals, Welfare and Rehabilitation report, signify by saying aye.

Opposed nay.

(One rap of the gavel.)

NP IPPERT: Ayes have it. Thank you.

Next up will be Public Relations. Past Regional President North Central Leon Zalewski.

PRPNC ZALEWSKI: The National Convention Committee on Public Relations met IN Salon I of the Spokane City Center DoubleTree Hotel, Spokane, Washington, at 0915, on October 15, 2015.

In attendance were:

Chairman, Leon Zalewski, me.  
 Vice Chairman, RPNE/NEng-Elect Donna M. Jansky, Branch 31.  
 PRPEC Claire Purdy, Branch 24.  
 JrPRPSE Frederick A. Hill, Branch 290.  
 PRPSC Donald Larson, Branch 94, was a proxy for Randall W. Smith of Branch 11.  
 PRPSW James H. Katzenberger, Branch 163.  
 PRPNW Hazel Bettencourt, Branch 382.

Visitors: Robert Burnese, Branch 13.  
 Bart Shaw, Branch 161.  
 Jim Middlekauff, Branch 117.

The results of evaluating the committee reports are as follows.

First place:

Group I, Branch 46.  
 Group II, 175.  
 Group III, Branch 101.  
 Group IV, Branch 186.  
 Group V, Branch 294.

Second place:

Group I, Branch 269.  
 Group II, Branch 93.  
 Group III, Branch 162.  
 Group IV, Branch 316.  
 Group V, Branch 13.

Third place:

Group I, Branch 70.

Group II, Branch 261.  
 Group III, Branch 117.  
 Group IV, Branch 90.  
 Group V, Branch 137.

Shipmate of the Year: Shipmate Robert J. Campbell, Branch 13,  
 Atlantic City.

(APPLAUSE.)

PRPNC ZALEWSKI: The Committee was forced to disqualify several  
 submissions for lack of proper signatures. I want to thank all the  
 Shipmates who participated in evaluating these reports.

I move that this report be received.

NP IPPERT: Shipmate at the rear mike.

SHIPMATE MIDDLEKAUFF: Middlekauff, Branch 117, delegate, seconds.

NP IPPERT: It's been moved and seconded to accept the report on  
 Public Relations. Is there any discussion? Any discussion?  
 There being no discussion, all those in favor signify by saying aye.  
 Opposed, nay.

(One rap of the gavel.)

NP IPPERT: Ayes have it. Thank you.

Next up, I think we are going to do Youth Activities.

UNIDENTIFIED SHIPMATE: Yea!

NP IPPERT: Did we do Youth Activities already?

UNIDENTIFIED SHIPMATE: No.

NP IPPERT: Here he comes.

PRPNC ZALEWSKI: Zalewski, delegate, Branch 14. I have the  
 streamers at my table. So anyone needs them, pick them up, please.

NP IPPERT: Thank you. Shipmate Mark Melton will deliver the Youth  
 Activities report.

SHIPMATE MELTON: Good afternoon, Shipmates. The National  
 Convention Committee on Youth Activities met in the Salon IV Room of  
 the Spokane City Center DoubleTree Hotel, Spokane, Washington, at

0915 on October 15th, 2015.

In attendance were:

Chairman Mark Melton, Branch 90, for PRPWC Shane S. Dunstan, Branch 185.

Members of the committee were:

PRPEC Paul Gunther, Branch 182.  
Shipmate Bruce Talbot, Jr., Branch 159.  
PRPNW Gerald Jordan, Branch 18.  
RVPEC Tom Vatter, Branch 93.  
Shipmate Keith Kaider, Branch 182.

No visitors.

The committee reviewed the reports submitted from each Region of each Group to receive national recognition and have recommended the following:

Group I: First Place, Branch 46.  
Second Place, Group I, Branch 24.  
Third Place, Group I, was no one for Third Place for Group I.

Group II: First place, Branch 11.  
Second Place for Group II, Branch 175.  
Third Place for Group II, Branch 136.

Group III: First place, Branch 201.  
Second Place for Group III, Branch 166.  
Third Place for Group III was Branch 101.

Group IV: First place, Branch 115.  
Second Place, Group IV was Branch 316.  
Third Place for Group IV was Branch 192.

Group V: First Place was Branch 185.  
Second Place, Group V, Branch 98.  
Third Place for Group V was Branch 37.

Shipmate of the Year was selected as: Rodney Keith Longstratt of Branch 98, Shreveport, Louisiana.

(APPLAUSE.)

SHIPMATE MELTON: I'd like to thank all of the members of the Youth Activities Committee for their outstanding performance. I move that

the report being received.

In Loyalty, Protection and Service,  
Mark Melton.

SHIPMATE ROSEMARY POSEKANY: Shipmate Rosemary Posekany, delegate,  
Branch 298, Grand Rapids, Michigan, seconds.

NP IPPERT: It's been moved and seconded to accept the report of  
Youth Activities. Is there any discussion? Any discussion?  
There being no discussion, all those in favor signify by saying aye.  
Opposed, nay.

(One rap of the gavel.)

NP IPPERT: Ayes have it.

At this time I will invite Past Regional President Southeast Robbie  
Robbins for Time and Place.

PRPSE ROBBINS: Shipmates, the National Committee of Time and Place  
met in Salon Room IV of the Spokane City Center DoubleTree Hotel,  
Spokane, Washington, at 0915, October 15, 2015.

The following members attended.

Chairman: PRPSE James E. "Robbie" Robbins, Jr., Branch 91. Vice  
Chairman was: PNP Dick Smith, Branch 70.

Members were:

PRPSW Mike Frontz, Branch 47.  
PRPSE Jerry Brice, Branch 187.  
Shipmate Gene Miller, Branch 24.  
PNP Sandy Robbins, LA FRA Unit 91.  
PNP Carolyn Whitaker, LA FRA Unit 147.  
PRPEC Paul R. Gunther, the "Picture Taker."

(LAUGHTER.)

PRPSE ROBBINS: He was floating around everywhere. We were trying  
to figure out which committee he was really trying to attend. But  
he was doing what he does best: Taking pictures for all of us to  
give to us and everything.

The Chairman read the duties of the National Committee on Time and  
Place, Standing Rule 6, CB&L.

I only had one input for Time and Place. The vote was taken with Standing Rule 6(f), CB&L. The results were unanimous.

The Committee recommends that we adopt the proposal presented by FRA Branch 4 and LA FRA Unit 4. This was a very well put together presentation. When they walked in and said we have a PowerPoint and handed us about an inch-and-a-half book that weighed about 10 pounds, they came prepared.

We highly recommend -- being that there was no other input -- Branch 4 and Unit 4 to put on the 2017 Convention, which is going to be held September 17th to September 24th, 2017. And the reason why those dates were picked was to save you money. They brought it back where the rooms dropped over 20-some dollars a day. So that's why those days were picked. They are trying to save us some money.

Hunt Valley Inn, at Hunt Valley, Maryland, north of Baltimore. The rates of the rooms are \$99 plus 14 percent tax. Now, if there are any other questions on the hotel or the convention, I ask you to talk to the President and the Unit of Branch 4.

Thank you, Shipmates and National President, for allowing me to serve you and I move that this report be received.

PNP GILMARTIN: Shipmate National President.

NP IPPERT: Shipmate at the rear mike.

PNP GILMARTIN: Gilmartin, 207, delegate, seconds.

NP IPPERT: Shipmates, it has been moved and seconded to accept the report of the Time and Place Committee, which recommends the 2017 convention be held in Hunt Valley Inn, in Hunt Valley Maryland. That's what I said. Okay.

Any further discussion? Any discussions?  
There being no discussion, all those in favor signify by saying aye.  
Opposed, nay.

(One rap of the gavel.)

NP IPPERT: The ayes will have it.

Thank you. Before we proceed, we'll go to the Shipmate at the rear mike.

SHIPMATE CALIGUIRAN: Shipmate National President, on behalf of Branch 4 and Unit 4, I would like to thank the Chairman and Members



of the Time and Place Committee and our Shipmates for allowing us to host the 2017 National Convention.

We look forward to seeing every one of you. We will treat you to a fun and enjoyable convention you will remember for a long, long time. Thank you.

NP IPPERT: Thank you, Shipmate.

(APPLAUSE.)

NP IPPERT: Before we go to the elections, I am going to take a 10-minute break. And please remember for your Branches to caucus. And we will going to go in reverse order this year, because it is an odd number year. We will start with the highest number Branch and work our way down through the list. So be ready to present your vote when you are called. If you wait too long, your vote might end up not counting.

(Three raps of the gavel.)

NP IPPERT: National Chaplain, please close the Bible.

NCHAP HALL: Shipmate National Presidents, the Bible is closed.

NP IPPERT: Thank you, Shipmate National Chaplain. Get back here at 20 after.

(Recess.)

NP IPPERT: Shipmate Master-at-Arms, invite the Shipmates into the hall and close the doors.

(One rap of the gavel.)

Shipmate National Chaplain, open the Bible.

NCHAP HALL: Shipmate National President, the Bible is open.

NP IPPERT: Thank you, Shipmate National Chaplain.

(2 taps of the gavel.)

NP IPPERT: Shipmates, at this time we will proceed to the election of the National President. Shipmate National Executive Director, would you please read the Resolved portion of the nominating resolution.

NED SNEE: Shipmates, from the High Sierra Branch 274,

Resolved, That High Sierra Branch 274, Fleet Reserve Association, at a regularly scheduled monthly meeting held on 30 April 2015, a quorum being present, did unanimously vote to place the name of National Vice President Virgil P. Courneya, in nomination for the office of National President, Fleet Reserve Association, for the Association year 2015 to 2016; and be it further

Resolved, That High Sierra Branch 274 earnestly solicits the support and endorsement of all Branches of the Fleet Reserve Association for the candidacy of National Vice President Virgil P. Courneya, for the office of National President, Fleet Reserve Association.

Signed, Peter J. McNamara, President.  
Also Virgil P. Courneya, Secretary/Treasurer.

NP IPPERT: Shipmates, are there any other nominations for National President? Are there any other nominations for National President? Are there any other nominations for National President?

If not, nominations are closed. What is your pleasure, Shipmates? Shipmate at the rear mike.

PNP BLACKBURN: Shipmate National President, I make a motion that the Shipmates at Convention --

UNIDENTIFIED SHIPMATE: Who are you?

PNP BLACKBURN: I am working that way slowly.

NP IPPERT: Proceed.

PNP BLACKBURN: Blackburn, delegate, Branch 8, Vallejo. As I was trying to say, I would highly recommend and make a motion that the Shipmates at Convention elect Past National President Virgil Courneya National President, Fleet Reserve Association, 2015-2016, by acclamation.

(APPLAUSE.)

NP IPPERT: That's all it takes, Shipmate. Congratulations, JJ -- I mean -- congratulations --

(LAUGHTER AND APPLAUSE.)

NP IPPERT: Shipmate Virgil, would you like to say a few words?

NVP COURNEYA: Thank you, Shipmates. I assure you I will continue to carry the load and give it 120 percent. I look forward to working with everybody and looking at how we can save our organization, to bring membership up, and find ways to do that by working with the Branches struggling, working with whoever the next National Vice President is. And together with him, we will find ways to bring our membership up and have a viable organization again. Thank you.

(APPLAUSE.)

NP IPPERT: Shipmates, we will now proceed to the election of the National Vice President. Shipmate National Executive Director, will you read the Resolved portions of the National Vice President candidates.

NED SNEE: Shipmates, Santa Clara Valley Branch 101, Nominating Resolution.

Resolved, That Santa Clara Valley Branch 101, Fleet Reserve Association, at a regularly scheduled monthly meeting held on 14 April 2015, a quorum being present, did unanimously vote to place the name of Past Regional President West Coast Richard J. Fetro in nomination for the office of National Vice President, Fleet Reserve Association, for the Association year 2015-2016; and be it further

Resolved, That Santa Clara Valley Branch 101 earnestly solicits the support and endorsement of all Branches of the Fleet Reserve Association for the candidacy of Past Regional President West Coast Richard J. Fetro for the office of National Vice President, Fleet Reserve Association.

Signed, Charles R. McIntyre, President.  
Richard J. Fetro, Secretary/Treasurer  
Branch 101.

The second candidate. Corpus Christi, Texas, Branch 94.

Resolved, That Corpus Christi, Texas, Branch 94, FRA, at a regularly scheduled monthly meeting held on 8 March 2015, a quorum being present, did unanimously vote to place the name of Past Regional President South Central Donald (Don) E. Larson in nomination for the office of National Vice President, FRA, for the Association year 2015-2016; and it be further

Resolved, That Corpus Christi, Texas, Branch 94, FRA, earnestly solicits the support and endorsement of all Branches of all the FRA for the candidacy of Past Regional President South Central Donald

(Don) E. Larson for the office of National Vice President.

Signed, Walter J. Moore, Jr., President  
Donald Larson, Secretary/Treasurer.

NP IPPERT: Before we get started with the speeches, would the Tally Committee please assemble --

UNIDENTIFIED SHIPMATE: Are there any other nominations?

NP IPPERT: Are there any other nominations from the floor?

PRPNE MUNDAY: Shipmate National President.

NP IPPERT: Shipmate at the rear mike.

PRPNE MUNDAY: Munday, 124, delegate. I'd like to nominate Past Regional President Northeast William Starkey for Vice President.

NP IPPERT: Are there are any other nominations from the floor?  
Bill Starkey, Past Regional President, where are you? Do you accept the nomination?

PRPNE STARKEY: Not this time, National President.

NP IPPERT: Go to the mike.

PRPNE STARKEY: Starkey, delegate, Branch 57.

NP IPPERT: Proceed.

PRPNE STARKEY: Shipmate National President, at this time I cannot accept the nomination because I'm planning on running next year and had my resolution out in November. And I'd like to thank the Shipmate for nominating me. Thank you, Shipmate.

(APPLAUSE.)

NP IPPERT: Are there any other nominations for National Vice President on the floor? Are there any other nominations from the floor for National Vice President? Are there any other nominations from the floor for National Vice President? If not, the nominations are closed.

Now, will the Tally Committee please assemble to the station on my left. Where are you guys?

Don Larson? Don Larson?

Okay. At this time I will entertain any nominating speeches. They will be limited to four minutes. If not, would the Past Regional President South Central Don Larson like to say anything before we commence the vote?

PRPSC LARSON: Good afternoon, Shipmates. I am Past Regional President South Central Donald "Don" Larson. It has been a year since I last stood before you. Last year, at the 87th National Convention in Corpus Christi, Texas, both myself and Shipmate Past Regional President Southwest Roger Mitchell stood before you -- Southeast. Correction, thank you.

One of the things that Shipmate Mitchell asked upon you was -- presented before you was the ABCs of membership. And he also earnestly requested that you vigorously contact and be involved with legislative affairs on a Federal level, and a State level. The Federal level being -- the problem being that there is only so much money to go around. So he requested that you get hard and say level. And I request that you continue with what Shipmate Mitchell requested of you last year, because we know if he was up here this year he would be hitting on you extremely hard.

My nominating resolution is in the delegate kit under Tab V, Victor, National Resolution 2. If you haven't done so already, if you haven't been browbeaten the last couple of days really hard, we request that you take a look at it. That tells you what I have done in the past. What I can do in the future is yet to be determined, but I'm ready and eager and I -- correction -- I am eager and standing by to take on this challenge. And I would be privileged to go before Congress, and the rest of FRA, and all of our Shipmates, to push upon the importance of our FRA membership and what we do on Capitol Hill.

There is a lot to be done, but we all can do it. We shouldn't have to, as was made mention yesterday by the company that is possibly going to work for us, go out and survey, Byron Campbell and Associates.

UNIDENTIFIED SHIPMATE: Brodie-Collins.

PRPSC LARSON: Brodie-Collins and Associates -- thank you so much. They shouldn't have to do that. Again, as I mentioned last year, this is our Association. The FRA is ours. We own this. You took a week out of your life and a thousand-some-plus dollars out of your bank account to be here this week. Unfortunately, not everyone of us recruited at least one member this last year. We ask for a show of hands quite often. I'm not going to ask for that. I know what

the response is.

We cannot let Headquarters do our job for us. They give us the tools and they are ready to give us all the information and assistance that we need, but we are out in the community and we have to recruit. We have to get out there, know our Association, and work for that. It's ours. We own it.

We are all professionals. We are all professional military -- E-1s through E-9s -- we know our activity. It is ours. And I thank you for this time, Shipmates. I appreciate your nomination and your votes.

(APPLAUSE.)

NP IPPERT: Past Regional President West Coast Rick Fetro.

PRPWC FETRO: Shipmate, delegates, can you all hear me? Great. I am Shipmate Rick Fetro, Past Regional President West Coast, and I'm running for National Vice President of the Fleet Reserve Association for the year 2015-16. I want this job and I believe I will make a difference.

Shipmates, we are losing approximately 5,000 -- that's 5,000 members a year. If this continues, in five years at the five-year convention, we will be approximately half the size we are today. That's around 30,000 members.

I will work hard with our staff and members to see that recruiting and retention is at its highest priority. I believe I have the organizational skills and passion that will help turn us around -- turn around this downward trend. Shipmates, it's time to roll up our sleeves and turn this around.

Communicating new ideas is key to any successful organization. We need to have open communications and not let any new ideas fall through the cracks. Thomas Edison once said, "I have not failed. I only found 10,000 ways that didn't work." We need to take chances, because in the end we will regret that the chances -- we will only regret the chances we didn't take.

And I have a little story. A few years ago I volunteered, I was maybe a volunteer junkie. I volunteered for a lot of organizations. I was working in San Francisco and I had the American Legion meeting, which I was an officer of down in Santa Clara. After about 2-1/2 hours on a Friday night, a rainy Friday night, I finally made Santa Clara and I started to talk to myself and I says, "Geez, I have to start focusing on what I really want to do, who I really

want to volunteer with." At that time I said to myself -- and I do talk to myself once in a while -- "I'm going to devote my time to something that is near and dear to my heart, and that is the Fleet Reserve Association."

In a few moments we are going to be voting for a National Vice President. With your support, it will be my honor to serve you, the Shipmates, and truly believe that I can be active and contribute to the success of our great organization. I want to be your next Vice President. Thank you.

(APPLAUSE.)

NP IPPERT: Okay. The Tally Committee is in place. I will invite the National Executive Director to come up here and run the electoral process. The Branches will go from high to low, because this is a odd number year. Without further ado, here is your National Executive Director, Thomas Snee.

NED SNEE: You know which way we are going to start. We're going to start with Branch 386. Please anticipate your Branch number and come up and cast the votes, so we know what it is. I will read the Branch number and the votes. Please tell me loud and clear which one or whatever your vote selections are.

Branch 386, 2 votes.

RPSE COX: Cox, proxy, Branch 386. All votes, Fetro.

NED SNEE: Branch 382, 5 votes.

PRPNW HOLLOWAY: Holloway, Branch 382, 5 votes, Larson.

NED SNEE: Branch 377, 2 votes.

RPNC SANDERS: Curry Sanders, Branch 161, proxy for 377. 2 votes, all for Fetro.

NED SNEE: Branch 377, 2 votes Fetro.

Branch 376, 4 votes.

RPNC-Elect CUNNINGHAM: Cunningham, proxy for 376, 4 votes Fetro.

NED SNEE: Branch 371, 5 votes.

RPSC-Elect GIBSON: Gibson proxy, 371, 5 votes Larson.

NED SNEE: Branch 369, 2 votes.

RPEC WILLIS: Willis, proxy, 2 votes Larson.

NP IPPERT: Branch 367, 7 votes.

PRPNW LAZZARETTI: Lazzaretti, proxy, 367, all votes Fetro.

NED SNEE: Branch 365, 4 votes

PRPNC POSEKANY: Marty Posekany, Branch 298, Grand Rapids, Michigan, proxy for 365, 4 votes Fetro.

NED SNEE: Branch 358, 4 votes.

PRPNC POSEKANY: Marty Posekany, Branch 298, proxy for 358, 4 votes Fetro.

NED SNEE: Branch 344, 2 votes.

RPNE/NEng HUNT: Hunt, proxy, Branch 344, 2 votes Larson.

NED SNEE: Branch 342, 3 votes.

RPNW ARCHER: Archer, proxy for 342, all votes for Larson.

NED SNEE: Branch 339, 2 votes.

RPSE-Elect DAVIS: Davis, proxy, 290. 339, 2 votes Fetro.

NED SNEE: Branch 338, 4 votes.

RPNE/NEng HUNT: Hunt, proxy, 4 votes Larson.

NED SNEE: Branch 335, 2 votes.

PNP BEESE: 335, 2 votes Larson.

NED SNEE: Branch 334, 6 votes.

RPSC-Elect GIBSON: Gibson, proxy, 6 votes Larson.

NED SNEE: Branch 328, 2 votes.

PNP BLACKBURN: Blackburn, proxy 328, 2 votes Fetro.

NED SNEE: Branch 327, 3 votes. Yes, this was based upon what the Credentials Report said.



UNIDENTIFIED SHIPMATE: They are not registered.

NED SNEE: They were reinstated. 327.

UNIDENTIFIED SHIPMATE: Proceed. They are not registered.

NED SNEE: Chairman Brice?

SHIPMATE ROSEMARY POSEKANY: Rosemary Posekany, Branch 298, delegate. I was on the Credentials Committee for North Central Region. Yes, the Branch was reinstated; however, they did not send any credentials to have a proxy. So move on.

PRPSE BRICE: That is correct.

NED SNEE: No vote.

Branch 316, 7 votes.

PRPNC COMBS: Combs, proxy, Branch 316, 7 votes Fetro.

NED SNEE: Branch 315, 2 votes.

RPNC SANDERS: Sanders, proxy, 2 votes Fetro.

NED SNEE: Branch 311, 5 votes.

RPSC-Elect GIBSON: Gibson, proxy, 5 votes Larson.

NED SNEE: Branch 310, 4 votes.

PRPNW LAZZARETTI: Lazzaretti, proxy for 310, votes for Fetro.

NED SNEE: Branch 309, 5 votes.

RPEC WILLIS: Willis, proxy, 5 votes Larson.

NED SNEE: Branch 307, 5 votes.

PRPSC LARSON: Larson, proxy, 5 votes Larson.

NED SNEE: Branch 302, 5 votes.

PRPSE SMITH: Smith, proxy, 5 votes Larson.

NED SNEE: Branch 301, 2 votes.

RPEC WILLIS: Willis, proxy, 2 votes Larson.

NED SNEE: Branch 299, 3 votes. Branch 299, 3 votes.

RPEC WILLIS: Willis, proxy, 3 votes Larson.

NED SNEE: Branch 298, 6 votes.

SHIPMATE ROSEMARY POSEKANY: Rosemary Posekany, chief delegate  
Wolverine Branch 298. All votes for Larson.

NED SNEE: Branch 296, 3 votes.

SHIPMATE FRANK: Frank, delegate, 296, 2 votes for Fetro.

SHIPMATES: Three.

SHIPMATE FRANK: Three, then.

NED SNEE: So 3 votes Fetro.

Branch 295, 2 votes.

RPSC-Elect GIBSON: Gibson, 295 proxy, 2 votes Larson.

NED SNEE: Branch 294, 3 votes.

PRPSE SMITH: Smith, proxy, 3 votes Fetro.

NED SNEE: Branch 293, 10 votes.

SHIPMATE GATES: Gates, Branch 293, delegate, 10 votes Larson.

NED SNEE: Branch 290, 31 votes.

RVPSE DAVIS: Davis, delegate, all votes for Fetro.

NED SNEE: Branch 289, 35 votes.

SHIPMATE QUESNEL: Quesnel, delegate, Chair, 35 votes Larson.

NED SNEE: Branch 287, 2 votes.

SHIPMATE GRAVES: Graves, delegate, proxy, 2 votes Fetro.

NED SNEE: Branch 285, 3 votes.

RPNE/NEng HUNT: Proxy. Hunt, 2 votes for Larson -- 3 votes for

Larson, excuse me.

NED SNEE: Branch 282, 6 votes.

RPSC-Elect GIBSON: Gibbon, proxy, 6 Larson.

NED SNEE: Branch 281, 4 votes.

RPWC-Elect LECLAIRE: LeClaire, proxy, 4 votes Fetro.

RPNC-Elect CUNNINGHAM: You skipped 283.

NED SNEE: 283, I have as --

RPNC-Elect CUNNINGHAM: They got it fixed.

NED SNEE: Okay. Branch 283, 3 votes.

RPNC-Elect CUNNINGHAM: Cunningham, proxy 283, 3 votes Fetro.

NED SNEE: Branch 281, 4 votes -- or Branch 280, 3 votes.

RPNC SANDERS: Sanders, proxy, 3 votes for Fetro.

NED SNEE: Branch 276, 12 votes.

PRPNC POSEKANY: Marty Posekany, Branch 298, proxy for 276, 12 votes Fetro.

NED SNEE: Branch 275, 4 votes. Branch 275, 4 votes.

PNP BOUDREAUX: Boudreaux, delegate, instructed, 4 votes Fetro.

NED SNEE: Branch 274, 3 votes.

PRPWC MCNAMARA: McNamara, delegate, instructed, 3 votes Fetro.

NED SNEE: Branch 269, 38 votes.

RPSE COX: Cox, delegate 269, instructed, all votes Fetro.

NED SNEE: Branch 268, 5 votes.

SHIPMATE WILSON: Wilson, Chairman 268, 5 votes Fetro.

NED SNEE: Branch 263, 6 votes.

SHIPMATE CAMPBELL: Campbell, delegate, 6 votes Larson.

NED SNEE: Branch 261, 19 votes.

RPWC BRIGGS: Delegate, proxy 261, 19 votes Fetro.

NED SNEE: Branch 260, 4 votes.

PRPSW FULTON: Fulton, proxy 260, 4 votes Larson.

NED SNEE: Branch 259, 4 votes.

RPEC WILLIS: Willis, proxy, 4 votes Larson.

NED SNEE: Branch 258, 3 votes.

RPNE/NEng HUNT: Hunt, proxy, all votes, 3 for Larson.

NED SNEE: Branch 257, 2 votes.

RPEC WILLIS: Willis, proxy, 2 votes Larson.

NED SNEE: Branch 254, 4 votes.

RPSE COX: Cox, proxy, all votes Fetro.

NED SNEE: Branch 251, 4 votes.

RPSC-Elect GIBSON: Gibson, proxy, 4 votes Larson.

NED SNEE: Branch 247, 4 votes.

PRPNW LAZZARETTI: Lazzaretti, proxy, 4 votes Fetro, as instructed.

NED SNEE: Branch 245, 4 votes.

RPNW ARCHER: Archer, proxy, 4 votes, all for Larson.

NED SNEE: Branch 244, 3 votes.

RPWC BRIGGS: Briggs, proxy Branch 244, 3 votes Fetro.

NED SNEE: Branch 242, 2 votes.

RPNC SANDERS: Sanders, proxy Branch 242, 4 votes Fetro -- 2 votes.  
I can't count.

NED SNEE: Branch 238, 5 votes.

PRPNC POSEKANY: Marty Posekany, Branch 298, Grand Rapids, delegate, proxy for 238, 5 votes Fetro.

NED SNEE: Branch 232, 2 votes.

RPNE/NEng HUNT: Hunt, proxy Branch 232, Larson 2 votes.

NED SNEE: Branch 230, 6 votes.

PNP BOUDREAUX: Boudreaux, delegate, by proxy, instructed 6 votes Fetro.

NED SNEE: Branch 229, 5 votes.

PRPNE MUNDAY: Munday, proxy, 5 votes Fetro.

NED SNEE: Branch 226, 6 votes.

JrPRPNE/NEng BROWN: Brown, delegate, Larson 6 votes.

NED SNEE: Branch 223, 2 votes.

PRPNC COMBS: Combs, proxy, 2 votes Fetro.

NED SNEE: Branch 222, 3 votes.

RPSC-Elect GIBSON: Gibson, proxy, 3 Larson.

NED SNEE: Branch 219, 4 votes.

RPEC WILLIS: Willis, proxy for 219, 4 votes Larson.

NED SNEE: Branch 217, 4 votes.

RPEC WILLIS: Willis, proxy 217, 4 votes Larson.

NED SNEE: Branch 216, 5 votes.

PRPNC POSEKANY: Marty Posekany, Branch 298, Grand Rapids, Michigan, proxy for 216, 5 votes Fetro.

NED SNEE: Branch 214, 3 votes.

RPNE/NEng HUNT: Hunt, delegate, 3 votes Larson.

NED SNEE: Branch 212, 5 votes.

PRPEC GUNTHER: Gunther, proxy, 5 votes Larson.

NED SNEE: Branch 210, 12 votes.

SHIPMATE TRUELSEN: Truelson, delegate, Branch 210, 12 votes Fetro.

NED SNEE: Branch 208, 10 votes.

RPEC WILLIS: Willis, proxy, 10 votes Larson.

NED SNEE: Branch 207, 5 votes.

PNP GILMARTIN: Gilmartin, 207, 4 votes Fetro, 1 vote Larson.

NED SNEE: I will read the split. Branch 207, 4 votes Fetro, 1 vote Larson.

Branch 204, 2 votes.

RPEC WILLIS: Willis, proxy for 204, 2 votes Larson.

NED SNEE: Branch 202, 4 votes.

RPSE-Elect DAVIS: Davis, proxy, 290, 4 votes Fetro.

NED SNEE: Branch 201, 9 votes.

RVPSC TALBOT: Talbot, proxy Branch 201, 9 votes Larson.

NED SNEE: Branch 197, 3 votes.

RPWC-Elect LECLAIRE: LeClaire, proxy, 3 votes Fetro.

NED SNEE: Branch 194, 5 votes.

PRPSE SMITH: Smith, delegate, 5 votes Fetro.

NED SNEE: Branch 192, 5 votes.

RPWC BRIGGS: Briggs, delegate, Branch 192, 5 votes Fetro.

NED SNEE: Branch 1872 votes.

PRPSE BRICE: Brice, delegate, 2 votes Fetro.

NED SNEE: Branch 185, 3 votes.

RPWC BRIGGS: Briggs, delegate, proxy 185, 3 votes Fetro.

NED SNEE: Branch 184, 2 votes.

RPSE COX: Cox, proxy Branch 184, all votes Fetro.

NED SNEE: Branch 183, 4 votes.

RPSE COX: Cox, proxy Branch 183, all votes Fetro.

NED SNEE: Branch 182, 7 votes.

PRPEC GUNTHER: Gunther, delegate, 7 votes Larson.

NED SNEE: Branch 181, 12 votes.

PRPEC WASHINGTON: Washington, delegate Branch 181, 12 votes Larson.

NED SNEE: Branch 178, 3 votes. Branch 178, 3 votes.

RPWC-Elect LECLAIRE: LeClaire, proxy Branch 178, 3 votes Fetro.

NED SNEE: Branch 175, 19 votes.

SHIPMATE GRIGSBY: Grigsby, proxy Branch 175, 19 votes Larson.

NED SNEE: Branch 144, 5 votes.

RPNW ARCHER: Archer, proxy, all votes Larson.

NED SNEE: Branch 172, 7 votes.

PNP SCARBRO: Scarbro, delegate, proxy, 7 votes Fetro.

NED SNEE: Branch 171, 3 votes.

RPNW ARCHER: Archer, proxy, all for Larson.

NED SNEE: Branch 170, 11 votes.

PRPNW HOLLOWAY: Holloway, proxy, 11 votes Larson.

NED SNEE: Branch 166, 13 votes.

PRPEC HOLCOMBE: Holcombe, delegate, 13 votes Larson.

NED SNEE: Branch 163, 11 votes.

PRPSW KATZENBERGER: Katzenberger, delegate, all votes Larson.

NED SNEE: Branch 162, 13 votes.

PRPSC LARSON: Larson, proxy, as directed, 13 votes Larson.

NED SNEE: Branch 161, 15 votes.

PRPNC COMBS: Combs, delegate, 15 votes Fetro.

NED SNEE: Branch 159, 6 votes.

RVPSC TALBOT: Talbot, delegate Branch 159, 6 votes Larson.

NED SNEE: Branch 156, 9 votes.

PRPNEng LOVELESS: Loveless, delegate, 156 -- Branch 156. All votes Fetro.

NED SNEE: Branch 154, 3 votes.

PRPNW LAZZARETTI: Lazzaretti, proxy for Baguio Branch 154, 3 votes Fetro.

NED SNEE: Branch 146, 4 votes.

PRPNE MUNDAY: Munday, proxy, Branch 146, 4 votes Fetro.

NED SNEE: Branch 145, 4 votes.

UNIDENTIFIED SHIPMATE: Not registered.

NED SNEE: They were not registered. Okay.

Branch 141, 6 votes.

RPEC WILLIS: Willis, proxy for 141, 6 votes Larson.

NED SNEE: Branch 137, 4 votes.

RPWC-Elect LECLAIRE: LeClaire, proxy Branch 137, 4 votes Fetro.

NED SNEE: Branch 136, 18 votes.

PRPSC MILLER: Miller, delegate 136, 18 votes Larson.

NED SNEE: Branch 132, 3 votes.

PRPNEng JUSTIN: Justin, proxy, 3 votes Fetro.



NED SNEE: Branch 127, 4 votes.

PRPNW LAZZARETTI: Lazzaretti, proxy, Bicol Region Branch 127, all votes Fetro, by instruction.

NED SNEE: Branch 126, 16 votes.

JrPNP KILGORE: Kilgore, proxy, 16 votes instructed for Larson.

NED SNEE: Branch 124, 8 votes.

PRPNE MUNDAY: Branch 124, delegate Munday, 8 votes Larson.

NED SNEE: Branch 123, 2 votes.

RPEC WILLIS: Willis, proxy for 123, 2 votes Larson.

NED SNEE: Branch 118, 4 votes.

RPSE COX: Cox, proxy, Branch 118, all votes Fetro.

NED SNEE: Branch 117, 10 votes.

SHIPMATE MIDDLEKAUFF: Middlekauff, delegate, Branch 117, 10 votes Larson.

NED SNEE: Branch 115, 7 votes.

RPNE/NEng-Elect JANSKY: Jansky, proxy, 7 votes Fetro.

NED SNEE: Branch 113, 3 votes.

RPWC-Elect LECLAIRE: LeClaire, proxy Branch 113, 3 votes Fetro.

NED SNEE: Branch 106, 7 votes.

RPNE/NEng HUNT: Hunt, proxy, 7 votes for Larson.

NED SNEE: Branch 105, 5 votes.

RPNC SANDERS: Sanders, proxy, 5 votes Fetro.

NED SNEE: Branch 104, 6 votes.

RVPNW THOMPSON: Thompson, delegate 104, 6 votes Fetro.

NED SNEE: Branch 103, 9 votes.

PRPNW LAZZARETTI: Lazzaretti, proxy Yokosuka Branch 103, all votes Fetro.

NED SNEE: Branch 101, 12 votes.

PRPWC MCINTYRE: McIntyre, delegate, Branch 101, 12 votes for Fetro, uninstructed.

NED SNEE: Branch 99, 36 votes.

SHIPMATE CHECHE: Cheche, 99, delegate, 36 votes Fetro.

NED SNEE: Branch 98, 2 votes. Branch 98, 2 votes.

PRPSC LARSON: Larson, proxy, 2 votes, uninstructed, Larson.

NED SNEE: Branch 97, 22 votes.

SHIPMATE SERABIAN: Serabian, delegate Branch 97, 22 votes Fetro.

NED SNEE: Branch 94, 16 votes.

PRPSC LARSON: Larson, delegate, 16 votes Larson.

NED SNEE: Branch 93, 18 votes. Branch 93, 18 votes.

RPEC WILLIS: Willis, proxy for 93, all votes Larson.

UNIDENTIFIED SHIPMATE: Whoa, you don't have a proxy for 93.

NED SNEE: There is no proxy for Branch 93. No vote.

Branch 92, 3 votes.

PRPSC LARSON: Larson, delegate, 3 votes Larson.

NED SNEE: Branch 91, 50 votes. 5-0.

PRPSE ROBBINS: Robbins, delegate, 50 votes Larson.

NED SNEE: Branch 90, 6 votes.

SHIPMATE HOUSTON: Houston, Branch 90, delegate, uninstructed 6 votes Larson.

NED SNEE: Branch 87, 4 votes.

JrPRPNE/NEng BROWN: Branch 87, Brown, proxy, 4 votes Larson.

NED SNEE: Branch 86, 8 votes.

RPSE COX: Cox, proxy Branch 86, all votes Fetro.

NED SNEE: Branch 85, 4 votes.

RPSW-Elect KELLEY: Kelley, proxy, 4 votes Larson.

NED SNEE: Branch 84, 10 votes.

RPSW HERMES: Hermes, proxy, 10 votes Larson.

NED SNEE: Branch 77, 6 votes.

RPSW-Elect KELLEY: Kelley, proxy, 6 votes Larson.

NED SNEE: Branch 74, 2 votes.

RPNW ARCHER: Archer, proxy, all 2 of them go to Larson.

NED SNEE: Branch 72, 3 votes.

PRPNEng JUSTIN: Justin, proxy, Fetro.

NED SNEE: Shipmate, is that all votes go to Fetro?

PRPNEng JUSTIN: 3 votes.

NED SNEE: Thank you. Branch 71, 5 votes.

PRPNE MUNDAY: Munday, proxy, 5 votes Fetro.

NED SNEE: Branch 70, 33 votes.

RPSE-Elect DAVIS: Davis, delegate, 33 votes for Larson.

NED SNEE: Branch 68, 5 votes.

RPNW ARCHER: Archer, proxy, all for Larson.

NED SNEE: Five votes for Larson.

Branch 67, 11 votes. Branch 67, 11 votes.

UNIDENTIFIED SHIPMATE: Proxy is sick. Vatter is the proxy, but he is sick.

NED SNEE: No vote. Proxy is sick.

Branch 66, 7 votes.

PRPNEng JUSTIN: Justin, proxy, 7 votes Fetro.

NED SNEE: Branch 63, 3 votes. Branch 63, 3 votes.

RPNW ARCHER: Archer, proxy, all for Larson.

NED SNEE: Branch 63, 3 votes Larson.

Branch 62, 3 votes.

RPSW HERMES: Hermes, proxy 62, 3 votes for Larson.

NED SNEE: Branch 61, 34 votes.

RPSW HERMES: Hermes, delegate, 34 votes Larson.

NED SNEE: Branch 60, 31 votes.

RPEC WILLIS: Willis, delegate, 60 votes Larson -- 31 votes for Larson, vice 60. I can't count.

(LAUGHTER.)

NED SNEE: You tried. You tried, man.

Branch 59, 6 votes.

RPNW ARCHER: Archer, delegate, all Larson.

NED SNEE: Branch 59, 6 votes Larson.

Branch 57, 7 votes.

PRPNE STARKEY: Starkey, delegate, 7 votes instructed for Fetro.

NED SNEE: Branch 54, 2 votes.

SHIPMATE WILSON: Wilson, Branch 268, proxy, 2 votes Fetro.

NED SNEE: Branch 53, 15 votes.

PRPNC ZALEWSKI: Zalewski, proxy, all votes Fetro.

NED SNEE: Branch 51, 4 votes.

RPSE COX: Cox, proxy, all votes Fetro.

NED SNEE: Branch 14, 7 votes.

RPWC BRIGGS: Briggs, delegate, proxy Branch 147, 7 votes Fetro.

NED SNEE: Branch 48, 4 votes.

RPWC-Elect LECLAIRE: LeClaire, proxy Branch 48, 4 votes Fetro.

NED SNEE: Branch 47, 11 votes.

SHIPMATE CROSS: Cross, Branch 47, delegate, 11 votes Larson.

NED SNEE: Branch 46, 44 votes.

RPNW-Elect WYNN: Wynn, Branch 46 delegate, 4 votes Larson.

NED SNEE: Branch 44, 3 votes.

RPSE-Elect DAVIS: Davis, proxy, 290, Fetro 3 votes.

NED SNEE: Branch 42, 9 votes.

PRPNEng JUSTIN: Justin, delegate, 9 votes Fetro.

NED SNEE: Branch 41, 5 votes.

PRPEC GUNTHER: Gunther, proxy, Branch 41, 5 votes Larson.

NED SNEE: Branch 40, 15 votes.

SHIPMATE PHELPS: Phelps, delegate, 15, Fetro.

NED SNEE: Branch 33, 5 votes.

SHIPMATE DEAN: Dean, delegate, 5 votes Fetro.

NED SNEE: Branch 37, 2 votes.

PRPEC HOLCOMBE: Holcombe, delegate, 2 votes Larson.

NED SNEE: Branch 34, 3 votes.

RPSE COX: Cox, proxy Branch 34, all votes Fetro.

NED SNEE: Branch 31, 3 votes.

RPNE/NEng-ELECT JANSKY: Jansky, delegate, 3 votes Fetro.

NED SNEE: Branch 29, 23 votes.

PRPSC MILLER: Miller, delegate, Branch 29, 23 votes Fetro.

NED SNEE: Branch 26, 4 votes.

RPSW HERMES: Hermes, proxy, 4 votes Larson.

NED SNEE: Branch 24, 75 votes.

PRPEC HOOVER: Branch 24, Hoover, delegate, all votes Larson. 75 votes Larson.

NED SNEE: Branch 23, 5 votes.

RPNE/NEng HUNT: Hunt, proxy, 5 votes Larson.

NED SNEE: Branch 22, 24 votes.

JrPNP KILGORE: Kilgore, delegate, 24 votes Fetro.

NED SNEE: Branch 21, 2 votes.

PNP BLACKBURN: Blackburn, proxy, 2 votes Fetro.

NED SNEE: Branch 20, 22 votes.

RPNE/NEng-Elect JANSKY: Jansky, proxy, 22 votes Fetro.

NED SNEE: Branch 18, 10 votes.

PRPNW JORDAN: Jordan, delegate, Branch 18 Seattle, 10 votes for -- 10 votes for -- my god, I can't even say his name.

PRPNW LAZZARETTI: Delegate, Branch 18, 10 votes Fetro.

NED SNEE: Thank you, Shipmate.

PRPNW LAZZARETTI: Shipmate Lazzaretti.

NED SNEE: Branch 15, 3 votes.

RPSE COX: Cox, proxy Branch 15, all votes Fetro.

NED SNEE: Branch 14, 8 votes.

PRPNC ZALEWSKI: Zalewski, delegate, all votes Fetro.

NED SNEE: Branch 13, 4 votes.

[SHIPMATE FURNESS: Furness], delegate, 4 votes Larson.

NED SNEE: Branch 11, 16 votes.

RPSC-Elect GIBSON: Gibson, delegate, 16 Larson.

NED SNEE: Branch 10, 8 votes.

PRPWC FETRO: Fetro, delegate, proxy, 8 votes Fetro.

NED SNEE: Branch 8, 12 votes.

PNP BLACKBURN: Blackburn, delegate Chairman, 12 votes, Fetro.

NED SNEE: Branch 6, 4 votes.

PRPEC GUNTHER: Branch 6, Gunther, proxy, 6 votes -- excuse me, 4 votes Larson.

NED SNEE: Branch 5, 12 votes.

PRPEC HOLCOMBE: Holcombe, proxy, 12 votes Larson.

NED SNEE: Branch 4, 5 votes.

SHIPMATE CALIGURIAN: Caligurian, delegate, Branch 4, 5 votes for Larson.

NED SNEE: And Branch 1, 8 votes.

RPNE/NEng HUNT: Hunt, proxy, 8 votes Larson.

PRPSE ROBBINS: Shipmate NED.

NP IPPERT: Yes, Shipmate?

PRPSE ROBBINS: Robbins, delegate. I challenge Credentials. Branch 147 was registered, because I signed the paper and I carry the proxy card.

NED SNEE: Shipmates. Shipmates, that's from the Chairman of the Credentials Committee.

Branch 147, 15 votes.

PRPSE ROBBINS: Larson -- 15 votes. I'm sorry.

NED SNEE: Shipmate President, that concludes the roll.

NP IPPERT: Thank you, Shipmate.

(Three raps of the gavel.)

NP IPPERT: Shipmate Chaplain, please close the Bible. We are going to take a short break while the Tally Committee gets everything together. We will make report as soon as we return in 5 minutes. Make that 3:35 -- 1535.

NCHAP HALL: Shipmate National President, the Bible is closed.

(One rap of the gavel.)

NP IPPERT: 1535. Thank you, National Chaplain.

(Recess.)

NP IPPERT: Shipmate Master-at-Arms, invite the Shipmates into the meeting hall and close the doors.

(Three raps of the gavel.)

NP IPPERT: Shipmate Chaplain, please open the Bible.

NCHAP HALL: Shipmate National President, the Bible is open.

NP IPPERT: Thank you, Shipmate National Chaplain.

Shipmates the tally is in. The votes were 618 to 756. Oh, and the winner is Don Larson.

(APPLAUSE.)

NP IPPERT: Shipmate Master-at-Arms, please escort Shipmate National Vice President-Elect to the podium.

(SYNCOPATED CLAPPING.)

(One rap of the gavel.)

NVP-Elect LARSON: Okay. Shipmates, thank you. Thank you very much. I wanted this. I want to do the job. I want to serve you.



And we are going to move forward.

I don't have all the answers; you have the answers. We will move forward. I wanted to bring, just like last year Shipmate Mitchell brought me up forward. I want to bring Shipmate Rick up here too and congratulate him on a successful campaign.

(APPLAUSE.)

NVP-Elect LARSON: We kept it clean, I believe. We kept it clean. Just like -- I encourage him to run again next year. I did that too. But thank you so much. Thank you. Thank you.

(APPLAUSE.)

NP IPPERT: Thank you, Shipmate Don. Hold on just one second. Okay. Would the Master-at-Arms please escort our National Vice President-Elect and National President-Elect over to the ladies. Find out when they can get in.

At this time I want to have Time and Place come up and talk about 2016's convention in Jacksonville, Florida.

PNP LAFRA SANDRA ROBBINS: Good afternoon. I am hoping that I am going to see every one of you, plus some more, in -- oh, he said you don't know who I am. Everybody knows who I am. I'm the jokester. Sandra Robbins, Past National President of the LAFRA and Unit 91, Jacksonville, Florida.

(APPLAUSE.)

PNP LAFRA SANDRA ROBBINS: I will start with last year I had the duty, with several other people to be put on a search committee. That doesn't mean you are going to be free and clear once you find somebody to do the convention, because it don't work that way. Because I'll be honest, when we went out as a search committee we went out all over the United States putting in for bids at hotels. One stipulation was given to our ladies, and that was my stipulation. We are not coming to Jacksonville, Florida. Well, the last time the bids go out and we were ready, she conned me into letting her put Jacksonville on the list.

Now, we had already had four times we had put the bids out. This was our final time to try to find a hotel. And would you believe it, Jacksonville had the best bid. So I should have started in our own backyard.

With that said, the committee decided that, since it was in

Jacksonville and everything, they just looked at me and said: Don't you think your Branch and Unit could do that? And I'm looking at it: Well, what do you mean? Well, guess what, we are going to do it. So we took control and put the letter of intent in and everything for the hotel.

The hotel is now the Lexington Hotel and Conference Center. It was the Radisson when we signed the contract. The contract is still good as signed and we get everything that was on that.

Your rates are \$89, plus 13 percent tax. Your \$89 a night includes two breakfast tickets for a hot breakfast.

PRPSE ROBBINS: Two tickets per room per day.

PNP LAFRA SANDRA ROBBINS: If you have four people in that room, two of you are not eating.

(LAUGHTER.)

PNP LAFRA SANDRA ROBBINS: Or you are sharing your breakfast somehow. But each room will get two tickets, if there are two people. If it's only one, they will only get the one breakfast ticket per night. That is something we haven't had that much lately. Usually, you still have to pay for your breakfast.

The drawback on the \$89 a night, even though you are having the two breakfasts, if you are driving there is a \$5 parking fee that I cannot get any better. It was \$12; we got it to \$5. The an independent person that is doing it and they have to pay the hotel. So it's \$5 parking.

Your dates -- I'm getting there, I'm trying to keep it in order -- is the week of October 9 through October 16 of 2016. That's October 9, a Sunday, and October 16, is the following Sunday.

Rates are good three days prior to us beginning the convention and three days after. So the hotel will do that.

It has the basic amenities like all hotel conference centers do. First floor is your lobby and all meeting rooms. We have four elevators.

PRPSE ROBBINS: There are only five floors. It won't take that long.

PNP LAFRA SANDRA ROBBINS: They are larger elevators than we have here. Saying, "Do they all work?" They were all working when we

were there. We will keep checking back. I will let you know that the hotel is under a remodel, because it was bought out. The new owners didn't like completely the look and they have decided to remodel. Remodeling has already started. They are starting with the lower floor with the restaurant, which is important, and the bar area and stuff there.

The lobby will be the last thing that will be fixed. Sleeping rooms are on the second through fifth floors. They are being remodeled also in groups. Their remodel is scheduled to be finished prior to you all arriving. That is the push. They should be done in August, the very first of September. So we have a little wedge time here.

We are really pleased with the hotel staff. They are really going to work hard for us. But not only is the hotel glad that you all are coming there, we have a thing called Visit Jacksonville, which is a group that promotes Jacksonville and they are on board with us. They are on board with us to the point that the day after we said we were interested, Visit Jacksonville made a contact and we have been given a grant already. We just have to meet the specifications in that grant and we can use that money that way.

But we are a very military town. We have bases. We have NAS JAX and NAS Mayport. We are in the process of using retired Cecil Field at the moment, because the runways at NAS JAX is shut down for a resurfacing project. So no planes can come in and out. We are close enough to Kings Bay where, for you submariners that are wanting to go under, you can go up there and have fun.

We have Marines in town. We have Coasties. They are onboard Cecil as well as we have them in St. Augustine and Mayport. We also have our other military brothers and sisters in the town.

I think that one of the things that I love about Jacksonville is they love the military and they like to show that. If you fly into our airport, it is JIA. Most airlines come in there. There is shuttle service. We have an Amtrak station that is about 15 miles away. And if you do that, you would have to -- you can get shuttle service from there.

If you are driving, the Interstates will bring you right on downtown. You are going to be downtown on the river. Most of the hotel faces the river. There is a river walk and you will be right on the St. Johns, which is one of the few rivers in the world that flows north. We have a river taxi that you can utilize to go across the river, because you are on the south bank. It is right by the hotel where they pick them up and for \$7 a day -- it may be free by then, who knows. They keep bumping it -- but you can ride that

whole day across the river and there are three or four stops.

We also have at this moment in time a Skyway Express and it's free. It's on the backside of the hotel and it will take you to several stops into the city and stuff across the river.

There are restaurants, probably about 75 on 80, within less than five miles. A lot of them are in walking distance. Now, walking distance is a couple of blocks. Okay? Less than a mile, we have all of those.

I'm hoping -- we are hoping the Charles F. Adams group, we have a museum group. They are trying to restore the Charles F. Adams and they project it to be on the north bank sometime within the next year. It would be wonderful if they are there by then. We are not that far from our Memorial Wall. We also have the Lone Sailor less than a half a block from the hotel. And since we are thinking -- the committee is thinking that, since the Navy birthday falls during that week on that Thursday, we are thinking of trying to do a ceremony either right there on the river walk or us do something over at the Memorial Wall, beings you all are there.

For you football fans, I have already challenged the NED that hopefully the Cleveland Browns may be in town. Because we haven't played them for several years. If you come in early enough, we will see about if we can get you tickets or lower tickets. We may put out for that. But on the Sunday coming in and before you leave, there are football games. If you are interested, we may put that out an additional activity.

PRPSE ROBBINS: The other thing we are trying to do is set up the gambling cruises that come in and out of Mayport. I see a lot of people clapping on that. We are trying to set up tours of NAS JAX and Naval Station Mayport. I was just informed, it is not an Air Station the only a Naval Station.

So we have a lot planned and it's like everybody knows, you know you try your hardest, and then it turns up well this is what we got. But still, I am inviting everybody to come. We are going to have a good time. From the hotel to the river is like from here to that back wall. So you are right on the river walk. And if you enjoy walking, it is a brand-new river walk. It was just finished. There are benches and overhangs, and steps. If you want to bring a fishing pole -- I would catch and release -- but you would enjoy so the walk.

PNP LAFRA SANDRA ROBBINS: He said gambling casinos for the gambling folks, but we do have two poker rooms. If you play poker, we have

one of the top poker rooms that are affiliated with the National Poker Association, and as a matter of fact they run some of the tournaments out of one of those poker rooms.

UNIDENTIFIED SHIPMATE: Do you have casinos?

PNP LAFRA SANDRA ROBBINS: We don't have a casino. We are in Florida. If you are not an Indian, you can't have a casino.

PRPSE ROBBINS: Is there any questions? Shipmate?

UNIDENTIFIED SHIPMATE: The also to be the Navy birthday on October 13th.

PRPSE ROBBINS: Yes, sir. We know that. And that is going to be the theme of our thing. That is why we are going to try to do something at the Lone Sailor or at the Memorial Wall. So we are planning to try doing something on the Navy birthday.

I feel sorry for the Marines, but if their birthday was close we would do something for them too.

All right, yes, Shipmate?

SHIPMATE GRUETZNER: Gruetzner from Branch 201. Question: What is the weather like? I love Spokane. It's really pretty, but it's so frickin' cold here. What is it like there?

PRPSE ROBBINS: Right now I'm going to say that the weather is in the low 80's during the day and she'll drop down to -- I am going to say high 60's at night. So you don't need a winter coat and long pants. And it is green down there, not brown.

PRPNW BURKE: Shipmate Burke. I didn't promise you warm weather, but this is warm for Spokane this time of year. If you think you're cold when you're leaving, you should have brought your winter coats.

PNP LAFRA SANDRA ROBBINS: I had bunches of magazines from Jacksonville out on the thing. I think most of them are gone. I've got a few more I will put out there. My regular fliers without the hotel information -- it has hotel information on the flyer, but the flyer from the hotel -- I have a few of those. I will leave them out there. We will get a newsletter out as quickly as we can. Thank you.

(APPLAUSE.)

NP IPPERT: Thank you. I'm looking forward to Jacksonville; I don't

know about you. But I like 75 degrees and warm weather.

At this time, I would like the Board of Directors to assemble down in front of the altar. That would be all the current Regional Presidents, the Parliamentarian, the Vice President.

PNP BLACKBURN: Shipmate National President.

NP IPPERT: Shipmate at the rear mike.

PNP BLACKBURN: In my important status as the "hops keeper" of the West Coast Regional Beer Club -- I go by "Give Me Your Money" -- I want to remind you all that the Beer Club will meet tonight in the Hospitality Room at 1900. Please come up. Have a beer. Tell a few stories. Meet some new friends. Shake hands with your old ones. Bring your dues or new members to the Beer Club. I thank you much.

PNP GILMARTIN: Shipmate National President. Gilmartin, 207. And as a warmup to the West Coast Beer Club, FRA Scotch Club is having a meeting for no dues at 1800 in the Hospitality Room, thanks to Shipmate Joe Nash.

(APPLAUSE.)

NED SNEE: Shipmates, we will now hand out the certificates. A little side note. I accept the Jaguars bets and winnings of the Cleveland Browns when we get there. Not Special Olympics either.

Okay. Fleet Reserve Association:

Virgil P. Courneya, National Vice President.

PNP Mark Kilgore.

National Chaplain Bill Hall.

Regional President Northeast/New England Floyd Hunt.

Regional President East Coast JJ Willis.

Regional President Southeast Larry Cox.

Regional President North Central Curry Sanders.

Regional President Southwest Past Regional President Southwest Gus Hermes.

Regional President West Coast Larry Briggs.

Regional President Northwest Michael Archer.

National Parliamentarian/Past National President Jim Eblen.

We will now be giving the ones out for the Chairmanships.

Junior Past Regional President Northwest, Chairman Americanism-Patriotism Daniel Holloway.

Chairman, Budget and Finance Committee Past National President Gary Blackburn.

Past Regional President Northwest Pete Lazzaretti Chairman, Future Planning Committee.

Junior Past Regional President Northeast/New England James Brown, Chairman, Hospitals, Welfare and Rehabilitation Committee.

Regional President East Coast Elect Penny J. Collins Chairman, Membership and Retention Committee.

Past Regional President North Central Leon Zalewski Chairman, Public Relations Committee.

Past Regional President Southeast, Jerry Brice, Chairman, 88th National Convention Credentials and Registration Committee.

Past Regional President West Coast Charles R. McIntyre, Chairman, 88th National Convention Honorary Membership, Certificate of Merit Committee.

Past Regional President Northwest Dean Miller, Master-at-Arms, 88th National Convention.

NVP COURNEYA: Shipmate Chairmen, if you have the books that were given to you to review for your committees, make sure they get back to somebody that is here to take them home. Okay? I've had a lot of questions from Shipmates where their books were at that we sent to you. Please, get them back to them or get them down here as soon as possible so they can pick them up.

PRPNW LAZZARETTI: Shipmate National Vice President.

NVP COURNEYA: NED Tom Snee.

Shipmate at the rear mike.

PRPNW LAZZARETTI: Lazzaretti, Convention Chair. May I make a few announcements before we cut out?

NVP COURNEYA: Shipmates, after Shipmate Lazzaretti gets done making announcements, the National President will be available over here to take your donations for the Disaster Relief Fund. Thank you. Go ahead, Shipmate.

PRPNW LAZZARETTI: Lazzaretti, Co-Chair, National Convention.

Shipmates who are going to be picking up tuxedos, we will be having a shuttle tomorrow morning at 11:00 a.m., leaving from the lobby.

Secondly, as some of you may have already heard, the shirts for the convention have been reduced in price to \$20. We will have the stand open until 5 o'clock. As well as the last couple of tickets are available for the banquet tomorrow night. That's all I have right now.

NVP COURNEYA: Thank you, Shipmate.

NED SNEE: Shipmates, just a couple a little housekeeping notes. Shipmates, I would still like to see the Regional Presidents-Elect of Northwest and New England, and Northeast, so please come up here. I need the name of your capping person.

And also, Regional Presidents, make sure that your medallion gets transferred over so we can have it for the picture for tomorrow. The incoming Regional Presidents will have to sign for those as well, acknowledging that you have them. Thank you.

PRPNW LAZZARETTI: One more quick announcement. Yes, you must clear all your stuff off the tables. Books for the different committees are on the tables on the side walls over here. Take all your stuff with you. I hate to trash it unnecessarily.

NED SNEE: Disaster Relief checks are now being accepted to my left over here by the flags. Thank you.

PRPSE ROBBINS: Shipmate NED.

NED SNEE: Shipmate at the mike.

PRPSE ROBBINS: Shipmate NED, Robbins, delegate, 91. Beings that everybody is leaving, I make a motion that we adjourn.

NED SNEE: I will give that to the National President. He has to adjourn and go into recess, and to tell us when we are to meet again.

NP IPPERT: Hold it down, now. One more announcement to make. Okay. We are adjourned. I am just giving you some information first. There is one more workshop this afternoon for iMIS. It's very informative. I have been to them before. So the remainder of you to who checks to present, I will remain over here by the stage. And if anyone else doesn't have anything else for the good and order.



(Three raps of the gavel.)

NP IPPERT: Shipmate Chaplain, please close the Bible.

NCHAP HALL: Shipmate National President, the Bible is closed.

NP IPPERT: We are adjourned to 1300 tomorrow afternoon, for those who are involved with the rehearsal, and 1700 for the Joint Installation and Banquet.

(One rap of the gavel.)

(Whereupon, at 1615, the Fourth Business Session was adjourned.)