

FRA 89th and LAFRA 84th NATIONAL CONVENTION  
FLEET RESERVE ASSOCIATION AND LADIES AUXILIARY OF THE  
FLEET RESERVE ASSOCIATION  
Jacksonville, Florida  
JOINT OPENING CEREMONIES  
Wednesday, October 12, 2016  
0900-11:04 a.m.

CONV CHMN PRPSE ROBBINS: Shipmate Master-at-Arms, please invite the Shipmates, the Auxiliary members and guests to enter the hall and close the doors.

Thank you, Shipmate Master-at-Arms. Shipmates, Auxiliary members, distinguished guests, I am Past Regional President Southeast/Regional President Southeast-Elect, James E. "Robbie" Robbins, Jr.

(Laughter.)

CONV CHMN PRPSE ROBBINS: There's a reason for that, and you will probably find it out throughout the program. First Coast, Branch 091. I'm chairman of the FRA 89th National Convention and on my left, is Past National President Sandra "Sandy" Robbins, First Coast, Unit 091, Chairperson of the LAFRA 84th National Convention.

CONV CHMN PNP SANDY ROBBINS: Good morning.

CONV CHMN PRPSE ROBBINS: Hello, how are you doing? It didn't say pause.

CONV CHMN PNP SANDY ROBBINS: I know, but I just said hello.

CONV CHMN PRPSE ROBBINS: We are pleased to welcome all of you to the Joint Opening Ceremony of the FRA, LAFRA National Convention. And right up front, I want to say thank you to everybody that did show up. We had a slight problem. He was standing 50 miles off of our coast just saying hello and he did quite a bit of damage when he came in down south because he washed out one of our beautiful land traveling sites called A1A. It's no longer there. It's out in the ocean somewhere.

And then he went up north and I heard this morning, and I really feel sorry because they were talking 80 to 90 deaths in North Carolina. Who is shutting the lights off on me?

CONV CHMN PNP SANDY ROBBINS: Matthew, did you come back?

CONV CHMN PRPSE ROBBINS: Please, somebody check into this. This is not in braille. And I'm on -- but I really want to thank everybody that showed up. We are going to have a good time, and I'm going to get off the soapbox. I'm going to present; Shipmate Master-at-Arms, would you please escort keynote speaker, The Honorable Christopher O'Connor, Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary of the Congressional Legislative Affairs, Department of Veterans Affairs.

(Syncopated applause.)

CONV CHMN PNP SANDY ROBBINS: Thank you for coming. Oh, thank you for putting the lights on.

Madam Sergeant-at-Arms, and Marshal, will you please escort National President LAFRA Helen A. Courneya to the rostrum.

(Syncopated applause.)

CONV CHMN PNP SANDY ROBBINS: Please escort her to her seat on my left. Welcome.

PNP HELEN COURNEYA: Thank you.

CONV CHMN PRPSE ROBBINS: Shipmate Master-at-Arms, will you please escort the National President of the Fleet Reserve Association, Virgil P. Courneya to the rostrum, please.

(Syncopated applause.)

CONV CHMN PRPSE ROBBINS: It is now my honor to present the Scottish American Military Society Franklin Buchanan, Post 131.

Color guards, present the colors.

Hand salute.

Two.

Shipmate National Chaplain, would you please invoke the blessing of God.

Remove hats.

NCHAP WALLACE: "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."

Shipmate National President, the Bible is now open.

CONV CHMN PRPSE ROBBINS: Thank you, Shipmate National President.

CONV CHMN PNP SANDY ROBBINS: No, National Chaplain.

CONV CHMN PRPSE ROBBINS: I'm sorry, I meritoriously advanced you. It is called a field promotion. Correct?

CONV CHMN PRPSE ROBBINS: Cindy, raise your hand.

Would you please come over to the mic?

Before we start this, please, everybody take your cellphone and shut it off. I just heard one go off. So I know that there are cellphones that are on.

Cindy is going to lead us in the National Anthem and I would like everybody to join along.

(Whereupon the National Anthem was sung by the assembly.)

CONV CHMN PNP SANDY ROBBINS: Thank you.

(Applause.)

CONV CHMN PRPSE ROBBINS: Please recite with me the "Pledge of Allegiance" to our flag.

"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."

CONV CHMN PRPSE ROBBINS: Scottish American Military Society, Admiral Franklin Buchanan, Post 131, please post the colors, sir.

Hand salute.

Two.

CONV CHMN PRPSE ROBBINS: I would like to thank the Scottish American Military Society for gathering up their people. We were hoping to have a 12 bagpipe, but where these gentlemen live, the word "catastrophic damage" did come into effect so a lot of them could not make it and these gentlemen did their best to get here.

So let's please give them a round of applause.

(Applause.)

CONV CHMN PNP SANDY ROBBINS: If nothing else, it was good to see men in kilts.

(Laughter.)

CONV CHMN PRPSE ROBBINS: I knew the Ladies would like that. Okay, let's get back to serious business.

Shipmates, please 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."

CONV CHMN PNP SANDY ROBBINS: Auxiliary members, would you please repeat with me the preamble to the Ladies Auxiliary of the Fleet Reserve Association.

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.)

CONV CHMN PNP SANDY ROBBINS: I'm going to digress from the script for just a second while he is getting something for me that we left in the box down here.

We really appreciate everyone's patience. I think that's something sometimes we all don't have that much and we appreciate your coming, for one thing. It was a -- there was like two factions if you lived in the area here, we were hearing one thing on TV and stuff, but if you lived out of our area, like Virgil and Helen do, they were hearing from people outside how bad it was in our area.

The National news was saying how bad it was in our area. And, you know, we are trying to figure out whether we have everyone still able to come, or do we just try to reschedule, do whatever. And it wasn't until Saturday morning, really, I would say 10:00 o'clock Eastern time, earlier on the West Coast, that the decision was made that, oh, well, we are going to go for it. And I think that is something that it takes -- that's an inner strength that those that are in military, or their families understand.

Sometimes you don't know where -- what is going to happen when you get there, but you are still going to go there.

And we appreciate you all taking that step of faith and coming on. We have heard from several of our Shipmates and Auxiliary members who took the step of faith to start the trip but have had to turn around.

I just want you all to keep them in mind and all of those that are in harm's way still because there's so much stuff going on. But that's what we are. We will stand for them and keep them in our prayers.

I would ask right now, are there any -- this would be something -- are there any first-time attendees, Auxiliary, or Shipmates? Would you stand?

(Whereupon, first-time attendees stood.)

CONV CHMN PNP SANDY ROBBINS: Look at that.

(Applause.)

CONV CHMN PNP SANDY ROBBINS: Wow. That is wonderful. I was hoping to have these already on your badges. After we are through, if you would see either Robbie or I, we are going to have a pack of these. We are going to bling you out. We all know what that is. And those Shipmates that are saying, what is blinging? I know better. Okay. We are going to put green jewels on their name badges. That means they went for it and we need -- if we put red ones, it would mean they would stop. So I want green ones. They are a go, because they took that first step and came. So we would like them to have one of these on them.

It could be any time today, and I'm asking if anyone sees any of those individuals with a little green on them, it's like the luck of the Irish. Please stop and talk to them. Please welcome them. We want them to come back year, after year, after year.

Chairman?

CONV CHMN PRPSE ROBBINS: I would also like to add, please everybody reach your hand out. They are like brothers. We call them Shipmates. Make them feel welcomed. Make them enjoy themselves. Make them want to come back to the next convention. And have fun and enjoy. So as far as that goes.

I now would like to introduce our distinguished guest, The Honorable Christopher O'Connor.

(Applause.)

CONV CHMN PNP SANDY ROBBINS: Just stand for a second.

CONV CHMN PRPSE ROBBINS: The Force Master Chief, Eddie L. Knight. Where did he go? Right there he is.

(Applause.)

CONV CHMN PRPSE ROBBINS: You all will be hearing from the Master Chief later in the program and stuff like that, so please make him feel welcome.

I would also like to introduce our MC -- that is a rating that is going away -- Joe Cooner, retired Navy, USN.

(Applause.)

CONV CHMN PRPSE ROBBINS: Also, I would like to introduce his wife, Francisca Cooner.

(Applause.)

CONV CHMN PRPSE ROBBINS: Okay, I'm going to introduce the next one and if he is here, please stand up. Shipmate Lieutenant Commander Joe Snowberger, United States Navy retired.

(Applause.)

CONV CHMN PNP SANDY ROBBINS: Did we miss anybody else that's a special guest just in case, before we move on?

Okay. I hear the laughs.

Shipmates, Auxiliary members, and distinguished guests, it is my privilege to introduce the following. I ask that you hold your applause until I am finished with each group.

First, I would like to introduce the eight Regional Vice Presidents who have been elected and installed at the recent Regional Conventions.

Please stand as I call your name, and as I said, please hold your applause until all of each group has been introduced:

Regional Vice President Northeast/New England, Bobbie Seidel; East Coast -- not here.

East Coast, Christina Dixon. She is not here yet.

All right. Finally, I know this one is here. She better be in the hall. Southeast, Gail Bolz. Okay, thank you.

North Central, and she is not here, Christine Drew -- North Central, that was Christine Drew.

South Central, Pauline Wampler. She is not here.

Northwest, Marjorie Ippert. Okay.

West Coast, Linda Telly.

Southwest, Sara "Melinda" Hayden.

Thank you. You may be seated.

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

Regional President-Elect Northeast/New England, Eileen Hyland. She is not here.

Northeast -- I mean, Regional President-Elect East Coast, Shirley Vatter. I know she is here. Okay.

Regional President-Elect Southeast, Veralynn Thomas.

Regional President-Elect North Central, Teresa Norton.

Regional President-Elect South Central, John Neal.

Regional President-Elect Northwest, Renee Shaw.

Regional President-Elect West Coast, Kelly Pena.

Regional President-Elect Southwest, Nadine Baudrway.

Thank you.

(Applause.)

CONV CHMN PNP SANDY ROBBINS: You may be seated. All right. We are going to hear the swish now. A large number of Past National Officers are here today.

Will all Past National Officers of the LAFRA please stand to be the recognized.

(Whereupon all Past National Officers stood to be recognized.)

CONV CHMN PNP SANDY ROBBINS: Come on all Past National Officers.

(Applause.)



CONV CHMN PNP SANDY ROBBINS: That includes all Past Regional Presidents. I'm looking at hats and I'm seeing them and they are not standing. I just -- I know that's bad for me.

Okay. Please be seated. We thank you for continuing to attend our conventions. It is now my honor to introduce the Past National Presidents of the LAFRA. Please stand as I call your name and please remain standing until I have called everyone. And as we have been doing, please hold your applause until all have been called.

Our senior member with us today.

(Laughter.)

CONV CHMN PNP SANDY ROBBINS: I had to do that. I'm sorry: My dear friend, Past National President, Gail Johnson.

Past National President, Pat Garwood.

Past National President, Doreen Huylebroeck.

Past National President, D. Loretta Roberts.

Past National President, Dorothy Maurath. I always say "Dot" but everybody said I had to say "Dorothy."

Past National President, Pat Boudreaux.

And somebody was a Past National President, Sandra Robbins.

Past National President, Gail Doloway.

Past National President, Cindy Rodham-Tuck.

Past National President, Helen Courneya.

Past National President, Gini with an "I" Larson.

Past National President, Diane Hoover.

And Past National President, Carolyn Whitaker.

(Applause.)

CONV CHMN PNP SANDY ROBBINS: We thank you for your continued -- she is Junior Past, she will be called in a

second. Well, I have not forgotten her. I promise you can catch me if I do, okay?

It is now my pleasure to introduce the National Officers of the LAFRA: National Chaplain, Veralynn Thomas.

National Parliamentarian, Dorothy "Dot" Maurath. I will get it --

Regional President Northeast/New England, Past National President, Cindy Rodham-Tuck.

Regional President East Coast, Kathy Bearden -- oh, there she is.

Regional President Southeast, Patricia Suckow. It is "Pat." I just had to do that because she hates me to call her Patricia.

Regional President North Central, Teresa Norton.

Regional President South Central, John Neal.

Regional President Northwest, Laura Antly-Wynn. Lauren -- our computer made a mistake.

Regional President West Coast, Mary Ann Frank.

Regional President Southwest, Claudia Goldner.

Junior Past National President, Doris Fri.

National Financial Secretary, Christina Murray.

National Treasurer, Bea Parco.

National Executive Secretary, Jean Smith.

Our National Vice President, Karen Snee, is not with us. Please keep her in your prayers.

And our National President, Helen Courneya.

(Applause.)

CONV CHMN PNP SANDY ROBBINS: Thank you. This concludes the introductions of the LAFRA. Shipmate chairman?

CONV CHMN PRPSE ROBBINS: I wish I could make it shorter, but I would like to ask the FRA Regional Vice Presidents to stand so I can introduce them. Hold your applause until the last name is called. Regional Vice Presidents:

Northeast/New England, Albert Davenport.

East Coast, Paul A. Phelps.

Southeast, James J. Thomas. Okay, he is all the way in the back. He is my Chaplain. My bell ringer.

North Central, Rosemary Posekany, I apologize, Posekany. I'm sorry.

South Central, Dave W. Thompson.

Northwest, Roger L. Christopher.

West Coast, Maria A. Behm.

Southwest is Allen M. Langteau.

(Applause.)

CONV CHMN PRPSE ROBBINS: I would now like to introduce the FRA Regional Presidents-Elect. Please stand as your name is called. Once again, please hold your applause until I have ended my calling. Regional Presidents-Elect:

Northeast/New England, Dave W. Sharp.

East Coast, Thomas F. Vatter.

Southeast -- if I miss this one, I'm in big trouble. James E. "Robbie" Robbins, Jr. Thank you. I do forget.

My North Central is Norm G. Combs. The problem I'm having is I'm trying to look up and when I look through these glasses, the room goes upside down. And then I'm sitting here grabbing this podium because they are meant for up close reading, not far away looking.

A VOICE: It is not the glasses.

(Laughter.)

CONV CHMN PRPSE ROBBINS: I can honestly say my head is on my shoulders, because it was examined and they told me it was okay.

Northwest, Mark W. Thompson.

West Coast, Roland L. Shorter, Jr.

Southwest, Bruce H. Davis.

(Applause.)

A VOICE: South Central.

CONV CHMN PRPSE ROBBINS: Okay, did I miss you? How about standing up and introducing yourself?

RPSC-ELECT TALBOT: Bruce Talbot. T-A-L-B-O-T.

(Applause.)

CONV CHMN PRPSE ROBBINS: Oh, well. I'm not -- I guarantee you, I am not perfect.

A large number of our Past National Officers of the FRA are present this morning. Time doesn't permit for any individual introductions. So I'm going to take a shortcut and ask all of my Past National Officers to please rise and be acknowledged.

(Applause.)

CONV CHMN PRPSE ROBBINS: Thank you very much. Please be seated. Thank you for joining us in Jacksonville. You all can sit down. I mean, both of you all are leaning on your walking sticks, so I'm sorry. If you have to, just stay down. I won't go into the full in-depth, but I want to welcome everybody to Jacksonville and thank you for coming.

The cover page of our Journal shows that we are sunny Florida. The day after the hurricane went by, Saturday, we went outside and it was beautiful. It was almost 92 degrees. And I'm -- wow, did a storm come through? Yeah, look at the yard, but I mean, Florida is nice. Look at the view out by the river. Let's go on.

I will now introduce the Past National Presidents of the FRA. Please stand as your name is called and remain

standing if you can. If not, stay down. If you fall down, I will pick you up. William E. Combs, you are in good shape.

CONV CHMN PNP SANDY ROBBINS: Good to have you.

CONV CHMN PRPSE ROBBINS: Robert G. Beese.

Dick B. Smith.

Lawrence J. Boudreaux.

Gary Blackburn. You are okay, Gary.

James W. Scarbro.

Last but not least -- come on Mark, Mark A. Kilgore.

(Applause.)

CONV CHMN PRPSE ROBBINS: I am now going to introduce the National Officers of the FRA. Please stand as you are recognized:

National Chaplain, Dana L. Williams -- Wallace, I'm sorry. Hey, look at me and throw it. I'm sorry. She is looking for her husband to see what happened.

(Laughter.)

CONV CHMN PRPSE ROBBINS: I know that my National Parliamentarian, Donald F. Muccheck, is not here. Here we go. Maybe my tie is choking me.

Regional President Northeast/New England, Donna Jansky.

Regional President East Coast, Penny J. Collins.

Regional President Southeast, Dave W. Davis.

Regional President North Central, Marcia Cunningham.

Regional President South Central, Donald R. Givesome (ph).

CONV CHMN PNP SANDY ROBBINS: Gibson.

CONV CHMN PRPSE ROBBINS: Gibson. After I finish this, I will tell you something, okay? National President Julian --

CONV CHMN PNP SANDY ROBBINS: Regional President.

(Laughter.)

CONV CHMN PRPSE ROBBINS: Regional President West Coast, Patrick H. LeClaire.

Regional President Southwest, Donald L. Kelley.

Junior Past National President, John D. Ippert.

(Applause.)

CONV CHMN PRPSE ROBBINS: National Executive Director, Thomas J. Snee.

National Vice President, Donald E. Larson.

National President, Virgil P. Courneya.

(Applause.)

CONV CHMN PRPSE ROBBINS: Please be seated. Oh, this one is going to be fun. They are standing back there watching very patiently. You know, this wouldn't have happened without these two people. These two people went out of their way to do everything that they could to help us and it gives me great pleasure and I hope it does you too, Master-at-Arms, would you please escort the General Manager, Art Casey, and the Convention Sales Catering Manager, Lauren Ruple.

CONV CHMN PNP SANDY ROBBINS: You have known her all year.

(Syncopated applause.)

CONV CHMN PRPSE ROBBINS: Hey, I have never called her by her last name.

(Syncopated applause.)

MASTER CHIEF ART CASEY: Good morning, ladies and gentlemen. I want to thank you for being here, and there is an ophthalmologist down the street; a good eye doctor.

(Laughter.)

MASTER CHIEF ART CASEY: And I have a personal in if you don't have an appointment, Robbie. Moving on, you can't dish it without taking it. That's a golden rule in the military. I will take them for you if you need. I'm going to be here all day. I got you.

I am honored. The whole staff is honored to have you here. I am a recently retired Navy Master Chief. A lot of my staff --

(Applause.)

MASTER CHIEF ART CASEY: Thank you.

(Applause.)

MASTER CHIEF ART CASEY: And yes, I already have like 48 sign-up cards for the FRA, so you don't have to hit me up. Robbie got me first. I owe it to him. All right?

We are honored, my staff is honored, the hotel leadership is honored, we love military groups. My ownership, the owner of the hotel, Mr. Bernie Moyle said, look, hire everybody you can that was in the military. And now I understand what that means and I said, well, sir, can I ask you why? Because I know.

He says, you don't steal, you are always on time and no offense, but you don't do drugs.

I said, hey, so you run into a lot of our staff. At the front desk I have a gentleman that was in the Army. I have a young lady at the front desk who worked for me while I was in the military, who is retired. My chief engineer is a retired senior chief, and many people that have affiliation with the military or are engaged to the military, if you will, which she didn't want me to say that, I'm sure, but I'm going to throw it out there.

So, now my jokes aside for a serious moment. Thank you for your patience. Thank you for what you do. Thank you for what the FRA does. We really weren't sure whether we were going to be able to pull this off. We had a lot of water damage. We had a lot of debris and stuff around the building. Hell, I even had the blower in my hand the day

after the storm trying to clear off just the drive so you can get your cars in here.

As a military person, when the contractor said we can't fill 170 rooms or whatever the number turned out to be, I said, "I can't" is not in my vocabulary. My staff stood behind me and said "Can't? We don't do can't." And we did it.

So, I appreciate your patience. There were some moments where we had trouble getting people checked in on time. There were rooms that were not the rooms that we were going to use, but we had to use, et cetera, et cetera. We did everything in our power to keep you here, keep you on track, and not have to cancel the convention because I'm not using some storm as an excuse. Are you kidding me? Come on. That's all, a CAT 4 hurricane?

CONV CHMN PNP SANDY ROBBINS: Especially, since it was a male storm.

MASTER CHIEF ART CASEY: Of course, yes, Matthew. Maybe if it were a woman's storm, I wouldn't be able to make the joke. I get it. I get it. But in this case, it's honestly now. So, but thank you. Thank you for your patience. Thank you for what you do and thank you for being here. My staff is here to assist you. I do to the sell rooms. We sell a hospitality experience. We want you guys to have fun. We want you to cut up. If you have got an issue, bring it to your leadership. They will bring it to me. I will take care of it with my staff. We are honored, absolutely honored to have you here and I do not say that lightly.

Have a damn good time, folks. And enjoy. And we hope to see you back. Thank you so much.

(Applause.)

LAUREN RUPLE: Well, that is definitely a tough act to follow. So, I will make it short and sweet. Thank you all for coming. We are very excited to host you this week. And definitely, thank you for your service.

(Applause.)

CONV CHMN PRPSE ROBBINS: Master Chief, you did say one thing, but you got to think of something. Navy personnel



do not steal. You are correct. But I'm going to tell you what, we comshaw whatever isn't nailed down.

(Applause.)

MASTER CHIEF ART CASEY: Amen.

CONV CHMN PRPSE ROBBINS: And that's how we do things. If I need it, I may relocate it or I may borrow it. It may not come home, but I just borrow it. Thank you very much.

(Syncopated applause.)

CONV CHMN PRPSE ROBBINS: Something is hot in that pocket. Would the Master-at-Arms please escort them out? Hey, they went out the back door. He was a very smart Master Chief. It is called a fast exit; first door available.

Master-at-Arms, would you -- yeah, you already did that. National Executive Director Tom Snee, will you please read the bio and introduce the keynote speaker.

NED SNEE: Well, I'm glad we got through all of the Master Chief jokes around here. You know, I feel sorry for the Sergeant Majors that are in the building and in the audience, however, but Master Chief, it is good to see you from the recruiting command.

It is my honor to introduce our keynote speaker. And I will say one thing, we did have planned to have Master Chief of the Navy here. However, I got a call last week and he had stated that because of everything that is happening within the region, if you will, that's up at Kings Bay here in the Mayport area and Jacksonville area, he thought it would be best that he not be here because of the cleanup process. So, that's the only reason why he did not come. But he did send his best and warmest regards.

So, our keynote speaker this morning is The Honorable Christopher O'Connor, Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary for Congressional and Legislative Affairs for the Veterans Affairs. It is my honor to introduce Christopher E. O'Connor, the Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary for Congressional and Legislative Affairs with the Department of Veterans Affairs.

He began his career with the VA in 2010, supports the VA Secretary Bob McDonald and by advancing pro-Veteran

legislation to improve the lives of Veterans, their families, and survivors. Mr. O'Connor is also a career Marine officer. He is serving more than 30 years in uniform, a Marine pilot. He flew both helicopters and jet aircraft, serving in the leadership posts around the world. His last assignment prior to joining the Veterans Affairs staff was as commanding officer of Marine Corps Air Station Miramar, California.

Please join me in a warm welcome, the Principal Assistant Secretary of Veterans Affairs, Chris O'Connor.

(Applause.)

ASSISTANT SECRETARY O'CONNOR: Thank you, Tom, for that kind introduction. Before I start, it just was a pleasure. I got here early yesterday and I had the opportunity to find out where the hospitality room was.

(Laughter.)

ASSISTANT SECRETARY O'CONNOR: And it's so nice to be able to sit down and this gentleman here welcomed me. Sergeant Major Gary, thank you very much. And you know, listening to some tremendous stories and the stories were about leadership. And in this particular instance it was how some very, very smart staff NCOs kept the officers out of trouble. And by God, as someone who I can look at my successes in uniform and I can attribute them to a couple of tremendous staff NCOs, and the first being a retired First Sergeant, Jack Snyder, who trained me as an ROTC Midshipman, and then all the way to the end when I had the fortune to command MCS Miramar. I worked with two unbelievable professionals, Sergeant Majors Tom Howard and Don Yarn. And I tell, even at the end of your career when you probably should know it all, having those Sergeant Majors come in and go, hey, boss, what the hell are you thinking?

(Laughter.)

ASSISTANT SECRETARY O'CONNOR: You can't get that kind of insight, you can't get that kind of guidance, and without it, you just can't do the best job possible. So, it really is a pleasure to be here today amongst fellow Shipmates, Veterans, distinguished guests. Secretary McDonald sends his very best. He had a previous commitment and asked me to represent him today.

As was mentioned, I had the honor of working at the VA for the last 6 years. When I applied for the job, people asked me, why in God's name would you want to be part of that problem-plagued organization? As a Marine, I was never taught to run from problems. And I learned early on that nothing worth doing is ever easy. I told my friends that it is very easy to complain, but much more difficult to be part of the solution. And I'm proud to be in VA.

While at VA, I have had the pleasure of working for two great Secretaries, Secretary Shinseki, and Secretary McDonald. And during that time, I have watched with pride as my oldest son joined the Marine Corps. So for me, working in VA, this job is not only about serving those I served while in uniform, but also serving those like my son who are currently serving and I consider myself very fortunate.

I would like to take this opportunity this morning to tell you about your VA. Since Secretary McDonald became Secretary in July 2014, we have been involved in the largest transformation in the department's history. We call it My VA. My VA is about creating a customer-service-focused department that is Veteran-centric, innovative, and a leader in the public sector. It is about changing the department's culture, being a principles-based organization vice rules-based. It is about focusing on a common agenda with clear ownership and commitment. It is about an organization built on internal and external collaborations with other departments and agencies, as well as, with the communities, business partners, and others in the private sector. And most importantly, it is about an organization that achieves real, tangible results that improve access to high-quality care and benefits that Veterans have earned and deserve.

As Secretary McDonald says, we are working hard to achieve irreversible momentum for the positive changes of My VA. The analogy I use is that of an aircraft carrier and for this audience, this is very applicable. Captain McDonald has ordered, hard right rudder, the helmsman has turned the wheel, and the carrier is in the midst of the turn. As you all know better than anybody, once in that turn, that carrier is never going back to the original track across the open sea. The same is true for VA. Results are happening and I want to take a few minutes to share with you some of them this morning.

Under the leadership of Dr. David Shulkin, the Veterans Health Administration is focusing on proactive, holistic health care and wellness. As you know, VA is the largest integrated healthcare system in the country. We have a unique relationship with our 9 million patients and a single electronic health record across the entire enterprise.

Our mental health care is integrated with primary care, with specialty care, and with psychosocial support to minimize barriers and help resolve problems early. VA health care is whole Veteran healthcare; body, mind and soul, customized to meet Veteran needs. We embrace what works to heal Veterans. This has resulted in more Veterans coming to VA for their care and waiting less time to receive their care.

Last year, our Veterans had nearly 4 million more appointments than the previous year; almost 57 million of those in VA facilities and over 16.8 million were VA care in communities. Last March, Veterans set a record for completed appointments, 5.3 million inside VA, 730,000 more than March, the previous year. And VA issued 268 authorizations for care in the community, twice as many in March of 2014.

VHA and our Choice Program contractors created over 3.2 million authorizations for Veterans to receive care in the private sector from August 1, 2015, through the end of July of this year. This represents an 11 percent increase in authorizations when compared to the previous year.

In August, 96 percent of appointments were completed within 30 days of Veterans' preferred date; 90 percent were completed within 14 days and 85 percent were completed within 7 days. Twenty-two percent appointments were completed on the same day.

You should know that the average wait time for primary care right now is around 5 days, 6 days for specialty care, and 2 days for mental health care. And by December, you can expect same-day access in primary care and same-day access in mental health care.

By the way, and I'm sure you are aware of this, VA is the only healthcare system in the country that publicly reports

on wait times as a measure of access. You won't hear my private hospital talking about these figures.

Ninety percent of the Veterans we surveyed are satisfied or completely satisfied with the timeliness of their care. However, the Secretary said, we won't be satisfied until we hit 100 percent.

Additionally, we have made healthcare enrollment much easier this year. Veterans can now enroll either online, by phone, or in person. Key to this was the elimination of the requirement for an actual signature in the document, which necessitated a Veteran mailing the form back and forth to the Department.

VA is also making significant progress on Veterans' homelessness. The number of Veterans that experience homelessness in the United States has been cut in half since 2010. The latest data revealed a 17 percent decrease in Veterans' homelessness between January 2015 and January 2016.

In Los Angeles, the worst city in the country for homelessness, we cut Veterans' homelessness by more than 30 percent last year. Twenty-nine U.S. cities and two states have declared an end to Veterans' homelessness. And over 65,000 homeless Veterans and their family members were housed or prevented from becoming homeless since January of this year.

And just last week, Secretary McDonald recognized VA staff responsible for reaching the unparalleled milestone of enrolling the 500,000 Veteran partner in the Million Veteran Program, MVP. It is a VA-funded voluntary research program that partners with Veterans receiving their care in the VA healthcare system to study how genes affect health.

MVP is also a critical part of the President's Precision Medicine Initiative. Data collected from MVP will be stored anonymously for research on diseases like diabetes, cancer, and military-related illnesses such as post-traumatic stress disorder.

Secretary McDonald is participating in the MVP and I encourage you to do so as well if you receive your care from VA. That's one example of VA's cutting-edge research. In regards to benefits, as of September 24, the inventory of pending disability claims includes 378,800 claims, a 57

percent reduction from the high point of over 883,000 on July 11, 2012. Of these, 74,500, or 19 percent have been pending longer than 125 days and are considered to be part of VA's backlog. This is down 87 -- almost 88 percent from the high point on March 25, 2013, when over 611,000 claims were pending longer than 125 days.

Since the beginning of last fiscal year, Veterans' Benefits Administration has completed over 1,040,000 claims. We are supporting you.

As of September 26 this year, VA has issued approximately 68 billion in post-9/11 GI Bill benefits to 1,666,000 individuals and educational institutions since that program began in August of 2009.

We have processed 5,300 applications for the Fry Scholarship through the end of September this year. For the 2016-2017 academic years, 3,478 Yellow Ribbon Program Agreements at over 2,000 schools have been approved. Overall for the full term 2016, VA has received more than 641,000 post-9/11 GI Bill enrollment documents and made more than 253,000 changes to enrollments for almost 440,000 unique individuals.

Overall, VA has awarded benefits to 403,929 beneficiaries for the fall term.

Over the last 2 years, VA has partnered with local leaders to help build a new National network of 90 Community Veteran Engagement Boards. We call them CVEBs. CVEB partnerships leverage community assets as well as VA assets to help ensure we implement local solutions to meet Veterans needs in our communities. Our goal is 100 CVEBs across the country by year's end. If there is not a CVEB in your community, let's get together and make one happen.

As I said, many say, VA is broken, but I don't believe that. We are getting better. The My VA transformation is well underway. But VA isn't doing it alone. At one time we used to. We were pretty much stove piped to ourselves. We are collaborating with world-class institutions like Johnson & Johnson, USAA, Starbucks, NASA, Kaiser Permanente, Hospital Corporation of America, Virginia Mason, Marriott and Ritz Carleton, among others. And we have partnered with respected organizations like the YMCA, the Elks, Penn Fed Foundation, LinkedIn, Google, Walgreens,

our academic institutions and other Federal agencies and many more.

As the Secretary says, excellence is what we are after. With the support of the President and Congress, the Department just received its full appropriations, or budget for this fiscal year. For the first time since 2009, VA has begun -- VA or any department, if you will, has begun the year with its full appropriations and not under a continuing resolution. The VA will receive \$176.9 billion for this fiscal year, which is a \$14.2 billion or set 8.7 increase above fiscal year 2016.

But there are some things we can't do without the help of Congress as we move forward. We need Congress to modernize and clarify our purchase care authorities in order to streamline access to community care programs in the years ahead. We submitted our plan last October, but we needed congressional action to execute it.

We need Congress to enact legislation so we can better compete with the private sector to get the best medical professionals we need to serve you at VA. And perhaps most importantly, we need Congress to modernize their archaic appeals process.

Last year, the Board of Veterans Appeals was adjudicating an appeal that originated 25 years ago. Under current law with no significant changes in resources, the number of Veterans awaiting an appeals decision will soar by 179 percent by 2027, from 500,000 to nearly 1.3 million Veterans will be waiting for a decision.

So, with the help of Veteran service organizations like yours, the National Association of State Directors of Veterans Affairs and the National Association of County Veterans Service Officers, we developed the simplified, streamlined and fair appeals plan that will enable most Veterans to get an appeal decision within a year.

We are excited about getting these important things done and we appreciate your support, because it is about improving your VA.

In closing, the Secretary's direction to his staff is very explicit. It is like the Sergeant Major telling the troops, there is no doubt after the Sergeant Major speaks what he said, and I can assure you the same is true with

Secretary McDonald. He has empowered us to make changes. He looks at it, you know, well, do something about it. And it is this most simplest commander's intent I have ever heard. If you see something that is broken, fix it. And we are serious about making these changes and doing the work that we are doing for you, our Veterans, and for our VA.

All of us work for you and we want you to be proud of your VA. So again, I would like to thank you very much for welcoming me here today. It's a pleasure to be with this organization. It's a pleasure seeing so many folks who remain committed to a belief that we all shared when we wore our uniforms. So thank you very much, and God bless you.

(Applause.)

NP COURNEYA: We have a little token of appreciation for you from the FRA. Can you hear me now? We have a token of appreciation from the Association, the Fleet Reserve Association for you coming out and speaking to us, and supporting us and the things that you do up on the Hill. It's a letter opener from us, and one of our coins.

ASSISTANT SECRETARY O'CONNOR: Thank you very much.

(Applause.)

NP COURNEYA: You're welcome and Semper Fi. Also, sir, we will be donating -- making a donation to the Education Foundation in your name.

ASSISTANT SECRETARY O'CONNOR: Thank you.

(Applause.)

CONV CHMN PRPSE ROBBINS: Shipmate Paul.

SHIPMATE PAUL: Yes, sir, I just want to know if the Secretary is going to be around afterwards to speak with us?

ASSISTANT SECRETARY O'CONNOR: I will be around until noontime.

CONV CHMN PRPSE ROBBINS: I would like to bring our next guest up, but it is kind of hard. He ain't here. So I'm



going to ask Shipmate Snee to please read -- no, listen. Shipmate, would you please. Joe is not here.

NED SNEE: Shipmate and Auxiliary members, our next guest speaker is Joe Barnes, our National Executive Director-Emeritus and President of the FRA Foundation. It is my distinct pleasure to welcome Joe.

Shipmate Barnes served as the Fleet Reserve's, FRA's National Executive Director from 2002 to 2013. During his tenure as the Association's top executive, Barnes was instrumental in the establishment of the FRA Foundation, Education Foundation, a separate identity created to manage FRA's longstanding scholarship program.

The Foundation oversees the fundraising, the promotion of the program, and all of the administrative duties associated with adjudicating the applications and awarding of approximately over \$100,000 in scholarships each year. Shipmate Barnes currently volunteers as the President of the Foundation's Board of Directors, and is actively engaged in all Foundation functions. He is here with us today and Ladies and Gentlemen, Shipmates and Auxiliary members, please welcome Shipmate Joe Barnes.

(Applause.)

CONV CHMN PRPSE ROBBINS: Shipmate Master-at-Arms, would you see if you can find one of the hotel people and ask them to bring the temperature up a little bit in here? Because I see some Ladies shivering real bad and wrapping wraps around them.

NED-EMERITUS BARNES: Good morning, Shipmates, members of the Auxiliary. It's a pleasure to be here. Since the MCPON is not here, I guess maybe I have his time to speak this morning. Just kidding.

(Laughter.)

NED-EMERITUS BARNES: I want to talk a little bit about the Education Foundation and if you have looked through your program, there's a page in here, full page, and what jumps out is who needs money for college? This is what the Foundation is all about, and education is important, not just to the FRA, but it's important to the Auxiliary.

It's important to the Past Regional Presidents who manage the Beall Scholarship Program. And it has been significant for many years to all of us. The Foundation was established, the Education Foundation was established in 2009. It is a separate 501(c)(3) charitable education organization, or separate organization under the parent organization, the FRA.

We have a separate Board of Directors, governing documents, and we function separately. All of our records are kept and audited separately and are audited annually. And we fund that. So it is very important that you understand that the Foundation works separately. We have a five-member board comprised of Past National Presidents, Larry Boudreaux, Gary Blackburn, Shipmate Richard Ruiz, and our Past Finance Officer, Steve Cox.

We also have a number of outstanding advisers and we have a number of volunteers. And three of those volunteers comprise an applications review panel that goes through the applications that come in each year and winnows those out, and they function much like a Navy Senior Enlisted Review Panel for Advancement. So that's a little thumbnail on the Foundation.

Now, a couple of updates as to what's going on. The Foundation awarded 22 scholarships this year, totaling \$96,500. We have recipients in 15 states, and in total, we received, I believe, 211 applications. That's an impressive total. It has been consistent for a number of years. We are trying to increase that number and I will talk in a little bit about needing your help to help increase the number of applicants we have.

We also have some awards that we are unable to present that are associated with state contributions to the Foundation. One of those, I talk about every year, is the Colonel Hazel Benn Scholarship. Colonel Benn contributed a significant portion of her estate to the Education Foundation a number of years ago with a stipulation that that money be invested and the proceeds be awarded in \$2,000 awards to Navy, the children of Navy corpsmen who served in support of United States Marine Corps units. So it is very specific and we have a specific application form which specifies this.

We have not awarded one of those awards since 2012 until this year. We had 10 applicants this year, and unfortunately, 8 of those application packets were

incomplete. We had two candidates and we awarded one Benn's Scholarship, which was the first time since 2012 that we have been able to award that scholarship.

I mention that because we need your help to spread the word to mention the Education Foundation to family, friends, fellow Shipmates, talk about it at the Branch level, and those that have an opportunity to speak about it and become familiar and perhaps speak about it at Branch meetings and regional meetings. So we really need some help with expanding the word on that.

Regarding the total of 211 applications, only 150 of those were complete packages. This is really frustrating when applicants do not include all of the information that is required. Those include academic records. That includes recommendations, an essay, and some other materials that are clearly stated on the application form.

There's a web page on FRA's Web site, [www.fra/foundation](http://www.fra/foundation), which takes you directly to information about the Education Foundation. You go to the bottom of the page, and there are a number of application URLs there that you click, and the application forms appear.

We also have the LAFRA application forms available on that site. They could be printed out and completed by candidates that are interested in receiving awards, and submit them. The deadline is April 15 of each year. The 2017 season commenced on September 1. The application forms are in there and are on there. And we encourage everyone to check that out and help get the word out.

A couple of things that we are dealing with administratively with the Foundation; we have had tremendous support from FRA for many years and FRA has funded scholarships prior to the establishment of the Foundation in 2009. Unfortunately, due to budget issues and cash flow issues, the amount of funding that is coming from the FRA to the Foundation was reduced by half this year and the outlook is that that is going to be eliminated next year.

So, that is part of the challenge we are facing with, making up the difference of funding and we also have a second challenge, which is associated with the IRS looking at our annual 990 forms and indicating that we need to increase the number of individual donors.

Donors donating any amount of money, which as I know you all know, is tax deductible. So we are working to expand our donor base, make up the difference here, and continue to grow our programs so we are able to award scholarships to deserving scholars each year.

Last point, we have a new program which Lauren Armstrong mentioned in her column. By the way, Lauren is retiring in a couple of weeks. Thank you, Lauren, for your great service to the Association. We appreciate that. Her column in the September issue of *FRA Today*, referenced the AmazonSmile program. Amazon.com, is a huge online retailer. They have a program through AmazonSmile, benefitting charitable education organizations that are registered with them.

The Education Foundation is now registered and those that are making purchases that are registered, have registered by going to smile.amazon.com, and keying in Fleet Reserve Association Education Foundation. It will support the Foundation through this program by which amazon.com donates a half a percent of each qualified purchase to the Education Foundation to support future awards.

So, please check that out. I have some flyers that explain all that. It is a little complicated to remember all that, and I will have them out on the table here after our Joint Opening Ceremonies today.

Finally, I want to thank the individual Shipmates, members of the Auxiliary, Branches, and the respective organizations for their support of not just the Education Foundation, but the Auxiliary scholarship program and the Beall Foundation, the work that the Beall scholarship group, the Past Regional Presidents, that work on that award each year.

I very much appreciate the opportunity to be with you. It's a pleasure. Thank you for your great service, your commitment to both FRA, and the Auxiliary, and your service to our Nation. Thank you very much.

(Applause.)

CONV CHMN PRPSE ROBBINS: Thank you, Shipmate Joe. We appreciate your comments and your service to the FRA.

I would like to introduce our last speaker. And did you all find somebody to turn down the AC? Thank you.

CONV CHMN PNP SANDY ROBBINS: Turn it down.

CONV CHMN PRPSE ROBBINS: Okay, excuse me, bring it warmer in here. I would like to introduce Shipmate Lieutenant Commander Joe Snowberger, United States Navy Retired, who will be addressing us about the USS Charles F. Adams, DDG-2. He belongs to the Jacksonville Historical Naval Ship Association.

(Applause.)

SHIPMATE LT. COMMANDER SNOWBERGER: Good morning, Shipmates, Auxiliary members. Welcome to my town, Jacksonville, Florida. It is really a pleasure to have you here, especially so short after our little blemish with the weather last week.

I see covers from all over this great country, and I'm so happy to have you in town. A quick admin note for you. If you have a chance, there's a group here in town just across the river called Downtown Vision. They have downtown ambassadors. Go get them over here and they will help you out, plus their Web site, Downtown Vision, has all of the activities going on in downtown Jacksonville and while we are here, we want to be great hosts. And if you have any questions, I see a lot of our local Shipmates here. But we want to make sure your visit here, and, arguably, one of America's most friendliest military and Veteran cities, that your experience is really good.

The next time you come to town, okay, we hope you are going to hold some activities aboard the USS Charles F. Adams, Florida's first Naval warship museum and newest attraction right here in downtown Jacksonville. That's what I want to talk to you about real briefly so that you know what we are doing to continue your mission right here in Jacksonville.

Before I do that, a couple of other quick things I want to shout out to. The gentleman from the bowtie in the back, really nice. You look sharp. Great. Thanks for wearing that. It looks terrific.

I want to amplify the representative from the VA's remarks. Up until the 30th of September, I was involved with the

Veterans Economic Communities Initiative as an economic liaison for Northeast Florida.

When you go back to your communities, please go back and look for that Community's Veterans Engagement Board or whatever it is called. Sometimes they have cool names like Mission United or RP-6, but this is the community coming together and prioritizing what is important for that community in response to Veteran's needs, both in benefits, health care, education, employment, entrepreneurialship.

So, Secretary McDonald is a serious player and when you are going to make it -- when you show up to make a difference, you better do something that is noticeable and that My VA communities and the Veterans' experience going on is serious. So please, go back to your communities and take advantage of the toolkit that is available online for your services. There is a lot there.

Let's get to the ship museum. Jacksonville is the third largest Naval population in the country. We remain the number one requested duty station for sailors who are getting ready to go to their last tour. Our economy, our way of life, the school systems, the weather, all of those things where people want to bring their families to and have a tour of duty here, and eventually stay here.

There are 75,000 Veterans in the community. One in four of us in this community, one in four of us, 20 to 25 percent of our population is either a Veteran, the family member of a Veteran, or has a direct connection to a Veteran here in the community.

So we are clearly a Veteran-centric community and we hope to bring this ship -- I have to apologize -- we were supposed to already have it here, but here is three things, you know, I look out in the group. I look at myself. When you mentor the next generation of -- Ladies, I'm going to address just the men for a second -- when you men to your the younger men behind you that are coming up, here's three things that I recommend you recommend to all of the young guys coming up behind you that they not have to witness or observe in their life: Sausage being made, the birthing of their children, and what it takes to bring a Navy Warship Museum to downtown Jacksonville.

(Applause.)

SHIPMATE LT. COMMANDER SNOWBERGER: You know, we have been to seven organizations, or agencies by direction to get their approval that we don't need their approval. So it is quite an event to bring her here, but we are probably 90 days or so from towing her from Philadelphia down the East Coast, pulling her up the river, and parking her right across the street. You can see four big piers that until 1983 were shipyards.

And so we are going to park her right across the street at the shipyard's property in downtown Jacksonville and open up the museum. Why?

First reason is, you guys. I have spoken to probably 250 groups over the past 5 years, fundraisers, donor, potential sponsors, and you are probably one of the most appropriate groups I have been in front of. It is your legacy, our legacy, your service. Our next generation needs to understand the impact of the Naval service and what it means to the freedoms and liberties that we have. And that's the main goal of this ship, is to teach the history of, first of all, what it was like to be a sailor on a ship when you went to sea on this miniature city, and you had -- where your post office was and where you slept and where you trained and where you worked out and where you did your job.

The next connection is we have got to attach kids to the hands-on interactive attachment, to vocational opportunities for them. The science, technology, engineering, the math skills that our country needs in the future, we have got to connect them. So it is going to be way more than a Navy ship museum. Granted, it will be there. We are going to open it up for the tours. You are going to get to go through and some of you will be reminded about what life was like when you were at sea. Some of you will be reminded about what life was like when they were gone at sea. But that is not good enough.

Once you take your grandson or your young man or your young lady aboard and you give the tour and you walk off the ship, that is not good enough. That is not sustainable. And that is not passing on the legacy. So the target we have is really for the kids. It's to make this an interactive, hands-on attraction with the STEM, with the science, technology, engineering and math, to bring them on board on a routine basis.

We will sleep Boy Scouts and the Girl Scouts onboard, probably not the same night. But in this community, 100,000 Boy Scouts every year leave the State of Florida to go to Charleston, or go to Mobile, Alabama, for Battleship Alabama or the Yorktown. So we will keep a small portion of them here.

We are going to connect with the school system. Every school kid in town in third, fifth, and eighth grade will make a visit and come onboard. We are connecting with all the other cultural attractions in the city. And so every weekend when there is a theme, we will be hosting that same theme on our warship. It is sustainability.

Here's two types of museums in the world: There are the Mona Lisas' and then there is attraction venues. The Mona Lisas' are like the USS Texas down in Houston. Okay? That is a piece of history that you don't touch. You walk on board like seeing the Mona Lisa and just admire it. The rest of the museums are venues to do bigger and greater things.

The USS Adams is that. We will use the Adams for the game day experience. We will use the Adams to host meetings of appropriate business and community organizations. We have a barbershop onboard. I got a city councilman that is going to donate enough money to rehab the barber shop, put a barber in there on the weekends and now you have a reason for other people to come onboard. We are working with the blood bank. We want the blood bank to have blood drives on board; another reason for people to come aboard and see the ship and understand the history.

We want kids walking up to grandpa on Saturday saying, "Hey, grandpa, can you take me to the ship this weekend? Because last weekend, we were in the radio shack, with RMC Cooner over here and we were on shortwave and the long haul and we were talking to Shipmates in Australia and Germany.

This weekend, grandpa, we are going to drop a hose in the P-250 or something over the side, and we are going to practice spraying water like it was a fire onboard the ship, grandpa. We want to go on the ship and have those hand-on interactives."

So you have got a long agenda. I just want to let you know that in the future, the USS Charles F. Adams, hopefully in about 90 days, we will be towing her down to Jacksonville.



Your post and your organizations and your previous ships, we want to honor not just the Navy, but we will connect it to every military here. This will be the military representative here in Jacksonville.

We will connect it to Blount Islands and the Marines. We will connect it to the 832nd and the Army that's here. We will connect it to the FANG, the Florida Air National Guard. The Coast Guard Auxiliary is already a charter member with us, with volunteers.

So check us out. While you are here, just across the river at the Jacksonville Landing is the USS Adams Museum store. We have over 700 different Navy and military ball caps in there. We have lots of coins and lots of artifacts you might want. Please take advantage of the 10 percent discount for being here at the convention and it gives you an excuse to go across the bridge and visit the river.

And check us out on [ussadams.com](http://ussadams.com). If you want to come back to Jacksonville and volunteer to put her back together and rehab her in the next couple of years, we would like to hear from you. If you have a business or you have a legacy in your family or your Unit and you want to talk about making sure that legacy is portrayed on this, this will be the newest warship on display in the country when she goes on display. She will be the youngest ship that is out there on display.

We look forward to having you back in Jacksonville and visiting the USS Adams Museum. Thank you very much while you are in my town.

(Applause.)

CONV CHMN PRPSE ROBBINS: That was a very nice looking model up here. It was very detailed and everything. You all did a good job on that.

Thank you for the remarks. For those who, like he said, for anybody that would like to take the water taxi, or the -- no the monorail doesn't go down there.

CONV CHMN PNP SANDY ROBBINS: Yeah, it drops off.

CONV CHMN PRPSE ROBBINS: Okay, but anyway, go across the river to the landing. There's a lot of neat shops. The Adams Museum is right there. They got a lot of neat things

in there. I went down there and looked at it and when he says that they have that many ball caps, oh, he do. They are all over the wall. And they have got all kinds of neat things down there. So it was very interesting.

At this time, I would like to start prepping for the Two-Bell Ceremony.

(Bell rings twice.)

(Three raps of the gavel.)

CONV CHMN PRPSE ROBBINS: Prepare the Two-Bell Ceremony, Master-at-Arms, dim the lights.

(Bell rings once.)

NCHAP WALLACE: The toll of the ship's bell reminds us of the reverence we owe to our departed shipmates.

(Bell rings once.)

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

(Bell rings once.)

NCHAP WALLACE: -- upon the sea, under the sea --

(Bell rings once.)

NCHAP WALLACE: -- in the air and upon foreign soil.

(Bell rings once.)

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

(Bell rings once.)

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

(Bell rings once.)

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

(Bell rings twice.)

NCHAP WALLACE: Each in his own words and each in his own way bow your heads and let us pray, offering a silent prayer for our departed shipmates --

(Bell rings once.)

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

(Bell rings once.)

NCHAP WALLACE: This moment of references we dedicate in the memory of Shipmate PNP Jim Eblen, FRA.

(Bell rings once.)

NCHAP WALLACE: PNP C.K. Lancaster, LAFRA.

(Bell rings once.)

NCHAP WALLACE: And PNP Carolyn Combs, LAFRA.

(Bell rings twice.)

(One rap of the gavel.)

CONV CHMN PRPSE ROBBINS: Would you all please turn the lights back on?

(One rap of the gavel.)

CONV CHMN PRPSE ROBBINS: National Executive Director, now would you read some convention greetings, please?

NED SNEE: Shipmates, and Ladies Auxiliary, our first letter comes from the Secretary of Homeland Security.

"To Shipmates: On behalf of the Department of Homeland Security, I would like to thank the Fleet Reserve Association for your long history of support for the men and women of the United States Navy, Marine Corps, and Coast Guard. Your upcoming 89th National Convention will be a great opportunity to share new and innovative advocacies, strategies for the sea service community.

"I am particularly grateful for your longstanding support of the United States Coast Guard and your continued commitment to the establishment of the National Coast Guard Museum. I would also like to thank you for hosting the 18th Annual Congressional Coast Guard Caucus Breakfast in June. Your work promoting the awareness of the Coast Guard's vital homeland security role and strengthening dialogue between the Members of Congress, their staff, and Coast Guard leaders has been vital to Coast Guard's mission, success and moral.

"Please accept my gratitude to all of the men and women of the Fleet Reserve Association. Thank you for serving those who serve.

"Sincerely, Jeh Charles Johnson, Secretary, Homeland Security."

From the Secretary of the Navy: "Greetings to the Fleet Reserve Association on the occasion of your 89th National Convention.

"On behalf of the Department of the Navy, I am pleased to extend greetings to the members of the Fleet Reserve Association as you hold your 89th National Convention. The Navy and Marine Corps and the Fleet Reserve Association have a longstanding relationship that was founded upon our most important assets, our people. Our sailors and marines make up our Navy Marine Corps team, the finest in the world, and I deeply appreciate the Fleet Reserve Association's untiring support of them.

"Your dedicated efforts on behalf of our sailors and marines have always focused attention on key personnel issues. Your advocacy of a better quality of life for our sea service members has helped increase our level of readiness, and raised morale in the rank. Your defense of quality health care for our sea service members and Veterans is especially noteworthy.

"Our forces face many challenges in the coming years. Organizations like yours are positioned to play a crucial role in the transformation of the Naval Services. I am pleased that I can rely on your continued support and confidence.

"Best wishes on a successful event, sincerely, Ray Mabus, Secretary of the Navy."

And one more, from the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, Washington, D.C.:

"The Fleet Reserve Association 89th National Convention: I send greetings to the Fleet Reserve Association on the occasion of the 89th National Convention and offer my appreciation for your support of past and present enlisted members of the U.S. Navy, U.S. Marine Corps, and U.S. Coast Guard. Throughout our country's history, generations of men and women have deployed to dangerous places to stand watch and defend the principles we cherish as Americans.

"As members of the sea service community, continued to face our Nation's challenges around the globe, it is encouraging to know that the Fleet Reserve Association is working hard on our behalf. Thanks for giving your time, talents, and energy. Your spirit of service and community is an inspiration.

"With my best wishes for a successful convention,  
Sincerely, and Semper Fidelis, Joseph M. Dunford, Jr.,  
United States Marine Corps, Chairman, Joint Chiefs of Staff."

(Applause.)

CONV CHMN PNP SANDY ROBBINS: Madam National President, will you please join me at the podium?

Let me express the sincere appreciation of all of the Ladies Auxiliary of the Fleet Reserve Association members for your tireless efforts this past year and on behalf of our organization. I invite you to speak to the assembly.

NP HELEN COURNEYA: Thank you.

A VOICE: Stand up.

NP HELEN COURNEYA: I am standing. Thank you, Sandy. I would like to welcome the Auxiliary members, Shipmates and guests to the National Convention here in Jacksonville. Thank you for attending and let's have a great convention.

(Applause.)

NP HELEN COURNEYA: Our first business session of the LAFRA, will be held at 1:00 o'clock p.m. in the Starboard

Room, where the breakfast buffet was. We will meet there at 1:00, and please be prepared for our Memorial Service. Thank you.

(Applause.)

CONV CHMN PRPSE ROBBINS: I'm just a little bit taller. Shipmates, National President, would you please join me at the podium? And on behalf of the Shipmates of the Fleet Reserve Association, we thank you for your tireless effort for the organization and for the following your three cardinal principles, Loyalty, Protection and Service.

(Applause.)

NP COURNEYA: Shipmates, Auxiliary members, it is a pleasure to be here. Good morning.

A VOICE: It's afternoon.

NP COURNEYA: Before I say a few words, I would like our Regional President East Coast to join me up at the front mic. Could I have Past National President Richard D. Smith come up, please.

A VOICE: You mean Dick? Somebody wake him up.

NP COURNEYA: It is with great pleasure that your dedication, recruiting of 50 new and/or reinstated members is a feat not easily accomplished.

PNP SMITH: I did it years ago.

NP COURNEYA: Well, we are giving you an award now. Okay? Apparently, you didn't get your letter.

(Laughter.)

PNP SMITH: All right.

NP COURNEYA: He complains about everything. So don't worry about him. So you are getting another one. Okay? You are commended for your successful efforts in contributing significantly to our growing membership. Your Branch proudly recommends you for this award, and the members of the National Committee on Membership and Retention heartily concurred. They said you bribed them, Dick.

NP HELEN COURNEYA: Wholeheartedly?

NP COURNEYA: Just says "heartily." My wife tells me I can't read any of this. I know that you will not rest on these well-earned laurels, and thank you for your continued membership, and promotion endeavors. Because of your untiring efforts, your and our associations continue to grow. The growth enables us to provide even greater service to our Shipmates, the personnel of our Armed Services and our Nation. On behalf of the entire membership, and as your National President, I extend congratulations and a job well done.

(Applause.)

CONV CHMN PRPSE ROBBINS: We have a little backlog too. You thought the VA was backlogged. Wow.

(Laughter.)

NP COURNEYA: It is called catch-up.

Is Ralph Holcombe in the room? Shipmate Holcombe? If you want it, Ralph, you can stay there. We want to recognize Ralph. Do we have the -- he already got his pin, but I want to recognize him for 60 years of continuous membership.

(Applause.)

NP COURNEYA: I want to thank you, Ralph, and thanks for all of your support all of these years and your mentorship. Can I have Lauren Armstrong come up? You still in the room? Lauren. Yeah.

(Applause.)

(Three raps of the gavel.)

NP COURNEYA: As you all know, this will be Lauren's last convention. She is leaving us. She is retiring shortly after she goes back and finishes up at headquarters and makes sure that her replacement is on the right track. So I got with Penny here, and said, I want to give you something to hang on your wall and make sure you know that you are going to be, you know, well missed, not forgotten,

but you are going to be missed, and hope you will keep in contact with us all and make sure we are staying on track.

So, this is to Lauren Armstrong, Director of Communications, Fleet Reserve Association, Ladies Auxiliary of the Fleet Reserve Association, presented in recognition of your 16 years of dedicated service as Director of Communications. FRA National Headquarters staff, and honorary membership of Ladies Auxiliary of the Fleet Reserve Association. You are recognized as a valued employee, and your contributions to our success are appreciated by your colleagues and the Shipmates. Congratulations on your retirement. Virgil P. Courneya, National President, October 14, 2016.

(Applause.)

LAUREN ARMSTRONG: For once in my life, I'm speechless. You guys are like family to me, and I know I can't do this. You guys are like family, and I'm so honored by this, but it's real important for me to point out, I'm not an Honorary Member of the Auxiliary. I'm a full-blown -- in my heart, I'm a member. So I'm going to correct that. But I just think -- I have said it before, but you know, I never thought that when I started this job I would be here this long for starters, and second of all, I didn't know I was going to fall in love with all of you people.

So again, you can't get rid of me. My goal, I can't promise, but I'm hoping to be at convention and at the banquet next year. And again, you haven't seen the last of me, but thank you all so very much for everything.

(Applause.)

NP COURNEYA: Thank you.

RPEC COLLINS: He gave me the mic. Wow. Okay. Proceed.

(Applause.)

NP COURNEYA: While I still have a captive audience of everybody, first, I want to thank everybody for their hard work and support all year on both sides of the house, the FRA, and the LAFRA.

CONV CHMN PNP SANDY ROBBINS: That special relationship.



NP COURNEYA: And it has been rough moments at home, but I got through it. But I do -- so I appreciate everything everyone has done all year, and supporting both sides of the house. We have done a -- it has been an interesting year. We got a lot of hard work ahead of us. We have accomplished a lot of things this year, and I'm sure we are going down the right road that when our 100th birthday comes here in about 7-and-a-half years, that we will have a big party at headquarters. We will be cutting ribbons, and raising the flag still.

So just keep up the good work, and we are going to make it happen. Thanks again, and I think we want to get this convention on the way.

CONV CHMN PNP SANDY ROBBINS: Just one more thing.

CONV CHMN PRPSE ROBBINS: Don't go nowhere. Okay. Madam Auxiliary chair, will you and the National LAFRA Courneya make it fast and sweet. We are presenting you with these small tokens of appreciation. One thing we did learn about Virgil, don't pass a Coldstone Ice Cream store.

(Laughter.)

CONV CHMN PRPSE ROBBINS: Because he will go, oh, oh, I love ice cream. So --

CONV CHMN PNP SANDY ROBBINS: He wouldn't let his wife get it yesterday, though.

NP COURNEYA: Am I supposed to look in here?

CONV CHMN PRPSE ROBBINS: Yes.

NP COURNEYA: It's just paper.

CONV CHMN PRPSE ROBBINS: I'm full of surprises.

NP COURNEYA: Just what I wanted, vanilla bean ice cream.

(Applause and Laughter.)

CONV CHMN PNP SANDY ROBBINS: Look inside.

NP COURNEYA: It's a Visa card, so I could go get ice cream. Thank you. Thanks again.

(Applause.)

CONV CHMN PRPSE ROBBINS: Now for the real McCoy and everything, we would like Virgil and Helen to open this one together.

NP HELEN COURNEYA: You know we are flying, right?

CONV CHMN PNP SANDY ROBBINS: We will make sure it gets to your destination.

CONV CHMN PRPSE ROBBINS: We have somebody who knows somebody in UPS here.

CONV CHMN PNP SANDY ROBBINS: We thought this was appropriate because of all of the time they have spent for our organization.

NP COURNEYA: Thank you very much.

(Applause.)

CONV CHMN PNP SANDY ROBBINS: I have got to make announcements. Okay. I'm going to try to make this quick, because time is slipping away with us. And as you know, lunches, there are luncheons today, the PNPs, as well as the RP, RP-elect, RVP functions. If you have gotten your tickets -- if you haven't, you will have to see me and things because you do have to have your ticket. Because on the ticket, there is the room that tells you what room you are in. Okay?

The Auxiliary's PNPs are in the Captain's Board Room, and I'm going to let you know right up front, do not touch anything on the table when you go in there. Sit in your seat. Do not touch the table. That's for the Auxiliary. We have a special treat. Okay. Please, please.

The FRA PNPs are next-door in the Admiralty Room, which is out by where the café should be when it is finished. The RP, RP-elect, RVPs are in Dockside and Commerce Rooms, which is over where we had Pre-Boards.

Okay. I am going to remind all Past National Presidents that they do not leave this room until -- oh, you have seats in the back. It is already set up for the photos. I do ask that all other individuals besides the PNPs and things, exit these two doors, please stay away from the far

door on this side so that the photos can be taken, and we can get out of here.

We are going to have a sign up for shuttles. We have talked to a company, and they have, with all the things, and if you came in on that shuttle, the airport shuttle, they finally have -- they relented and gave us a special price for us. So we will need to know those that are wanting to use it at that special price. They have Town Cars and limos that will be used and they will drop you off. From what I have heard, from all that used them, they were terrific.

So please see us later today, or first thing in the morning, we need to get them and contact them. We will put you on the correct time schedule for you. Because they will -- it's \$55 for the Town Car for up to four people. And you can split the \$55. It's \$55. The wife said \$50, and guess who won out? The husband said it has got to be \$55. So it went to \$55 for the return. But that is still a good deal.

If it's in the eight passenger limo, it is \$85, and you split it. Okay. Sounds like a good deal because a lot of the other stuff is a lot more.

We will get that. So on the sign-up sheets, please sign that up.

Victory Cruise, if you are going on the Victory Cruise, I will have it in the hospitality room later today. I have to have your birth date. You cannot go on the cruise if I do not have your year of your birth date along with it. Now, if you do not wish to be the age you are and would like to put a different year, Laura said you can do that, but you must remember the year that you are putting there, because it is a piece of important information you will need because it will be with your card. So be however old or young you would like to be, as long as you are old enough to be on the ship. Okay?

Welcome Aboard is tonight, 1930, 7:30. Please eat prior to coming. I, you know, I have been to these many years and people come in here and think they are going to just scarf it down and everything. Remember, it is snacks. And when they are gone, they are gone. That's it. The committee has put up X amount of dollars for snacks and it is enough

for everybody to have a little. So please, we ask you to do that.

Come prepared to be a participant. Okay. Get them sea stories ready. I can't wait to hear them.

That's all I need to do right now. Oh, the Welcome Aboard is going to be right here in this room.

CONV CHMN PRPSE ROBBINS: My turn? Master-at-Arms, would you please escort Shipmate Bobbie Smith, Past Regional President Southeast, the Keeper of the Keys -- more than that, the Keeper of the Gavel.

FRA National President, LAFRA National President, please come to the podium. No, no, no. You don't have it. You give it back to him. He is supposed to hold it.

Okay, Shipmate National President Courneya, and Madam National President Courneya, I now invite you to convene your respective conventions, and I would like you to use this gavel.

(Laughter.)

PNP HELEN COURNEYA: I know where I would like to use it. I don't know how you want to hold it. Here, hold it. That's the way it has been all year. Hold it. I hereby convene the 84th National Convention of the LAFRA.

NP COURNEYA: And I hereby convene the 89th National Convention of the FRA.

(One rap of the gavel.)

PNP HELEN COURNEYA: So we break the podium.

(Applause.)

NP COURNEYA: All right, Shipmates, we will recess and then we will reconvene our convention and it will be right on this side of the room because this divider is going to go up. Okay, so we will be on this side right here.

So can I have the National Chaplain shut the Bible, please?

(Three raps of the gavel.)

NP COURNEYA: Color.

NCHAP WALLACE: Shipmate National President, the Bible is now closed.

NP COURNEYA: Thank you, National Chaplain. We are now convened until 1300.

Salute the colors.

Two.

(Whereupon, the Joint Opening Ceremonies were adjourned at 11:04 a.m.)

FRA 89th NATIONAL CONVENTION  
FLEET RESERVE ASSOCIATION  
JACKSONVILLE, FLORIDA  
FIRST BUSINESS SESSION  
Wednesday, October 12, 2016  
1300 - 1510

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

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

NP COURNEYA: Thanks, Shipmate Master-at-Arms.

Shipmate National Chaplain. Please open the Bible and say  
the opening prayer. Just open the Bible. It was a test.

(Three raps of the gavel.)

NCHAP WALLACE: Shipmate National President, the Bible is  
now open.

NP COURNEYA: Thanks, Shipmate National Chaplain.

Shipmate National Past, raise your hand.

JrPNP IPPERT: Shipmate National President, let the record  
reflect that the Junior Past National President is in the  
uniform of the day, such as it is.

NP COURNEYA: It will. Thank you, Junior Past. Oh, you  
want to sit down now?

(One rap of the gavel.)

Shipmates, please join me in saluting the Colors. I told  
you you didn't want to sit down.

Hand salute. Ready. Two.

(One rap of the gavel.)

NP COURNEYA: Now we'll get started. I now declare the First Business Session of the 89th National Convention of the Fleet Reserve Association regularly convened.

All right, Shipmates. Our convention recorder is to my right. So if you have to come up to the microphone here on the podium for anything, please enter on my left -- it would be your right -- so you're not coming behind the recorder. And her name is Lisa Baker.

Okay. I want to remind all Delegates that when addressing the chair on any matters, including the seconding of motions, you must speak into a microphone, and you must state your last name and Branch number that you're a Delegate.

The recorder has to have this information to properly get it recorded. Otherwise, she isn't going to get it right for the record.

Motions and seconds will not be recognized and accepted unless you make them into the microphone. Please keep your discussions to yourself and at a low roar. And when you make a motion, don't say I so move. Just motion what you're going to move for that motion.

Cell phones; please turn your cell phones on vibrate or turn them off, whatever you desire.

Master-at-Arms for the convention is Shipmate Pete McNamara from Branch 274 out of Reno, Nevada, and assisting him if need be will be Shipmate Richard Ruiz from Branch 101.

My appointee as timekeeper is Shipmate Claire Purdy, Annapolis Branch 024.

Claire, you've got to go around this way. I want to remind everybody when we're under the matters of a discussion, that the timekeeper will keep track of your time, and you're limited to 3 minutes.

National Executive Director, will you now call the roll of officers.

NED SNEE: National President Courneya.

NP COURNEYA: Here.

NED SNEE: National Vice President Larson.

NVP LARSON: Here.

NED SNEE: National Executive Director Snee. Present.

Finance Officer Graham.

FINANCE OFFICER GRAHAM: Here.

NED SNEE: Junior Past National President Ippert.

JrPNP IPPERT: Here.

NED SNEE: Regional President Northeast/New England Jansky.

RPNE/NEng JANSKY: Here.

NED SNEE: Regional President East Coast Collins.

RPEC COLLINS: Here.

NED SNEE: Regional President Southeast Davis.

RPSE DAVIS: Here.

NED SNEE: Regional President North Central Cunningham.

RPNC CUNNINGHAM: Here.

NED SNEE: Regional President South Central Gibson.

RPSC GIBSON: Here.

NED SNEE: Regional President Southwest Kelley.

RPSW KELLEY: Present.

NED SNEE: Regional President West Coast LeClaire.

RPWC LeCLAIRE: Here.

NED SNEE: Regional President Northwest Wynn.

RPNW WYNN: Here.

NED SNEE: National Parliamentarian Standing-In, Shipmate Starkey.



PRPNE STARKEY: Present.

NED SNEE: National Chaplain Wallace.

NCHAP WALLACE: Here.

NP COURNEYA: As soon as the Credentials Chairman gets in, we'll have our first Credentials Report. He's still tallying everything. We will continue on. We'll get our first Credentials Report after he arrives.

We'll start out with the presentation of annual reports of the National officers in accordance with Section 612(a), C&BL of the FRA. All recommendations contained in the reports must have been previously submitted under Section 611, C&BL, FRA Section 4, SR-4, referenced and applies to this.

All of these reports have been submitted in writing, typewritten, and are included in the Delegate kits that each of you have, hopefully you have.

And to expedite the order of business this afternoon, I ask that all National officers submit their reports for the record and confine their remarks to summarizing the highlights of the report and additional remarks necessary to supplement the information in your reports.

You may render your reports from the podium or from a floor microphone, and we will commence with our reports.

National President's report is in Tab A of your Delegate kit, Tab Alpha. And I request that it be received. Do I have a second?

UNIDENTIFIED SHIPMATE: A second is not needed to receive the report, correct?

NP COURNEYA: I request that it be received. All in favor?

(Whereupon, the ayes were heard.)

NP COURNEYA: Opposed?

(Whereupon, the nays were heard.)

(One rap of the gavel.)

NP COURNEYA: Ayes have it.

National Vice President Larson.

NVP LARSON: National President, Shipmates, my report is under Tab B, as in Bravo, and I request that it be received.

NP COURNEYA: All in favor?

(Whereupon, the ayes were heard.)

NP COURNEYA: Opposed?

(Whereupon, the nays were heard.)

(One rap of the gavel.)

NP COURNEYA: Ayes have it.

National Executive Director Snee.

NED SNEE: National President, my report is contained in Tab Charlie. Request that it be received.

NP COURNEYA: All in favor?

(Whereupon, the ayes were heard.)

NP COURNEYA: Opposed?

(Whereupon, the nays were heard.)

(One rap of the gavel.)

NP COURNEYA: Ayes have it.

Let me back up here a minute. I'm getting ahead of myself. National Vice, can you come back up here? I'm rushing too much.

(Thanks National Vice President off the record.)

NP COURNEYA: National Executive Director.

(Thanks National Executive Director off the record.)

National Finance Officer, Nora Graham.

FINANCE OFFICER GRAHAM: National President, my report is found in Tab D, and I ask that it be received.

NP COURNEYA: All in favor?

(Whereupon, the ayes were heard.)

NP COURNEYA: Opposed?

(Whereupon, the nays were heard.)

(One rap of the gavel.)

NP COURNEYA: Ayes have it.

Nora, can you come up here for a minute.

(Thanks Finance Officer off the record.)

Junior Past National President Ippert. I know, you got a negative report. I would like you to come up here, please. Yeah, with the other hat, yeah. The Junior Past, he submitted a negative report, so there is not a report in there for him, so we're just going to continue on.

JrPNP IPPERT: Shipmates, may I explain. The reason I put in a negative report is because I didn't do anything. My main function this past year has been taking care of my daughter, and I thank you for all your prayers, and it just shows that prayers work because she's doing a lot better. Thank you.

NP COURNEYA: National Chaplain Wallace. You have a report, right?

NCHAP WALLACE: I just ask that my report be submitted as it is. Thank you. And it's in Tab G.

NP COURNEYA: All in favor of the report?

(Whereupon, the ayes were heard.)

NP COURNEYA: Opposed?

(No response.)

NP COURNEYA: Ayes have it.

At this time, we'll stop there, and we'll have the report of the Credentials Chairman.

PRPNW LAZZARETTI: Good morning, Shipmates. This is the first Credentials Report for the 89th National Convention.

The following Branches need to be removed from your list due to NBR action: Branch 027.

Tab X-ray, in case you didn't hear Shipmate Mark in the back of the room.

The following Branches are to be removed due to National action: Branch 027, Charter revoked per NBR 2-15.

Branch 066, Charter surrendered due to NBR 19-16.

Branch 110, merged with Branch 044 per NBR 20-16.

Branch 119, Charter revoked per NBR 41-15.

Branch 160, Charter revoked per NBR 07-16.

Branch 206, Charter revoked per NBR 01-15.

Branch 246, Charter surrendered per NBR 18-15.

The next one is 267, merged with Branch 161 per NBR 37-15.

Branch 272, Charter surrendered per NBR 31-15.

Branch 284, merged with Branch 177 per NBR 31-16.

Branch 319, Charter surrendered per NBR 24-16.

Branch 327, Charter suspended per NBR 32-16.

Branch 338, Charter surrendered per NBR 18-16.

Branch 348, Charter revoked per NBR 03-15.

Branch 361, Charter surrendered per NBR 38-15.

Branch 363, Charter surrendered per NBR 21-15.

Branch 376, Charter surrendered per NBR 30-16.

And last but not least, Branch 386, Charter surrendered per NBR 29-16.

All right. The authorized voting strength for this convention is 1,529.

NP COURNEYA: Past National President Combs.

PNP COMBS: Shipmate National President, the merged Branches, are they counted in this total now or before? Like 044 and 110, they merged, didn't they?

NP COURNEYA: Correct.

PNP COMBS: Okay. Did we get their votes in this year or before, in other words before the association year ran out?

NP COURNEYA: Shipmate Penny, do you want to answer that?

RPEC COLLINS: Shipmate National President, Delegate Branch 024, Penny Collins.

When we have a merger with any Branch, the Branch that merges into the Branch, their votes go away. They are not counted with the new Branch that they've merged into until the following year.

NP COURNEYA: Does that answer your question?

PNP COMBS: That answered my question. But was he reading an account of before or after?

PRPNW LAZZARETTI: Only one was a merger before, and those votes were appropriately merged, and the new one is current.

NP COURNEYA: Thank you, Shipmate Bill.

PRPNW LAZZARETTI: Authorized voting strength for this convention is 1,529.

The number of Branches represented by Delegates: 69.

The number of votes represented by Delegates: 868.

The number of Branches registered by Proxy: 97.

The number of votes registered by Proxy: 477.

The number of Branches not registered for this convention: 39. I will read those numbers off in a moment.

The number of Delegates registered for this convention: 122.

Registered voting strength: 1,345.

The number of votes not registered: 184.

Two-thirds vote: 902.

Majority vote: 674.

The following Branches are not registered for this convention: Branch 025, 029, 036, 044, 048, 063, 064.

UNIDENTIFIED SHIPMATE: It's not a race, Shipmate.

PRPNW LAZZARETTI: 063, 064, 068, 073, 074, 083, 089, 097, 098, 102, 109, 111, 120, 145, 179, 188, 215, 219, 234, 248, 250, 251, 254, 256, 273, 278, 280, 281, 283, 292, 334, 339, 358. Bingo. Just making sure you were paying attention.

That concludes the First Credentials Report as of 1300, October 12, 2016.

I request this report be received.

UNIDENTIFIED SHIPMATE: So moved.

PRPSW FULTON: Shipmate National President.

NP COURNEYA: Shipmate Fulton.

PRPSW FULTON: Fulton, Delegate 289. Second.

NP COURNEYA: All in favor?

(Whereupon, the ayes were heard.)

NP COURNEYA: Opposed?

(Whereupon, the nays were heard.)

NP COURNEYA: Any discussion? Too late.

(One rap of the gavel.)

NP COURNEYA: Ayes have it.

We'll continue on with officers' reports.

Regional President Northeast/New England, Donna Jansky.

RPNE/NEng JANSKY: Shipmate National President, my report is in Tab F, and I ask that it be received.

NP COURNEYA: All in favor?

(Whereupon, the ayes were heard.)

NP COURNEYA: Opposed?

(No response.)

(One rap of the gavel.)

NP COURNEYA: Ayes have it.

Regional President Jansky, can you come on up? Before Regional President Jansky leaves, we want to wish her a happy birthday. I think she's 21 or something like that. But it is her birthday, so when you see her walking around, wish her happy birthday.

(Singing.)

NP COURNEYA: Regional President East Coast, Penny Collins.

RPEC COLLINS: Hello, Shipmates. How is everybody doing? My report is in Tab F, Page RPEC-1, and I move that it be accepted.

NP COURNEYA: All in favor of receiving the report?

(Whereupon, the ayes were heard.)

NP COURNEYA: Opposed?

(No response.)

NP COURNEYA: Ayes have it.

Shipmate at the mic.

PNP KILGORE: Shipmate National President, Kilgore, Delegate 022. This does not affect the Credentials Report as voted on. However, will you delete Branch 203? It merged with Branch 201, NBR 25-14. For some reason, it just keeps showing up, but it merged two years ago, so it should just be scratched. It doesn't affect any of the numbers.

NP COURNEYA: Thank you, Shipmate Past National President.

PNP KILGORE: And that was found by eagle eye, Past Regional President South Central Miller.

PRPNW LAZZARETTI: Shipmates, my report is in Foxtrot. There is an addendum to it that did not make the writing. All Branches are in order. I move that my report be received.

NP COURNEYA: All in favor of receiving the report?

(Whereupon, the ayes were heard.)

NP COURNEYA: Opposed?

(Whereupon, the nays were heard.)

(One rap of the gavel.)

NP COURNEYA: Ayes have it.

Regional President North Central Cunningham, Marcia.

RPNC CUNNINGHAM: You said it right. I've been Marcy for over a year.

My annual report you'll find under Tab F. I request that it be received.

NP COURNEYA: I was told originally her name was Marcy, so that's what I called her all year, and a couple months ago I was corrected. I said, well, you'll still be Marcy. See, that's what I had to put up with all year.

All in favor of receiving the report?

(Whereupon, the ayes were heard.)



NP COURNEYA: Opposed?

(No response.)

(One rap of the gavel.)

NP COURNEYA: Ayes have it.

Regional President South Central Gibson.

RPSC GIBSON: Shipmate National President, my report is under Tab F. However, after it was submitted, I had emergency eye surgery and had to modify it. I cancelled two of my visits, and I didn't make my regional convention. My vice president had to take over for me. So with that, I move that my report be received.

NP COURNEYA: All in favor of receiving this report as modified?

(Whereupon, the ayes were heard.)

NP COURNEYA: Opposed?

(Whereupon, the nays were heard.)

(One rap of the gavel.)

NP COURNEYA: Ayes have it.

Regional President Southwest Kelley.

RPSW KELLEY: Shipmate National President, my report is contained in Tab F as in Foxtrot. I move that it be received.

NP COURNEYA: The motion is the report be received.

All in favor?

(Whereupon, the ayes were heard.)

NP COURNEYA: Opposed?

(Whereupon, the nays were heard.)

(One rap of the gavel.)

NP COURNEYA: Ayes have it.

Please come forward, Shipmate Kelley.

(Thanking Shipmate Kelley off the record.)

Regional President West Coast LeClaire.

RPWC LeCLAIRE: National President, you'll find my report in Tab F. I request that it be received at this time.

NP COURNEYA: I have a motion to receive the report.

Those in favor?

(Whereupon, the ayes were heard.)

NP COURNEYA: Opposed?

(Whereupon, the nays were heard.)

(One rap of the gavel.)

NP COURNEYA: Ayes have it.

Regional President Northwest Wynn.

RPNW WYNN: My report is contained in Tab Foxtrot, and I move that it be received.

NP COURNEYA: All in favor of receiving the report?

(Whereupon, the ayes were heard.)

NP COURNEYA: Opposed?

(No response.)

(One rap of the gavel.)

NP COURNEYA: Ayes have it.

Moving right along, okay, I would now call on the Chairmen 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 that each Chairman confine their remarks to summarizing the highlights of the reports and providing supplemental information.

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 of the FRA. Standing Rule 4 refers and applies.

I'll now call on the Chairmen to give their reports. Americanism-Patriotism. James Campbell. Is he here? Okay. We'll move on then.

Budget and Finance, Past National President, Gary Blackburn. Are you ready to give a report?

PNP BLACKBURN: Shipmate National President, Shipmates, Blackburn, Chairman Budget and Finance Committee.

My report is contained in Tab Juliet. I request that, please, Shipmates if you have not read it, please do, and pay particular attention to the third paragraph.

And in conclusion, I move my report be received.

NP COURNEYA: Thank you, Shipmate Past National President Gary Blackburn. Can you please come up for a minute?

(Thanking PNP Blackburn off the record.)

NP COURNEYA: I have a motion to receive the Budget and Finance report.

All in favor?

(Whereupon, the ayes were heard.)

NP COURNEYA: Opposed?

(No response.)

(One rap of the gavel.)

NP COURNEYA: Ayes have it.

Constitution and Bylaws, Past Regional President Northeast, William Starkey.

PRPNE STARKEY: My report is contained in Tab Kilo, K. I move my report be received.

NP COURNEYA: We have a motion to receive the Constitution and Bylaws report.

All in favor?

(Whereupon, the ayes were heard.)

NP COURNEYA: Opposed?

(Whereupon, the nays were heard.)

(One rap of the gavel.)

NP COURNEYA: Ayes have it.

The next one was Employees Pension Committee. They do not have a report. According to the Bylaws, we had to have a committee, so I left the one, the Committee that has been in place for years now, and I talked to the Chairman.

They did nothing this year because there was nothing to do, so there is no report.

Is Pete Lazzaretti here? Future Planning. He'll be reporting in the stead of Past National President Gilmartin.

PRPNW LAZZARETTI: On behalf of the Chairman, Past National President Jeff Gilmartin, the Future Planning Committee report is under Tab Mike. I ask that it be received.

NP COURNEYA: I have a motion to receive the report for Future Planning.

All in favor?

(Whereupon, the ayes were heard.)

NP COURNEYA: Opposed?

(Whereupon, the nays were heard.)

(One rap of the gavel.)

NP COURNEYA: Ayes have it. So noted there, Shipmate.

Hospitals, Welfare and Rehabilitation Committee. Past Regional President Northeast/New England, James Brown.

PRPNE/NEng BROWN: Brown, Branch 266, Delegate. My report is contained in Tab N, as in November. I move that it be accepted.

NP COURNEYA: And can I have you come up here, Shipmate Brown.

PRPNE/NEng BROWN: You want me to come up there? You going to surprise me again?

NP COURNEYA: I'm going to surprise you.

(Thanking PRPNE/NEng Brown off the record.)

NP COURNEYA: We have a motion to receive the report of the Hospitals, Welfare and Rehabilitation Committee.

All in favor?

(Whereupon, the ayes were heard.)

NP COURNEYA: Opposed?

(Whereupon, the nays were heard.)

NP COURNEYA: Ayes have it.

Legislative Services, National Executive Director, Tom Snee.

NED SNEE: Shipmate National President, my report is contained in Section Tab Oscar, and I move that it be received.

NP COURNEYA: We have a motion to receive the report of the Legislative Services Committee.

All in favor?

(Whereupon, the ayes were heard.)

NP COURNEYA: Opposed?

(No response.)

(One rap of the gavel.)

NP COURNEYA: Ayes have it.

Membership and Retention, Penny Collins.

RPEC COLLINS: Okay. The National Committee on Membership and Retention's report is in Tab P, which is Papa, and I would like to bring to your attention one little glitch in the report for the voting strength that was in my section.

Apparently, when it got transmitted electronically to the printer, Part 3 in the voting strength turned out to be gibberish. We have no idea how that happened. You cannot read it. You cannot understand it.

But for Part 3 of this voting strength report that is in Tab Papa, if for some reason you need to have those, just those pages, I would be glad to furnish them to you. I don't know whether you will or won't, but I just wanted to make sure you understood if you read that, that I know, we know, that somehow that got transmitted, and it turned it into computer-ese. That's all I can say.

UNIDENTIFIED SHIPMATE: Blame it on the Russians.

RPEC COLLINS: Blame it on the Russians. Other than that, I move that the report on National Membership and Retention be received.

NP COURNEYA: Just a comment on the Delegate Kit on the pages that didn't come out properly. We have already looking into this. I talked to the NED. I talked to the Finance Officer. We are going back to the printer to see how come they weren't re-proofread once they ran them off and boxed them and then to recoup some of our moneys that we paid for it because they were improperly done, for them to put in ten pages. So we are looking into it, and we understand that there was a glitch.

And because we went back several times to get the book run off. It was done properly each time we did it, and when it came back to us for the final draft and we picked them up, this is what we got. So we are looking into it already. So I hope that answers any questions you have about that.

And like Shipmate Collins said, if you want them pages -- or I'll tell you what, let's just make them available tomorrow morning, okay, so if you have time to run enough off, whoever wants them. So, them pages will be available to you tomorrow morning. No, not on-line. Hard copies right here for you.

We have a motion to receive the Membership and Retention report.

All in favor?

NP COURNEYA: Opposed?

(No response.)

(Whereupon, the nays were heard.)

(One rap of the gavel.)

NP COURNEYA: Ayes have it.

Go ahead, Leon.

PRPNC ZALEWSKI: Shipmate President, Leon Zalewski, Past Regional President.

My report is in Tab Quebec, and I move that my report be accepted.

NP COURNEYA: We have a motion to receive the Public Relations Report.

All in favor?

(Whereupon, the ayes were heard.)

NP COURNEYA: Opposed?

(No response.)

(One rap of the gavel.)

NP COURNEYA: Ayes have it.

Veterans Service Committee. Chris Slawinski.

NSD/PRPEC SLAWINSKI: Shipmate National President, Slawinski, Past Regional President East Coast; Chairman, Veterans Service Committee.

You can find my annual report on Tab Romeo, and I move that my report be received.

NP COURNEYA: All in favor of receiving the report?

(Whereupon, the ayes were heard.)

NP COURNEYA: Opposed?

(Whereupon, the nays were heard.)

(One rap of the gavel.)

NP COURNEYA: Ayes have it.

Youth Activities, Randy Phillipp, Shipmate Randy Phillipp.

SHIPMATE PHILLIPP: Shipmate Randy Phillipp, Branch 182, Delegate.

You'll find my report on Tab Sierra, and I wish it to be received.

NP COURNEYA: We have a motion to receive the Youth Activities Report.

All in favor?

(Whereupon, the ayes were heard.)

NP COURNEYA: Opposed?

(No response.)

(One rap of the gavel.)

NP COURNEYA: Ayes have it.

The National Executive Director will read and the Delegates will act on the ratification of actions taken by the National Board of Directors since the last convention.

NED SNEE: Shipmate National President and Shipmates, this will be also what's in your Delegate Kit, plus what was



business conducted at the Pre-board, and I will go slow.  
Okay?

Tab Uniform. Thank you Shipmate, George.

NBR 1-16: Resolved, That minutes be approved from the 88th National Convention Pre-Board Meeting.

Vote: 12 affirmative.

NBR 2-16: Resolved, That the salary of the NED be set in the amount of \$108,258.

NED abstained from the vote.

Vote: 11 affirmative.

NBR 3-16: Resolved, That approval be granted for the 2015-2016 LA/FRA National President's Project - Warriors to Soulmates.

Vote: 12 affirmative.

NBR 4-16: Resolved, That appointments to Standing and Special National Committees be approved - Budget and Finance Committee.

Vote: 12 affirmative.

NBR 5-16: Resolved, To accept the ratification of the referenced listing of National Standing Committee appointments.

Vote: 12 affirmative.

NBR 6-16: Resolved, That the Charter of O-K-1 Branch 028 (Cincinnati, Ohio) suspension be lifted.

Vote: 12 affirmative.

NBR 7-16: Resolved, That the Charter of Green County Branch 160 (Muskogee, Oklahoma) be revoked under Article 12, Section 1203.

Vote: 12 affirmative.

NBR 8-16: Resolved, To hire Brodie Collins Consulting (BCC) in order to develop membership acquisition

strategies. Cost: \$25,000.

Vote: 12 affirmative.

NBR 9-16: Resolved, To grant approval of amendments to the FRA Auxiliary Bylaws, Article 8, Section 810, Sub-Section 810(g) and 810(i) regarding Safety Deposit Box and Keeper of the Keys.

Vote: 12 affirmative.

NBR 10-16: Resolved, That the request for approval of appointments back to the National Committee on Employment Pensions from the National Board of Directors be granted.

Vote: 11 affirmative; 1 negative (RPEC).

NBR 11-16: Resolved, That the National Board of Directors authorize the expenditure of an additional \$2,000 from the Welfare and Rehabilitation Reserve for Shipmate Thomas E. Ragonese, East Coast Region, Branch 060, for a total grant of \$2,500, as contained in the provisions of Article 9, Section 909(d) C&BL, FRA.

Vote: 12 affirmative.

NBR 12-16: Resolved, That the National Board of Directors authorize the expenditure of an additional \$2,000 from the Welfare and Rehabilitation Reserve for Shipmate Sean Troupe, Northwest Region, Branch 018, for a total grant of \$2,500 as contained in the provisions of Article 9, Section 9(d), C&BL, FRA.

Vote: 12 affirmative.

NBR 13-16: Resolved, That the National Board of Directors authorize the expenditure of an additional \$2,000 from the Welfare and Rehabilitation Reserve for Shipmate Mary C. Lees, Northwest Region, Branch 046, for a total grant of \$2,500 as contained in the provisions of Article 9, Section 909(d), C&BL, FRA.

Vote: 11 affirmative; 1 abstain (JrPNP).

NBR 14-16: Resolved, That Shipmate Richard A. Ruiz, Sr., is appointed to serve as a member of the FRA Education Foundation Board of Directors.

Vote: 12 affirmative.

NBR 15-16: Resolved, That the 2015 Post-Convention (Spokane, Washington) National Board of Directors' meeting minutes be approved.

Vote: 12 affirmative.

NBR 16-16: Resolved, That the National Board of Directors authorize an additional expenditure of \$2,000 from the Welfare and Rehabilitation Reserve for Shipmate James L. Wilson, Northeast/New England Region, Branch 106, for a total grant of \$2,500, as discussed and in accordance with Section 909(d), C&BL, FRA.

Vote: 12 affirmative.

NBR 17-16: Resolved, That Tate & Tryon be approved to conduct the 2016 fiscal year audit.

Vote: 12 affirmative.

NBR 18-16: Resolved, that the voluntary surrender of Granite State Branch 338 (Nashua, New Hampshire) Charter be approved.

Vote: 12 affirmative.

NBR 19-16: Resolved, that the voluntary surrender of South Shore Branch 066 (S. Weymouth, MA) be approved.

Vote: 12 affirmative.

NBR 20-16: Resolved, That the merger of Middle Tennessee Branch 110 (Nashville, Tennessee) with the Tennessee Valley Branch 044 (Columbia, Tennessee) be approved.

Vote: 12 affirmative.

NBR 21-16: Resolved, That the Branch suspension of Oxnard Branch 120 (Oxnard, California) be lifted.

Vote: 12 affirmative.

NBR 22-16: Resolved, That Sierra Tahoe Branch 137 be authorized to use the official emblem of the FRA on a Commemorative Coin to sell at the West Coast Regional Convention in August, 2016.

Vote: 12 affirmative.

NBR 23-16: Resolved, That Pearl Harbor-Honolulu Branch 046 be authorized to use the official emblem of the FRA on a Coin to sell at the Branch home to help raise funds to buy their land.

Vote: 11 affirmative; 1 abstain (JrPNP).

NBR 24-16: Resolved, That the request of Richland (Mansfield, Ohio) Branch 319 to voluntarily surrender their Branch Charter be approved.

Vote: 12 affirmative.

NBR 25-16: Resolved, That the name of Columbia Branch 202 be changed to J.T. Brown Columbia Branch 202.

Vote: 12 affirmative.

NBR 26-16: Resolved, That Stockton, California Branch 113 be authorized to use the official emblem of the FRA on a Life Membership lapel pin and/or embroidered patch to sell.

Vote: 10 affirmative; 1 negative (RPSC); 1 abstain (RPWC).

The following NBRs were covered yesterday at the Pre-Board:

NBR 27-16: Resolved, That the minutes from the midyear meeting of the National Board of Directors (April 2016) be approved.

Vote: 12 affirmative.

And you should have copies of those on your table just for reference.

NP COURNEYA: Shipmates, does everyone have copies of them? Are there copies on all the tables? If you didn't have your own copy, share the ones you have, and we'll get them to you after the meeting. All right. We good? We'll continue on.

NED SNEE: NBR 28-16: Resolved, That Lifeline Screening be allowed to market their services to FRA members.

Vote: 10 affirmative; 2 negative.

NBR 29-16: Resolved, That the Charter of Branch 386 (Dothan, Alabama) be surrendered.

Vote: 12 affirmative.

NBR 30-16: Resolved, That the Charter of Branch 376 (Madison, Wisconsin) be surrendered.

Vote: 12 affirmative.

NBR 31-16: Resolved, That Branch 284 (Lexington, Kentucky) and Branch 177 (Louisville, Kentucky) merge.

Vote: 12 affirmative.

NBR 32-16: Resolved, That the Charter of Branch 327 (Dayton, Ohio) be suspended.

Vote: 12 affirmative.

NBR 33-16: Resolved, That changes to the North Central Region's Bylaws be approved.

Vote: 12 affirmative.

And the last one is NBR 34-16: Resolved, That changes to the Northeast/New England Region's Bylaws be approved.

NP COURNEYA: Shipmates, NBR 34-16, I'm going to rule it out of order for the following reason; that New England Regional Bylaws requested that they be authorized to have two Regional Vice Presidents. It's in conflict with Article 7, Section 702(a), limiting the Regions to only one Regional Vice President. So at this time, I'm ruling it out of order.

NED SNEE: Shipmate National President, that concludes all NBRs.

RPNC-E COMBS: Shipmate National President, back to NBR 6-16. There is no -- Combs, Delegate, Branch 161. There is no O-K-1 Branch. That's OKI: Ohio, Kentucky, Indiana. That should be a capital I, not the number 1.

NP COURNEYA: So noted, Shipmate. We have a motion to receive the report of the National Executive Director of the NBRs.

All in favor?

(Whereupon, the ayes were heard.)

NP COURNEYA: Opposed?

(Whereupon, the nays were heard.)

(One rap of the gavel.)

NP COURNEYA: Ayes have it. Any discussion? Too late.  
Already voted.

Shipmates, we'll take a 10-minute break. Shipmate National Chaplain.

Uncover.

NCHAP WALLACE: Shipmate National President, the Bible is now closed.

NP COURNEYA: Thank you, Shipmate National Chaplain. We're in recess for 10 minutes.

(Three raps of the gavel.)

(Recess.)

NP COURNEYA: Will the Master-at-Arms invite the Shipmates into the hall.

(Three raps of the gavel.)

NCHAP WALLACE: Shipmate National President, the Bible is now open.

NP COURNEYA: Thank you, Shipmate National Chaplain.

JrPNP IPPERT: Shipmate National President, let the record reflect that the Junior Past National President is in the proper uniform of the day.

NP COURNEYA: Thank you, Shipmate Junior Past.

Is Shipmate Past Regional President East Coast, James Campbell in the room? Okay. He isn't down here yet. All right.

Shipmate National Convention Chairman, Regional President Southeast-Elect James "Robbie" Robinson -- Shipmate Robbins -- to give us any Committee announcements for the convention.

RPSE-E ROBBINS: You know, there was always one thing they told me; you can't teach a Marine anything. I've been trying and trying. You can't hear me? One thing I was taught; you can't teach a Marine nothing. I've been dealing with Virgil for two years, and from day one it's been Robinson. Virgil, my name is Robbins, like the little bird, tweet tweet.

NP COURNEYA: I'll get it before it's all over.

RPSE-E ROBBINS: Okay. One thing on the convention I do want to bring up. A lot of people put in for tours, and due to lack of participation, due to the storm and the damage done to St. Augustine, the two tours are cancelled. They are going to be refunded. Okay?

Now, anybody that said, oh, I'm not going to Jacksonville because there's a storm down there, that was your choice. You're not being refunded. But if you are up in harm's way, you will be refunded. So it's called an act of God.

But there again, last night up in the hospitality room I had some people come up and told me how beautiful it was doing the taxi and doing the monorail. They were so happy I told them that, and it was too easy to get to, and it was so much fun and to make sure I put that out again today because Monday and Tuesday were basically our free days. So if you all get some free time, try it again.

Sandy does have your meal tickets, and she's trying to hand them out. We have some that has not yet come in. I just got a message that I have six envelopes that were just delivered to my Branch from various parts of the United States.

So, I think that some of you all that said I never received it -- I didn't get your ads; I didn't get your meal tickets -- maybe I'm going to get them today. So we're going to have to find out what's going on. Please work with me, and I will work with you. We'll get your meal tickets. We'll feed you. We're not going send you away. And if you feel like it, the shelter home is across the

river on the second block up. You know, they'll feed you, too. They do pretty good food.

But if you have any problems, grab a hold of me; grab Sandy. Yes, sir?

JrPNP IPPERT: Ippert, Junior Past National President. Just for everyone's information, the National Convention Committee can have my refund as a donation to the convention, and I encourage everyone in a similar situation to do the same. Because of the cancellations, it's going to be hard for them to cover the costs. Thank you.

RPSE-E ROBBINS: I appreciate that, Shipmate John. And, yes, he's right. We signed the contract with 1,000 rooms. Due to the cancellations -- we were up to 975. Due to the cancellations, we fell to about 880, so we did not meet the room night minimum. So you know that we have to be penalized for that. We did not meet the food qualifications, but hopefully we have sold enough extras during this period of time that we can come back up, and the hotel said that they're going to reassess.

They're going to look at it, and they understand because nobody has really threw a fit or gave them a hard time, so they say they want to work with us.

But I appreciate everything that you all have done, and me and Virgil will have a "Robbie Robbins" lesson, but I hope everybody has a good day. I really mean it; if you have problems, come get me. I will do anything in my power to help you. So you all have a good convention. Thank you, Mr. Virgil Courneya.

NP COURNEYA: Mr. Robbie Robbins.

The Convention Committees are to commence their meetings at 0900 hours tomorrow. You are instructed to conduct your deliberations in a prompt and efficient 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 and by Shipmate Delegate John Davis. Meeting rooms are listed in the convention program. Convention Committee chairmen are to pick up their



committee forms and rosters from the chairman of the Steering Committee once we adjourn this meeting.

When the Convention Committee reports are ready to be delivered to the Delegates, the Chairman will report to the Steering Committee Chairman, who will coordinate and schedule presentation of the reports with the National President. In this manner, an orderly flow of convention business will be scheduled. He'll be able to coordinate and make sure that he gets word back to me that you're ready to go.

Once you get done with your committee reports, the Chairman will take his report to the FRA admin office, and they will type it up for you, unless you brought your printer and computer yourself. They'd appreciate it if you did it on your own. But otherwise, you go in there and you hand them the folder and ask if they can get that typed, and they'll get it done and give it back to you. They'll get it back to the Steering Committee Chairman, and they'll get them back to you.

The Convention Committee reports will be called on with the Second Business Session tomorrow at 1300.

Okay. Resolutions that have been referred to the National Convention Committee are noted on the Steering Committee forms being provided to the Convention Committee Chairman. The list is also in your Delegate Kit and is submitted for the record.

Okay. At this time, I'm going to call on the Finance Officer to give us a financial report and presentation as to our financial posture regarding the FRA. Nora, go ahead.

FINANCE OFFICER GRAHAM: Good afternoon. Thank you. My name is Nora Graham. This is my first convention. So I want to talk to you about the financial forecast; but in order to talk about the future, I really have to talk about the present and a little bit about the past.

I want to say that right now we're in an environment that's very difficult for associations in general. People don't seem to be joining associations. And in particular, military Veteran associations have been declining for a number of years. Studies have shown that since about the

Vietnam War, military members came home and they didn't join in the numbers that they had joined previously.

So, this is extremely unfortunate because military associations, especially FRA, do great advocacy work. Something is going to be lost.

We have to deal with this membership decline, and that's pushing our numbers. As our numbers decline, our Association is definitely in jeopardy. So I want to talk about how this is affecting the numbers.

So, we have right now a budgetary gap, and it's pretty significant. In an ideal world, non-profit world, you have a budget that is driven by your revenues, and then you have expenses that match up with those revenues. And I think for a number of years FRA was very fortunate and they had revenues -- you had revenues -- that actually exceeded expenses.

The good news is that you put a lot of money away, and we have investments that we can draw on. The bad news is for the last few years -- I'm only going to talk about the last 5 because that's about as far back as I went -- we've been in a situation where the revenues have been significantly less than the expenses.

Our expenses for the last 5 years, and I'm going to talk about 2010 to 2015, have increased about 25 percent. Our revenues, because we are not attracting new members, just as most military organizations are not, our revenue streams are all tied to membership, and our revenues have decreased about 45 percent in the last 5 years. The membership lost is about 35 percent.

So, our revenue streams basically have been dues, which, of course, are going down as our membership goes down, fundraising, which goes down as our membership goes down, and then our insurance revenues. Corporate sponsors are not nearly as attracted to a member that has fewer and fewer members; and as fewer and fewer buy these policies, then we get less revenues.

So, all revenues are in decline, and that is creating this gap that I'm talking about.

So, what happens when we have a gap, we don't have the revenues that we projected? We still have the expenses

that we projected. We have got to find a way to pay for those expenses, and we're using investment funds. We've been doing this for a number of years. The problem is we're in a downward spiral.

Now, 2015 was a particularly difficult year. There was a market loss. I don't know if you all had money invested, but it was a pretty difficult year, and particularly difficult for FRA. We lost, I think, around \$600,000. As we lose that investment, those investment funds, we also lose future interest and gains on the investment base. And then to make matters worse, as we pull from these investment funds to pay for operating expenses, that puts us into a tax situation.

In 2015, we had \$201,000 in taxes that we had to pay. That was not budgeted in 2015. And this year we're expected to pay probably around \$210,000, and that too was not in last year's budget. So we've had to make up a significant deficit that wasn't even budgeted for the last 2 years.

We had to pay \$210,000 in taxes, and this year we've had to pay quarterly payments towards that -- I'm sorry; \$201,000 in 2015, and \$210,000 we have to pay quarterly payments this year, so it's been a really difficult cash flow year.

I'm going to go through some more numbers about 2015. The good news about 2015, we did receive a clean audit. And what that means is that in the opinion of Tate & Tryon, which is a very well-respected CPA firm, our financial position is reasonable and representative of our true financial position. So that's good. The bad news is of course, our dues, and their concern, too, is that our dues are decreasing; our contributions are decreasing.

All revenue streams decreased by about 6 percent last year. Our overall expenses increased by about 9 percent. And the overall FRA net assets -- and I'm just talking FRA. I'm not talking about the FRA Foundation -- our net assets decrease was about \$1.7 million.

Now, I'm going to go to the current year. This is what I project this year, and we have not closed our third quarter, so I can only look up until about August; but based on what I see, I think that our overall membership dues and contributions this year will be decreased to about 4 percent. The good news there is it's less of a decrease than the previous year.

The overall expense projection, I think we're actually going to come in under budget. Now, I say this with a lot of pride because we've worked very, very hard at Headquarters to try to contain our expenses. We can go to the good news, the next slide.

So, we are reducing costs in many areas. I think you all know that we have not received salary increases this year. We've also lost, or will have lost when Lauren leaves, four people. We have replaced Lauren because she is obviously key. We need somebody who can run a magazine. But the other three people, as they left, we only took on one part-time person, and we're doing a lot more with fewer people.

Part-time labor actually works pretty well for us. You don't have to pay benefits to part-time people. You can kind of float them around. The part-time person works directly for me, but she also helps out in admin, and she helps out in membership. So we're doing the same job with fewer people. We have not taken salary increases. We're also reducing costs in other areas.

We're looking back at some of our vendors, and we're asking for better deals. I think maybe we have become complacent in some cases, and they have become complacent, so we're trying to challenge, look at other avenues for vendors. And having done all this, again, I say that I'm really proud to say that this year, even with this \$210,000 unbudgeted tax burden, I think we're going to be under budget. So I want you to really consider what I'm saying because it's taken a lot of effort. We are looking at every single expense.

I think that we do have a lot to look forward to. We're one of the few organizations that's coming on 100 years. That is pretty remarkable. I think that this is going to attract a lot of people. I think that we can capitalize on that. So there is good news, but there is no quick and easy solution to this.

The next 3 years are going to be really difficult. We're going to have to use multiple solutions. As I have talked about, we have this revenue and expense gap, so we've got to attack the revenue side, and we've got to attack the expense side.

And there's no way a membership organization can continue if we don't recruit new members. We've got to figure that out. There is a rich heritage here that needs to be passed on. There's wonderful work that's done by you all, and we've got to pass that on to a younger generation. We've got to figure out what it is they want. We need new, attractive products.

The insurance products that were very attractive to you all; they are not so attractive to the younger generation. So, what is it that they want? I'm not sure that I know the answers. I just know that we have got to figure it out, and we've got to bring them in.

We do have things that I think would attract attention to our organization. We have the student program that Bob is going to be talking to you about later. We have a potential 501(c)(3) that you'll be voting on later. We are doing more with social media, and we know that that's attractive to younger people. All of these things, although they might not directly bring in revenues, they should bring attention to us and hopefully bring in more members. So we want to capitalize on those things.

As we bring in more members, we can hopefully bring in some corporate sponsorships. So that's where the 501(c)(3) comes into play. As a 501(c)(19), which is what we are, a membership organization, we are expected to pay for our own expenses. Corporate sponsorship is not really interested in donating to us just to cover membership expenses.

They want to donate to a 501(c)(3) so that they can capitalize on the good exposure they would get. So a 501(c)(3) will maybe allow us to go out and do things for Veterans and Veterans service organizations. Chris will be talking shortly a bit more about that.

So cost containment, as I said before -- looking for cheaper vendors. If I can use a very small example of this, the business cards that the new Board of Directors are receiving were done at about a quarter of the cost of what we've normally been paying. So there are things that we can do. The digital and social media, it's attractive to younger people, but it's also so inexpensive.

We can get a lot of information out there if we use social media instead of sending out hard copies. Bill and Victoria are going to be talking to you on Friday about

some of the changes that they've made in social media, and I hope that you'll listen to them.

At the end of the day, this is your organization. You are the members. You guys decide what happens. As I said, there are some resolutions out there that I would like you to seriously consider. Dues increases and restructuring, I know this is contentious. But, again, we are in a budgetary gap. Our revenues are not even beginning to cover our expenses. If our revenues do not cover our expenses, our investments have to. We've got to pay our bills.

And then also we have the 501(c)(3) Veterans Service NBR, and I'd like you to consider that as well. I think that will give us some opportunity to get some corporate sponsorship that will pay for things that we're already doing. We have VSO officers who are giving all sorts of time and energy to Veterans, not because they're being paid for it, but because it's the right thing to do.

Hopefully, these people come back and become members; but there are corporations out there who are willing to help us do that, so I would like you to entertain that.

Also, one of the things that I struggle with -- with the FRA, is that the process for change is long. If you have good ideas, you need to get them written down and submitted in advance in the right format so that we can vote on them. And I know you have good ideas because I heard two really good ideas this past week. I'm not going to talk about them. I hope that they are written up for next year. But if these NBRs are not written up and voted on, then we have to wait another whole year to make a significant change.

I'm going to be honest when I say we don't have that many years left. If we can make it through the next 3 years, I think we can make it to 100 years, but they're going to be hard, and we have to do it together. Thank you.

(Applause.)

NP COURNEYA: Do we have any questions for the Finance Officer?

RPEC COLLINS: Delegate, Branch 024, Penny Collins. I just want to reiterate the Financial Officer's last statement about resolutions. As you know, our convention next year

will be September 20 through 23, 2017 in Maryland at the Hunt Valley Inn. Branch 004 and Unit 004 will be the sponsors.

That means that any resolution that will come before the assembly within 120 days in advance would have to be in sometime in the middle of June. I just want to make sure. We'll communicate that out to everybody, but resolutions and a lot of other stuff will have to be in early for next year's convention. Okay. Thank you.

NP COURNEYA: That makes a good point; so when you're thinking about your resolutions, we've got a shorter timeframe to start getting them done, so you need to start working on them right after you get home from here. I would say by January 1, you should know what you want to look for and submit before the next convention, because it is a shorter period, okay, and they'll have to be submitted earlier.

Any questions for the Finance Officer and what we're doing?

PNP COMBS: Shipmate National President.

NP COURNEYA: Past National President Combs.

PNP COMBS: She mentioned the dues increase. Every time we tried it, we end up losing members. What's her solution to that?

FINANCE OFFICER GRAHAM: Well, I guess the solution would be to get more members.

PNP COMBS: You can't do it. They will not let us on the bases, half of them. We can't run out and just knock on the doors.

FINANCE OFFICER GRAHAM: Well, I'm going to be brutally frank here. If we are a membership organization that cannot get new members and cannot get new revenues, we have a very limited timeframe.

PNP COMBS: You're right. When I was, National President, we had 181,000 members. Look at what we have now. It's going fast, and increasing the dues is not going to help.

NP COURNEYA: Past National President Combs, I remember times when we had 150-, 180,000 members. Mostly, it was

due to we did such a great job -- and I know we all talked about this -- at getting TRICARE for Life and TRICARE passed. No one needed our supplements anymore. That's why they joined us.

Now, we got to come up, and like the Finance Officer said, we have to come up with a project. We have to come up with the ideas, what we can do to entice new members to join us, just like we did back then. They wanted the insurance. They wanted us to fight for their TRICARE. We have to have a campaign that will bring them in, and we've been dealing with that all year at Headquarters, trying to figure out what kind of campaign to come up with.

But we need ideas, and sitting right here in this room, we should have a wealth of ideas. We got a lot of experience. We got a lot of past national officers. And all them ideas should come together and bring them to Headquarters so we can act on them.

PNP COMBS: Shipmate National President, you're talking all this. How about appointing a special committee, one from each Region, to work with this lady for one year and see what we come up with? You got the authority.

NP COURNEYA: Past National President Combs, you know what? Before this convention is over, myself and Shipmate Larson will have it done. So start thinking about who wants to serve before Friday.

UNIDENTIFIED SHIPMATE: He's your first volunteer, right there.

NP COURNEYA: He is. I already got him. He's going to be the chairman.

PNP COMBS: Who's going to be the chairman?

NP COURNEYA: You are.

(Applause.)

PNP COMBS: That's all right, Shipmates.

NP COURNEYA: You accept? Shipmate Past President Combs, you accept; right?

PNP COMBS: Yeah, I'll accept.



(Applause.)

PRPEC GUNTHER: Shipmate National President.

NP COURNEYA: Shipmate at the mic.

PRPEC GUNTHER: Gunther, Branch 182, Rockville, Maryland. Just, Penny, it's not June. It's actually May. May to September is 4 months, 120 days. May 20. Just setting the record straight so everybody knows.

RPEC COLLINS: Thank you.

NP COURNEYA: Thank you, Shipmate. Anybody have questions they want to ask the Finance Officer? This is prime-time, if you want to ask her. I'm going to tell you, when we brought her onboard around the middle of December, I'm going to tell you, she took charge. We had the audit come in, and then by the end of January, she was beating up on me saying we got problems.

So, that's when we first started looking at the budget again, real close, after the audit was done. And you can ask the budget Chairman; we've had about four reviews this year. That includes the hands-on one we did in June, July, or whenever it was. I've been up there so many times, it don't matter. But we've been over this budget every way we can. We've cut it to the bare bones. I go up there every month, and I ask for a paper clip, and I got to sign for the damn thing, so that's how bad it's gotten.

So we've done a lot, and I'm glad to hear it. She's done so much, as she said. She believes we've done enough right now that we'll probably come in under budget this year, but that don't mean we can quit. That means we've got to continue ways now to bring the revenue in and bring membership up. That's the bottom line.

And I want to thank you, Nora, for all the hard work and everything you've done for us.

All right. It's going on 1500. What I'm going to do now - we will recess until tomorrow morning, and so before we do that, can all the Regional Presidents-Elect -- stay standing. There's some madness behind this. If you did not get the email that I had sent out from Headquarters, you all are assigned to work with the Convention Committee

Chairman, which is Fred Hill, Shipmate Past Regional President Southeast Fred Hill.

He'll get with you, and you are also going to work with -- where's Regional President Northeast/New England? Regional President, not elect. Donna Jansky. You're also on that committee. It will probably take you about 10, 15 minutes. You're going to review the honorary memberships.

I figured this was the easiest way to get one member from each Region and get you involved right off the bat, so you're assigned. Thank you.

PRPEC HOLCOMBE: Shipmate National President. Holcombe, Branch 040. I got a question. In the Delegate Kit in years past, there was a list of the deceased members for each Branch during the year. Was this omitted this year?

RPEC COLLINS: Yes.

PRPEC HOLCOMBE: Is it there?

RPEC COLLINS: I can answer. I am a Delegate for Branch 024, Penny Collins. Yes, because of what our Finance Officer talked about, cutting down on expenses, we did not include that list in there, to cut down the size of paper and use for the Delegate Kit. Plus, they've already been published in previous magazines of the *FRA Today*.

PRPEC HOLCOMBE: Shipmate National President, that ain't good enough. That's not good enough. I mean, you picked up a lot of members that you didn't know that you lost, and I don't know how you would get it. This was the source of it, and a lot of people used it for that particular purpose; to bring their memorial boards up-to-date. We have it in Branch 040.

NP COURNEYA: Shipmate Holcombe, I am directing the NED. He will get that republished and get it sent out immediately to the Branches, and I will make sure you get one personally.

PRPEC HOLCOMBE: And I will be forever in your debt.

RPEC COLLINS: Shipmate National President, may I also say that any Branch at any time can send an email or contact Member Services for that list going back 5, 10, 15, 20

years, at any time, because it is in our membership database.

If you just want the current year, from 2015, 2016, 2014, 2015, whatever dates you want, January 1 to December 31, 2010, we can give you that report via electronically, or we can run it and mail it to you.

NP COURNEYA: The NED will get it out.

RPEC COLLINS: All right. I'm just saying, there's other opportunities for that.

NP COURNEYA: The NED will get it out. Bottom line.

PRPSE HILL: Shipmate National President.

NP COURNEYA: Who are you?

PRPSE HILL: I'm Fred Hill, Branch 290, Fleet Reserve Association --

NP COURNEYA: Can you use a mic, Shipmate Hill. Let's hold it down. Let's listen up.

PRPSE HILL: Fred Hill, Delegate from Branch 290, Fleet Reserve Association. I would like to meet with the newly-elected Vice Presidents before we bail out of here.

NP COURNEYA: Regional Presidents?

PRPSE HILL: Regional Presidents. Before we bail out of here, I need to get names, addresses, telephone numbers -- some way to contact you.

NP COURNEYA: All Regional President-Elects, please meet Past Regional President of East Coast Fred Hill at the back.

PRPSE HILL: Southeast. Would you meet me back here as soon as we get ready to adjourn?

PNP BLACKBURN: Shipmate National President.

NP COURNEYA: Shipmate at the mic.

PNP BLACKBURN: Blackburn, Delegate, Branch 008. In my capacity as Hopskeeper, West Coast Regional Beer Club, for

those of you who are not in the know and desperately want to know, the West Coast Regional Beer Club will meet tomorrow, Thursday, 1900 to 2030, in the hospitality room.

We also have two other things going on, but hopefully you will be able to attend and pay your dues. Those of you who are not members, you are cordially invited. Please come up.

We really do like to have new members. Help us support our Association. We don't just have fun and drink beer. We do support the Association with donations to the Education Foundation and to the Auxiliary President's project.

NP COURNEYA: Thank you, Shipmate Blackburn. So if you ain't doing nothing tomorrow evening, go on up to the hospitality room and join the Beer Club.

Before we leave, I'd like to see Pete Lazzaretti. Can you come up, please?

RPNC-E COMBS: Shipmate National President.

NP COURNEYA: Shipmate at the mic.

RPNC-E COMBS: Combs, Delegate, Branch 161. Do you want the Regional Presidents-Elect to go with Fred Hill or the Regional Vice Presidents?

NP COURNEYA: Regional Presidents-Elect. Past Regional President Southeast Fred Hill, can you come up for a minute, up to the podium.

I want to just thank you for taking on this Committee. I appreciate it.

RPEC COLLINS: Shipmate National President.

NP COURNEYA: Shipmate at the mic.

RPEC COLLINS: Thank you. Penny Collins, Delegate, Branch 024. Please remember there is a leadership workshop this afternoon that's scheduled for 1630 for the incoming Regional Presidents and, of course, the elected new Vice Presidents, Junior Past Regional Presidents, and all the Shipmates are invited to come. The presenters will be the National President, the National Vice President, the NED, and the Finance Officer. All right. It will be taught or

presented in the Compass Amphitheater at 1630 unless otherwise told.

NP COURNEYA: Past Regional President East Coast, Claire Purdy.

(Thanking PRPEC Purdy off the record.)

NP COURNEYA: Past Regional President West Coast, Pete McNamara.

Pete, I want to thank you for standing in and always being here when I needed you.

Before I recess, do I have any Shipmates that want to bring anything up? Can we coordinate the class early, other than 1630? All right. Instead of going at 1630, let's meet at 1530, and we'll get it over with.

NVP LARSON: Shipmate National President.

NP COURNEYA: Shipmate at the mic.

NVP LARSON: I need to let everybody know they are --

NP COURNEYA: Hold it down please.

NVP LARSON: They are going to flip this room tonight for Welcome Aboard, so you all need to take your stuff with you because this room is going to be flipped.

NP COURNEYA: Regional President-Elects, the Time and Place chairman, all he is getting is your name; so stop, make sure he sees who you are, writes your name on the roster. And instead of going at 1630 for your orientation class, we'll go at 1530.

PRPSC PUGH: Pugh, Branch 371, Baton Rouge. I'd like to take this opportunity to thank you and National Headquarters for what you did for Branch 371 in the flood.

NP COURNEYA: Thanks, Shipmate Pugh.

NP COURNEYA: Shipmate National Chaplain.

(Three raps of the gavel.)

NCHAP WALLACE: Shipmate National President, the Bible is now closed.

NP COURNEYA: We'll stand in recess until tomorrow at 0900. Hold up for a minute. Tomorrow morning we'll reconvene at 1300.

(One rap of the gavel.)

(Whereupon, the First Business Session was adjourned at 1510.)

FRA 89th NATIONAL CONVENTION  
FLEET RESERVE ASSOCIATION  
JACKSONVILLE, FLORIDA  
SECOND BUSINESS SESSION  
Thursday, October 13, 2016  
1300 - 1440

NP COURNEYA: Master-at-Arms, invite the Shipmates into the hall and close the doors.

MASTER-AT-ARMS: Shipmate National President, Shipmates are in the hall.

NP COURNEYA: Thanks, Shipmate Master-at-Arms.

(Three raps of the gavel.)

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

NCHAP WALLACE: Shipmate National President, the Bible is now open.

NP COURNEYA: Thanks, National Chaplain.

JrPNP IPPERT: Shipmate National President. Ippert Junior Past National President. Let the record reflect that the Junior Past National President is in the proper uniform of the day.

NP COURNEYA: Thank you. Shipmates, join me in saluting the flag.

Hand salute. Ready. Two.

(One rap of the gavel.)

NP COURNEYA: Shipmates, I now declare the Second Business Session of the 89th National Convention regularly convened. Will the Credentials Chairman please give the credentials report.

PRPNW LAZZARETTI: Good afternoon, Shipmates. This is the second credentials report for the 89th FRA National

Convention. These numbers are as of 1300 on October 13, 2016.

The voting strength remains at 1,529.

Number of Branches represented by Delegates, 73.

Number of votes represented by Delegates, 882.

Number of Branches registered by Proxy, 99.

Number of votes registered by Proxy, 488.

Number of Branches not registered, 33.

Number of Delegates registered, 133.

Registered voting strength, 1,370.

Number of votes not registered, 159.

Two-thirds vote is 918.

Majority vote is 686.

The 33 Branches that are not registered are as follows:

Starting from the top: Branch 025, 029, 036. Because I don't have them on this report in front of me there, Shipmate Bolz. 048, 063, 064, 068, 073, 074, 083, 086.

UNIDENTIFIED SHIPMATE: 086 wasn't mentioned yesterday.

PRPNW LAZZARETTI: It was, but everybody seemed to have missed it because it went from 083 to 086 to 089. So 086 was missing yesterday. 089, 097, 102.

UNIDENTIFIED SHIPMATE: 098 is present.

PRPNW LAZZARETTI: 109, 111, 145, 179.

NP COURNEYA: Shipmates, if you have a question, please get up and use the mic, so we can hear you up here -- what the question is about the report.

PRPNW LAZZARETTI: 145, 179, 188, 215, 234, 248, 250, 251, 254, 256, 273, 280, 281, 283, 292, 334, and 339.



Shipmate Kilgore pointed out that the listing for 203 does not exist, so just line that one completely out.

UNIDENTIFIED SHIPMATE: What was that number again?

PRPNW LAZZARETTI: 203 does not exist.

And that concludes my report. I ask that it be received.

NP COURNEYA: Shipmates, you heard the credentials report, and it's been asked to be received.

All in favor?

(Whereupon, the ayes were heard.)

NP COURNEYA: Any opposed?

(No response.)

NP COURNEYA: Ayes have it. Thank you.

Before we continue on with our guest speakers, I'm going to turn the mic over to the Parliamentarian. We have a correction to make, and he's going to go over that, and then we'll have a ruling.

NPARL STARKEY: Good afternoon, Shipmates. Yesterday the Northeast Region, their bylaws were ruled invalid because one of their resolutions was not in order. And that Resolution was:

Whereas, Article 6, Section 1, Bylaws and Rules of the Northeast/New England Region, FRA, provides for the region to elect the follow officers: a regional president, a regional vice president, a secretary, and a treasurer.

During the initial review of the current bylaws that declares that the Region could not elect a first vice president or a second vice president if so desired. Whereas, the FRA 88th National Convention in Spokane, the National President stated that regions could elect a first and second vice president if so desired.

Therefore be it resolved, That Article 4, Section 1 of the Northeast/New England Regional Bylaws be amended to read as follows: The elected officers of the Northeast/New England Region shall be a president, a vice president, a first vice

president, and a second vice president; if so desired, a secretary and treasurer.

And then they gave the certification. This is to certify that this Resolution was proposed at a regular meeting of the Pine Tree Branch 156 held on the 12th day of May, 2016, read and debated and adopted by unanimous vote at a subsequent regular meeting held on the 9th day of June, 2016, a quorum being present.

Shipmates, our Bylaws state that we can only have a vice president, not a first or second vice president, and the Bylaws also state that a branch may have a first and second vice president, but it doesn't say that when it comes to regions.

NP COURNEYA: We wanted to clear that up because under the NBR when it was passed, all of the Resolutions were listed under that NBR. And when I ruled it out of order yesterday at our business session, it should have been only for that one Resolution, not all the ones under that NBR. So just that one Resolution is being ruled out of order. The rest of the Resolutions are good for the region, for the changes within the Regional Bylaws of Northeast/New England.

Any questions? Yes, Shipmate? Go to the mic, please.

UNIDENTIFIED SHIPMATE: We can't hear anything over these people over there.

NP COURNEYA: Master-at-Arms, go over and see what we can do about having them -- we're going to see what we can do, Shipmate.

At this time, I'm going to turn things over to the NED. He's going to introduce our first guest speaker, and then we'll continue on.

NED SNEE: Good afternoon, Shipmates. Our first guest speaker, his name is John Slate. He's the Southeast Regional Director for Excelsior College.

FRA has a long tradition of supporting educational opportunities for Shipmates and their families. The FRA Education Foundation was born from the Association's generous scholarship program that was serving deserving students for decades. As an extension of that commitment, FRA has a memorandum of agreement with Excelsior College

that provides tuition discounts and educational benefits to other members.

It is my pleasure to introduce John Slate, again the Southeast Director for Excelsior College, which by the way, is up in Albany, New York, which is where their headquarters is. He's a graduate of Embry Riddle and is a commercial pilot and Advance Instrument Ground Instructor.

He served 24 years of Special Service to the U.S. government in country and overseas.

In 2002, he was recognized by the Federal Aviation Administration for his exceptional contributions to aviation safety and education.

Over his 50-year flying career, he has donated his flying skills for charities such as Dreams Come True, Angel Flight, Independent Living Council, and the Make a Wish Foundation. He also uses his skills as a pilot and as a photographer on special news assignments for local news affiliates.

Please welcome John Slate.

(Applause.)

SHIPMATE SLATE: Good afternoon everybody. Sorry I'm a little gimpy.

I have the pleasure of working with our heroes that come back from overseas and the military. I'm the District Director for Excelsior College, and I cover three bases here in the Jacksonville area and up into Georgia, and I also go all the way over into the Panhandle.

Judith Reed, our Director of Veterans Services, has asked me to come speak to you today about our great school, and we'd like to thank the FRA National Executive Director, Tom, and the President and the Board for allowing us to be here.

Excelsior College is a regionally accredited, non-profit school. And this is very important. We have about 65,000 military credits to offer people who come out of the military. In addition to that, we have 12,300 military students, current as of about a week ago, and 4,500 Veterans.

We give the maximum credit for all of the military programs. In fact, unless it is duplicated on their JST, they will receive that credit. If there is one or two duplications, the one that has the most credit is the one they will get.

Our membership participation with the FRA has been outstanding. We have 14 FRA members who have graduated -- 3 in 2016, 2 in 2015, and the rest in 2014 -- and we're looking forward to having many, many more after that. Currently, 22 FRA member students have enrolled in our school and one at the graduate level. We do a pre-evaluation --

UNIDENTIFIED SHIPMATE: It's really hard to hear.

SHIPMATE SLATE: All right. Maybe we can override them. Is that better?

We do pre-evaluations for the Veterans and active duty military at no charge. In other words, we pay their JST, any college transcripts, any licenses they may have, and sit down with them and work it up and say this is what you've got left to do for college.

I'm going to be at the table until we finish today, which is right down the hallway. I will be glad to answer any questions. If you'd like materials from the school, you may fill out a request form; or if I have them there, you're welcome to take them.

There's special pricing for FRA members, employees, their spouses, and dependents, from our school is offered. Reduced tuition for the Associate's and the Bachelor's degrees. Tuition discount is available for the Master's degree, which is tremendous. Information flyers are available at the table, that break it down for you better.

Students must take 12 credit hours a year. Now, that's easy because our school cycles in 8-week terms, except for a few classes which are 15, like English, and there are a couple of others. So, a student can easily be full-time by taking two classes each term, which a lot of Veterans work full-time and go to school full-time, so they get their full benefits.

Most traditional colleges require you to have 30-plus credits and even more in some cases. With us, it's only

12. Students can take at least 6 credits in a year and bypass the annual fee, and that really is easy with 8-week terms.

Our military service pricing is for the Military, Guard, and Reserve people. Bypass the application. There is no application fee. When you apply to Excelsior College, the word is enroll. You simply go to the website and enroll. You get a student number; you get your email address, and you're ready to go. All you need is your preliminary, and for active duty military, that preliminary will automatically work to get their TA started.

If they're Veterans, the preliminary will work to get your VA started. So, it works both ways for both active duty and for the people that you will deal with for the most part, which will be Veterans.

The Center For Military Education assists military members, their spouses, their families and their dependents, Veterans, and DOD employees, and they all are entitled to special pricing from our school. All they need to do is speak to a military counselor, either at the school, by phone on our 1-888 number; or if you're in a region, contact the region. Simply go to the website, and they'll give you a direct contact of someone in the area.

Support services for Lieutenant Bryant Murray, the online Veterans Center, which is open 24/7, so they can get all kinds of help and assistance through the Center.

Now, I want to talk about a little problem, and it's something that all of us in this room can help the Veterans with. They've served their country, some of them coming back off of four deployments, and they come back and they get involved with a school that is not accredited. We've had it happen 4 times in the past week, all from the same school.

You all heard about it on TV. The school went down. It was not accredited to start with. I don't have a lot of time to talk to you about this. The only way a school is accredited is if it has a regional accreditation. How do you know that? It will say right on their brochure. The front of the website will say it, whatever the school is. It will either say regionally accredited, or it will give the designation, like Northeast Association of Colleges and

Schools, and it's that way all across the country, Mid-Central Association of Colleges and Schools, and so on.

If they don't have a regional certification and they go to one of these schools -- I have a student right now who is a Veteran. She has some 70 hours from one of those schools down in Orlando. Nothing transfers. And it was paid for out of her VA money. But there is some bright horizons.

The Federal Government has seized some assets from these schools, and there is a program available. If anybody wants to know about it for people you know, simply email me, and I'll email you the package, and it's up to them thereafter. Understand that when they do that, that money goes directly back into their VA benefits. They don't get to put it in their pocket.

So, I'm available the rest of today. If you pick up one of my cards, you're able to contact me at any time. We all carry our cell phones, which are our office phones, all the regional people; and so if you were to call me and I was up at the sub base, I'd answer you.

So, let's really give our Veterans that extra edge and allow them to get into the right school at the right time.

A lot of you that deal with Veterans that want to go to school, they have families. They have kids. The wife doesn't work, and they want to go to school. And the VA subsidy is great, but it doesn't cover everything. Folks, today out there in the big world, there are millions and millions of dollars in scholarships and grants for our military so they can go to school, live, enjoy life -- and they deserve it -- by simply applying for some of these moneys.

You're saying, I wonder which ones those are. Think of a company, somebody had a Pepsi sitting in front of them. Pepsi Cola has hundreds and hundreds of grants. Dr. Pepper, General Motors, Lays, all of these companies have moneys available, not just for Veterans, but for everybody. One of the best programs that I deal with -- the lady recognizes my voice now when I call her -- is the Negro College Fund.

Sadly, two years ago they had to send money back because people didn't apply for it. So let's help our Veterans have a better life, get an edge while they're trying to get

their education. And I'll be glad to help them, even if they're not going to my school.

All of us at the military bases, and I'm based out of NAS here in Jacksonville, our goal is when a student comes in to see me, if I can't help them, I'll get them to a school that can. I'll do the same thing for anybody that calls me. If somebody calls and says I got a kid here or a Veteran -- I call everybody kids because I'm so old -- I got a Veteran here. I'll be glad to help you with that, even if he's going to school in California.

It's easy, but for people who are not in it, it just looks like a big maze. I've been in, since I retired from the government service, I've been in the education, secondary education system, for about 12 years doing the same thing, working with the military, working with Veterans, working with all types of programs, all different levels of the VA programs, so I can deal with just about any of them, and so can any of our reps.

Wherever you live in the country, go to our website; look for the rep; give them a call. If that doesn't work for some reason, you're sure welcome to call me.

And I'm just about out of time. Does anyone have a quick question that they'd like to ask about anything? No? Okay. Just remember, we have an important job, and that's to serve our Veterans. So let's do everything we can to help them out with their education, their VA benefits, and everything else that they sure are entitled to.

Tom, thank you for asking me to come today. I appreciate it, Board of Directors and the President.

(Applause.)

NP COURNEYA: Don't run off too quick now. Sir, a token of our gratitude for you coming out and spending time with us and supporting us the way you do and our Veterans out there in the world.

(Applause.)

SHIPMATE SLATE: Thank you very much. Have a great conference everybody.

NP COURNEYA: Back tables, has the noise calmed down over there?

UNIDENTIFIED SHIPMATE: They are shutting down. They're going to be leaving.

NP COURNEYA: If I could, could I get everyone to turn their cell phones off or put them on vibrate.

At this time, I'll have the NED come back up. We have another guest speaker. He's the Force Command Master Chief of the Recruiting Command.

NED SNEE: Shipmates, our next speaker, Force Master Chief Eddie Knight, has a very extensive biography. He's a native of Jacksonville, Florida. I'll just do some of the highlights. I just want to say one thing, that when I was Force Master Chief, my start in the FRA started on one of these guest speakerships, so I know what the big emphasis is in the coordination and also the partnership.

It's been a longstanding tradition to welcome the Force Master Chief of the Navy Recruiting Command to FRA's annual conventions, and this year is no exception. I'm proud to introduce a Shipmate -- yes, he is a Shipmate. He belongs to the FRA -- Force Master Chief Eddie Knight.

(Applause.)

NED SNEE: Master Chief Knight oversees the introduction of thousands of men and women into our Navy each year. Force Master Chief Knight served on numerous aircraft carriers, LPDs, as well as various shore assignments.

Shipmate Knight's return to Jacksonville is a bit of a homecoming since he served at the Naval Aviation Depot here as the leading petty officer many years ago.

He's a graduate of the U.S. Navy Senior Enlisted Academy (Class #117), Command Master Chief/Chief of the Boat (Class #48), and the National Defense University's Keystone Joint Senior Enlisted Course.

Please give a very warm welcome to Shipmate Force Master Chief Knight. Thank you.

FORCE MASTER CHIEF KNIGHT: How's everybody doing this afternoon? Good. I promise not to bore you, and I'm not



going to put you to sleep. I'm not a big proponent of a lot of PowerPoints and slides. I like to get out and talk, and I talk to people. I say if you speak from the heart, you reach the heart. I'm not selling anything.

I wanted to come here, and the first time I had any type of interaction with FRA is with Tom Snee and Virgil and everybody else up in Washington, D.C. I can't tell you how much we really appreciate with the Naval Recruiting Command what the FRA does for us on an annual basis. And a lot of times people think that they can just have their hands out and we don't have to reciprocate and give back, and we want to do everything we can to give back to the FRA.

I had no idea what the FRA was until I had an interaction with Tom and the team up there in Washington, D.C. And during the past couple of days here, I can tell you, it's humbling. As a matter of fact, I had three speaking engagements earlier this morning, and I just finished up a lunch with the Chief Petty Officer down in Jacksonville, and I immediately came over here.

I have bragged about you guys over a period of time. I think I'm probably the youngest person in this room, so what can I really tell you guys; right? Because you've done everything. I can tell you, I learn something from every single person. I don't care how old or how young they are, whether they're my peers, whatever the case may be. God gave us two eyes, two ears, and one mouth.

He gave us that because we need to go and observe. We need to listen, and then we need to speak. Some of us get up and all we do is talk, talk, talk, talk, talk, and no action. We have to make sure that we sit back, evaluate the situation, under-react, and then go and make it happen.

I can tell you we're going through a transition in the Navy right now and in the entire military. And I can tell you, and I was talking to the Skipper -- I talked to the Skipper, which is Skipper Ford, over at NRD Jacksonville -- and I talked to the executive officer, and I've talked to the chief recruiter, and the command master chief, and I told him how special you guys are and what you do.

Most of you are retirees. Whether it was the Navy, whether it was the Coast Guard, or the Marines, each one of you are retirees, and you didn't have to do this through the FRA. You didn't have to do this. But you're doing this on a

daily basis, and I can tell you, you had the hurricane which seemed like it was going to prevent a lot of people from coming down. My executive assistant in the Headquarters said we're probably going to have to shift rudders on this.

I said I've given my word. I don't care if the storm is going to be there. You fly me in the next day after that storm hit. I was supposed to be down here on Sunday. The storm and everything took place. I came in on Monday. I had four flight delays; I had three plane changes, et cetera, et cetera, so by the time I got to sleep, it was about 0230 that morning. And I was packed up heading over to Tallahassee about 6 o'clock in the morning for a few speaking engagements there. Stopped in Lake City.

My son, he graduated from Embry Riddle. I can tell you, back in 2010, he went to school here in Peterson, one of the specialty schools here. He had an opportunity to go to the Naval Academy, and he went to a summer seminar -- he got selected to go up there in 2010, and he went up there for 3 weeks -- and afterwards, just before he got ready to graduate from high school, he said, dad, he got selected to go to Embry Riddle to be a pilot down there.

He said I don't want to go to the Naval Academy. I said why not? He's been in my pocket ever since. I can tell you it's pretty expensive. Embry Riddle, if you don't know Embry Riddle, if you go and do some research on Embry Riddle, that's equivalent to the Harvard of flying. And I can tell you I have post-9/11, yellow ribbons and flags, and I was still averaging between \$5,000 and \$9,000 a month out of pocket for his flight school. And I could only write off \$2,500 a month, so I wish I would have known about a lot of those grants and things of that nature out there. But I'm telling you, you just don't realize how humbling it is.

I'm going to give you a quick snapshot, and I want to make sure I don't push over time, so I'm probably tailed for maybe what, 10, 15 minutes?

NP COURNEYA: You're good.

FORCE MASTER CHIEF KNIGHT: I want to make sure everybody has an idea about Navy recruiting and the challenges we have out there. By show of hands, how many people have ever been in Navy recruiting or any type of recruiting?

Raise your hand. We maybe have a dozen. And I'm telling you, there are very special people out there. And to recruit the recruiter, we have to make sure we're bringing the right talent into Naval recruiting because we've had so many issues with people getting in trouble out there because we're bringing the wrong people in out there.

If you're an introvert, recruiting is not for you. If you just came from back-to-back deployments -- how many Seabees? I got 5 Seabees out here, 7. Okay. And if you think about it, the Seabees, they go and deploy -- I was over in Afghanistan. I went over there with the Admiral and everything else -- and I can tell you, if someone is a Seabee and he or she has been back-to-back-to-back deployments over in Afghanistan, Syria, wherever the case may be, recruiting is not for you.

If you just came from a ship and you've done five deployments in a six-year period of time, recruiting is not for you. And I'm making sure that we stop and get to the left of people coming to recruiting, talking to those details, talking to those enlisted community managers that make sure we bring the right people out there.

I also tell my command master chiefs, stand with the local bases and the local FRAs because guess what? You guys have a lot of knowledge. You guys have forgotten more things than we can ever think about learning, and we have to tap into that.

I just talked to a lot of the civilians over NRD Jacksonville, and I told them, I said, hey, they said we've never really had a force master chief or someone come in. They always talk to the leadership in the office and that's it. When I go to a district, I talk to that CO; I talk to the XO; I talk to the civilians; I talk to the contractors; I talk to the retirees. I talk to everybody that's part of that organization because guess what? No one is more important than the other, and that's what we have to think about, and we have to realize that.

Something else I always talk about, and I would be remiss if I didn't talk about it today, I would be remiss, but I talk about the success triangle. And if you think about a triangle, that's three pillars to that triangle. The base of that triangle, or the bottom of that triangle, should be your family, period. The secondary pillar should be yourself. The third should be your career.

A lot of us have a tendency of putting every ounce of energy we have day in and day out, 20, 30, 40 years into what? To the career. I tell people if you don't take care of your family, somebody else will. And I keep it real. Many of you guys could tell me something, and most times I tell people there's probably nothing that you guys can tell me that I haven't heard or seen before, but I think there's probably some stories out in the audience right there. But you got to think about that.

The main thing that you have, faith is above that triangle. So whatever your faith is, you have your faith, your family, yourself, and your career.

I also talk about the three Ts. That's trust, transparency, and teamwork. If the different Branches don't trust each other, you're going to have an ineffective Branch, and overall it's going to resonate, and it's going to be an ineffective FRA.

I know you're going to have ups and downs. Guess what? That's what the family does. You guys are going to be over them like hornets. I already see that. So keep doing what you're doing.

I'm going to give you a quick snapshot. That's Admiral Hughes. He's been in the seat since September of last year. He relieved NAB Andrews. One phenomenal Admiral after another. The Navy and the military is blessed to have Admiral Hughes sitting in the seat right now. He's an H-60 pilot by trade, and he's going through the Capstone course right now, the six-week Capstone course. So more than likely, they're going to extract him out of Naval recruiting.

I'm telling you he's a fireball. If you keep track of him, he's going to be that 2-star, 3-star, and potentially that 4-star. It's definitely humbling to work alongside him. That's the command philosophy.

And the last pillar is going to be have fun. I'm not going to bore you with this. This is the NRDs, and we have two regions. We have Region East, and we have Region West. And it's broken down, and I'll show you on the next slide you're going to see a red line that's going to separate the entire nation. A lot of people didn't know we had recruiting in Guam, Hawaii, Puerto Rico, Germany, Italy, Alaska. We have recruiting in all those areas.

So, we have a large scope of responsibility, and I can tell you, our VA, and I'll get to that bill that's authorized, it's being reduced. We're losing 500 recruiters out there. That's why we have to go through and get the right recruiters out there to bring the right sailors, future sailors, into the Navy to make the right effect, because your country depends on it. Next please.

There is the line I'm talking about. And it looks like there is more to the west than there is to the east, but I can tell you, we're broken down pretty equally, and we have our personnel.

Now, we have a Region East and a Region West. Each region is responsible for 13 districts. We're in the process now, we're going to reduce our footprint, and we're no longer going to have a Region East and Region West, so the contour in that entire area is going to go away. We're going to have 20 Naval recruiting districts, down from 26. That's why it's imperative to make sure that we have the right people coming to Navy recruiting. Next please.

That's the vision in a quick nutshell. I know you know about honor, courage, and commitment. And think about the vision. That's what we're looking at doing. Everything is going towards technology. And we have to focus on that.

We're going to do something now that we call virtual recruiting. Now, we're still going to have the storefronts. So you're going to say, where are these centers? Where are these recruiters? We're going to have virtual recruiting, so if we have some of the outlying areas that's pretty rural, and if our recruiters have to drive 2, 3 and 4 hours round trip, and they're not getting anyone to go into the military, that's a waste of time, money, and effort.

How many people have bought a house within the last two or three years? I told you. Close. Right. Everything was done on-line for the most part.

UNIDENTIFIED SHIPMATE: No, sir.

FORCE MASTER CHIEF KNIGHT: You went into the office?

UNIDENTIFIED SHIPMATE: Yes, sir.

FORCE MASTER CHIEF KNIGHT: Most of the applications are being done on-line, so people are still able to go into those mortgage companies, but for the most part, every mortgage they're doing, they're doing that on-line. That's what we're doing.

So, if someone qualifies to go into the Navy, he or she can go on-line, and once they make that qualification, then they can shift and get linked up with the recruiter. We're trying to give more time back to our sailors and their families.

I just left Bahrain in 2015, and I was over there for 2 years, and it's a year tour. And I was getting briefed on different things that's going on out in Naval recruiting before I came to the job. We had had three suicides in Naval recruiting in less than a year and a half. Our recruiters committed suicide.

I was in the seat a week, I was down in Pensacola, and the Force Master Chief of the Seabees called, and he said, hey, Eddie, welcome aboard. We're happy to have you on the team. He said I got a question. I've lost two of my Seabees to suicide in the past year and a half. What am I supposed to tell him when I'm just getting into the seat?

One thing I don't do is I don't make promises. I make commitments to go through and make things change. We had an opportunity, and I put operational stress control teams out there, and they started doing their thing. Thank goodness we haven't had a suicide in almost 2 years now. We're holding our leadership accountable. If you're abusive out there, you're doing the wrong things, we're going to take care of you, and we're going to make sure that you go home. You're not going to be transferred to another command. Next.

Okay. Our goal for 2016 is 41,000. Last year it was 45,724. So it's balanced out. And if you look at the officers, it's within probably about 100 or 150. We're bringing in enlisted. We're bringing in about 37,000 people per year. Just imagine that. Every single day is like a Monday, but we're taking a lot of the stresses off the recruiters out there. Next please.

That's just our female contingent has gone up from 23 to 25 percent, which is about 5,000 additional females we're bringing into the Navy. We have to tap into that talent

and make sure we have those great leaders out there. Next please.

I've already covered that. That's basically a snapshot of where everything is located.

That's what I talked about, the reduction from 3,600 down to below 2,900 as of fiscal year 2017. Next.

Now MAP. I know people probably haven't heard of MAP, right? Now Meritorious Advancement Program -- it used to be RCAP or REAP or what have you -- you could offer a Meritorious Advancement Program like the CAP program. Well, the CAP program is no longer around, and what we've done, we've put the responsibility on the commanding officers, and he or she can go, and they can automatically meritoriously advance those sailors that's out there doing phenomenal work, so we're streamlining that process.

I can tell you the average. You're supposed to get 1 percent. You may get 2 or 3. Our smallest districts, which is about 225, 250, they're receiving 6 MAP quotas per district. That's 14 percent advancement. Next please.

I've talked about this. That's going to be your nucleus. Next please.

Family, yourself, and career. Next.

Well, basically this right here, this is a road map of how we go and get our sailors advanced out there. I call it the five Cs: your career, collateral duties, CPO mess involvement. I think CPO mess involvement, if you're not involved with the CPO mess, you're not involved with the FRA, you're not going to be able to advance in the FRA. Same thing with the military. If you're not advanced to the chief's mess, you're not going to advance.

You have to be involved CPO 365. That's something that started a few years ago where instead of us going when the results come out to be advanced to chief petty officer, you drop everything you're doing in the command and you have to go and try and get those people promoted. We're providing mentorship 365 days a year, and we're interacting and we're providing training and mentorship, and I can tell you it's highly effective.

Civics. We have to make sure, just like the FRA, we have to make sure that we're doing our part and we're giving back. And I can tell you a lot more people are going to know about the FRA once I get back. I do monthly different letters. I do good news stories, and I will definitely highlight the FRA and what you guys bring to the table.

And last but not least, they talk about college. And at the bottom, if you look, sustained superior performance. Just because you're doing those top five things and you've done that for a year or two, doesn't mean that you're going to get promoted. You're going to have to be sustained superior performance. Next please.

So, that's basically in a nutshell what we offer. If you think about it, when some people came in, especially my predecessors, they came in, you can get in with the high 20s or a low 30. Right now, do you know what the ASVAB is? The people that's not up there in D.C. What would you say? What's the number? Fifty. It's a 50 now.

It takes a 50 ASVAB to get into the Navy. You have people coming into the Navy with Associate's, Bachelor's. We have people that have Bachelor's degrees that are trying to come into the Navy.

Why do you think they're in the process of changing our retirement system? The retirement is one of the best in the world.

But as of 2019, that's going to change. So that's basically it in a nutshell. I know you guys have a lot of other things to do instead of listen to Eddie Knight touch base, but I can tell you, I couldn't be more humbled to be here today. I think these two individuals, these are the ones I've met, and I've met a few others, but I want to definitely thank them for bringing me in here to be able to talk to you.

I can tell you I met them last year back in January up in D.C. for ROY week. It was phenomenal, and I know I met you as well. I don't think I met you. I remember faces. As a matter of fact, we had lunch together. I remember. I got a big head, so I have a pretty good memory. We definitely had a chance to eat together.

And I can tell you, we want to do our part, and we don't want to just tap into your kitty. We want to make sure



that we're doing our part. So if we have to reduce what we have to do so that we only concentrate on the ROYs, we'll concentrate on the ROYs. The families can do what they have to do.

I want to say thank you so much. It is an honor to be standing here before each and every one of you. Continue to do what you're doing, and I know when I retire, I'm going to be over on that side giving back. In order to teach one, you have to reach one. In order to correct, you have to be able to connect with that person. If I can't connect with you, you can't tell me anything. I'm not going to listen to you. Continue doing what you're doing.

God bless the FRA and the United States of America.

She asked this question right quick. She asked about the change of rating, and what was your question?

UNIDENTIFIED SHIPMATE: What's going to happen to recruiting and what's going to happen to the Navy?

FORCE MASTER CHIEF KNIGHT: We haven't gotten there yet. And I'll be honest. The rating change, it's like a double-edged sword right now. The ratings are near and dear to our heart. But another flip token, how many Marines do I have here?

(Marines respond.)

FORCE MASTER CHIEF KNIGHT: What do you call the Marines? Do you call them staff sergeants? Do you call them privates? Do you call them hired first class? So the silver lining, what makes us different?

UNIDENTIFIED SHIPMATE: We're Navy.

FORCE MASTER CHIEF KNIGHT: You have everybody else. So they're aligning and everything, and there are things that happen in the military and in the Navy that we don't agree with, but we in leadership positions, we can go through and we'll talk behind closed doors and we'll say, hey, I really don't agree with this, or I do agree with that; but we have to carry out the plan of the day because guess what? I have a lot more important things to worry about instead of what they call me. Just don't mess with my paycheck.

(Applause.)

NP COURNEYA: Shipmate at the mic. Can we field a couple questions?

FORCE MASTER CHIEF KNIGHT: Absolutely. Who do we have? Yes, sir.

UNIDENTIFIED SHIPMATE: You made mention that your son graduated from Embry Riddle. What did he do after he finished school?

FORCE MASTER CHIEF KNIGHT: He graduated last year, and he went on -- once he graduated, once he finished Embry Riddle, he said, Dad, I want to get my CFI. That's Commercial Flight Instructor. He went and got his CFII, Commercial Flight Instrument Instructor. And afterwards, about a year and a half after he graduated, he started having more interaction with me because I had just come from 5th Fleet. And he said, Dad, I want to serve in the military. Yeah, that's what he said.

He said, I want to serve in the military because, he said, it's something special about serving your country, and he gets it. I wasn't going to push him down that rabbit hole. I'm going to let him make the decision. Just like right now, he doesn't know what he's going to fly.

Everybody wants to fly the Gucci aircraft. They want to fly the Super Hornets and everything else. I said why not fly the P-8 Alpha? That's the P-3, or the new version of the P-3, and it's 737 P-8 Alpha, and it's on a 737 platform. That's a win-win. He called me this morning, and everything's good down there in Pensacola. But I'm going to tell you, I didn't get a chance to spend a whole lot of time with him. He was leaving because he thought he was supposed to be there on the 16th. Everybody read his orders wrong.

He talked to the captain down there in Pensacola, and she said, hey, you were supposed to be here on Friday. He's UA. So he freaked out. The commanding officer over here in Jacksonville freaked out.

I said, Mike, the captain will see what happened. Don't freak out, and he got on the road and started hauling tail. We pulled over off the Cecil Field exit, went to the McDonald's. I talked with him. I gave him a hug. For about 15 minutes, we talked, and he got on the road. That's the only time. Today is his birthday. So if you

think about it, today is the Navy's birthday. And also what's April 1.

UNIDENTIFIED SHIPMATE: April Fool's Day.

FORCE MASTER CHIEF KNIGHT: Seabee's birthday. And I'm going to tell you something else. April 1 of 2006 is when I lost my mother. So I'm telling you, all this stuff is bittersweet, but things don't happen by accident. It doesn't, and by all of our paths crossing today doesn't happen by accident. Being humbled when I met everybody and I saw everybody on Tuesday and Wednesday, you guys get it and you care, and that's what it's about. I definitely appreciate that.

UNIDENTIFIED SHIPMATE: I want to leave something with you.

FORCE MASTER CHIEF KNIGHT: Yes, sir.

UNIDENTIFIED SHIPMATE: Had you known about the Walter Beall Scholarship, which is sponsored by the Past Regional Presidents of the Fleet Reserve Association, your son would have been entitled to a lot of those dollars you had to put out of your pocket.

FORCE MASTER CHIEF KNIGHT: I can write \$20,00 a year off my taxes.

UNIDENTIFIED SHIPMATE: It's tailored directly for those who want to further their education in general engineering, aviation, or aeronautical.

FORCE MASTER CHIEF KNIGHT: I told you the knowledge was in this room.

UNIDENTIFIED SHIPMATE: You know it now.

FORCE MASTER CHIEF KNIGHT: I'm not having any more. I'm just getting the practice.

NP COURNEYA: Shipmate at the mic. We'll take two more questions.

PRPEC GUNTHER: Gunther, Delegate, Branch 182. I have a member in my branch, a lifetime member in my branch, whose son got his Master's degree from West Virginia University. Last year he tried to get into the Navy with that, and they wouldn't accept it.

FORCE MASTER CHIEF KNIGHT: Why?

PRPEC GUNTHER: I don't know why.

FORCE MASTER CHIEF KNIGHT: Give me a side bar, and I can tell you. And each and every one of you, if you ever need to get in contact with me, if you feel like something wasn't done quite right, let me know. I can tell you, we just relieved a master chief about three and a half, four months, and that individual is going home for abuse of leadership, and that individual is going home. So we're doing things right. Now, do we always get it right? Every single organization is going to have some flaws; but I tell you, we're going to hold people accountable.

What do you have, sir?

UNIDENTIFIED SHIPMATE: I just want to say I've got a great working relationship with your recruiters in Birmingham, Alabama.

FORCE MASTER CHIEF KNIGHT: Okay.

UNIDENTIFIED SHIPMATE: We have our sign up in the recruiting office now. They did not know anything about the Fleet Reserve Association. They had people come in that served in the Navy asking questions, so now they direct their questions to me. I've even picked up a couple of members. My sign is up there with a card on it and everything, and you got a new recruiter there that he is really top notch. He has really helped me a lot.

And I wanted to tell you that you've got some recruiters out there that are doing a good job with trying to help us with the Fleet Reserve Association. We have magazines in there about the FRA.

FORCE MASTER CHIEF KNIGHT: And I get those every --

UNIDENTIFIED SHIPMATE: And so it's worked out real good for us.

FORCE MASTER CHIEF KNIGHT: And I'm telling you, what better way, and I don't go and do recommendations. I don't give advice, et cetera, et cetera, unless I've had experience with someone. I have had experience with FRA over the last year and a half, and you guys are a phenomenal organization. And I can go and I can

unequivocally say what you bring to the table and what we need to bring to the table for you. Yes, sir?

SHIPMATE GATES: Master Chief, Frank Gates, Delegate for Branch 293. I find as one of the FRA recruiters talking to chiefs, gunny sergeants and so forth, they don't know anything about FRA. If I get one out of ten chiefs that know anything about the FRA, I'm lucky. What I would specifically ask you to do is share your enthusiasm about the FRA with your counterparts.

FORCE MASTER CHIEF KNIGHT: I will. And what I do is I send emails and notes out to my command master chiefs, and I don't just include the command master chiefs. I include the chief recruiters as well. I send that out, and guess what? I don't believe in all that divisiveness. And if that command master chief and that chief recruiter, if they can't get along, I'm going to give you a chance to play in the sandbox. I'm going to give the regions an opportunity to fix it. By the time it gets to my level, it's probably too late.

I would definitely be a big proponent of that, and I'm definitely going to send something out to the entire chiefs' mess, and everybody is going to know I came down here. And they know the importance of me coming down here because I didn't cancel. I'm telling you, I had probably about five or six other speaking engagements during that time frame elsewhere, and I told Tom that I would be here this year, and I'm a man of my word. Thank you.

(Applause.)

(NP Courneya thanks Force Master Chief Knight and presents gift.)

NP COURNEYA: Last night in the Welcome Aboard, did anyone lose a pair of glasses? We had a pair of glasses left. Anyone lose their glasses?

Before we move on and start taking committee reports this afternoon, we'll take a 10-minute break. I know some of you need to get out and warm up for a few minutes, so we'll take 10. Shipmate National Chaplain.

(Three raps of the gavel.)

NCHAP WALLACE: Shipmate National President, the Bible is now closed.

NP COURNEYA: Thank you, Shipmate National Chaplain. Let's be back at 10 after.

(Recess.)

NP COURNEYA: Shipmate Master-at-Arms, invite the Shipmates into the hall and shut the doors.

MASTER-AT-ARMS: Shipmate National President, Shipmates are in the hall.

NP COURNEYA: Thanks, Shipmate Master-at-Arms.

Shipmate National Chaplain, open the Bible, please.

NCHAP WALLACE: Shipmate National President, the Bible is now open.

NP COURNEYA: Thank you, Shipmate National Chaplain. Shipmate at the mic.

JRPNP IPPERT: Shipmate National President, let the record reflect that the Junior Past National President is in the uniform of the day.

NP COURNEYA: So noted. Shipmates, we're going to continue on. We're going to get committee reports out of the way. Let me see.

Is Shipmate Robbie Robbins in the room?

The first committee report we'll have, we will begin with Americanism-Patriotism -- Past Regional President East Coast James Campbell.

PRPEC CAMPBELL: National Officers, Past National Officers, Regional Officers, Past Regional Officers, Shipmates and Guests -- can you hear me now? That's as good as it gets.

First off, I'd like to ask that you accept my report. It's in Tab I in the credentials kit, and I would like to have someone --

UNIDENTIFIED SHIPMATE: I move that it be accepted.

NP COURNEYA: Motion has been made to accept his report due to not being here yesterday. Tab I. Now can you hear me?

PRPNENG JUSTIN: Justin, Branch 042, Delegate.

NP COURNEYA: Shipmate at the mic.

PRPNENG JUSTIN: Justin, Branch 042, Delegate. I second the motion.

NP COURNEYA: We got a second. Any discussion?

All in favor?

(Whereupon, the ayes were heard.)

NP COURNEYA: We didn't need the second, but it was good he gave it. Now he will give his report from his committee today.

PRPEC CAMPBELL: All right. Americanism-Patriotism Committee met at the Dockside Room at 0900 this morning.

The members that were there were:

Past Regional President Southeast, Bobby Smith.

Past Regional President Southwest, Gordon Hewson.

Past Regional President South Central, Robert Holcomb.

Shipmate Richard Ruiz.

Past Regional President West Coast, Peter McNamara.

Visitors, and I know I'm going to mess this up and I apologize, Allen Langteau. How bad was it? You're missing a letter.

Chris Murray, Branch 040.

Past Regional President New England, Phil Justin.

Past Regional President East Coast, Paul Gunther.

Are you ready to hear everything? Everybody got their pen and pencil and everything ready? I'm going to give all of the first place winners first.

Okay. First place for Group I, Branch 269.

Group II: First place, Branch 175.

Group III: First place, Branch 077.

Group IV: First place, Branch 115.

Group V: First place, Branch 113.

Second place winners:

Group I: Branch 024.

Group II: Branch 161.

Group III: Branch 101.

Group IV: Branch 130.

Group V: Branch 217.

Third place winners:

Group I: Branch 061.

Group II: Branch 093.

Group III: Branch 162.

Group IV: Branch 192.

Group V: Branch 260. This has been the story of my whole week here so far.

The overall Branch will be Branch 269. Yes, I'm sorry. That's the Walter Rowell Award.

The Leonard "Swede" Nelson Award, Shipmate of the Year, goes to Robert Huscher, Branch 186.

UNIDENTIFIED SHIPMATE: Spell it.

PRPEC CAMPBELL: H-U-S-C-H-E-R.

UNIDENTIFIED SHIPMATE: It's Bob Huscher, right here.

PRPEC CAMPBELL: Stand up Bob.

And the title for the Essay Contest for the upcoming year will be: "What Memorial Day Means to Me."

UNIDENTIFIED SHIPMATE: Who's the Doherty Award?



PRPEC CAMPBELL: We did not have anyone for that award.  
I'm sorry. We did not have anyone for that award.

I ask that my report be accepted.

NP COURNEYA: All in favor of receiving the report?

(Whereupon, the ayes were heard.)

NP COURNEYA: Opposed?

(Whereupon, the nays were heard.)

NP COURNEYA: Ayes have it.

PRPEC CAMPBELL: I have a couple of quick items to put out that were brought up at the committee meeting that I thought needed attention.

The clarifications that we have for our rules for the Americanism Essay Contest, they seem to be not enough, is what was brought up, not clear enough. The way the schools are teaching essay writing, our rules don't go along with their guidelines. And it's either we change our guidelines to coincide with the schools, or we try to tell the schools that these are our guidelines; you go by them or you don't enter our contest. And we definitely don't want to do that.

So, I'm going to be bringing up to the committee for the next year, throughout this year, talking and see whether we can come up with some kind of changes, alterations, to our rules and that so that we can make our program better and more receptive to the schools.

Secondly, Branches are not using the same format for reports. There's a format at National Headquarters that says what information needs to be on your annual reports, but we're getting them with made-up report criteria, criteria that's been worded for the Branches. We need to get back on-line with doing it the way National Headquarters set the guidelines.

If there's changes that need to be done with that, bring them up to your Branches. Branches will bring them up to regional officers. Regional officers will bring them up to national officers, and we'll get this corrected. If we just sit back and wait until national convention and beat

up whoever is up here on the way things aren't being run, it's not going to get them fixed.

That's all I have. Any questions?

NP COURNEYA: Okay. I'm going to save Budget and Finance and Constitution and Bylaws probably for last. We're going to get through everything else, and then we'll move into one of them committees, and possibly we'll finish them up tomorrow so we'll have a little more time in the morning.

Honorary Membership and Certificate of Merit.

RPNE/NEng JANSKY: Good afternoon. The National Convention Committee on Honorary Membership and Certificate of Merit met in the Port Room (Southeast Corner) of the Lexington Hotel & Conference Center, Jacksonville, Florida, at 0900 on Thursday, October 13, 2016.

In attendance were, as Chairman, myself. Members: Regional President East Coast-Elect, Thomas Vatter and Regional President Southwest-Elect, Bruce Davis.

Visitors: Past Regional President East Coast, Paul Gunther.

The committee reviewed two (2) resolutions for Honorary Membership, all of which met the requirements of the Bylaws of the FRA.

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." I will then put a motion on the floor for discussion.

The first one is from Imperial Beach Branch 289.

Resolved, The Shipmates of Branch 289 FRA on March 9, 2016, a quorum being present did unanimously and proudly place the name of Robert "Bob" Lokey in nomination for the prestigious position of Honorary Membership in the Fleet Reserve Association; and

Resolved, That the Shipmates of Branch 289 urge all the other Shipmates to earnestly support this Honorary Membership.

UNIDENTIFIED SHIPMATE: Proceed.

RPNE/NEng JANSKY: The next one was Groton Branch 020.

Resolved, That the name of Theodore Richards is placed in nomination for Honorary Membership of Branch 020, Groton, Fleet Reserve Association, and does earnestly solicit the support of all Branches for this nominee.

UNIDENTIFIED SHIPMATE: Proceed.

RPNE/NEng JANSKY: That's my report. I ask that my report be received.

On the first one, do I have a recommendation to approve?

UNIDENTIFIED SHIPMATE: Your committee makes the recommendation.

RPNE/NEng JANSKY: Okay. I'm recommending that they both be approved.

PNP KILGORE: I'll second the motion. Kilgore, Delegate, Branch 022.

NP COURNEYA: We have a motion on the floor to approve the two candidates for Honorary Membership.

All in favor?

(Whereupon, the ayes were heard.)

NP COURNEYA: Opposed?

(Whereupon, the nays were heard.)

NP COURNEYA: Any discussion?

The ayes have it.

The next committee will be Hospitals, Welfare, and Rehabilitation.

Past Regional President Northeast/New England, James Brown.

PRPNE/NEng BROWN: Good afternoon, Shipmates. Can that guy with the beard in the back hear me?

UNIDENTIFIED SHIPMATE: Yeah.

PRPNE/NEng BROWN: Can you hear me? Being an old ET, you go check, one, two, three, four. Okay.

Report of the Chairman. The National Convention Committee on Hospitals, Welfare, and Rehabilitation met in the Commerce Room at the Lexington Hotel & Conference Center, Jacksonville, Florida, at 0900, October 13, 2016. Am I talking too fast for you guys that are a little slow with the pen?

UNIDENTIFIED SHIPMATE: Proceed.

PRPNE/NEng BROWN: Okay. I'll slow it down. I got to back out of the New York mode down to some other place. In attendance were: Chairman James E. Brown, Branch 226; Vice Chairman Jack P. O'Neil, Branch 024.

Members: Junior Past Regional President South Central Michael D. Oliver, Branch 307; Mary Ann Burgert, Branch 298; Cathleen Ursula Gruetzner, Branch 201; Regional President Northwest-Elect Mark W. Thompson, Branch 104; Regional President West Coast Patrick H. LeClaire, Branch 192; and Regional President Southwest Don Kelley, Branch 289.

We had a visitor; Past Regional President East Coast Paul Gunther, Branch 182, and he had his camera with him.

Okay. The data contained in this report is based on the region reports.

Hours spent visiting and assisting ill or incapacitated members, 3,313 hours.

Miles driven visiting ill or incapacitated members, 14,739 miles.

Hours spent assisting needy families of Shipmates, 1,325 hours.

Miles assisting needing families of Shipmates, 3,214 miles.

Hours of volunteer work performed at hospitals by Shipmates, 8,612 hours.

NP COURNEYA: Shipmate Master-at-Arms, could you go next-door and ask them to shut them doors or quit clanging the dishes?

UNIDENTIFIED SHIPMATE: Proceed.

PRPNE/NEng BROWN: Hours of volunteer work performed at hospitals by Shipmates, 8,612 hours.

Widows assisted, 463 people using 1,861 hours.

Number of Shipmates donating blood, 107. Number of pints, 218.

Number of rituals, 1,035. Shipmates participating, 4,762.

Contributions made to the FRA Disaster Relief Fund: Branches, \$6,882. Members, \$1,533.

Again, that was all based on regional reports.

UNIDENTIFIED SHIPMATE: Where did you get all these Shipmates at?

PRPNE/NEng BROWN: These are all based on regional reports, which I'll address in a little while.

Disaster Relief. The President of the National Board approved four requests for Disaster Relief, grants totalling \$10,000 (Shipmates Wilson-Branch 106, Troupe-Branch 018, Lees-Branch 046, and Ragonese-Branch 060.)

During the month of August 2016, the National President authorized twelve grants in the amount of \$15,000 -- I made an error on the report here -- \$15,000, totalling \$18,000, in accordance with the FRA Standing Rule 9(d), C&BL.

The grants were in connection with the flooding in the area in and around Baton Rouge, Louisiana. The recipients are all from Branch 371. They are: Shipmates Kendrick, Brouillette, Tircuit, Allison, Fanara, Foster, Harless, Perkins, Roberts, Schlette, Smith, and Window. And if I mispronounced some of those French names, please forgive me. Thank you.

Health Care. Pending legislation will change the parameters of TRICARE and consequently, the guidelines for the chairman of the HWR committee. I'll make that in the form of a recommendation at the end of my report.

Forms, Procedures and Manuals. A review and update of *"The Guidelines for Hospital, Welfare and Rehabilitation Chairman & Committee Members"* and forms need to be updated.

Moving right along, get your pens ready. The committee of 2016 reported contest winners.

NP COURNEYA: Speak into the mic, Shipmate.

PRPNE/NEng BROWN: Can you hear me? All right. Shipmate, thank you.

Okay. The committee voted, and the following were selected as first, second, and third place winners in Groups I through V:

First place Group I: Branch 269.

First place Group II: Branch 126.

First place Group III: Branch 117.

First place Group IV: Branch 186.

First place Group V: Branch 299.

Second place Group I: Branch 289.

Second place Group II: Branch 175.

Second place Group III: Branch 162.

Second place Group IV: Branch 182.

Second place Group V: Branch 274.

Third place Group I: Branch 099.

Third place Group II: Branch 093.

Third place Group III: Branch 040.

Third place Group IV: Branch 090.

Third place Group V: Branch 085.

The committee has selected the following Shipmate to be the National Shipmate of the Year: George Hyland, Branch 020 (Groton, Connecticut).

The following recommendations are being made by the committee:

First, the HWR Report form needs to be reformatted so that entries on a particular subject are not on the same line. It makes reading easier.

Two, Line 6 on this form, which caused some consternation amongst several of the committee members, needs to be revised so that the number of rituals and members attending, they should only be in connection with HWR activities, not rituals in general. And there were several report forms -- you could tell by the number of rituals and people involved -- it was for everything and anything. So keep that in mind. And I hope that when we revise these forms, we'll make that point clearer on the form.

Three, the HWR Manual needs to be updated, especially those sections that are affected by the recent legislation in connection with TRICARE. Things are happening in TRICARE rapidly, and this was written by Shipmate Mitchell back in the 1990s, somewhere. So we're about 16 years behind on this thing. That needs to be redone.

Four, a form needs to be developed, and this might apply to several committees. A form needs to be developed for the regional HWR chairman to summarize the activities of the Branches within that region, a comprehensive report that can be forwarded to the National Chairman.

Gathering the data to make up this report took a lot of phone calls, emails. Just fill out the form. So if we make a new form and it's available for the regional chairmen to assemble all the data for the national chairman, it will make life easier for that report. Okay?

This concludes the report of the National Committee on Hospitals, Welfare, and Rehabilitation, and I move that it is received.

NP COURNEYA: We have a motion on the floor to receive the report of Hospitals, Welfare, and Rehabilitation. All in favor?

(Whereupon, the ayes were heard.)

NP COURNEYA: Opposed?

(Whereupon, the nays were heard.)

NP COURNEYA: Ayes have it.

RPEC-E VATTER: Shipmate President.

NP COURNEYA: Shipmate at the mic.

RPEC-E VATTER: Vatter, Branch 093, Delegate. I heard one of the members at the meeting today was Shipmate Jack O'Neil. He was not here. I think that report needs to be corrected to reflect that Shipmate Jack O'Neil was not in Jacksonville this morning at the meeting.

NP COURNEYA: Thank you, Shipmate. It will be so noted, and it will be corrected in the minutes.

Our next committee report will be on Membership and Retention. Regional President East Coast, Penny Collins.

RPEC COLLINS: Can you hear me? Okay. I want to make sure. You got your pens, pencils, computers, everything ready to go? All right.

Shipmate National President, Past Regional Officers, Past Officers, Shipmates, I am Regional President East Coast Penny Collins, Branch 024.

This is the report of the Chairman, 89th FRA National Convention, National Committee on Membership and Retention at the Lexington Hotel & Conference Center, in the Compass Amphitheater, Jacksonville, Florida, today, October 13, 2016, at 0900 hours.

The National Convention Committee had the following people in attendance: The Chairman was myself, Penny Collins.

Members of the committee were: Regional President North Central Marcia Cunningham, Branch 014; Regional President Southeast-Elect James E. Robbins, Jr., Branch 091; Past Regional President South Central Jerry D. Pugh, Branch 371; Regional Vice President Northeast/New England Albert Davenport, Branch 013; Shipmate Paula Falu, Branch 099;



Shipmate Venetta Charles, Branch 099; and our advisor was Franklin C. Gates, Branch 293.

We had the following visitors to attend our meeting today:

National Vice President Donald Larson, Branch 094; Regional President South Central Don Gibson, Branch 011; Regional President West Coast-Elect Roland Shorter, Branch 008; Past Regional President East Coast Paul Gunther, Branch 182; Shipmate Lew Bearden, Branch 024; Shipmate Harry Rhizor, Branch 307. Hope I'm pronouncing that correctly. Shipmate John Westman, Branch 166; Shipmate Stanley Milewski, Branch 259; Shipmate Garland Odell, Branch 112; and Shipmate Dale A. Wright, Branch 293.

The 2016-2017 Membership Marketing Plan was discussed. The committee plans to:

Continue overall recruiting and retention programs to stabilize membership, including the Calls Program.

Conduct active duty membership seminars (where invited).

Conduct retiree and veterans membership seminars (where invited).

Identify and continue to participate in major outreach events to conduct awareness of the FRA to prospective members.

Revise and reprint recruiting literature as needed.

Continue the Branch Membership Development Program.

Continue FRA's "Recruit and Retaining" Membership Recruiting Awards Program for the period of April 1, 2016 through March 31, 2017.

Develop improvements to the Recruiting Awards Program for the period April 1, 2017 through March 31, 2018 to include a new pin design. The Committee recommended to retain the current pin design as the same but change the colors, the color schemes, and, of course, change the year to 2017-2018.

Continue the 100% Branch Award Recognition Program.

Continue the Recruiting 32 Members Program. And some of our committee members were not aware of this, but we publicized this in the April issue of the *FRA Today* magazine. If you recruit 32 members within the membership year of April 1 through March 31, then you will be eligible to receive a life membership paid for by the Association. But if you're already a life member, you will receive \$200 in cash.

Continue the Recruiting Incentive Awards Program, which we started two (2) years ago for Recruit 5 and Retain 10.

Continue the Recruiting Incentive Awards Program to bring back previous FRA members into the Branches.

Promote the Life Membership Program to increase life members to 10,000, which is currently at 8,724.

Provide mailing labels (by zip code) upon request to Branches that want to contact Members-at-Large, terminated and/or prospective members during the year, between January 1 to December 31, 2016.

Support FRA's Project Outreach Programs.

Continue complimentary memberships for active duty enlisted sea service personnel on a national and branch level. Follow-up with these members to encourage renewal.

Continue to establish new Branches.

Continue bi-monthly conference calls for the National Committee on Membership and Retention.

Promote the FRA Student Veteran Program, which was developed to attract the next generation of FRA members.

In the Membership Strategy Workshop tomorrow, both myself and Past Regional President East Coast Bob Washington, will be talking about -- well, Bob more so than me -- will be talking about the Student Veteran Program, so anyone who is curious about it, doesn't know about it, what it means. We do have several Branches that are participating in that already, from the Northeast/New England Region, Branch 115, which is headed by the Regional President-Elect Dave Sharp for Northeast/New England.

They've done some tremendous things with some of the colleges and universities in his area. Also, Branch 013 with Bob Campbell for that same region.

In the East Coast we have Branch 166, that's also started a College Scholarship Program with one of the local colleges in the Tidewater area.

The purpose of doing this is to hopefully attract the next generation of members into the FRA, and it will work if you do some work to get it to work. All right?

Some Branches that I mentioned before have developed their own scholarship programs through fundraisers that they've had or had within their Branches to offer scholarships other than the normal scholarships through the Educational Foundation. But you can get more information about that tomorrow in our workshop.

Having completed all other 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 2015-2016 Membership Year:

Note: The committee did not consider members transferred or merged into a branch from a branch merger or those transferred from MAL in making their decisions. Branch mergers do not count in the statistics that I am going to give you.

To save some time, I will direct you to your delegate kit, Tab Penny, Papa, P, for some of this information.

The FRA 100 Percent Award.

Of the 212 Branches, 48 branches, or 22.64 percent, qualified for the 100 Percent Award for 2015-2016, which are the yellow streamers that I'm hoping our Regional President will -- all the awards will be in our office for you to pick up. These are the yellow streamers that I'm hoping that the Regional Presidents when they visit their respective Branches, will present to them as an award for their outstanding either gain in membership or no loss.

Those Branches qualifying with a percentage recruiting gain are referenced in Tab P, Papa, Penny. There are 48 of

them, and I really don't want to go through that list to save some time. You can read those.

I am very pleased that we had an increase from 36 Branches last year to 48 Branches this year, and I primarily think that is because the recruiting incentive program helped for these Branches to have gains or no losses in their respective areas.

Now, for the New Recruiting Incentive Awards Program, which was started under the leadership of Past National President Mark Kilgore. This was started June 7, 2013, and this is to award a check for \$100 to one branch from each of the groups who has the highest percentage of rejoined or reinstated members.

Group I is Branch 024, Annapolis, Maryland, East Coast Region. Number of rejoins, 42.

Group II, Branch 290, Mayport, Florida, Southeast Region. Number of rejoins, 26.

Group III, Branch 181, Arlington, Virginia, East Coast Region. Number of rejoins, 8.

Group IV, Branch 004, Washington, D.C., East Coast Region. Number of rejoins, 20.

Group V, Branch 247 in the Philippines -- I'm not even going to try to pronounce the name, Northwest Region, 7.

So, even though there are three Branches out of the five that are East Coast Region, I had nothing to do with that. I guess I spread the word, and they did what they did.

All right. We have no new charters for new Branches at this time.

The Charles E. Lofgren Award for Individual Branches.

This is the one that is the Captain's Bell that each branch from each of the five groups had the highest gain of membership in their respective group:

Group I, Branch 024, Annapolis, Maryland, East Coast, 4.15 percent gain, 77 members.

Group II, none, because there was a merger going on in Group II, so that didn't count.

Group III, Branch 181, Arlington, Virginia, East Coast, 9.64 percent gain, the gain of 27 members.

Group IV, Branch 268, Oklahoma City, Oklahoma, North Central Region, percent gain, 62.11 percent, 59 members.

Group V, Branch 247, Dagupan City, Philippines, Northwest Region, 24.64 percent, 17 members.

All right. That's the list of the Branches who received the Charles E. Lofgren Award.

The Charles E. Lofgren Award For Individuals.

Group I, is Todd Richter in the house? Todd Richter is Branch 091, Jacksonville, Florida, Group I. He is the recipient of a very nice pin that I ordered for the recipients of the individual awards. He recruited 63 members.

Group II, Mark D. Hughner, II, Branch 290, Mayport, Florida, recruited 28.

Group III, Thomas J. Snee, NED -- it's in Tab P, Papa, Penny. Group III, Thomas J. Snee, NED, Branch 181, 32.

Group IV, Mark Sterling, Branch 268, Oklahoma City, Oklahoma, 53.

Group V, Roberto G. Macaraeg, Branch 247, Dagupan City, Philippines, 28.

The committee believes each person who recruits new or rejoined members should be recognized by their Branch as well as 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 and other awards.

Overall, please note 3,429 new, reinstated, or rejoined members came into the FRA during the 2015-2016 recruiting period. This was an 8.1 percent increase from 2015. So, therefore, I conclude that we are doing a stellar job in recruiting if we have an increase in recruiting new or reinstated members.

What's hurting us is the non-payment of dues; when people don't renew their membership. And we need to do more work, contacting, phone calls, emails, postcards, whatever you feel appropriate in your local community, that's what we need to do. That's what's hurting us.

The Abraham M. Rosenberg Membership Award goes to an outstanding branch that has the overall highest gain in membership. For this year it is Branch 268, Oklahoma City, U.S. Oklahoma Branch, 268 in Oklahoma City.

Frank J. McPherson Memorial Award. This is not in Papa, Penny or P. This is part of Standing Rule 7(c)(4). I always strive for hopefully each nomination, one from each region, each year. Last year I came very close. We had seven nominations, and it was a tough call. This year we had four, so what can I say?

The four nominees were: PNP George Hyland, Groton, Connecticut, Northeast/New England Region; Past Regional President Northwest Pete Lazzaretti, Seattle, Washington, Northwest Region; Shipmate D. Keith Kaider, Branch 182, Bethesda, Maryland, East Coast Region; Shipmate Mark Sterling, Branch 268, Oklahoma City, Oklahoma, North Central Region.

The committee reviewed the 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 of the Frank J. McPherson Memorial Award for 2015-2016 is Shipmate D. Keith Kaider, President, Branch 182, Bethesda, Maryland, East Coast Region.

(Applause.)

All the awards for the various categories that I explained this afternoon are in our office here at the hotel in the Tug Room, so if you would stop by, your respective Shipmates or Branches, to pick up those awards, I really would appreciate it.

Shipmate National President, this concludes our report, and on behalf of all the members of this committee, we thank you for serving. I move to adopt this report and the recommendations contained therein.

In Loyalty, Protection and Service, Penny Collins.

NP COURNEYA: It was moved that the report be adopted. All in favor?

(Whereupon, the ayes were heard.)

NP COURNEYA: Opposed?

(Whereupon, the nays were heard.)

NP COURNEYA: It's passed.

Before we move on to any more reports, I'd like to have Regional President-Elect Robbins come up and brief us on any activities that are going on this afternoon.

RPSE-E ROBBINS: Good afternoon. Yeah, call me squeaky. It's going. First of all, I want to tell you about the Navy birthday that we're going to be doing at the Lone Sailor. Walk out the front door; go down to the Riverwalk; go towards the bridges. It's about two football lengths. If I said it's 200 yards, somebody is going to come back and say it was 3. As soon as you come around the zig corner, you can see him standing there, right there on the corner.

We're going to do the Navy birthday ceremony at the Lone Sailor. We all are going to leave here about 5:30, mosey on over there, and then we're going to do it. We got cake, cupcakes and refreshments back here in the entrance of the building, so we're going to be doing that. The ceremony is going to start right about six o'clock, so I'd appreciate everybody coming join us on that. It's one of the new statues that we got down on the Riverwalk.

My other thing is I've been asking people to pick their tickets up, pick their tickets up. Well, guess what? Mr. Campbell, Mr. Jones. I think this is Mr. Hilbe, H-I-L-B-E. Richard Phillips. Okay. Frank Andrews isn't here either. I still have people that are asking me for badges. My IT tech will not be here until about 5:30, but if I can find the badges that have been pre- done without your name, I'm going to bring them down and get somebody with real nice handwriting, not mine, and we're going to put your name on them and give them to you.

I'm trying to think of everything. I will open the hospitality room after the meeting. I have people from our Branches that are going to be up there.

I'd appreciate it if as many as you can, come down to the birthday for the Navy. And I'm even inviting the Marines to come along. I want the Coast Guard there, too. And believe it or not, this afternoon there were two Coast Guard vessels sitting out here right off the front of the hotel. I went to the Coast Guard and I asked them if they could have brought that brand new 120-some footer that they just received and tie her up over here where the two small party boats sunk. And he laughed at me, and he said, no, because I don't want mine to sink.

But this afternoon, I did notice two of the brand new, they had the rubber all around the sides of them with the twin 250s on the back, the Border Patrol, fast attack vessels, because they all had the machine guns on the front of them. So it kind of surprised me that they were out there for about an hour or so.

But if anybody has any questions, I'm back here in the corner. I'm like the rest of you. I'm freezing.

NP COURNEYA: We'll continue on. We've got a few more reports I want to get through. We'll try to finish up as many as we can today, and then that will just leave us with a couple for the morning before we get to elections tomorrow.

Next report we'll receive is Public Relations. Past Regional President North Central, Leon Zalewski.

PRPNC ZALEWSKI: The Committee on Public Relations met in the southwest corner of the Port Room at the Lexington Hotel & Conference Center, Jacksonville, Florida, at 0900 on Thursday, October 13, 2016.

In attendance were: Chairman Leon Zalewski, Branch 014 and Vice Chairman, Regional President Northeast/New England Donna Jansky, Branch 031.

Members present:

Past Regional President East Coast, Claire Purdy, Branch 024.

Regional Vice President Southeast, James Thomas, Branch 126

Past Regional President West Coast, Charles McIntyre.



Visitors:

Past Regional President East Coast, Paul Gunther, Branch 182

Regional President Northeast/New England-Elect, David Sharp, Branch 115.

Results of evaluating the committee report are as follows:

I'll read all first place, then second place, and then third place.

First place:

Group I, Branch 269.

Group II, Branch 020.

Group III, Branch 018.

Group IV, Branch 013.

Group V, Branch 294.

Second place:

Group I, Branch 061.

Group II, Branch 126.

Group III, Branch 117.

Group IV, Branch 186.

Group V, Branch 275.

Third place:

Group I, Branch 046.

Group II, Branch 161.

Group III, Branch 276.

Group IV, Branch 192.

Group V, Branch 031.

Shipmate of the Year: Shipmate Robert Huscher, Branch 186, Hernando, Florida.

Comments from the committee: Suggestions from the Branches to hire a public relation expert and produce video advertisements were too costly for us to forward it for further action.

I want to thank all the Shipmates who participated in evaluating these reports.

I move that this report be received.

NP COURNEYA: You heard a motion to receive the report. All in favor?

(Whereupon, the ayes were heard.)

NP COURNEYA: Opposed?

(Whereupon, the nays were heard.)

NP COURNEYA: Ayes have it.

Youth Activities, Randy Phillipp, Chairman. Shipmate Randy Phillipp.

JrPNP IPPERT: Shipmate National President.

NP COURNEYA: Shipmate at the mic.

JrPNP IPPERT: Ippert, Delegate, Branch 046. I want to make a comment. I don't want to seem like a, well, you know.

NP COURNEYA: Yeah, go ahead.

JrPNP IPPERT: Every now and then we get somebody that says nay, and I don't know if they think it's funny or what, but they are representing their Branch membership, and this is being recorded. I would say give the process the respect it deserves. Thank you.

NP COURNEYA: Thank you, Shipmate.

(Applause.)

NP COURNEYA: Shipmate Phillipp.

SHIPMATE PHILLIPP: Shipmates, National Convention Committee on Youth Activities met in the Rigging Room at the Lexington Hotel & Conference Center, Jacksonville, Florida, at 0900 on Thursday, October 13, 2016.

In attendance were: Chairman Randy Phillipp, Branch 182; Members, Shipmate Brian Jones, Branch 093, and Regional President South Central-Elect Bruce Talbot, Jr, Branch 159.

Visitors: Past National President Dick Smith, Branch 070; Shipmate Edward Blind, Branch 017; Regional President East Coast-Elect Thomas Vatter, Branch 093; Shipmate Curtis Jones, Branch 024; and Past Regional President East Coast Paul Gunther, Branch 182.

The committee reviewed the reports submitted from each region of each group to receive national recognition and have recommended the following. Before I continue, I want to thank every Shipmate in here. I got at least two from each region of the Fleet Reserve Association, eight Regions, and every Region was represented. So I want to thank you and give yourself applause.

(Applause.)

SHIPMATE PHILLIPP: I'm going to read the winners of each group. First place:

Group I, Branch 269.

Group II, Branch 126.

Group III, Branch 162.

Group IV, Branch 201.

Group V, Branch 185.

Second place:

Group I, Branch 289.

Group II, Branch 070.

Group III, Branch 040.

Group IV, Branch 316.

Group V, Branch 031.

Third place:

Group I, Branch 099.

Group II, Branch 020.

Group III, Branch 042.

Group IV, Branch 115.

Group V, Branch 085.

And the Shipmate of the Year: Pete Lazzaretti, Branch 018, Seattle, Washington. Congratulations, Pete Lazzaretti.

PRPNW LAZZARETTI: Thank you.

SHIPMATE PHILLIPP: Now, there's a few comments that the Shipmates recommended. What's the question? Branch 018, Pete Lazzaretti was the Shipmate of the Year, from Seattle, Washington.

Number one recommendation to the Shipmates: If you submit a written report and it's typewritten, make sure you sign it. We had a few that were submitted as number one winners, and they were not signed, either by the President or by the Chairman. Make sure you sign them.

Also, when you submit your report, make sure you put down the number of members in your Branch. Very, very helpful for us. And if you donate an amount of money to an organization, make sure you put it down for Youth Activities. If you don't, it's going to be disqualified. So make sure if you donate to an organization, that it's for Youth Activities.

I'd like to thank the members of the Youth Activities Committee for your outstanding performance.

I move this report be received.

NP COURNEYA: We've got a motion that the Youth Activities report be accepted. All in favor?

(Whereupon, the ayes were heard.)

NP COURNEYA: Opposed?

(No response.)

NP COURNEYA: Ayes have it.

PRPNC ZALEWSKI: Shipmate President.

NP COURNEYA: Shipmate at the mic.

PRPNC ZALEWSKI: Zalewski, Branch 014. I have the ribbons for Public Relations at the table here, so if anybody wants them. And also, the books that were brought here are on the table if you would pick them up or they go in the trash.

NP COURNEYA: Thank you, Shipmate.

SHIPMATE PHILLIPP: Shipmate National President.

NP COURNEYA: Shipmate at the mic.

SHIPMATE PHILLIPP: For Youth Activities, I have the ribbons over here; and also the Americanism-Patriotism is also right over here at the table afterwards.

NP COURNEYA: Shipmates, if you have ribbons coming to you, make sure you see the Shipmates at the respective tables after we get done.

Our next committee report will be on Veterans Service.  
Shipmate Chris Slawinski.

NSD/PRPEC SLAWINSKI: Good afternoon. The National Convention Committee on Veterans Service met in the Anchor Room in the Lexington Hotel & Conference Center, Jacksonville, Florida, at 0900 on Thursday, October 13, 2016.

In attendance were the Chairman, myself; members of the committee: Regional Vice President North Central Rosemary Posekany, Branch 298; Past Regional President South Central Russell N. Miller, Branch 201; and Past Regional President Southwest James Katzenberger, Branch 163.

Visitors in attendance were: Shipmate Richard Wallace, Branch 024; Shipmate Richard Priest from Branch 298; Shipmate Bruce Davis from Branch 070; Shipmate Jim

Middlekauff from Branch 117; Regional President West Coast-Elect Ron Shorter, Branch 008; and Past Regional President East Coast Paul Gunther, Branch 182.

The committee discussed the resolutions under consideration for the Delegates at this Convention. Comments were made on the General Resolution and the potential benefits of the establishment of a Veterans Service Foundation. Other Associations, such as the American Legion, VFW, PVA -- Paralyzed Veterans of America -- AMVETS, have service foundations to assist the funding for services to their members and veterans.

The committee briefly also discussed additional resolutions and requests the Delegates to approve all of the resolutions the committee submitted for consideration.

The committee then began to discuss the creation of a manual to better assist Branches and Regions with understanding the activities and responsibilities of the local Veterans Service Committee. Contents of the manual will or would include:

National Committee Guidelines.

FRA VSO Policy.

Responsibilities and Requirements for Branch Service Officer, Accredited Service Officer, National Service Officer, and National Service Director.

Initial and Continuing Training Requirements.

Accreditation, VA Form 21 and reaccreditation.

Branch and Regional reporting.

VA Voluntary Service Program.

Volunteering.

The National Advisory Committee for Volunteer Service.

Local representative and deputy representative.

Recognition.

A glossary of terms.

Resources.

Other programs, such as: Honor Guards, outreach activities, et cetera.

And the Student Veteran Program.

This manual would be similar to what other committees have for resources. The Committee is hoping to have a draft of the potential manual to present to the National Board of Directors at their April meeting.

The Committee will continue their monthly conference call meetings, with the next regularly scheduled meeting to be on Wednesday, November 26, at 1900 EST.

Thanks go to the committee members for their dedication and their commitment and their inputs throughout this year.

Thank you, Shipmate National President, for the opportunity to serve and for your counsel and assistance through the past year.

I move that my report be received.

NP COURNEYA: You've heard the report of the Veterans Service Committee and request that it be received. All in favor?

(Whereupon, the ayes were heard.)

NP COURNEYA: Opposed?

(No response.)

NP COURNEYA: Ayes have it. Shipmate at the mic.

RPSE-E ROBBINS: Shipmate National President. Robbins, Delegate. Hot off the press, just to let you all know, we are going to offer a dinner buffet tonight with pork chops, Greek chicken, or a limited menu, to speed up the food service for you all tonight.

NP COURNEYA: Where is it located at?

RPSE-E ROBBINS: Down in the restaurant area. I'm going to ask. But they're setting up for food right next-door, so I

got a funny feeling it might be next-door. All the buffets have been running \$14. I'll send a price how much.

NP COURNEYA: Thank you, Shipmate. Shipmate National Chaplain, will you shut the Bible, please.

NCHAP WALLACE: Shipmate National President, the Bible is now closed.

(Three raps of the gavel.)

NP COURNEYA: Thank you, Shipmate National Chaplain. Let's take about 5 minutes, and then we'll finish up and get out of here.

(Recess.)

NP COURNEYA: Shipmate Master-at-Arms, invite the shipmates into the hall and close the door.

MASTER-AT-ARMS: Shipmate National President, the shipmates are in the hall.

NP COURNEYA: Shipmate National Chaplain.

NCHAP WALLACE: Shipmate National President, the Bible is now open.

NP COURNEYA: Thank you, Shipmate National Chaplain.

(Three raps of the gavel.)

UNIDENTIFIED SHIPMATE: Shipmate National President, let the record reflect that the Junior Past National President is in the uniform of the day -- is now in the uniform of the day.

NP COURNEYA: Thank you, Junior Past.

PRPEC SLAWINSKI: Shipmate National President.

NP COURNEYA: We're going to take one more report. Shipmate at the mic.

PRPEC SLAWINSKI: Slawinski, Delegate, Branch 181. I was asked by the Convention Committee Chairman, since he's out -- his voice is starting to go -- to check with the hotel on the questions that were asked about the buffet



tonight. The buffet is \$11 per person, and that includes coffee, tea, or water for your beverage. It doesn't include sodas. And it's supposed to start at 1630, so that if somebody wants to eat before they go to the event, they can do that, or afterwards.

It's down in the restaurant lounge that's up in the front by the lobby. That's where they're starting to set it up. I just wanted to report that.

NP COURNEYA: Thank you. I will now have the committee report on Future Planning. Past Regional President Northwest, Pete Lazzaretti. Is he in the hall? All right. We'll get to that.

We have a few announcements that the NED will make.

NED SNEE: Shipmate National President, Shipmates, we still have a few letters to be read, announcements. If you'll bear with me.

The Sergeant Major of the United States Marine Corps:

"It is my distinct privilege and pleasure to send greetings to the Fleet Reserve Association as you gather in Jacksonville, Florida, to mark your 89th National Convention and Reunion.

I greatly appreciate the outstanding support representing the interests of the enlisted members, veterans, and retirees on Capitol Hill.

As our Nation increasingly requests our service members to do more with less, your organization stands firm as a watch guard to protect and advocate on key issues and benefits that impact the lives of our military families.

Thank you for all you do and for your mission to promote and preserve the legacy of our military. Your patriotism, along with the sacrifices made by your families, are in keeping with the highest traditions of the Marine Corps and Naval service.

Signed, Semper Fidelis, Ronald L. Green, 18th Sergeant Major of the Marine Corps."

Now we have some Congressional letters.

From the United States Senate:

"Greetings. It is a pleasure to welcome everyone gathered for the Fleet Reserve Association National Convention.

I appreciate the dedication this organization shows to our Veterans, and I thank you for your loyal service to our country. As Chairman of the Senate Committee on Veterans Affairs, my ongoing priority is ensuring that we are putting our Veterans first and holding the Department of Veterans Affairs accountable.

I am working to make sure that the services Veterans earned, fought for, and sacrificed for, are available to them. For this reason, the Committee has been working very hard on oversight and legislation related to Veterans, most recently passing the Veterans First Act to help change the culture and provide greater accountability at the Department of Veterans Affairs.

I am grateful for this organization's support of this legislation. I am proud to do all I can here in Washington, D.C., on your behalf, and I hope you will never hesitate to call on me with your needs or your concerns.

Thank you to all who had a hand in organizing this Convention on this day and every day. May God bless our veterans, our service members, and their families.

With warmest personal regards, signed Johnny Isakson,  
United States Senate."

Another from the Senate:

"Dear Friends, it is a privilege to send greetings to everyone attending the Fleet Reserve Association 89th National Convention. I am proud to support an organization that has represented our brave Navy, Marine Corps, and Coast Guard members and their families.

Since its inception, the FRA has advocated for our country's enlisted sea service members and their families to ensure that they receive the pay and benefits they deserve. The FRA has worked to pass the 9/11 GI bill and to repeal the Military Retirement Reform Act.

I commend the FRA for its complementary efforts to support our country's Veterans. I am thankful for your

contributions to the people of the Sea Service Community and for your unparalleled commitment to your members.

Please accept best wishes for a wonderful event and many more years of continued success. Sincerely, Kirsten Gillibrand, United States Senator."

That's from the State of New York. Senator Isakson is from Georgia.

From the House of Representatives:

"It is with great pleasure I welcome you to the Lexington Hotel & Conference Center, Jacksonville Riverwalk in Jacksonville, Florida. This event is an important opportunity to recognize the Fleet Reserve Association of the enlisted members of the United States Navy, Marine Corps, and Coast Guard.

Since 1924, the FRA has worked towards preserving and enhancing the pay, benefits, and quality of life programs for its members and their families under the guiding principles of Loyalty, Protection and Service.

As a still-serving member of the Army Reserve and Chairman of the House Armed Services Subcommittee on Military Personnel, one of my highest priorities is providing for the welfare of our service men and women and their families. I believe we owe a debt of gratitude to every man and woman who dons the uniform, and the best way we can to accept and repay the debt is to preserve and protect the crucial programs necessary to maintain the strength and health of our all-volunteer force.

I am proud to be an American and to stand beside our Nation's finest patriots who serve with honor and distinction. There is no greater call to service than the one to defend the American values of freedom and liberty.

To my brothers and sisters in arms, I salute and thank you for answering our Nation's call. Again, I appreciate the opportunity to recognize the Fleet Reserve Association for their work on behalf of service men and women in the Navy, Marine Corps, and Coast Guard. I thank all current and former enlisted members for their service, bravery, and sacrifice, and I wish each of you an enjoyable experience at this year's convention. Signed Dr. Joe Heck, Member of Congress."

Shipmate National President, that concludes the addresses.

NP COURNEYA: Thank you. At this time, I'll have Past Regional President Pete Lazzaretti come up.

PRPNW LAZZARETTI: Good afternoon, Shipmates. Is everybody warm enough yet? I see a couple parkas and a couple of mukluks lined up now; and, of course, Dana being in the corner there, she's added a couple more layers since the last session.

This is the report of the Chairman of the 89th Fleet Reserve Association National Convention Committee on Future Planning held at the Lexington Hotel & Conference Center in Jacksonville, Florida, at 0900 in the Outbound Room.

In attendance were myself, Past Regional President Pete Lazzaretti, Seattle Branch 018.

Members: Past Regional President Southeast Larry Cox, Branch 269; Regional President North Central-Elect Norm Combs, Branch 161; and our only visitor was National Vice President Don Larson, Corpus Christi Branch 094.

We have three action items:

Number 1, the Committee would like a follow-up on last year's recommendations to the National Board to direct National Headquarters to investigate fundraising that does not involve solicitation from the FRA membership.

Item 2, the Committee concurs with the Past National President's recommendations concerning *FRA Today* publication by either turning it into a purely digital magazine or by reducing the publication rotation from 12 times a year to either bi-monthly or quarterly. This would reduce expenses by half to two-thirds.

And Item No. 3, the Committee questions raising of dues without addressing the elasticity of demand.

I move that this report be received.

NP COURNEYA: You've heard the request to have the report of Future Planning received. All in favor?

(Whereupon, the ayes were heard.)

NP COURNEYA: Opposed?

(No response.)

NP COURNEYA: Ayes have it.

All right. At this time I'm going to ask Lauren Armstrong to come up. She's requested that -- I'll let her explain to you. She wants to talk to you and have some fun.

MS. ARMSTRONG: Many of you in this room know Eileen Murphy, who used to have my job. She was my predecessor. Eileen loved this organization, loved all of you. I promise she would have loved you. Today is not only the Navy's birthday, it's also her birthday, so I thought if you would indulge me for just a minute, I have my camera. I'm going to turn it on video, and if I can get all of you to say, "Happy Birthday, Eileen," I will send it to her, and I swear it will make her day.

Do you want to sing to her? I won't push my luck, but I will count down, but you also have to understand I'm sort of, I've got to be idiot-proof here with my camera. Three, two, one.

(Shipmates: Happy Birthday, Eileen.)

MS. ARMSTRONG: I told you I had to be idiot-proof. I had it on photo. That was practice. It was really good. One, two, three.

(Shipmates: Happy Birthday, Eileen.)

MS. ARMSTRONG: Thank you all very much. Thank you, National President.

NP COURNEYA: And I verified it was working. One more point of business before we recess for today. Anyone wanting to make Education Foundation donations, you can bring them up. I'll be down here at the end of the podium for you to present. And Disaster Relief.

PNP BLACKBURN: Shipmate National President. Blackburn, Delegate, Branch 008, Chairman, Budget & Finance.

Before we adjourn this evening, I want to inform all of the Shipmates and request that you all look over the budget this evening. You don't have to do it right away. You

don't have to do it during the celebrations. But please look over the budget so you are aware of what we are speaking to tomorrow.

NP COURNEYA: I was going to get to that, Shipmate.

PNP BLACKBURN: Okay. I beat you to the punch. Furthermore, in my other capacity as the Hopskeeper for the West Coast Region Beer Club, I want to remind everybody that we will be meeting in the hospitality room from 1900 to 2030 this evening. Please come up and pay your dues or join, and we look forward to seeing you all and have all the happy birthday party for the U.S. Navy. Thank you.

NP COURNEYA: I'll turn the podium over to my National Vice.

And if you have checks, go ahead and bring them up.

SHIPMATE BAILEY: Shipmate National President.

NP COURNEYA: Shipmate at the mic.

SHIPMATE BAILEY: Bailey, Delegate, Branch 269. I would like all the Shipmates to look at their ribbons. I am missing one from Americanism and Patriotism, which is the blue ribbon for Group I. Does anyone have that by chance?

UNIDENTIFIED SHIPMATE: The Chairman has it.

NVP LARSON: Shipmate at the mic.

UNIDENTIFIED SHIPMATE: I have Branch 018 and Branch 020, your blue ribbons.

NVP LARSON: Let's ensure also that all the Regional Presidents stop by the table to pick up the committee books. I know you put a lot of work into that. You want to take them back to the Branches.

Shipmate at the mic.

NSD/PRPEC SLAWINSKI: Slawinski, Delegate, Branch 181, National Service Director, also Steering Committee Chairman, and all around nice guy. Just a reminder to the Delegates that at 1630 in the Compass Amphitheater, there will be a Veterans Service or Veterans Programs brief. I'm going to go through, talk about the VSO and VAVS programs

and also take questions related to the VA. We're going to try to make it about an hour. There's supposed to be light refreshments in there.

And also at 2000, there is the USS Indianapolis movie. That will also be in the Compass Room. It is a documentary, as Lauren Armstrong has mention before. That starts at 2100, and we will have popcorn. Thank you.

UNIDENTIFIED SHIPMATE: Shipmate National Vice President.

NVP LARSON: Shipmate at the mic.

SHIPMATE BEARDEN: Lew Bearden, Branch 024, Annapolis, Maryland, Home of the Naval Academy. For all of those chapters in the East Coast Region and all the past presidents -- I'm sorry? Branches. I'm sorry. All the Branches in the East Coast Region, we have packages back here for the Midyear for next year for those and the past presidents from the East Coast. Thank you.

NP COURNEYA: Shipmate National Vice, do we have any more checks to be brought up?

UNIDENTIFIED SHIPMATE: Who are you?

NP COURNEYA: Thank you. Courneya, Delegate, Branch 274. Are there any more checks to be brought up to the National President? Any more checks to be brought up? We will continue to accept your checks as you receive them.

Courneya, Delegate, Branch 274. I want to let you know, we do take IOUs also. He forgot his check in the room, so he gave us an IOU.

JrPNP IPPERT: Shipmate National Vice President. Does the room have to be cleaned out or can we leave our stuff here?

NVP LARSON: Yes. This place will be used for breakfast in the morning. I would definitely recommend anything you feel is valuable, take with you. To be safe, take your possessions with you this evening.

Are there any other committee members here from the National Convention? Shipmate at the mic, please.

PRPEC SLAWINSKI: Shipmate Chris Slawinski, Steering Committee, Delegate, Branch 181.

My understanding is the room has no other activities other than what we're having today and tomorrow, so I totally agree with what your assessment is. If it's valuable, take it with you; but if you want to leave your books here, you can probably leave them in here. They're not locking the doors, but they will come in and probably clean up some of the stuff that's in here.

NVP LARSON: Any more IOUs or cash donations?

Shipmate at the mic.

PNP BLACKBURN: Shipmates, please do not leave your delegate kit in the room when you leave. It is extremely difficult to read the budget if you don't have it with you.

NP COURNEYA: Shipmates, we will recess, and we will reconvene tomorrow at 0900. Make sure you take all your stuff with you when you leave.

(Three raps of the gavel.)

NP COURNEYA: Shipmate National Chaplain.

Uncover.

NCHAP WALLACE: Shipmate National President, the Bible is now closed.

NP COURNEYA: Thank you, Shipmate National Chaplain.

Salute the flag.

Hand salute. Ready. Two.

(Whereupon at 3:59 p.m. the Second Business Session was adjourned.)



FRA 89th NATIONAL CONVENTION  
FLEET RESERVE ASSOCIATION  
JACKSONVILLE, FLORIDA  
THIRD BUSINESS SESSION  
Friday, October 14, 2016  
0900 - 1100

NP COURNEYA: Master-at-Arms, invite the Shipmates into the hall and close the doors.

(One rap of the gavel.)

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

NP COURNEYA: Thank you, Shipmate Master-at-Arms. The time is 9:00.

(Three raps of the gavel.)

NP COURNEYA: Shipmate National Chaplain, please open the Bible. Uncover.

NCHAP WALLACE: Shipmate National President, the Bible is now open.

NP COURNEYA: Thank you, Shipmate National Chaplain.

Salute the Colors.

Hand salute. Ready. Two.

(Three raps of the gavel.)

JrPNP IPPERT: Shipmate National President.

NP COURNEYA: Junior Past at the mic.

JrPNP IPPERT: Junior Past National President is in the proper uniform of the day, let the record reflect.

NP COURNEYA: So noted, Junior Past.

Shipmates, I now declare the Third Business Session of the 89th National Convention regularly convened.

Is the Credentials Chairman in the room? Shipmate Master-at-Arms, could we have the Credentials Chairman come in. Once we get our credentials report, I'm going to turn the mic over to our Communications and Marketing team, and they're going to give you a brief update on what's going on and things we're going to look forward to in the future of the FRA and how we're going to try to move things forward with different media, events, and what have you.

While we're waiting on the Credentials Chairman, I will have the NED come up and give his report.

NED SNEE: Shipmate National President, Shipmates, the National Convention Committee on Legislative Service met in the Compass Amphitheater Room of the Lexington Hotel & Conference Center, Jacksonville, Florida, at 0815, October 13, 2016.

In attendance were myself as Chairman. Members: Past Regional President South Central Russell Miller, Branch 201; Advisor John R. Davis, Branch 181.

Guests in attendance were: Russ Miller, Branch 201; Bruce Talbot, Branch 159; Nicole Talbot, Branch 159; Harry Rhizor, Branch 307; Frank Gates, Branch 293; Jim Katzenberger, Branch 163; Mark Thompson, Branch 104; Chris Slawinski, Branch 181; Roland Shorter, Branch 008; Donald Gibson, Branch 011; Wayne Odell, Branch 112; Floyd Hunt, Branch 214; George Cleveland, Branch 208; Regional President North Central Marcia Cunningham, Branch 014; Steven Wilson, Branch 287; Paula Falu, Branch 099; Stanley Milewski, Branch 259; Al Davenport, Branch 013; National Vice President Donald Larson, Branch 094; Lew Bearden, Branch 024; and Dale Wright, Branch 293.

What I'm going to do is read you what we came up with, and if the subject line is quite obvious, then I'll just proceed, but if not -- some of it may be a little bit confusing -- I'll go into a little more detail just to continue on with it.

The National Legislative Committee met to receive the reports of the Delegates of the 89th National Convention, which includes the minutes from the April 2016 Legislative meeting.

The committee recommends the following issues be pursued during the following year:

Proposed 2017 FRA Legislative Agenda. Expand Health Care Options.

There are 39 bills that we're going to be looking at, or subsections if you will, as compared to our bill tracker, which we have over 135. These are kind of, if you will, the highlights:

TRICARE Reform.

Oppose Excessive TRICARE Enrollment Fee Increases.

Support Adequate Funding For Defense Health Agency.

DOD/VA Health Care Resource Sharing. And this is to ensure adequate funding for the Department of Defense and the Department of Veterans Affairs health care resource sharing in delivering seamless, cost-effective, quality services to personnel wounded in combat and other veterans and their families.

Pharmaceutical Drug Benefit. Monitor the pharmaceutical benefits and ensure that the pharmacies maintain a broad uniform formulary. This is constantly changing, and it's very fluid, as you know, from going from one system to another.

Allow Military Retirees to Pay For Health Care with Pretax Dollars.

Going to Protect Personnel Programs:

Active Duty Pay. Secure annual active duty pay increases that are at least equal to the Employment Cost Index, or the ECI.

Keep 12 Years of Service Bonus.

Extend and Increase Government Match for TSP.

Ensure Early Retirement Benefits For Involuntarily Separated Personnel.

Defense Budget. Advocate for a defense budget that is at least 5 percent of the Gross Domestic Product (GDP) to ensure adequate funding for both personnel and weapons programs.

Military Resale System. This is the commissary and the exchange that we're talking about. Ensure adequate funding for the Defense Commissary Agency, commonly known as DCA, and oppose the privatization to preserve the value of the current benefit and access for all patrons, and oppose consolidation or closure of military exchanges.

End Strengths. Track active duty and Reserve end strengths to ensure that there are adequate personnel available to meet operational requirements, and work to minimize expanding deployment periods and reduced dwell times. This also has an effect on family life, which we're very keen on, as you know.

BAH. That's all tied up right now in the NDAA.

PCS Reform. Track the PCS process, ensure adequate funding of the Transition and Relocation Assistance Programs, and authorization of increased PCS mileage rates.

Tuition Assistance for Navy and Marine Corps Reserves.

SCRA Enforcement/Predatory Lending Protections. Ensure that the Civil Service Members Civil Relief Act, SCRA, is enforced by regulatory agencies.

Coast Guard Parity. Ensure funding parity with DOD of pay, benefits, housing. Also applies to the Coast Guard.

Impact Aid Program. Ensure that the Department of Education has adequate funding to reimburse local school districts for educating military children.

Reservists Out-of-Pocket Expenses. Allow full tax deductibility of non-reimbursable expenses related to training and weekend drill.

Sea Service Recruiters. Work to ensure that recruiters have unrestricted access to secondary schools, colleges, and universities on the same basis as private sector of employers.

Veterans Issues:

Monitor Implementation of the VA Choice Card System.

Improve Department of Veterans Affairs Funding.

Support Blue Water Navy/Agent Orange Disability Claims.

Oppose Access Fees. Oppose establishing a tiered enrollment fee structure for veterans in Priority Groups 7 and 8 within the VA Health Care System.

Expand the VA Caregivers Act.

Education Enhancements. Monitor the Post 9/11 GI Bill Program and work to improve other education benefits programs for veterans and survivors of disabled or deceased veterans.

Reserve Retirees' Veteran Status. Seek full veteran status for Reservists with 20 years or more of service, who do not otherwise qualify for full veterans' benefits under the current law.

Safeguard Retirees' Benefits:

Protect Military Retired Or Retainer Pay.

Concurrent Receipt.

Oppose Delay in Matching TSP Contribution.

Reserve Retirement Age. Support extension of authority for early retirement (90 days of active duty equal 3 months of reduction) for all Reservists who have served since 9/11/01, and the elimination of the fiscal year specific rule associated with the same.

USFSPA. Encourage the introduction and enactment of legislation to eliminate inequities in the Uniformed Services Former Spouses Protection Act.

Retention of Final Month's Retired Pay. Support legislation authorizing the retention of the full final month's retired pay.

SBP/DIC Offset. Support legislation to repeal the SBP/DIC offset for surviving spouses of personnel who die of service-connected causes.

Increase SSIA for Widows. Support authorizing an extension of the Special Survivor Indemnity Allowance.

Paid-up SBP at Age 67.

Base Closures. And base closures, as you know, it's BRAC. Closely monitor the impact of base closures and realignments and support retention of military treatment and other facilities within the BRAC sites that are patronized by sizeable retiree and Reserve populations.

The National Convention on Legislative Service also recommends the following:

That the Honorable Senator Kirsten Gillibrand of the State of New York receive FRA's 2016 Pinnacle Award to be presented at a ceremony in April 2017, in conjunction with the National Board of Directors Hill visits.

I wish to thank the members of the National Convention Committee on Legislation Services for their efforts and call-ins during our teleconferences and also you, the Shipmates, for your assistance with this report and your contributions during the past year.

This concludes the report of the 89th National Convention Committee on Legislative Service, and I move that it be received.

In Loyalty, Protection and Service, NED Thomas J. Snee, Chairman.

NP COURNEYA: I have a motion to receive the Legislative Committee's report. All in favor?

(Whereupon, the ayes were heard.)

NP COURNEYA: Opposed?

(No response.)

UNIDENTIFIED SHIPMATE: No discussion?

NP COURNEYA: No discussion?

UNIDENTIFIED SHIPMATE: No.

NP COURNEYA: Ayes have it.

At this time, we'll have our third Credentials Report.

PRPNW LAZZARETTI: Good morning, Shipmates. So I notice that we don't have the igloos set up yet, so we'll save those for this afternoon.

This is the Third Credentials Report. As of 0900, 14 October, 2016, number of Branches represented by delegates: 72.

UNIDENTIFIED SHIPMATE: How did we lose one?

PRPNW LAZZARETTI: We had one Delegate leave and the Proxy took over.

Number of votes represented by Delegates: 874.

Number of Branches registered by Proxy: 102.

Number of votes registered by Proxy: 511.

Number of Branches not registered: 31.

Number of Delegates registered: 135.

Registered voting strength: 1,385.

Number of votes not registered: 144.

Two-thirds vote: 928.

Majority vote: 693.

The only two branches that have changed since the last report is that we have received Proxies for Branches 086 and 334.

I move this report be received.

NP COURNEYA: I have a motion that the Third Delegate Report be received. All in favor?

(Whereupon, the ayes were heard.)

NP COURNEYA: Any discussion?

UNIDENTIFIED SHIPMATE: It's supposed to be before the vote.

NP COURNEYA: Yeah, I know it. All opposed?

(Whereupon, the nays were heard.)

NP COURNEYA: Ayes have it.

At this time, we're going to have a presentation by Headquarters staff, William Stevenson and Victoria Duran.

ADCM STEVENSON: Thank you, National President. Can you all hear me? Turn the volume up. That's code for talk louder.

Well, good morning. Thank you for this opportunity. I guarantee you, I'll be very brief. We're going to get into a little bit about the social media that's out there. We're going to cover Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram.

Most of you have cell phones. Most of you have email. It's the wave of the future. It's a great way to communicate, stay in touch with friends, stay in touch with family, but you can also use it to create a network for an organization such as FRA or the Auxiliary, also. So over the past couple of months, we've been active in developing the Headquarters page. Up on the screen what you have there, is what a Facebook page looks like. How many of you are familiar with Facebook? This is an easy crowd. I love it. We'll get right into the meat.

On the landing page here, we have a lot of metrics, but we're going to focus on some of the activities that have happened today. Some of you have been liking and sharing, which is great. Our network is constantly growing. But this is a tremendous tool to reach out to people in real-time and let them know what's going on. It's also an opportunity for you Shipmates to chime in on subject matter.

We monitor this page on a regular basis. There's great ideas. There's comments. There's criticism. There's critique. That's all great information. I encourage you all to share your thoughts. But in the middle of the page here, here's a picture that was at the Lone Sailor. So this is kind of how it works. You take pictures and you post comments, and it goes out to our network. Currently, our network is some 40,000 people. So if you scroll over the Fleet Reserve, this is called a hash tag. Sorry, but something went wrong. Let's go back a page. There we go. It could be the network. It could be any number of things. But the idea, or the concept, is that you post an image



with some comments and Shipmates can chime in and share it. This happened yesterday. It's great. Great weather. This is us. And we put this out to our network and encourage people to kind of join us without being there. You know, a picture is worth a thousand words. Let's go to another picture and see if we can get one of those hash tags to work. So here's one. There's Robbie and Sandy on the right, and there's a great picture on the left. If we go back to the main caption and see if that hash tag works, the Fleet Reserve hash tag, something went wrong. All right. The idea with that hash tag is, what it does is it aggregates all the comments under that hash tag, and we'll get to that in Twitter because the same mechanics work there also.

The neat thing about this is it gets out to people that you don't typically reach, and it's a tremendous network. Let's go ahead and jump to Twitter. Twitter is a little more unique because you're limited to 141 characters, and it creates a very kind of short sentence and a single idea. Where did you take us? So this is our Twitter page right now. What it shows on the left here is all what's trending in the Twitter world. You can see at the top left women who vote for Trump. 44,000 people have made comments under that hash tag.

The hash tag is a cross sign and then the language, or the sentence or the words. When you click on that, this is where everything is aggregated or brought down in chronological order. So the top post is the newest, and then what's scrolled down is the subsequent comments and posts. It's a great way to go and find out what the conversations are about. You're reading a real-time newspaper, and you never know what you're going to find. It's very polarizing. This is a free form. It's not monitored. People can say anything. Sometimes that's good. Sometimes that's bad.

Now, how do we use this as a business tool? Again, we monitor this. We hear what you're saying, and it gives you an opportunity to share your thoughts. The rate change, that went up. When we started posting things about the rate change, you get all kinds of comments. What are some of the hash tags that we've put on our Twitter post?

This is the page that we monitor and we post to. You can see the most recent tweet here was yesterday when Chris O'Connor, the day before, Chris O'Connor and National

President Courneya were there. Terrible shot because the sun was there. Hold on a second. Opening ceremonies from this morning's guest speaker Christopher O'Connor. That's a very short comment. Then if you click the Fleet Reserve, we go on down to all the aggregated things we have collected over a period of time.

We had some things from Pearl Harbor. Let's scroll down a bit. We had some nice things from Pearl Harbor. We reached out to a number of organizations. Pearl Harbor's 75th anniversary has been working very closely with us. It's created a very nice little network. What Victoria has done is walk through the Pearl Harbor page, and this is a great way to stay in touch with the anniversary as we lead up.

Victoria, this might be a great place to jump into Instagram. You can see at the top post we're in Instagram now. So we're back up at Twitter. You can see MCH Hawaii's photo and then the Instagram photo. Everything is under @PearlHarbor75. That's kind of what their call sign is. If we scroll down the page a little bit, you can see it's really not picture inundated like Facebook is. It's more comments with links. That's on purpose. That's to drive people to the subsequent pages.

I'm going to turn this over to Victoria, and she's going to take you into Instagram. That's really her realm. I'm a little too old for that, I think, but I'm going to take the mic, and briefly we're going to talk about Instagram and some of the dynamics there. Then I'll close very quickly, and we'll be on your way.

MS. DURAN: Okay. So Instagram is a fairly new page. We haven't been as active on it as Facebook, and so as you can see, this is our home page here on Instagram, and the way -- they're all pretty much the same as Twitter and Facebook; but for Instagram, you do need an app. This is basically all I can do when I'm on the laptop or desktop. You can't really post anything. You would need the Instagram app to do so.

And so this is our home page, and I guess basically take screen shots of mostly what we have done that day or any pictures that I like to share. These are most of the recent ones I like to share. I posted this one yesterday for the Navy birthday. I thought this one was really good. The Coast Guard posted this, so I reposted their picture.

Now, this also is the same thing with hash tags. You see all these here? You can post anything you want as long as it has a hash tag and all of the pages are public. If it's public, then everybody can see it basically. It has to be public for the hash tag to work. We also have this from the other day as well.

So, this is our home page, and then if you go to the main one, this is just people that we follow. I started following a lot of military associations or organizations. Anything that has to do with the military, you know, we follow to try to connect or create a network with them.

So, if you have anything that you want us to post, we can post it. You can send it to us, and I'll post it. If you follow us on Instagram -- thank you Don Larson, by the way; I know you follow us -- you can send us a picture. We'll repost it. Like I said, you can search it if you follow us. So then do another search here. This is click on the military hash tag and you can see everything that's relating to that. Just pictures from all over the world of people that use that hash tag. And it just goes on and on. This is mostly pictures. It's not like Facebook. You can write a caption, but mostly you go back to our home page. Like I have this one here I just posted here. It's a picture, and then I just wrote a caption. Like I said, mostly we just look at the pictures.

Okay. I will go ahead and go to this. So now Chris Slawinski just liked our picture, so you can see his name just appears. He just did that to show us how it worked. You wanted to do a Jacksonville? So basically that's about it. I think that's all I have. Yeah, I mentioned everything that I needed to mention. So thank you.

ADCM STEVENSON: We did zip through that. Thanks for the ride. That was kind of like being on a fast-moving ship. We didn't practice this. We wanted it to be very informal and casual and quick. As you navigate through this network of social media, if you have any questions, I've got a stack of cards at that back table, or call Headquarters, email.

MS. DURAN: I just wanted to say this is a great platform because it's free. We don't have to pay for this. We're just reaching out to either 5 people or 40,000 people, and we don't have to pay for that advertisement. So whether it turns into memberships or not, at least we're getting our

name out there so people know who the Fleet Reserve Association is.

ADCM STEVENSON: Thank you, National President, for the time. Shipmates.

NP COURNEYA: Bill, can you elaborate a little bit on the recruiting video that you're going to be working on?

ADCM STEVENSON: We do have some things out there. National President asked for a proposal for a series of videos, and we reviewed that, and we're looking at options to maybe be a little more frugal in our attempts. We have a very active Shipmate, Dave Campbell, who is working with -- I'm sorry; who's the Shipmate in Atlantic City? Okay. I got it right. Anyway, Bob has contacts in studios where they might be able to produce a video for us, and we're also looking at ways to do a live tour of the home office by sort of doing it ourselves.

So, on the target of things to accomplish this year, National President, is to look at producing a video that is effective and yet done efficiently without over-extending our resources.

NP COURNEYA: Thank you. I want to thank Victoria Duran and Bill Stevenson, our new marketing manager, for giving that presentation. They've got a whole array of things that they're going to be working on. This is just an example of how we can get the FRA name out there and connect with all of our Shipmates throughout the country. And like I said also, they're working on a recruitment video. We've looked at hiring someone to do that for us, but the cost would be so outrageous; and after talking to Bill, we can do it ourselves at next to no cost. It will be presented on the website for our use out there, and you'll be able to download it and use it when you're out talking to potential Shipmates or giving briefings about the FRA. Thank you again.

At this time, we're going to continue on. We have two reports left to do. That's the Constitution and Bylaws, and then we'll get into the budget. At this time, I will turn it over to Bill Starkey, and we will continue on with the Constitution and Bylaws.

Just so everyone is sure that there won't be no conflict of interest, I've asked Past National President, Bob Beese to

come up, and he'll be the acting Parliamentarian to keep us all on track up here.

PNP BEESE: That's not true. He put me up here to keep my mouth shut.

NP COURNEYA: I was being nice, Bob.

PRPNE STARKEY: Good morning, Shipmates. This is a report of the Chairman of the 89th National Convention Committee on Constitution and Bylaws. We met yesterday, the National Committee on Constitution, Bylaws and Resolutions met in the Rope Room of the Lexington Hotel & Conference Center, Jacksonville, Florida, at 0900 on Thursday, October 13, 2016.

In attendance were myself as Chairman, Branch 057.

Members of the Committee:

Past Regional President Southeast, Frederick Hill, from Branch 290.

Shipmate Laurie Bailey, from Branch 269.

Regional President Northwest, Julian Wynn, from Branch 046.

Past Regional President Northeast, Dave Munday, from Branch 124.

Past National President Bob Beese, from Branch 335.

Regional Treasurer South Central, Nicole Talbot, from Branch 159.

Advisor, Past National President Lawrence Boudreaux, from Branch 275.

Visitors in attendance were:

National President Virgil Courneya, Branch 274, ex-officio member of the committee.

Past Regional President Southeast, Fred Bolz, Branch 269.

Shipmate S. D. Martin, Branch 166.

BRP Anthony Quintero, Branch 161.

Past Regional President North Central, Marty Posekany, Branch 298.

Regional Vice President East Coast, Paul Phelps, Branch 040.

Past Regional President New England, John Kotheimer, Branch 013.

Past Regional President East Coast, Paul Gunther, Branch 182. He was there to take photographs, and he stuck around a little bit.

Past National President Bill Combs, Branch 005.

Past Regional President East Coast, Bob Washington, Branch 181.

We're going to use the same procedure used for the past several years, and that will be as follows: The chairman will read the pertinent resolved portion of the resolution at which time it becomes pending automatically. No motion or second is necessary. The Chairman will then read the committee's recommendation and give the rationale, after which the presiding officer will call for discussion.

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

General Resolution No. 1, submitted by the Veterans Service Committee. It appears on Tab Victor, Page GR-1.

Resolved, That a 501(c)(3) Veterans Service Foundation be established to provide financial support for, expand awareness, and to provide a vehicle for grants and donations, specifically these vital to veterans' programs.

CBL&R Recommendation: Approve that VSO be established a 501(c)(3).

Rationale: It is a good vehicle for raising funds for the Foundation and for the FRA.

NP COURNEYA: Shipmates, the resolution was just read. Is there any discussion on the resolution? We have no discussion.

The question is on the adoption of the resolution just read. Those in favor of the resolution just read, please rise. Okay.

(Shipmates rise.)

NP COURNEYA: Thank you. Go ahead and be seated.

Those opposed to the resolution, rise please. Do we have anyone opposed? Okay.

All right then, the ayes have it. Vote in the affirmative has it. The ones that rose in favor has it. It passes.

PRPNE STARKEY: Constitution and Bylaws Resolution No. 1, submitted by the National Committee on Membership and Retention. It appears on Tab Victor, Page C&BL-1.

Resolved, That Article 3, Section 301(c), be amended to read as follows:

"Section 301(c). Personnel discharged by reason of Bad Conduct or Dishonorable discharges are not eligible for FRA membership," and be it further

Resolved, That the amendment become effective January 1, 2017.

CBL&R Recommendation: Not to approve.

Rationale: General discharges can be used for other reasons and might deem individuals not reliable and should not be considered for membership.

NP COURNEYA: You have heard the recommendation of the CBL&R Committee not to approve this resolution. Is there any discussion?

RPEC COLLINS: National President.

NP COURNEYA: Shipmate at the mic.

RPEC COLLINS: I am Penny Collins, Delegate for Branch 024. I am also the Chairman of the Committee on National Membership and Retention.

To clarify the purpose of submitting this resolution from the National Committee on Membership and Retention, it is to further define what requirements are necessary for denying shipmates, prospective members into FRA.

The way the C&BL reads, Article 3, Section 301(c), it calls for General discharge. There are a number of different General discharges. It can be for medical issues. It can be for this, for that. We would like for that to be further defined, or specifically defined, that a person that has a Bad Conduct discharge or unsuitable discharge -- be very specific -- would not be eligible for membership in the FRA, instead of just saying General categories. That's the purpose of the intent of the resolution.

NP COURNEYA: Thank you, Shipmate Collins.

Shipmate at the mic.

RVPSE THOMAS: Shipmate J.J. Thomas, Branch 126, Southeast Regional Vice President. I would vote against this. I have done my research. You go and get a General discharge, and in most cases they are given like for failing to make fitness or weight standards, or you didn't progress in training or minor disciplinary charges like NJP. But one can receive, if you are brought up on charges for drugs and you elect to accept a General discharge under other than honorable conditions, you then -- you have to state that you did the drugs. You are guilty. But after that is all done, you can request that that other-than-honorable can be changed to honorable because they can look at your record.

Let's say you're an E-6. You've done great things, but you screwed up and didn't pass the urine test. They can go back and look at your record and see, okay, this is a one-time deal, so we will give him under honorable conditions. I don't believe that that's the type of prospective shipmate we need to bring in. There are too many loopholes under the administration. We would have to be so specific that I'm not sure we have enough room in our C&BL.

NP COURNEYA: Thank you, Shipmate. Any further discussion? Shipmate at the rear mic.

RPEC COLLINS: Shipmate National President, again, this is Penny Collins, Branch 024, and Chairman of the National Committee on Membership and Retention. The exact same issue of what Shipmate J.J. Thomas said is what we're trying to avoid. I think to be fair with prospective members coming into the FRA, the categories of General discharges are too broad. There are a lot of reasons why members in the military are discharged under general categories, and they are not all negative. Some of them are positive. It could be medical. It could be this. It could be that.

So, what we're saying is for the C&BL, that we should please be fair and say that if you have a discharge of a Bad Conduct or unsuitability that are referenced on your DD-214, and that's the reason why you were discharged, that should be the reason you are not eligible to join FRA, and nothing else. Thank you.

NP COURNEYA: Shipmate at the mic.



RPNW-E THOMPSON: Shipmate Thompson, Branch 104.

NP COURNEYA: Are you a Delegate?

RPNW-E THOMPSON: I'm a Delegate. This is before my time in the service. When we got this in our Branch meeting, they asked me to speak upon this because prior to my joining the service, I guess at one time there was high unemployment in this great Nation of ours, and there was a judicial action where it was either go to jail or see the recruiter in the back of the courtroom, and so there were a lot of undesirable dirt bags that were issued uniforms that did not perform and sustain their standard of excellence and were summarily dismissed accordingly.

NP COURNEYA: I don't think they're all dirt bags because I happen to be one of those that the judge said -- I'm not a dirt bag, buddy.

RPNW-E THOMPSON: Like I said, this was inferred to me. I don't remember serving -- this is prior to my time in the military. But this said individual wanted me to speak on this and just to make sure that we don't need those people in our organization. And so I'm just passing it along. This is not from my personal experience. That's all I have to say. Thank you.

NP COURNEYA: Thank you, Shipmate. Do we have any of the committee members that would like to speak on this subject? I think this is important enough to even call on some of the committee members we had sit in.

Shipmate at the mic.

PRPNC ZALEWSKI: Shipmate National President. Zalewski, Delegate, Branch 014. I have a General discharge. In 1950, I transferred from USNR to USN. The discharge I got from USNR was a General discharge, not an honorable, not anything else other than a General discharge. So I vote in favor of this Resolution.

NP COURNEYA: Thank you, Shipmate.

RPNC-E COMBS: Shipmate National President. Combs, Delegate, Branch 161. What exactly does this amendment change? All it does is say that discharges that are Dishonorable and General are not eligible? What exactly does it change?

NP COURNEYA: I'll let the C&BL chairman speak on that.

PRPNE STARKEY: Shipmate Norm, if this Resolution is not adopted, you would have to have an Honorable discharge to become a member of the Fleet Reserve Association.

UNIDENTIFIED SHIPMATE: What's wrong with that? A general is an honorable discharge.

UNIDENTIFIED SHIPMATE: Some of them are.

NP COURNEYA: Shipmate at the mic.

RPEC COLLINS: Hopefully this will be the last time I can speak on this. This is Penny Collins, Delegate, Branch 024, and Chairman of the National Committee on Membership and Retention. Hopefully, I can clarify this again.

In the C&BL, it says that you cannot be a member or you're not eligible for membership with a General discharge. General discharges, if you are a yeoman, if you are an admin personnel person, if you've worked in those offices in the military, Navy, Marine Corps, Coast Guard, General discharges are too broad, too broad. It could be for medical. It could be for this. It could be for that. But if you have a discharge because of Bad Conduct or Dishonorable, you know exactly what that is. That would disqualify you from membership in the FRA.

All we're trying to do is change the wording in the C&BL to say if you have a Bad Conduct or Dishonorable discharge, you are not eligible for membership in FRA. That's it. Period. We're just simplifying it. General discharges are too broad. Thank you.

NP COURNEYA: Thank you, Shipmate. Shipmate at the mic.

PRPSE BOLZ: Bolz, Delegate, Branch 269. I speak in opposition to this. DD-214s at one time had a code which told you what the discharge was for. I believe we're not allowed to check DD-214s.

UNIDENTIFIED SHIPMATE: Yes, you are.

PRPSE BOLZ: I'm not sure how the DD-214s are put together. The re-enlistment code. Correct.

UNIDENTIFIED SHIPMATE: It will say medical --

NP COURNEYA: Shipmates, if you have something to say, go to the mic and say who you are so we can get through this.

UNIDENTIFIED SHIPMATE: We need to see what the RE code is and what it pertains to.

NP COURNEYA: Shipmate at the mic.

RPSE-E ROBBINS: Robbins, Delegate, Southeast. I am a member of the retention team. I have talked with Shipmate Penny Collins about this. I had a situation in my Branch, more than one. I had a shipmate that came to us because he had a General discharge. Somebody found it on the internet. They published it against him and everything, and it created a very big problem. He came to our branch. We researched it. What he did back when he was younger, again, go to jail, go in the military. He came in the military. But what he did followed him into the military, and he received a General discharge.

Then a few months later we have somebody that's a computer guru. We have a shipmate that is a senior NCO. I'm not going to go into it any further than that. He got a General discharge for child molestation, spouse abuse, and child abuse. Now, he received a General discharge. Who do you want in our group? Somebody that was young and stole hubcaps, who bumped knuckles a few times with somebody, or somebody that hurt a child and hurt his wife?

The word "general" is too vague. You need to be more defined. Thank you.

NP COURNEYA: Thank you, Shipmate. Shipmate at the rear mic.

SHIPMATE CLEVELAND: Cleveland, Branch 208, Delegate. You know, we want to grow our membership, and if a General discharge in itself negates membership in the Association, we're stepping on our own feet.

General discharges, I would say 90 percent or more of them are under honorable conditions. If you have a problem at a branch and want to check someone's status under a General discharge, you have the prerogative of doing that. And if he's a turd, don't join him. In my mind, I think that's rather simple. Bad Conduct discharge, Dishonorable discharge, no question. We don't want those people at all. But to arbitrarily say anyone with a general discharge is

not eligible is totally unfair to a large population that could join our organization.

I would vote yes on this Resolution.

NP COURNEYA: Thank you, Shipmate. We're going to cut it off here, and we're going to go ahead and go for a vote. Those in favor of the Resolution just read, please rise? If you can't rise, raise your hand.

(Aye votes rise.)

NP COURNEYA: Go ahead and sit down.

Those opposed to the Resolution, please rise.

(Nay votes rise.)

NP COURNEYA: Okay. Sit down.

We have a two-thirds vote. The Resolution passes.

PRPNE STARKEY: Constitution and Bylaws Resolution No. 2, from the National Committee on Membership and Retention can be found on Tab Victor, Page C&BL-1.

Resolved, That Article 3, Section 302, C&BL of the Fleet Reserve Association, be amended to read as follows:

"Section 302. Member-at-Large Roll. In addition to the branches, there shall be a Member-at-Large Roll. Personnel eligible for membership may become a Member-at-Large. Members-at-Large shall not be eligible to hold office. They are eligible to have their votes represented at a regional or national convention by the respective Region President. The Member-at-Large voting strength will be listed by region on the Annual Voting Strength Report dated March 31. Members-at-Large will be notified about their right to vote by FRA National Headquarters. Further, if they are serving as a member of a national committee, they may vote within that committee. Additionally, if they have been designated as proxy Delegate by a branch to represent that branch at regional or national conventions, they may cast the number of designated votes referenced in the Voting Strength Report dated March 31," and it be further

Resolved, That this amendment become effective January 1, 2017.

CBL&R Recommendation: Return to National Committee on Membership Retention for further clarification.

Rationale: The financial impact on the FRA in costs for mailing ballots and correspondence.

NP COURNEYA: Shipmates, you've heard the recommendation of the CBL&R Committee to have it referred back to committee on this resolution. Is there any further discussion on the resolution?

RVPSE THOMAS: Shipmate J.J. Thomas, Delegate, Branch 126, Southeast Regional Vice President. I recommend that we don't vote for this because if an MAL wants to be involved in the Fleet Reserve Association, he should join the Branch. Now, people have said, well, branches are not convenient. You join a Branch; you receive their newsletter. You receive the information from them. You then can attend a regional convention and a national convention and sit with that region and communicate with those people and have a better idea on how the FRA is operating.

Joining the Branch keeps you involved. Sitting on your couch and receiving mail, either by email or in the mailbox, doesn't get you involved in the FRA. Thank you.

NP COURNEYA: Thank you, Shipmate. Shipmate at the mic.

RPEC COLLINS: Shipmate National President. Penny Collins, Branch 024, and Chairman of the National Committee on Membership and Retention.

To make it simpler for everyone, we agree with the Committee on Constitution and Bylaws that this should be referred back to the committee for further review. Period. Thank you.

NP COURNEYA: Those in favor of the resolution, please rise.

(Aye votes rise.)

NP COURNEYA: Be seated.

Those opposed, stand up.

(Nay votes rise.)

NP COURNEYA: All right. Sit down. Vote is in the negative. It does not pass. It will be referred back to committee.

PRPNE STARKEY: Constitution and Bylaws Resolution No. 3, from the National Committee on Membership & Retention. It appears on Tab Victor, Page C&BL-2/3.

Resolved, Article 4, Section 401-Alpha, Bravo, and Delta, be amended to read as follows:

"Section 401(a). Membership dues in the FRA shall be \$40 per annum, payable in advance, except as provided in Section 401(b). No refund of membership dues is authorized subsequent to the receipt by the Finance Officer, except as provided for in Article 5, Section 511.

Section 401(b). A membership dues discount may be obtained at the following standard rates and conditions:

No. 1. For a one-time introductory payment of \$20, an active duty or reservist may join for one year as a Member-at-Large. After one year, the member may join at the rates below and either continue as a Member-at-Large or align with a branch of their choice.

No. 2. For a payment of two years, a discount of 6 percent of the total dues sum of \$75, with an annual renewal rate of \$40 thereafter.

No. 3. For an advance payment of 5 years, a discount of 10 percent of the total dues sum of \$180 is authorized.

Section 401(d). All members shall have the option of paying membership dues by cash, check, or credit card. If paid by cash, check, or credit card, the membership effective date shall commence on the first day of the month in which payment is made and end on the last month of the day. Allotments set up prior to January 1, 2017, shall be honored in accordance with the original allotment dates. However, no new allotments will be accepted; and be it further

Resolved, That this amendment become effective January 1, 2017.

CBL&R Recommendation: The motion is not in order.

Rationale: The approval of Resolution No. 4 clarifies the payment structure.

NP COURNEYA: Shipmates, you have heard the recommendation of the CBL&R Committee. This resolution is not in order. Is there any discussion on the resolution?

UNIDENTIFIED SHIPMATE: Rule it. Rule it.

NP COURNEYA: I got different opinions. Since it's been ruled not in order, I'm going to rule it out of order.

(Applause.)

PRPNE STARKEY: C&BL Resolution No. 4, from the National Committee on Membership and Retention. Appears on Tab Victor, Page C&BL-4/5:

Resolved, That Article 4, Section 401(a) through (m), be amended to read as follows:

"Section 401(a). Membership dues in FRA shall be \$40 per annum, payable in advance, except as provided in Section 401(b). No refund of membership dues is authorized subsequent to receipt by the Finance Officer except as provided for in Article 5, Section 511.

Section 401(b). A membership dues discount may be obtained at the following standard rates and conditions:

No. 1. For payment of two years, the discount of 6 percent of the total dues sum of \$75 with an annual renewal rate of \$40 thereafter.

No. 2. For an advance payment of five years, a discount of 10 percent of the total dues sum of \$180 is authorized.

Section 401(c). Only one such discount shall be in effect at any one time.

Section 401(d). All members shall have the option of paying membership dues by cash, check, or credit card. If paid by cash, check, or credit card, the membership effective date shall commence on the first day of the month in which payment is made and end on the last day of the month. Allotments set up prior to January 1, 2017, shall be honored in accordance with the original allotment dates. However, no new allotments will be accepted.

Section 401(e). Disabled members may be excused from payment of dues when payment would inflict hardship. Branches shall judge for their membership. The Director of Membership Development shall make the decision for Member-at-Large Roll members. Branch secretaries shall make an annual report in the month of March to the Director of 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 Members Services Department shall notify the Branch secretary during the month of July of those terminated members.

Section 401(f). Membership dues collected by any member are the property of the Fleet Reserve Association until prorated and distributed.

Section 401(g). Dues of members, except as provided in Section 401(h) and 401(i) shall be payable to the Branch Secretary, the Finance Officer, or to an approved agent of the Fleet Reserve Association as authorized by the National Board of Directors.

Section 401(h). Dues of members residing in the Republic of the Philippines shall be payable to the Finance Officer.

Section 401(i). Any member of the Fleet Reserve Association or personnel eligible to Fleet Reserve Association membership, who is the recipient of the Medal of Honor, and has paid one year's dues in the Association, shall be granted continuous membership without payment of dues with all privileges of a dues-paying member.

Section 401(j). All branches shall pay to the treasury of the Fleet Reserve Association all money collected for membership dues. These payments shall be made at least monthly and mailed in the time to reach the National office of the Finance Officer or an approved agent of the Fleet Reserve Association by a date specified in a schedule provided by the finance officer in December of each year for the following calendar year. Any Branch receiving dues from a member of the Membership-at-Large Roll shall immediately forward the full amount of dues to the Finance Officer.



Section 401(k). Fifty percent of each branch member's dues received by the Finance Officer shall be forwarded monthly to the respective Branch.

Section 401(l). Members in good standing, upon attaining 50 years' of continuous membership in the Fleet Reserve Association shall not be required to pay dues and shall be issued the prestigious Platinum Fleet Reserve Association 50-Plus Continuous Member Card.

Section 401(m). Members in good standing, upon attaining 85 years of age and who have at least 40 years of continuous membership, shall not be required to pay dues in the FRA and shall be issued the prestigious Red, White, and Blue Membership card;" and be it further

Resolved, That this amendment become effective 1 January, 2017.

C&BL Recommendation: That the resolution be approved.

Rationale: This resolution is to provide a better clarification than that in Resolution No. 3.

NP COURNEYA: Shipmates, you have heard the recommendation of the CBL&R Committee to approve this resolution. Is there any discussion on the resolution?

PRPEC GUNTHER: Shipmate National President.

NP COURNEYA: Go ahead, Shipmate.

PRPEC GUNTHER: Gunther, Delegate, Branch 182. We've raised the dues three times in the past 20 years. Our membership has dropped from 160,000 down to below 50,000 this year. Raising the dues, I think would be detrimental to this organization. I am against this. If we want this organization to die, then approve it. If you don't want to see it die, don't approve it. We need to find other sources of revenue to support our organization besides putting it on the backs of the Shipmates that come into this organization. Thank you.

NP COURNEYA: Thank you, Shipmate. Shipmate at the mic.

PRPSW FULTON: Shipmate National President. Fulton, Delegate, Chair, Branch 289. First of all, I'd like the

record to correctly reflect that the resolution was from Budget & Finance and not Membership and Retention.

NP COURNEYA: That correction will be made.

NP COURNEYA: Shipmate at the mic.

SHIPMATE RANDALL: Charlie Randall, Branch 201. Why in the hell are you stopping allotments? Active duty people use the allotment process. I do not understand it. That's the only objection I got to this, is stopping the allotment process. I don't think that that's a good idea.

NP COURNEYA: Could I have the Finance Officer answer that?

FINANCE OFFICER GRAHAM: The only reason we are stopping allotments, first of all, we are still honoring those that are already in place. We have people call occasionally to ask for an allotment. We cannot set up the allotment. They have to go back to their respective branch of service and through the retirement services, and it's really, really difficult. They become very frustrated. And it will be months, and then they will come back and say you know what, I'm just going to give you my credit card. We are not cancelling those that we already have. We're just saying it's a very frustrating process, and I have not signed up one new allotment since I've been here, so that's why we're doing it. I'm sorry. Nora Graham, Finance Officer.

NP COURNEYA: Past National President Smith.

PNP SMITH: Smith, the one thing that bothers me is the fact that the 20 percent discount for 2 years is gone. I use that to get 2-year members, and they stick around more than 1-year members. What happened to that?

NP COURNEYA: Shipmate.

SHIPMATE RANDALL: Charlie Randall, Branch 201, Delegate. I am amazed that somebody thinks it's hard to set up an allotment if you're retired. I don't know about the active duty because I haven't done one of those, but for a retired person, it's a snap. I don't understand this frustration business, I don't know who the hell ran into that problem. They must not have been doing something right.

NP COURNEYA: Thanks, Shipmate. Do we have any other discussion?

RPNC-E COMBS: Combs, Delegate, Branch 161. I want to -- whoever asked the question over here, Paul, I don't know, Gunther, how many members are we going to lose after we raise the dues, and will our income increase or decrease after we lose all those members. That's called the elasticity of demand. I think Nora may be able to answer that. I'm not sure anyone really knows whether we are, our demand curve is vertical or horizontal. If it's vertical, we could raise the dues to \$1,000 a year, people will still join. But if it's horizontal, they're not. Okay?

How many are we going to lose? Does anyone really know?

NP COURNEYA: No one knows. And we've kicked that question around.

PNP BLACKBURN: Shipmate National President. Blackburn, Delegate, Branch 008.

Shipmates, I hope those of you did as I requested last night and studied the budget and looked at the finance page, our income page, of the budget, line item No. 14. If you will note, we have to draw on our investments -- extremely heavy withdrawal. Dues increase, projected income would be \$280,000 coming into the General Fund that would not have to be withdrawn from our investments. I understand we're taxing those who are dedicated to the Association, but as we get smaller, we have to do a little bit added to keep and support our Association. Thank you, Shipmates.

SHIPMATE BEARDEN: Shipmate, National President.

NP COURNEYA: Go ahead, Shipmate.

SHIPMATE BEARDEN: Lew Bearden, Delegate for Branch 024. I want to speak in favor of raising the dues. I know that some people will be more affected than others, but I will tell you, in 8 years, the cost of everything goes up. I mean, some of it significantly. We get a lot of support from the National office. The people who run this Convention have gotten support from the National office. All of those expenses have gone up over an 8-year period of time, so I believe while we work to get money from other sources, that we still need to support our membership, and

I don't think a \$10 increase in dues is that big of an effort.

NP COURNEYA: Thank you, Shipmate. The question, we will go ahead and have a vote now. Go ahead.

RPEC COLLINS: Shipmate National President. Penny Collins, Branch 024 and Director of Membership Development. I hope you're not forgetting that the branches get a 50 percent PCT for every membership that you get, so if we raise the dues, instead of getting a PCT of \$15, you'll get a PCT of \$20.

NP COURNEYA: The question is on the adoption of the resolution just read.

All in favor, please stand.

UNIDENTIFIED SHIPMATE: We've got people who are going to speak on this yet. There's one standing right there.

UNIDENTIFIED SHIPMATE: Why are you taking away our right --

NP COURNEYA: Can you go to the mic, please, and talk? Do we need any further discussion?

UNIDENTIFIED SHIPMATE: Yes.

PRPEC BUTLER: Yes. Jerry Butler, Branch 141.

NP COURNEYA: Before we finish our vote, go ahead, Jerry.

PRPEC BUTLER: There are a lot of things that weren't said about this. One of them is that with the money we draw out of one of our favorite pots, that's going down and down and down, we have to pay taxes on it. As of today, we owe \$280,000 in taxes to the IRS. Now, this will, the \$10 raise, you will be giving the money to the FRA rather than the IRS. Now who loses? The IRS.

NP COURNEYA: Thank you, Shipmate Jerry. Thank you.

I'll take one more question.

RPNW-E THOMPSON: Thompson, Delegate, Branch 104. As I have recently just turned 46 and I'm probably speaking for a lot of the younger people, 40 bucks is not going to bust

my chops to maintain my membership. In fact, I just became a Life Member not that long ago. If 40 bucks is going to hurt you, then you might want to step up and get a life membership. We also need to be on par with the other veteran organizations. I pay -- I don't want to brag -- it would be bragging if I told you what I paid for my other memberships, but we got some value in this organization, and \$40 is still cheap.

NP COURNEYA: Thank you, Shipmate. At this time, we'll continue on.

The question is on the adoption of the Resolution just read. All in favor, please rise.

(Aye votes rise.)

NP COURNEYA: All right. Go ahead and sit down. Opposed, please rise.

(Nay votes rise.)

NP COURNEYA: We have a two-thirds vote. The motion passes.

UNIDENTIFIED SHIPMATE: Then get up to the microphone and do it.

UNIDENTIFIED SHIPMATE: Roll call.

NP COURNEYA: Go ahead. He was first.

PRPSE BOLZ: Shipmate National President. Bolz, Branch 269, Delegate. I call for a roll call vote.

PRPEC GUNTHER: Second. Gunther, Branch 182, Delegate.

NP COURNEYA: All right. We have five seconds. We have five different branches.

PRPNW LAZZARETTI: Shipmate National President.

NP COURNEYA: Shipmate at the mic.

PRPNW LAZZARETTI: Lazzaretti, Delegate, Branch 018, second.

PNP KILGORE: Kilgore, Delegate, Branch 022, second.

SHIPMATE DAVIS: Davis, Branch 044, Delegate, second.

RPEC-E VATTER: Shipmate National President. Vatter, Delegate, Branch 093. Question. Is it five separate branches or five separate regions?

NP COURNEYA: Branches.

RPEC-E VATTER: Shipmate National President. Vatter, Branch 093, second.

NP COURNEYA: Okay. We have five branches. We'll now take a 5-minute recess, and we will prepare for a roll call vote.

(Three raps of the gavel.)

NP COURNEYA: Shipmate National Chaplain. Uncover.

NCHAP WALLACE: Shipmate National President, the Bible is now closed.

NP COURNEYA: Thank you, Shipmate National Chaplain. We stand in recess for 5 minutes.

(Recess.)

NP COURNEYA: Shipmate Master-at-Arms, invite the Shipmates into the hall and shut the doors.

MASTER-at-ARMS: Shipmate National President, the Shipmates are in the hall.

NP COURNEYA: Thank you, Shipmate Master-at-Arms.

Shipmate National Chaplain, please open the Bible. Uncover.

NCHAP WALLACE: Shipmate National President, the Bible is now open.

NP COURNEYA: Thank you, Shipmate National Chaplain.

JrPNP IPPERT: Shipmate National President.

NP COURNEYA: Yes, Shipmate Junior Past.

JrPNP IPPERT: Junior Past National President is in the uniform of the day.

NP COURNEYA: Thank you, Shipmate Junior Past. At this time, is the Tally Committee ready? Everything ready?

(One rap of the gavel.)

SHIPMATE MIDDLEKAUFF: Shipmate National President. Middlekauff, Branch 117, Delegate. I would like permission to announce that if the Shipmates would look at your reports, Branch 117 is missing our Youth Activities report. It's a nice white binder, 3-ring binder. If you have it, please return it. We can't seem to find it anywhere.

NP COURNEYA: Thanks, Shipmate. If you have the binder by mistake, get it back to the Shipmate that is looking for it.

All right. We are going to get started. I will turn it over to the NED. He'll start calling the branches to come up and vote.

RPNC-E COMBS: Combs, Delegate, Branch 161. To help our recruiters, may I propose an amendment to this, a small amendment. 401 Bravo --

NP COURNEYA: Shipmate, that should have already been done if there was going to be an amendment. We're going to have a roll call vote.

RPNC-E COMBS: We haven't listened to any proposed amendments to this.

NP COURNEYA: We already voted.

UNIDENTIFIED SHIPMATE: It's finished business except for the vote.

NP COURNEYA: At this time, I'm going to turn it over to the NED. He'll start calling the branches up to vote. So look at your Delegate Kits in the back, and then to expedite this quickly, come up to the mics so we can get this over with.

NED SNEE: To add on to what the National President said, if you're a proxy, please anticipate your respective

branches as they may be called. We are going with an aye or nay.

Branch 001.

PRPNE MUNDAY: Munday, Branch 124, Past Regional President Northeast, proxy Branch 001, Delegate. Vote, 8 ayes.

NED SNEE: Branch 004.

SHIPMATE CALIGUIRAN: Caliguiran, Branch 004, Delegate. Vote, 6 ayes.

UNIDENTIFIED SHIPMATE: Shipmate National President. Point of order.

PRPNE STARKEY: Shipmate at the microphone.

SHIPMATE HANSEN: Hansen, Delegate, 147. In a roll call vote, the NED is required to call the branch and the number of votes for that branch.

UNIDENTIFIED SHIPMATE: And to repeat the vote once it's cast.

NED SNEE: So noted. Just to go back, Branch 001, 8 votes. All 8 votes, yea.

Branch 004, 6 votes. All 6 votes, aye.

Branch 005, 11 votes --

PNP COMBS: Combs, Delegate, Branch 005. 11 votes, no.

NED SNEE: Branch 005. 11 votes, no.

Branch 006, 4 votes.

PRPEC GUNTHER: Gunther, Delegate, proxy for Branch 006. 4 votes, no.

NED SNEE: Branch 006. 4 votes, no.

Branch 008, 11 votes.

PNP BLACKBURN: Blackburn, Delegate Chairman. 11 votes, aye.



NED SNEE: Branch 008. 11 votes, aye.

Branch 010, 7 votes.

RPWC LeCLAIRE: Delegate, Branch 010, proxy. Votes aye.

NED SNEE: Branch 010. 7 votes, aye.

RPWC LeCLAIRE: Seven votes; I'm sorry.

NED SNEE: Branch 011, 15 votes.

RPSC GIBSON: Gibson, Branch 011, Delegate. 15 votes, aye.

NED SNEE: Branch 011. 15 votes, aye.

Branch 012, 4 votes.

SHIPMATE MILEWSKI: Milewski, proxy, Branch 012. 4 votes, aye.

NED SNEE: Branch 012. 4 votes, aye.

Branch 013, 5 votes.

SHIPMATE DAVENPORT: Delegate, Davenport, Branch 013. 5 votes, aye.

NED SNEE: Branch 013. 5 votes, aye.

Branch 014, 7 votes.

PRPNC ZALEWSKI: Zalewski, Delegate, aye.

NED SNEE: Branch 014. 7 votes, aye.

Branch 015, 3 votes.

SHIPMATE DAVIS: Davis, Delegate, 290. Branch 015, nay.

NED SNEE: Branch 015. 3 votes, nay.

Branch 017, 5 votes.

SHIPMATE BLIND: Branch 017, Blind, Delegate. Nay.

NED SNEE: Branch 017. 5 votes, nay.

Branch 018, 10 votes.

PRPNW LAZZARETTI: Lazzaretti, Delegate, Branch 018. All votes nay. As instructed.

NED SNEE: Branch 018. 10 votes, nay.

Branch 020, 22 votes.

SHIPMATE SULLIVAN: Branch 020, Sullivan, Delegate. Aye.

NED SNEE: Branch 020. 20 votes, aye.

Branch 021, 2 votes.

PNP BLACKBURN: Blackburn, proxy. 2 votes, aye.

NED SNEE: Branch 021. 2 votes, aye.

Branch 022, 22 votes.

SHIPMATE RICHMOND: Richmond, Delegate, Branch 022. 2 votes, no.

NED SNEE: Branch 022. 2 votes, no.

Branch 023, 4 votes.

RPNE/NEng-E SHARP: Sharp, proxy vote, Branch 023. 4 votes, aye.

NED SNEE: Branch 023. 4 votes, aye.

Branch 024, 78 votes.

SHIPMATE JONES: Chairman, Branch 024, Curtis Jones. 78 votes, aye.

NED SNEE: Branch 024. 78 votes, aye.

Branch 026, 3 votes.

PNP SMITH: Smith, proxy. 3 votes, nay.

NED SNEE: Branch 026. 3 votes, nay.

Branch 028, 3 votes.

RPNC CUNNINGHAM: Cunningham, proxy. Branch 028, aye.

NED SNEE: Branch 028. 3 votes, aye.

Branch 031, 3 votes.

RPNE/NEng JANSKY: Jansky, Delegate, Branch 031. As instructed, 3 votes, nay.

NED SNEE: Branch 031. 3 votes, nay.

Branch 032. There are no votes.

Going on. Branch 034, 3 votes.

SHIPMATE DAVIS: Davis, proxy, Delegate, 034. Nay by instruction.

NED SNEE: Branch 034. 3 votes, nay.

Branch 037, 2 votes.

SHIPMATE MARTIN: Martin, proxy. Instructed, nay.

NED SNEE: Branch 037. 2 votes, nay.

Branch 038, 5 votes.

RPNW WYNN: Northwest Regional President, Delegate, by proxy. All votes aye.

NED SNEE: Branch 038, 5 votes aye.

Branch 040, 14 votes.

RVPEC PHELPS: Phelps, Branch 040, Delegate. 14 votes, nay.

NED SNEE: Branch 040. 14 votes, nay.

Branch 041, 4 votes.

PRPEC GUNTHER: Gunther, proxy. Not instructed. 4 votes, nay.

NED SNEE: Branch 041. 4 votes, nay.

Branch 042, 9 votes.

PRPNENG JUSTIN: Justin, Branch 042. 9 votes, aye.

NED SNEE: Branch 042. 9 votes, aye.

Branch 043, no votes.

Branch 044, 3 votes.

SHIPMATE DAVIS: Davis, Delegate. 3 votes, no.

NED SNEE: Branch 044. 3 votes, nay.

Branch 046, 45 votes.

RPNW WYNN: Wynn, Delegate, Branch 046. Aye all votes.

NED SNEE: Branch 046. 45 votes, aye.

Branch 047, 10 votes.

PRPSW FRONTZ: Frontz, Delegate, Branch 047. All votes, aye.

NED SNEE: Branch 047. 10 votes, aye.

Branch 049, 6 votes.

RPWC-E SHORTER: Shorter, Branch 008, Delegate, proxy. 6 votes, aye.

NED SNEE: Branch 049. 6 votes, aye.

Branch 050, no votes.

Branch 051, 4 votes.

SHIPMATE DAVIS: Davis, Delegate, proxy. Nay.

NED SNEE: Branch 051. 4 votes, nay.

Branch 053, 13 votes.

PRPNC ZALEWSKI: Zalewski, proxy. 13, nay.

NED SNEE: Branch 053. 13 votes, nay.

Branch 054, 2 votes.

RPNC CUNNINGHAM: Cunningham, proxy, aye.

NED SNEE: Branch 054. 2 votes, aye.

Branch 055, 6 votes.

PRPNW LAZZARETTI: Lazzaretti, proxy for Branch 055. Aye.

NED SNEE: Branch 055. 6 votes, aye.

Branch 057, 7 votes.

RPNE/NEng JANSKY: Jansky, proxy. As instructed, 7 votes, yes, yea, aye, whatever.

NED SNEE: So you're saying it's in the affirmative, right?

Branch 057. 7 votes, aye.

Branch 059, 6 votes.

PRPNW LAZZARETTI: Lazzaretti, proxy for Branch 059. As instructed, nay.

NED SNEE: Branch 059. 6 votes, nay.

Branch 060, 31 votes.

JrPRPEC WILLIS: Willis, Delegate, Branch 060. 31 votes, aye.

NED SNEE: Branch 060. 31 votes, aye.

Branch 061, 33 votes.

JrPRPSW HERMES: Hermes, Delegate. All votes aye.

NED SNEE: Branch 061. 33 votes, aye.

Branch 062, 3 votes.

UNIDENTIFIED SHIPMATE: Delegate, Proxy. 3 votes, nay.

NED SNEE: Branch 062. 3 votes, nay.

Branch 067, 10 votes.

PRPEC GUNTHER: Proxy. Not instructed. 10 votes, no.

NED SNEE: Branch 067. 10 votes, no.

Branch 070, 30 votes.

SHIPMATE DAVIS: Delegate Chair. No, 30 votes.

NED SNEE: Branch 070. 30 votes, no.

Branch 071, 4 votes.

RPNE/NEng JANSKY: Jansky, proxy. 4 votes, aye.

NED SNEE: Branch 071. 4 votes, aye.

Branch 072, 3 votes.

PRPNEng LOVELESS: Loveless, proxy, Branch 072. 3 votes, nay. Instructed.

NED SNEE: Branch 072. 3 votes, nay.

Branch 077, 6 votes.

SHIPMATE DAVIS: Davis, proxy. 6, no.

NED SNEE: Branch 077. 6 votes, no.

Branch 084, 9 votes.

PNP SMITH: Smith, proxy, Branch 084. No.

NED SNEE: Branch 084. 9 votes, no.

Branch 085, 4 votes.

RPSW KELLEY: Kelley, proxy. Yes.

NED SNEE: Branch 085. 4 votes, aye.

Branch 086, 8 votes.

PRPSE BRICE: Brice, Delegate, proxy. 8 votes, aye.

NED SNEE: Branch 086. 8 votes, aye.

Branch 087, 3 votes.

PRPNE/NEng BROWN: Brown, Delegate, proxy Branch 087. 3 votes, aye.

NED SNEE: Branch 087. 3 votes, aye.

Branch 090, 6 votes.

PRPSW HEWSON: Hewson, Branch 090. Nay, 6 votes.

NED SNEE: Branch 090. 6 votes, nay.

Branch 091, 47 votes.

RPSE-E ROBBINS: Branch 091. Instructed, no.

NED SNEE: Branch 091. 47 votes, nay.

Branch 092, 3 votes.

RPSC-E TALBOT: Talbot, proxy, Branch 092. Instructed. 3 votes, nay.

NED SNEE: Branch 092. 3 votes, nay.

Branch 093, 17 votes.

RPEC-E VATTER: Vatter, Branch 093, Delegate. As instructed. 17 votes, no.

NED SNEE: Branch 093. 17 votes, no.

Branch 094, 16 votes.

NVP LARSON: Larson, Delegate, Branch 094. Yea.

NED SNEE: Branch 094. 16 votes, yea.

Branch 098, 2 votes.

SHIPMATE LONGSTRATT: Longstratt, Chairman, 098. 2 votes, aye.

NED SNEE: Branch 098. 2 votes, aye.

Branch 099, 33 votes.

SHIPMATE FALU: Falu, Delegate. Instructed, no.

NED SNEE: Branch 099. 33 votes, nay.

Branch 101, 11 votes.

SHIPMATE RUIZ: Ruiz, Branch 101. 11 votes, aye.

NED SNEE: Branch 101. 11 votes, aye.

Branch 103, 10 votes.

RPNW WYNN: Wynn, Delegate, proxy. 10 votes, aye.

NED SNEE: Branch 103. 10 votes, aye.

Branch 104, 6 votes.

RPNW-E THOMPSON: Thompson, 104 Delegate. 6 votes, aye.

NED SNEE: Branch 104. 10 votes, aye.

Branch 105, 5 votes.

SHIPMATE NELSON: Nelson, proxy, Delegate. 5 votes, no.

NED SNEE: Branch 105. 5 votes, no.

Branch 106, 7 votes.

SHIPMATE ENGLE: Engle, Delegate. 7 votes, aye.

NED SNEE: Branch 106. 7 votes, aye.

Branch 112, 3 votes.

UNIDENTIFIED SHIPMATE: Branch 112. 3 votes, aye.

NED SNEE: Branch 112. 3 votes, aye.

Branch 113, 3 votes.

RPWC-E SHORTER: Shorter, Branch 008, Delegate, proxy. 3 votes, aye.

NED SNEE: Branch 113. 3 votes, aye.

Branch 115, 8 votes.

RPNE/NEng-E SHARP: Sharp, Delegate 115. 8 votes, aye.



NED SNEE: Branch 115. 8 votes, aye.

Branch 117, 10 votes.

SHIPMATE MIDDLEKAUFF: Middlekauff, Delegate, 117. 10 votes, aye.

NED SNEE: Branch 117. 10 votes, aye.

Branch 118, 4 votes.

SHIPMATE PHILLIPS: Phillips, 118. 4 votes, aye.

NED SNEE: Branch 118. 4 votes, aye.

Branch 120, 9 votes. That was a change from the credentials chairman, 9 votes.

UNIDENTIFIED SHIPMATE: They're not registered.

UNIDENTIFIED SHIPMATE: Yes, they are, by proxy. Don Kelley.

NP COURNEYA: Shipmate Kelley, if you have the proxies, make sure you're aware of who they are.

RPSW KELLEY: Kelley, proxy. All votes, yes.

NED SNEE: Branch 120. 9 votes, aye.

Branch 123, 2 votes.

SHIPMATE BUTLER: Butler, proxy. All votes, yes.

NED SNEE: Branch 123. 2 votes, aye.

Branch 124, 8 votes.

PRPNE MUNDAY: Munday, Branch 124, Delegate. 8 votes, aye.

NED SNEE: Branch 124. 8 votes, aye.

Branch 126, 16 votes.

RVPSE THOMAS: Branch 126, Thomas, Delegate. 16 nay.

NED SNEE: Branch 126. 16 votes, nay.

Branch 127, 5 votes.

UNIDENTIFIED SHIPMATE: Branch 127. 5 votes, aye.

NED SNEE: Branch 127. 5 votes, aye.

Branch 130, 6 votes.

SHIPMATE NELSON: Nelson, Branch 130, Delegate Chairman. 6 votes, no. Instructed.

NED SNEE: Branch 130. 6 votes, nay.

Branch 132, 2 votes.

PRPNEng LOVELESS: Loveless, proxy. 2 votes, yes.

NED SNEE: Branch 132. 2 votes, yes, aye.

Branch 136, 17 votes.

PRPNC POSEKANY: Marty Posekany, Branch 298, proxy for Branch 136. Instructed 17, no.

NED SNEE: Branch 136. 17 votes, nay.

Branch 137, 5 votes.

PRPWC NASH: Nash, Delegate, Branch 192, proxy. As directed, nay.

NED SNEE: Branch 137. 5 votes, nay.

Branch 141, 6 votes.

PRPEC BUTLER: Butler, Delegate. Yes.

NED SNEE: Branch 141. 6 votes, aye.

Branch 146, 4 votes.

PRPNE MUNDAY: Munday, Delegate, proxy, Branch 146. 4 votes, all aye.

NED SNEE: Branch 146, 4 votes, aye.

Branch 147, 14 votes.

SHIPMATE HANSEN: Hansen, Delegate Chairman, Branch 147.  
As instructed, 2 aye; 12 nay.

NED SNEE: Branch 147. 14 votes, 2 aye; 12 nay.

Branch 154, 3 votes.

RPNW WYNN: Wynn, Delegate, proxy. 3 votes, aye.

NED SNEE: Branch 154. 3 votes, aye.

Branch 156, 8 votes.

PRPNEng LOVELESS: Branch 156, Loveless, Delegate. 8  
votes, aye.

NED SNEE: Branch 156. 8 votes, aye.

Branch 159, 6 votes.

RPSC-E TALBOT: Talbot, Delegate, Branch 159. 6 votes,  
aye.

NED SNEE: Branch 159. 6 votes, aye.

Branch 161, 21 votes.

RPNC-E COMBS: Combs, Delegate. 21 votes, negative.

NED SNEE: Branch 161. 21 Votes, nay.

Branch 162, 13 votes.

RPSC GIBSON: Gibson, proxy. 13 votes, no. As instructed.

NED SNEE: Branch 162. 13 votes, nay.

Branch 163, 11 votes.

PRPSW KATZENBERGER: Katzenberger, Delegate, Branch 163.  
11 votes, aye.

NED SNEE: Branch 163. 11 votes, aye.

Branch 166, 13 votes.

SHIPMATE MARTIN: Martin, Delegate, Branch 166. 13 votes,  
nay.

NED SNEE: Branch 166. 13 votes, nay.

Branch 170, 10 votes.

PRPNW LAZZARETTI: Lazzaretti, by proxy. All votes nay.  
By instruction.

NED SNEE: Branch 170. 10 votes, nay.

Branch 171, 3 votes.

RPNW WYNN: Wynn, Delegate, proxy. 3 votes, aye.

NED SNEE: Branch 171. 3 votes, aye.

Branch 172, 6 votes.

PNP SCARBRO: 172, Scarbro, Delegate. Instructed, 6 nay.

NED SNEE: Branch 172. 6 votes, nay.

Branch 174, 4 votes.

RPNW WYNN: Wynn, Delegate, proxy. 4 votes, aye.

NED SNEE: Branch 174. 4 votes, aye.

Branch 175, 17 votes.

PNP SMITH: Smith, proxy. All votes, aye.

NED SNEE: Branch 175. 17 votes, aye.

Branch 177, 4 votes.

RPNC CUNNINGHAM: Cunningham, Branch 177, proxy. 4 votes,  
aye.

NED SNEE: Branch 177. 4 votes, aye.

Branch 178, 3 votes.

RPWC LeCLAIRE: LeClaire, proxy, Branch 178. 3 votes, aye.

NED SNEE: Branch 178. 3 votes, aye.

Branch 181, 13 votes.

PRPEC WASHINGTON: Bob Washington, Branch 181, Chairman.  
13, aye.

NED SNEE: Branch 181. 13 votes, aye.

Branch 182, 6 votes.

PRPEC GUNTHER: Gunther, Chairman, Delegate, Branch 182. 6  
votes, no.

NED SNEE: Branch 182. 6 votes, nay.

Branch 183, 4 votes.

SHIPMATE DAVIS: Davis, Delegate proxy. Nay.

NED SNEE: Branch 183. 4 votes, nay.

Branch 184, 2 votes.

PNP SMITH: Smith, proxy. No.

NED SNEE: Branch 184. 2 votes, nay.

Branch 185, 3 votes.

RPWC-E SHORTER: Shorter, Branch 008, by proxy. 3 aye.

NED SNEE: Branch 185. 3 votes, aye.

Branch 186, 8 votes.

SHIPMATE HUSCHER: Huscher, Branch 186, Delegate. 8 votes,  
aye.

NED SNEE: Branch 186. 8 votes, aye.

Branch 187, 2 votes.

PRPSE BRICE: Brice, Delegate, 187. Aye.

NED SNEE: Branch 187. 2 votes, aye.

Branch 192, 5 votes.

JrPRPWC BRIGGS: Briggs, Delegate 192. 5 votes, aye.

NED SNEE: Branch 192. 5 votes, aye.

Branch 194, 5 votes.

PNP SMITH: Smith, Delegate. 5 votes, no.

NED SNEE: Branch 194. 5 votes, nay.

Branch 197, 3 votes.

RPWC-E SHORTER: Shorter, Branch 008, Delegate, by proxy.  
3, aye.

NED SNEE: Branch 197. 3 votes, aye.

Branch 201, 8 votes.

SHIPMATE RANDALL: Charlie Randall, Delegate, Branch 201.  
As instructed, nay.

NED SNEE: Branch 201. 8 votes, nay.

Branch 202, 4 votes.

PNP SMITH: Smith, proxy. No.

NED SNEE: Branch 202. 4 votes, nay.

Branch 204, 3 votes.

RPEC-E VATTER: Vatter, Branch 093, proxy. 3 votes, no.

NED SNEE: Branch 204. 3 votes nay.

Branch 207, 5 votes.

PNP SCARBRO: Scarbro, Delegate, instructed. 5 votes, nay.

NED SNEE: Branch 207. 5 votes nay.

Branch 208, 10 votes.

SHIPMATE CLEVELAND: Cleveland, Branch 208, Delegate. 10  
votes, aye.

NED SNEE: Branch 208. 10 votes, aye.

Branch 210, 11 votes.

SHIPMATE TRUELSEN: Branch 210, Truelsen, Delegate. Aye.

NED SNEE: Branch 210. 11 votes, aye.

Branch 212, 5 votes.

PRPEC GUNTHER: Gunther, proxy, not instructed. 5 votes, no.

NED SNEE: Branch 212. 5 votes, nay.

Branch 214, 3 votes.

JrPRPNE/NEng HUNT: Hunt, Delegate, Branch 214. Nay.

NED SNEE: Branch 214. 3 votes, nay.

Branch 216, 5 votes.

PRPNC POSEKANY: Marty Posekany, Branch 298, proxy for 216. 5 votes, aye.

NED SNEE: Branch 216. 5, aye.

Branch 217, 4 votes.

RPEC-E VATTER: Vatter, 093, Delegate, proxy. 4 votes, no.

NED SNEE: Branch 217. 4 votes, nay.

Branch 219, 4 votes.

PRPEC CAMPBELL: Campbell, Delegate, proxy. 4 votes, nay.

NED SNEE: Branch 219. 4 votes nay.

Branch 221, 3 votes.

RPNC CUNNINGHAM: Cunningham, proxy. 221, aye.

NED SNEE: Branch 221. 3 votes, aye.

Branch 222, 3 votes.

RPSC GIBSON: Gibson, proxy. 3 votes, aye.

NED SNEE: Branch 222. 3 votes, aye.

Branch 223, 2 votes.

PNP COMBS: Combs, proxy. 2 votes, no.

NED SNEE: Branch 223. 2 votes, nay.

Branch 226, 6 votes.

PRPNE/NEng BROWN: Branch 226, Brown, Delegate. 6, aye.

NED SNEE: Branch 226. 6 votes, aye.

Branch 227, 2 votes.

RPSC GIBSON: Gibson, proxy, 227. 2 votes, aye.

NED SNEE: Branch 227. 2 votes, aye.

Branch 229, 5 votes.

RPNE/NEng-E SHARP: Sharp, proxy, 229. As directed, 5 votes, nay.

NED SNEE: Branch 229. 5 votes, nay.

Branch 230, 6 votes.

PNP BLACKBURN: Blackburn, proxy. 6 votes, aye.

NED SNEE: Branch 230. 6 votes, aye.

Branch 232, 2 votes.

PRPNE MUNDAY: Munday, Delegate, proxy, Branch 232. 2 votes, aye.

NED SNEE: Branch 232. 2 votes, aye.

Branch 238, 5 votes.

PRPNC POSEKANY: Marty Posekany, Branch 298, proxy for Branch 238. 5 votes, aye.

NED SNEE: Branch 238. 5 votes, aye.

Branch 242, 2 votes.

RPNC CUNNINGHAM: Cunningham, proxy. Aye.

NED SNEE: Branch 242. 2 votes, aye.



Branch 244, 2 votes.

RPWC-E SHORTER: Shorter, proxy. 2, aye.

NED SNEE: Branch 244. 2 votes, aye.

Branch 245, 4 votes.

RPNW WYNN: Wynn, Delegate, proxy. 4 votes, aye.

NED SNEE: Branch 245. 4 votes, aye.

Branch 247, 4 votes.

RPNW WYNN: Wynn, Delegate, proxy. 4 votes, aye.

NED SNEE: Branch 247. 4 votes, aye.

Branch 257, 2 votes.

PRPEC HOLCOMBE: Delegate, Branch 040, proxy, 257. 2 votes, nay.

NED SNEE: Branch 257. 2 votes, nay.

Branch 258, 3 votes.

RPNE/NEng-E SHARP: Sharp, proxy, Branch 258. 3 votes, as directed, aye.

NED SNEE: Branch 258. 3 votes, aye.

Branch 259, 3 votes.

SHIPMATE MILEWSKI: Milewski, Branch 259. 3 votes, aye.

NED SNEE: Branch 259. 3 votes, aye.

Branch 260, 4 votes.

PNP SMITH: Smith, proxy. 4 votes, nay.

NED SNEE: Branch 260. 4 votes, nay.

Branch 261, 18 votes.

RPWC-E SHORTER: Shorter, proxy. 18, aye.

NED SNEE: Branch 261. 18 votes, aye.

Branch 263, 6 votes.

PRPEC CAMPBELL: Campbell, Delegate. 6 votes, no.

NED SNEE: Branch 263. 6 votes, nay.

Branch 264, 7 votes.

RPSC GIBSON: Gibson, proxy. 7 votes, aye.

NED SNEE: Branch 264. 7 votes, aye.

Branch 268, 7 votes.

PNP COMBS: Combs, proxy. 7 votes, no.

NED SNEE: Branch 268. 7 votes, nay.

Branch 269, 38 votes.

SHIPMATE BOLZ: Bolz, Delegate, 269. 38 votes, no.

NED SNEE: Branch 269. 38 votes, nay.

Branch 274, 3 votes.

PRPWC McNAMARA: McNamara, Delegate, 274. Aye.

NED SNEE: Branch 274. 3 votes, aye.

Branch 275, 4 votes.

PNP BOUDREAUX: Boudreaux, Delegate. 4 votes, aye.

NED SNEE: Branch 275. 4 votes, aye.

Branch 276, 12 votes.

RPNC CUNNINGHAM: Cunningham, Branch 276, proxy. 12 votes, aye.

NED SNEE: Branch 276. 12 votes, aye.

Branch 278, 3 votes.

SHIPMATE HUSCHER: Huscher, Branch 278, proxy. 3 votes, aye.

NED SNEE: Branch 278. 3 votes, aye.

Branch 282, 6 votes.

RPSC GIBSON: Gibson, proxy. 6 votes, aye.

NED SNEE: Branch 282. 6 votes, aye.

Branch 285, 3 votes.

RPNE/NEng JANSKY: Jansky, proxy. 3 votes, aye.

NED SNEE: Branch 285. 3 votes, aye.

Branch 287, 2 votes.

SHIPMATE WILSON: Branch 287, Wilson, Delegate. 2 votes, aye.

NED SNEE: Branch 287. 2 votes, aye.

Branch 289, 33 votes.

PRPSW FULTON: Fulton, Delegate Chair, 289. 33 votes, aye.

NED SNEE: Branch 289. 33 votes, aye.

Branch 290, 30 votes.

PRPSE HILL: Branch 290, Delegate Chair, instructed. 30 votes, nay.

NED SNEE: Branch 290. 30 votes, nay.

Branch 291, 3 votes.

SHIPMATE DAVIS: Davis, Delegate, proxy. Nay.

NED SNEE: Branch 291. 3 votes, nay.

Branch 293, 8 votes.

SHIPMATE WRIGHT: Wright, Delegate, Branch 293. 8 votes, no.

NED SNEE: Branch 293. 8 votes, nay.

Branch 294, 3 votes.

SHIPMATE MELLERT: Branch 294, Mellert, Delegate. 3 votes, no.

NED SNEE: Branch 294. 3 votes, nay.

Branch 295, 3 votes.

PRPEC HOLCOMBE: Holcombe, proxy for 295. Aye.

NED SNEE: Branch 295. 2 votes, aye.

Branch 296, 3 votes.

PNP BLACKBURN: Blackburn, proxy, 296. 3 votes, aye.

NED SNEE: Branch 296. 3 votes, aye.

Branch 298, 6 votes.

RVPNC POSEKANY: Rosemary Posekany, Delegate, Branch 298. 6 votes, aye.

NED SNEE: Branch 298. 6 votes, aye.

Branch 299, 3 votes.

RPEC-E VATTER: Vatter, Branch 093, proxy. As instructed, 3 votes, no.

NED SNEE: Branch 299. 3 votes, nay.

Branch 301, 2 votes.

RPEC-E VATTER: Vatter, Branch 093, proxy. 2 votes, no.

NED SNEE: Branch 301. 2 votes, nay.

Branch 302, 5 votes.

PNP SMITH: Smith, proxy. 5 votes, nay.

NED SNEE: Branch 302. 5 votes, nay.

Branch 307, 5 votes.

SHIPMATE GRUETZNER: Gruetzner, proxy, 307. Yea.

NED SNEE: Branch 307. 5 votes aye.

Branch 309, 4 votes.

RPEC-E VATTER: Vatter, 093, proxy. 4 votes, no.

NED SNEE: Branch 309. 4 votes, nay.

Branch 310, 3 votes.

PRPNW LAZZARETTI: Lazzaretti, proxy for 310. As instructed, nay.

NED SNEE: Branch 310. 3 votes, nay.

Branch 311, 4 votes.

RPSC GIBSON: Gibson, proxy, 311. 4 votes, aye.

NED SNEE: Branch 311. 4 votes, aye.

Branch 315, 2 votes.

PRPNC POSEKANY: Marty Posekany, Branch 298, proxy for 315. 2 votes, aye.

NED SNEE: Branch 315. 2 votes, aye.

Branch 316, 7 votes.

PNP COMBS: Combs, proxy. 7 votes, no.

NED SNEE: Branch 316. 7 votes, nay.

Branch 324, 3 votes.

RPNC CUNNINGHAM: Cunningham, proxy, Branch 324. 3 votes, aye.

NED SNEE: Branch 324. 3 votes, aye.

Branch 328, 2 votes.

PNP BLACKBURN: Blackburn, proxy, 2 votes, aye.

NED SNEE: Branch 328. 2 votes, aye.

Branch 334, 7 votes.

PRPEC HOLCOMBE: Holcombe, proxy. No. All votes no.

NED SNEE: Branch 334. 7 votes, nay.

Branch 335, 2 votes.

PNP BEESE: Beese, 2 votes aye.

NED SNEE: Branch 335. 2 votes, aye.

Branch 342, 3 votes.

RPNW WYNN: Wynn, Delegate, proxy, 342. 3 votes, aye, in favor.

NED SNEE: Branch 342. 3 votes, aye.

Branch 344, 2 votes.

PRPNEng LOVELESS: Loveless, proxy. 2 votes, aye.

NED SNEE: Branch 344. 2 votes, aye.

Branch 346, 8 votes.

PNP KILGORE: Kilgore, Delegate, proxy for 346. 8 votes, no.

NED SNEE: Branch 346. 8 votes, nay.

Branch 358, 4 votes.

PRPNC POSEKANY: Marty Posekany, Branch 298, proxy for 358. 4 votes, aye.

NED SNEE: Branch 358. 4 votes, aye.

Branch 364, 3 votes.

PRPNC ZALEWSKI: Zalewski, proxy for 364. 3 votes, aye.

NED SNEE: Branch 364. 3 votes, aye.

Branch 365, 4 votes. Branch 365. Branch 365, 4 votes.

Branch 367, 7 votes.

RPNW WYNN: Wynn, Delegate, proxy, Branch 367. 7 votes, aye.

NED SNEE: Branch 367. 7 votes, aye.

Branch 369, 2 votes.

PRPEC HOOVER: Branch 369, Hoover, proxy. 2 votes, aye.

NED SNEE: Branch 369. 2 votes, aye.

Branch 371, 5 votes.

RVPSC THOMPSON: Thompson, Delegate, Branch 371. 5 votes, aye.

NED SNEE: Branch 371. 5 votes, aye.

Branch 377, 2 votes.

RPNC CUNNINGHAM: Branch 377. 2 votes, aye. Cunningham, proxy.

NED SNEE: Branch 377. 2 votes, aye.

Branch 382, 5 votes.

JrPNP IPPERT: Ippert, proxy for 382. 5 votes, aye.

NED SNEE: Branch 382, 5 votes aye.

Shipmate President, that concludes the roll call vote.

NP COURNEYA: All right. Shipmates, I'm going to check with the Tally Committee. We'll see what the outcome is. I'll give you the results, and then we'll go from there. So just hold tight.

Shipmates, may I have your attention. The ayes only received 780. We didn't have enough for a two-thirds vote, so the motion failed.

Shipmates, we're going to recess for lunch, and we're going to come back at, I believe it's 1300; and we're going to continue with our next business session and with the resolutions, and then we'll get into the budget. But we will finish them up today, and elections, unless you want to come back tomorrow morning.

RPSE-E ROBBINS: Shipmate National President.

NP COURNEYA: Shipmate at the mic.

RPSE-E ROBBINS: Shipmate Robbins, Delegate. All Shipmates, I have the list in the hall. There's two sheets. Let me know when you're leaving Saturday and Sunday if you all want to go home. I have the limos; we're going to call them and have them lined up out here to get you to the airport.

Also, tonight, if you're not down to get on the bus at 5:30 to go to the casino, you're going to stay here and eat dinner with us. The bus said they are leaving at 5:30 sharp. Thank you.

(Three raps of the gavel.)

NP COURNEYA: Shipmate National Chaplain.

Uncover.

NCHAP WALLACE: Shipmate National President, the Bible is now closed.

NP COURNEYA: Thank you, Shipmate National Chaplain.

We'll stand in recess until 1300.

(Whereupon at 11:23 p.m., the Third Business Session was adjourned.)



FRA 89th NATIONAL CONVENTION  
FLEET RESERVE ASSOCIATION  
JACKSONVILLE, FLORIDA  
FOURTH BUSINESS SESSION  
Friday, October 14, 2016  
1300 - 1640

NP COURNEYA: Shipmate Master-at-Arms, invite the Shipmates into the hall.

MASTER-AT-ARMS: Shipmate National President, the Shipmates are in the hall.

NP COURNEYA: Thank you, Shipmate Master-at-Arms. Shipmate National Chaplain.

(Three raps of the gavel.)

NCHAP WALLACE: Shipmate National President, the Bible is now open.

NP COURNEYA: Thank you, Shipmate National Chaplain.

(One rap of the gavel.)

JrPNP IPPERT: Shipmate National President.

NP COURNEYA: Shipmate at the mic.

JrPNP IPPERT: Let the record reflect that the Junior Past National President is in the uniform of the day.

RPSE-E ROBBINS: Shipmate National President.

NP COURNEYA: Shipmate at the mic.

RPSE-E ROBBINS: Shipmates, Robbins, Delegate, Branch 091. I'm going to ask one more time, all of those that need to sign-up for the limo to go to the airport, sign up, because if you don't sign up, you're going to pay the taxicab a lot more money.

One more reminder, 5:30 the bus pulls out for the casino. If you're not there, you no go. Okay? Have a good day.

NP COURNEYA: All right. Shipmates --

RPSE-E ROBBINS: You meet the bus at the front of the lobby. I apologize, Shipmate National President. At the front door, there should be a bus.

NP COURNEYA: Shipmates, at this time we'll have our fourth credentials report.

PRPNW LAZZARETTI: Good afternoon, Shipmates. Are we warm enough yet? And for those who are having the hot flashes, I do apologize.

All right. There are no changes from the third Credentials Report. Please be advised if there is a zero, with the exception of Branch 120, in the book under Tab X-ray, it means that there was an NBR that affected that Branch, and that Branch no longer exists. Branch 120, because they were reinstated, has 9 votes, and it is included in that 1529 number.

I move that this report be received.

PNP KILGORE: Kilgore, Delegate 022, second.

NP COURNEYA: It's been seconded. Any discussion?

All in favor?

(Whereupon, the ayes were heard.)

NP COURNEYA: Opposed?

(No response.)

NP COURNEYA: Ayes have it.

Before we move on with the C&BL, we have one other point of business we got to take care of. Past Regional President Fred Hill, are you here?

PRPSE HILL: Here. Southeast?

NP COURNEYA: Southeast. We need a report on Time and Place for 2018. Do you have any place? Come to the mic, please.

PRPSE HILL: Shipmate National President, Hill, Delegate, Branch 290. I have nothing to report on 2018 at this time. However, we had a little meeting out there. I put the word

out to all those that you determined to be on the committee and put the word out to the areas that they represent, the regions; and I have given them any information. I have one or two possibilities working at this time, but until they meet for the November meetings, there's no further information to put out.

NP COURNEYA: Thank you, Shipmate Hill.

PRPSE HILL: Thank you.

NP COURNEYA: Okay. If by the time we recess today, if we don't have someone that wants to volunteer to do the 2018 National Convention, I want you to think about who wants to volunteer to be on a Special Committee because we will have to appoint one here before we adjourn this convention this weekend.

All right. We're going to move right on. We're going to continue on with the Constitution and Bylaws. I've asked the Chairman if he will just read the Resolve to help move things along somewhat. Everybody should be familiar with their Constitution and Bylaws that we're going over. You should have read them by now, went over them in your Branches. So if you don't understand, when we come to them if we have any discussion, we'll bring it up at that time.

PRPNE STARKEY: Good afternoon, Shipmates. C&BL Resolution No. 5, from the National Committee on Membership and Retention -- I'm sorry -- the Budget & Finance Committee. I had the same computer glitch that the printer did when he did our printing for the thing. This is from the Budget and Finance Committee.

Bylaws Resolution No. 5.

Resolved, That Article 4, Sections 405(a-h), be amended to read as follows:

Section 405(a). -- I am speaking in the mic, Shipmate --  
The fee for life membership will be based on the applicant's age at 12/31 in the year of application, using the following eight-tier fee structure:

Active duty members, \$400.

Under age 40, \$450.

Age 41 to 50, \$425.

Age 51 to 60, \$390.

Age 61 to 70, \$340.

Age 71 to 80, \$260.

Age 81 to 100, \$200.

And for those over 100 years of age, their membership will be free.

Section 405(b). The fee calculation will be based on a combination of the Internal Revenue Code, Section 72, Life Expectancy Tables and the market rate of life for membership fees of similar veterans' organizations.

Section 405(c). Each time annual dues are revised, the Finance Officer will review the life membership fee structure to determine if the fees should be revised based on the Life Expectancy Tables and the market rate of similar veterans' organizations.

Section 405(d). Life Membership fees may be paid to the Finance Officer or via the FRA website using the following plans:

No. 1, Payment in full at the time of submitting the life membership.

No. 2, Initial payment of \$50 followed by 11 equal monthly payments.

Section 405(e). All installment payments will be made via credit card and will be completed within 12 months from the date the initial \$50 payment is made. If using the installment payment plan, the initial payment will be counted towards paying the regular dues at annual rate, which will entitle the member 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.

Section 405(f). Full or partial payment of the life membership fee will be submitted with the membership application. The effective date of life membership will be

when the full amount of the fee is received by the Finance Officer.

Section 405(g). A member who elects to become a life member prior to month-end closeout (the first of the following month or the next business day thereafter) of processing regular membership dues for that month may have the regular dues payment applied to the amount of life membership dues based on the fee schedule for age. The member will pay the difference upon immediate submission of the full balance of the applicable life membership dues; and be it further

Resolved, This resolution will become effective 1 January, 2017.

UNIDENTIFIED SHIPMATE: What's the recommendation?

PRPNE STARKEY: Recommendation is approve.

UNIDENTIFIED SHIPMATE: What's the rationale?

PRPNE STARKEY: Recommendation of the C&BL Committee is to approve.

Rationale: Simplifies the pay structure for life membership.

NP COURNEYA: Shipmates, you have heard the recommendation of the CBL&R Committee to approve the resolution. Is there any discussion on the resolution?

RPNC-E COMBS: Shipmate National President. Combs, Delegate, 161. What's the rationale for a 100-year-old to pay half as much as a 20-year-old?

UNIDENTIFIED SHIPMATE: It's free.

RPNC-E COMBS: It says over age 100.

UNIDENTIFIED SHIPMATE: Oh, come on.

RPNC-E COMBS: Okay. What's the rationale for a 99-year-old to only pay half as much as a 19-year-old?

NP COURNEYA: Past National President Blackburn, will you take that question?

PNP BLACKBURN: Shipmate National President, Shipmates, the fees have to be scheduled on some type of a fiduciary, actuary, or whatever you want to call it, the IRS Life Expectancy Tables. This is what it is based upon. Granted, all things are not equal. They will never be. We can't make 100 different membership fees and try to do this. We are trying to simplify the process and eliminate some of the problems that we already have existing.

NP COURNEYA: Thank you, Shipmate Blackburn. Any further discussion?

Shipmate at the mic.

SHIPMATE RANDALL: Charlie Randall, Branch 201, Delegate. As I read -- let me put the glasses back on so I can read it -- 405(c), the Finance Officer will review the life membership fee structure to determine if the fees should be revised based on the Life Expectancy Tables and the market rate of similar veterans organizations. It does not say he has to get permission to raise them. You are giving him the power to do it on his own, him or her.

UNIDENTIFIED SHIPMATE: She.

SHIPMATE RANDALL: She right now. Ten years from now she may find a better job. I don't know. But based upon the way it's worded, you give the Finance Officer the power to change whenever the fees for the --

UNIDENTIFIED SHIPMATE: Review it.

SHIPMATE RANDALL: The way I read it, he/she has the power to raise the membership fees.

NP COURNEYA: So noted.

SHIPMATE MARTIN: Shipmate National President.

NP COURNEYA: Shipmate at the mic.

SHIPMATE MARTIN: Shipmate National President. Martin, Delegate, Branch 166. Since the dues were not revised, is this out of order as 403(c)?

UNIDENTIFIED SHIPMATE: No.

NP COURNEYA: We will have the Budget Chairman answer that question for you. Go ahead, Shipmate.

PNP BLACKBURN: Shipmate National President, Shipmates, Blackburn, Delegate, Branch 008, Chairman Budget & Finance Committee.

As was originally stated, I believe you said Section 405(c), I think was referenced; and as I read, each time annual dues are revised -- granted they were not -- the Finance Officer will review the life membership fee structure to determine if -- and I say if, not that they will be -- if the fees should be revised based on the Life Expectancy Tables and the market rate of similar veterans' organizations. That does not give her the option to raise them. The delegates at Convention still have the final say. They are only being presented to you for a vote.

NP COURNEYA: Shipmate at the rear mic.

PRPEC SLAWINSKI: Slawinski, Delegate, Branch 181.

In answer to the Shipmate who said pay \$200 for somebody who's 99, get them to buy a \$30 one-year membership. If they make it to 100, they get the free life membership. It's commonsense, Shipmates, commonsense. Thank you.

UNIDENTIFIED SHIPMATE: Proceed.

NP COURNEYA: The question is on the adoption of the resolution just read.

Those in favor, indicate by saying aye.

(Whereupon, the ayes were heard.)

NP COURNEYA: Opposed?

(Whereupon, the nays were heard.)

NP COURNEYA: The ayes have it.

PRPNE STARKEY: Constitution and Bylaws Resolution No. 6. The National Committee on the Constitution, Bylaws and Resolutions, that's where it's from.

Appears on page: Tab V, Victor, Page C&BL-7/8.

Resolved, That Article 8, Sub-Section 810(a)(8), Alpha, through Sub-Section Delta, be rescinded; and, be it further

Resolved, That Article 8, Sub-Section 810(a)(8), be rescinded; and be it further

Resolved, That Section 819 be renumbered Section 818 and Sub-Section 819(a), Alpha, through Sub-Section 819(e), Echo, be renumbered 818(a), Alpha, through 818(e), Echo; and, be it further

Resolved, That Section 820 be renumbered Section 819 and Sub-Section 820(a) through Sub-Section 820(d), Delta, be renumbered 819(a) through 819(d), Delta; and, be it further

Resolved, That Section 821 be renumbered Section 820 and Sub-Section 821(a), Alpha, through Sub-Section 821(d), Delta, be renumbered 820(a) through 820(d); and, be it further

Resolved, That Sub-Section 810(a)(9) through 810(a)(11) be renumbered Sub-Section 810(a)(8) through 810(a)(10); and, be it further

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

Resolved, That this amendment becomes effective January 1, 2017.

C&BL Recommendation: Is the resolution be approved.

Rationale: The resolution completely clarifies the renumbering of the sections of the above.

NP COURNEYA: Shipmates, you've heard the recommendation of the Constitution and Bylaws Committee to approve the Resolution. Is there any discussion? No discussion.

All in favor?

(Whereupon, the ayes were heard.)

NP COURNEYA: Opposed?

(No response.)



NP COURNEYA: The ayes have it. It's approved.

PRPNE STARKEY: By adopting Resolution No. 6, No. 7 and No. 8 fall to the ground.

Constitution, Bylaws and Resolutions No. 9. From Low Country Branch 269.

Appears on page: Tab V, Victor, C&BL-9.

Resolved, That Section 811 be amended by adding Sub-Section 811(f) to read:

"Section 811(f). The Committee shall oversee the operation of the Employee 401(d) 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."

Resolved, That this amendment become effective January 1, 2017.

Constitution, Bylaws and Resolutions recommendation: To approve the resolution.

Rationale: Provides oversight on Employee 401(k) Pension Plan.

NP COURNEYA: Shipmates, you heard the recommendation of the Constitution, Bylaws and Resolutions Committee on the resolution that has just been read. Is there any discussion?

UNIDENTIFIED SHIPMATE: What is their recommendation?

NP COURNEYA: Approved. Got a recommendation, approved. Any discussion?

UNIDENTIFIED SHIPMATE: Proceed.

NP COURNEYA: No discussion? All right.

Shipmate at the mic.

PRPEC SLAWINSKI: Slawinski, Delegate, Branch 181. I'm also an employee at the Fleet Reserve Association.

There's rules, regulations, and laws that dictate what funds that we have available to the employees and how much money is put into that fund. There's limits and such. This is, I feel this is actually micromanaging the program. Budget & Finance makes determinations on recommendations for percentages that are put into the 401(k). We had a defined pension plan that cost way too much money for the Association, and legal fees for that took a toll on the treasury.

Now this plan is being managed through programs through certified individuals that are taking care of what funds we can put our money in. By putting a Committee together, that's the next thing they're going to do is tell us where we can put our money. I don't do that for you. Please don't do that for me. Thank you.

NP COURNEYA: Shipmate at the mic.

SHIPMATE HANSEN: Shipmate National President, Hansen, Delegate 147, Chairman of the ghost pension plan committee.

Shipmate Slawinski, Budget & Finance doesn't have anything to say about how you invest your money. The plan administrator that oversees the plan provides you with the venues to invest your money in that package. All this does is give the Budget & Finance Committee the authority to determine how much money the Association is going to contribute and match to whatever you, the employee, match. That's all this does.

My final note is, I recommend the adoption of this C&BL change for that purpose. Our job is finished.

And from PNP Scarbro to you, Shipmate National President, it was a privilege and an honor to serve both the employees and the members of this Association in dissolving and settling and paying out the lawsuit and the distributions. Yeah, you lost a lot of money in the old plan. I'm talking to any of the employees who had an interest, if you will, in the old pension plan. And you need to go thank Shipmate Scarbro for drawing a line in the sand to stop fighting the lawsuit, because it was he that appointed me and said enough is enough.

NP COURNEYA: Thanks, Shipmate. Shipmate at the rear mic.

RPEC COLLINS: Shipmate National President, Penny Collins, Delegate for Branch 024, and also an employee at National Headquarters.

I agree with my colleague, Shipmate Chris Slawinski, that our pension plan which was terminated because of all kinds of problems with it, and now we only have our 401(k) to provide us with a retirement plan. I, therefore, submit to the Shipmates in this room that it should be administered by the proper person at the Headquarters facility, whether it's the NED or the Finance Officer.

NP COURNEYA: Shipmate, Penny, I think we can clear it. Let me have, Finance Officer Graham, can you please speak on this, and then we'll move on.

FINANCE OFFICER GRAHAM: We use Paychex to administer the program. They do all the filings. All we do is have our money taken out of our checks; and, of course, FRA pays their contribution. We don't even touch it. We can make individual decisions on how we like to invest our money in the portfolio that they provide us. It's a pretty cost-effective way to offer a retirement plan to employees.

NP COURNEYA: Any further discussion?

UNIDENTIFIED SHIPMATE: Proceed.

NP COURNEYA: The recommendation was to approve. All in favor?

(Whereupon, the ayes were heard.)

NP COURNEYA: Opposed?

(Whereupon, the nays were heard.)

NP COURNEYA: The ayes have it. It's approved.

PRPNE STARKEY: Constitution and Bylaws Resolution No. 10. From the Veterans Service Committee.

Appears on page: Tab V, Page C&BL-10.

Resolved, That Article 12, Section 1221(a), Alpha, C&BL, FRA shall be amended by adding:

"Section 1221(a). The branch president may appoint the following committees:

- (1) Committee on Americanism Essay Contest.
- (2) Committee on Americanism-Patriotism.
- (3) Committee on Audit, Budget and Finance.
- (4) Committee on Hospitals, Welfare and Rehabilitation.
- (5) Committee on Legislative Service.
- (6) Committees on Membership and Retention.
- (7) Committees on Public Relations.
- (8) Committee on Youth Activities.
- (9) Committee on Veterans Service.
- (10) Ad-Hoc Committees."

Resolved, That this amendment becomes effective January 1, 2017.

CBL&R Recommendation: Approve the resolution.

Rationale: It adds the Committee on Veteran Services.

NP COURNEYA: Shipmates, you have heard the recommendations of the Constitution, Bylaws and Resolutions Committee to approve this Resolution. Is there any discussion on the Resolution? No discussion? All in favor?

(Whereupon, the ayes were heard.)

NP COURNEYA: Opposed.

(No response.)

NP COURNEYA: Ayes have it.

PRPNE STARKEY: Constitution and Bylaws Resolution No. 11. From Groton Branch 020.

I'm going to read the next one before that. Constitution and Bylaws Resolution No. 12. Low Country Branch 269.

It appears on Tab Victor, Page C&BL-11/12.

Resolved, That Article 3, Section 1313, C&BL, FRA be amended to read:

"Section 1313. Branch Suspension or Revocation or Surrendered/Effect on Unit. When a Branch is under suspension, revoked or voluntarily surrendered, a Unit of the Auxiliary, FRA sponsored by the Branch shall, not be committed to conduct Auxiliary business, and all activities are prohibited, while the sponsoring Branch is in suspension, revocation, or the charter surrendered."

Resolved, That this amendment become effective 1 January 2017.

CBL&R Recommendation: Is to approve this resolution.

Rationale: This clarifies the section more precisely.

NP COURNEYA: Shipmates, you've heard the recommendation on the C&BL Committee is to approve this Resolution. Is there any discussion? No discussion.

All in favor?

(Whereupon, the ayes were heard.)

NP COURNEYA: Opposed?

(Whereupon, the nays were heard.)

NP COURNEYA: It's approved. Ayes have it.

PRPNE STARKEY: By approving Resolution No. 12, Resolution No. 11 is dead.

Resolution No. 13 from Low Country Branch 269.

Appears on page: Tab Victor, Page C&BL-12/13/14.

Resolved, That Article 13 of the C&BL of the FRA be amended to read:

Article 13, Auxiliary of the Fleet Reserve Association.

Section 1301(a). Authorization. The Fleet Reserve Association authorizes and has chartered an auxiliary

pursuant to its authority granted by laws of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. The Auxiliary of the Fleet Reserve Association has authority to adopt suitable legal and trade names, logos, and ceremonial attire, except that male members shall not be compelled to exhibit any female insignia.

Section 1301(b). Definition of "AFRA." Wherever in the Constitution and Bylaws of the Fleet Reserve Association "AFRA" is used, it means the Auxiliary of the Fleet Reserve Association.

Section 1302. Governing body. The governing body of the AFRA --

UNIDENTIFIED SHIPMATE: Shipmate National President, to the Committee Chairman through National President, we referred that Resolution to legal. Why are we going through it? We don't have to vote on it because it's going to legal for action.

PRPNE STARKEY: That's if the delegates vote it to go to legal. We have to vote on the Resolution, not our recommendation.

UNIDENTIFIED SHIPMATE: Just recommend it go to legal and have them vote on it.

UNIDENTIFIED SHIPMATE: And why are we sending it to legal?

PRPNE STARKEY: The reason why this resolution is going to legal is because the ladies Auxiliary is chartered in three different states, Pennsylvania, New York, and Delaware; and we want to get the legal department, our attorneys --

UNIDENTIFIED SHIPMATE: Who's in Delaware?

PRPNE STARKEY: It was said yesterday there was a charter in Delaware for the Ladies Auxiliary.

UNIDENTIFIED SHIPMATE: No. In 1990, we chartered the Fleet Reserve Association in Delaware. The ladies are New York --

PRPNE STARKEY: Then there was a misquote there because --

NP COURNEYA: Let's not have private conversation. You want to say something, Shipmate, please go to the mic.

PNP BILL COMBS: Shipmate National President.

NP COURNEYA: Shipmate at the mic.

PNP BILL COMBS: Combs, Delegate, Branch 005. Can you hear me? In 1990, we had problems with the Charter, and I was the National President at that particular time, and George called me down in Georgia. We couldn't find it. The Branch in Unit 001 could not find anything in Philadelphia. So on a Saturday afternoon we chartered the Fleet Reserve Association in Delaware until we could get this thing straight.

The ladies stayed in New York where they originated. It's never been changed. Never been moved. After we found what we needed and got everything changed and squared away, we moved back to Pennsylvania where the original charter is. And I think now the one in Delaware -- and somebody here will probably kill me -- is expired by now.

Are we still paying on it? We don't file nothing. We're over Delaware now. We let Delaware fall.

NP COURNEYA: I hope this clears things up on the Resolution that they're trying to change. It has to do with the wording and how it's chartered and making changes to their Constitution and Bylaws as far as what they want to be called, whether Ladies Auxiliary or Auxiliary.

PNP BILL COMBS: We did the same thing we're doing here. We tried it once before, only we didn't bring it to the delegates, and we had to turn it over to our attorneys to research and see if they've got the rewrite the Charter in New York.

NP COURNEYA: Right now I'm going to rule it out of order, and it's going to be referred back to Committee until we get legal ratification.

PRPNE STARKEY: Standing Rules Resolution No. 1. From Low Country Branch 269.

Appears on page: Tab Victor, Page SR-1.

Resolved, That Standing Rule 6(c), Charlie, and 7(i), India, be amended to read:

SR-6(c). The National President shall appoint a Convention Time and Place Committee.

This here is a moot point, too, because it's also being referred to the Committee, because it has to do with 1313.

NP COURNEYA: This one will also be ruled out of order. We have to do nothing with it until we get legal -- okay. It's deferred until we get legal confirmation on how we proceed with the business of the FRA and their charter.

PRPNE STARKEY: Standing Rules Resolution No. 2. From the Veterans Service Committee.

It appears on page: Tab Victor, Page SR-1.

Resolved, That Standing Rule 7, SR-7(a)(2), C&BL, FRA, is amended by adding:

(2) Each Branch shall submit the following reports if the Branch president has appointed such committee: The Americanism and Patriotism Committee; Hospitals, Welfare and Rehabilitation; Public Relations; Youth Activities; and Veterans Service to the regional chairman of the appropriate committee prior to convening of the regional convention. A copy of these reports shall be forwarded to the Regional President and one copy retained at the branch files.

CBL&R Recommendation: Is to approve.

Rationale: Veterans Service Committee added to standing rules and resolution is adding requirement for annual reports.

NP COURNEYA: Shipmates, you heard the recommendation of the Constitution, Bylaws and Resolutions Committee. Is there any discussion? Recommendation is to approve.

All in favor?

(Whereupon, the ayes were heard.)

NP COURNEYA: Opposed?

(Whereupon, the nays were heard.)

NP COURNEYA: The ayes have it.



PRPNE STARKEY: Standing Rules Resolution No. 3. From the Veterans Service Committee.

Appears on page: Tab Victor, Page SR-2.

Resolved, That Standing Rule 7, C&BL, FRA is amended by adding:

SR-7(g). Veterans Service. The National Committee on Veterans Service shall select one outstanding member recognized as Shipmate of the Year Award for National Veterans Service.

CBL&R Recommendation: Refer to Veterans Service Committee.

Rationale: Veterans Service Committee needs to determine type of award within budgetary limits.

NP COURNEYA: We're going to refer this back to the Committee. Shipmate at the mic.

NSD/PRPEC SLAWINSKI: Slawinski, Delegate, Branch 181, Chairman of the Veterans Service Committee. I had a discussion with the Chairman of Budget & Finance and asked if this Standing Rule was approved, would there be a budgetary impact in line item. He said to me that there is already a placeholder anticipating approval of this, and the award would be similar to what is awarded for other Shipmates of the Year in their respective subcommittees, so we would keep within the cost limits of that award.

NP COURNEYA: Thank you, Shipmate.

At this time, we'll have the Budget Chairman speak on this before we continue on and take a vote.

PNP BLACKBURN: Shipmate National President, Shipmates, as the Veterans Service Committee chairman stated, a minimal stipend amount as a placeholder has been placed in the budget. As long as they can maintain their budgetary constraints and stay within the limitations that have been placed on them, they should be able to at least start the paperwork so we can have a Shipmate of the year the following year.

NP COURNEYA: Thank you, Shipmate.

PNP BLACKBURN: Shipmate National President, Budget & Finance Committee recommends approval.

NP COURNEYA: Thank you, Shipmate Past National President Blackburn.

At this time, is there any further discussion?

PRPNE STARKEY: Shipmates, as chairman of the Constitution and Bylaws Committee, I recommend approval also.

NP COURNEYA: The Constitution and Bylaws Chairman recommends approval. Is there any further discussion? Hearing none, the recommendation of the CBL&R Committee is to approve this resolution. All in favor?

(Whereupon, the ayes were heard.)

NP COURNEYA: Opposed?

(No response.)

NP COURNEYA: The ayes have it.

PRPNE STARKEY: Shipmates, the Rituals Resolution No. 1, from Low Country Branch 269, is not in order because it was referred back to -- 1313 was referred back to our attorneys for a proper determination, so everything in 1313 pertains to that resolution.

As a side bar, proposed C&BL resolutions need to be forwarded to the National Chairmen when received at National headquarters, to allow sufficient time to review and return to the originator, if needed, for minor corrections.

I'm very grateful to Teresa Wiener, Director of Administration, for her untiring assistance of the past year.

This concludes the report of the National Committee on Constitution, Bylaws and Resolutions.

The chairman asks that this Committee be discharged.

NP COURNEYA: I want to thank you, Shipmate Starkey, for taking on this endeavor, and you are discharged.

That takes care of our Constitution, Bylaws and Resolutions for this Convention.

Before we move on to the budget, I have been informed that the LAFRA side has selected Committee members. They're standing by to see if we are going to form a Committee for the National Convention for 2018. Do I have any volunteers?

Shipmate Boudreaux, you'll be the chairman.

UNIDENTIFIED SHIPMATE: According to the bylaws, the Committee appoints the chair.

NP COURNEYA: All right. You select them.

UNIDENTIFIED SHIPMATE: The Committee, once it's formed, selects the chair.

PRPNW LAZZARETTI: Shipmate National President.

NP COURNEYA: I got Shipmate Boudreaux. He's on it. Shipmate Mick Fulton, you'll be on it?

PRPSW FULTON: Yes.

NP COURNEYA: Who else wants to be on it? And Shipmate Pete Lazzaretti. Two more? Shipmate Chuck McIntyre. Shipmate Gruetzner. There you go.

All of you see Shipmate Boudreaux and get your names, and then you get together and select a chairman.

UNIDENTIFIED SHIPMATE: Who's the ladies?

NP COURNEYA: They didn't send their names over, but they have three that's standing by.

Shipmate Master-at-Arms, how about going over to the Ladies and get the names of who will serve on their committee, Auxiliary.

All right. At this time, let's take a 10-minute break, and then we'll come back and get through the Budget & Finance, and then we'll have elections.

(Three raps of the gavel.)

NP COURNEYA: Shipmate National Chaplain.

Uncover.

NCHAP WALLACE: Shipmate National President, the Bible is now closed.

NP COURNEYA: Thank you, Shipmate National Chaplain.

(Recess.)

NP COURNEYA: Shipmate Master-at-Arms, invite the Shipmates into the hall.

MASTER-AT-ARMS: Shipmate National President, the Shipmates are in the hall.

NP COURNEYA: Thank you, Shipmate Master-at-Arms.

Shipmate National Chaplain.

NCHAP WALLACE: Shipmate National President, the Bible is now open.

NP COURNEYA: Thank you, Shipmate National Chaplain.

(Three raps of the gavel.)

JrPNP IPPERT: Shipmate National President.

NP COURNEYA: Shipmate at the mic.

JrPNP IPPERT: Shipmate National President, let the record reflect that the Junior Past National President is in the uniform of the day.

NP COURNEYA: All right. Everybody get out your budgets. I'm going to call on the budget chair to come up and go over our Budget & Finance report.

PNP BLACKBURN: Shipmate National President, Shipmates in the hall, just as a point of reference, I had cataract surgery just prior to coming here, so I'm still trying to learn that after 65 years, I'm no longer wearing glasses to see out there, but I have to see down here. I'm not used to that, so if I stumble along, bear along with me. Thank you.

The National Convention Committee on Budget & Finance met in the Propeller Room of the Lexington Hotel & Conference Center, Jacksonville, Florida, at 0900 on Thursday, October 13, 2016.

In attendance were: The chairman, myself, PNP Gary Blackburn, Branch 008.

Members: Past Regional President East Coast Jerry Butler, Branch 141; Past Regional President Southeast Jerry Brice, Branch 187; Past Regional President Southwest Mick Fulton, Branch 289; Past Regional President New England Paul Loveless, Branch 156; and Past Regional President West Coast Joe Nash, Branch 192.

Advisors: NED Thomas Snee, Branch 181, and our Finance Officer, Nora Graham.

Visitors: Past Regional President Leo Vance, Branch 159; Past Regional President Southwest Michael Frontz, Branch 047; Past National President Jim Scarbro, Branch 040; National Vice President Donald Larson, Branch 094; Past Regional President East Coast Paul Gunther, Branch 182; National President Virgil Courneya, Branch 274; Past National President Bill Combs, Branch 005; Shipmate S.D. Martin, Branch 166; Past Regional President North Central Marty Posekany, Branch 298; Past Regional President Northeast John Kotheimer, Branch 231; Past Regional President Northeast Bill Starkey, Branch 057; and Past National President Lawrence Boudreaux, Branch 275.

Shipmates, due to issues on lack of printing capabilities, any changes to the Budget & Finance Committee's recommendations, we recommend -- I'm sorry; I can't even read what was written -- we recommend any changes to the budget be pen-and-ink changes. So any changes we come upon, if we have to make them, you will get to make them.

Okay. A request came up regarding the awards section of the proposed budget with a shipmate requesting additional funding. The Budget & Finance Committee rejected the request. At this time, the budget line item is already over-extended.

Discussion by the Committee on item 14 of the income portion of your budget. If you will look at item 14 on your budget in Tab Juliet in your journal, please note the fact that on item 14 under there, the appropriations pulled

from -- let me move this around -- net investment income transferred from special program reserves, whatever. These funds are taxable if they are used for operating expenses. So remember this. This is the reason for if you note across the line, we went from -- I can't see. How's that sound -- we went from approximately \$350- to \$850 million dollars. That's a half million dollars that's come out of our reserve funds --

UNIDENTIFIED SHIPMATE: Thousand.

PNP BLACKBURN: Thousand. That's half a million, though. \$850,000, don't we wish we had that much money to play with? Anyway, that's still a half a million dollars difference, Shipmates, and just about half of that is taxes that we have incurred because of this.

I will continue. Next discussion was on a recommendation from the Past National President's Committee to have the current budget year actuals within line item numbers reflected in the budget. That was on the Past National President's Committee that met in September, was one of the recommendations that was made. The Committee recommends to have the line items placed on a current budget year actuals report, which is in your delegate kit, have these pages perforated so you can remove them like we used to do back on the delegate count sheets on the back and lay them alongside the actual budget so you can see what money is recommended, what money has actually been spent.

The Budget & Finance Committee recommends approval of the dues increase, which that is a moot point now.

Discussion ensued on the need to show justification of details for the proposed dues increase, again a moot point.

Discussion by Shipmate Martin on the fact that due to the income does not match the expenditures, how can the organization continue to exist? I wish we had ways of coming up with a magic answer, Shipmates. As you can see, as our investment income or appropriations are decreased, so does the market share that we receive as income goes down with it, and we are going downhill rapidly. We need to be able to some way or other lower what our expenditures are or increase our income.

The dues increase that was requested, Shipmates, just as a side bar, that would have brought in approximately \$280,000.

In order to compensate for that, all we are requesting is that all of you Shipmates go out here and every Branch show a 20 percent increase in membership. That's over and above your normal attrition.

With no further business to discuss, the chair adjourned the committee at 1100.

Shipmates, you have all seen the proposed budget. I make a motion that the proposed 2017 budget be accepted.

NP COURNEYA: Shipmates, you've heard the recommendation of the Budget & Finance Chairman on the proposed budget. Any discussion? No discussion.

All in favor aye?

(Whereupon, the ayes were heard.)

NP COURNEYA: Opposed?

(No response.)

NP COURNEYA: The ayes have it. Thank you, Shipmates.

PNP BLACKBURN: Thank you, Shipmates.

UNIDENTIFIED SHIPMATE: Shipmate National President.

NP COURNEYA: Shipmate at the mic.

PRPSC VANCE: Shipmate Leo Vance, Delegate, Branch 159. I contend that the dues increase, which passed by more than a majority is all that is required.

NP COURNEYA: I'm going to revisit that right now, Shipmate.

RPNC-E COMBS: Combs, Delegate, Branch 161. I was appointed to the committee yesterday or the day before with Shipmate Fred Hill being the Chairman of Time and Place. Did I understand you also appointed a Time and Place for 2018? That's the National Convention Committee, which is

to be put in place if we don't have someone to host the convention two years down the road?

NP COURNEYA: That's correct, Shipmate.

RPNC-E COMBS: Has Fred's Committee been dissolved?

NP COURNEYA: Not as of yet.

RPNC-E COMBS: So you have two committees working on 2018?

NP COURNEYA: We got names together to appoint. I have not yet appointed the special committee. Are you volunteering to host the convention?

RPNC-E COMBS: No. I was placed on a committee, and I was just wondering if that Committee is still in effect.

NP COURNEYA: It's still in effect until the hammer goes down and we say it's resolved, and I'm giving you time, still to think about it. I know you were talking about it earlier, Shipmate.

RPNC-E COMBS: No, no, no. I have to speak to my Branch if I'm involved. Okay. And that's not until our next meeting, which will be the first Wednesday of November. Now, if we're dissolved, I won't have to worry about that.

NP COURNEYA: All right, Shipmate. We haven't dissolved you yet.

We're going to go back to one of the resolutions that was submitted by the Constitution and Bylaws Committee. It was Constitution and Bylaws Resolution No. 4, and it had to do with the raise of dues, the raising of dues.

We're going back into our Standing Rules, and our Constitution and Bylaws under Standing Rule 4, SR-4 Golf. It says all we need is a majority rule at the convention to pass that, to have a ruling, or it will pass, for reconsideration.

So, in accordance with Article 9, Section 903(b), the National Board of Directors may approve it.

I'll have the Parliamentarian talk on it right now. He's got our Constitution and Bylaws open, and he's going to talk about it.



PNP BEESE: Bob Beese, Branch 335.

NP COURNEYA: Yes, Shipmate.

PNP BEESE: Are we talking about a reconsideration? All it takes is a request for reconsideration and 5 seconds and a majority vote, Standing Rule 4.

NP COURNEYA: Are you making a motion that we reconsider it?

PNP BEESE: I'm not, but everybody's fumbling around for reconsideration. It's Standing Rule 4.

NP COURNEYA: It's Standing Rule 4 for reconsideration. We have a majority vote.

UNIDENTIFIED SHIPMATE: It takes a motion, a motion and five seconds from five different branches. Move to reconsider.

PNP BLACKBURN: Shipmate National President.

NP COURNEYA: Shipmate at the mic.

PNP BLACKBURN: Blackburn, Delegate, Branch 008, Chairman Budget & Finance. I move that we reconsider the vote on Resolution No. 4.

NP COURNEYA: I have a motion. I need 5 more motions.

SHIPMATE CLEVELAND: Shipmate President.

NP COURNEYA: Shipmate at the mic.

SHIPMATE CLEVELAND: Cleveland, 208. Second the motion.

NP COURNEYA: Thank you, Shipmate.

PRPSC VANCE: Shipmate President, Leo Vance, Branch 159, Delegate. I second the motion.

NP COURNEYA: Shipmate, what was your branch again?

PNPSC VANCE: 159.

PNP BILL COMBS: Shipmate National President. Combs, Delegate, Branch 005. Second.

RVPNC POSEKANY: Shipmate Rosemary Posekany, Delegate, Branch 298. Also second.

NP COURNEYA: Shipmate at the mic.

SHIPMATE MARTIN: Martin, Delegate, Branch 166. Second.

NP COURNEYA: That's five. We have them.

Okay. At this time, we'll take a vote for reconsideration. It's been moved and seconded to reconsider the vote on Constitution and Bylaws Resolution No. 4, and that has to do with the raising of the dues.

Any further discussion?

RPNC-E COMBS: Shipmate National President. Combs, Delegate, Branch 161. Section 401, Bravo 1 --

UNIDENTIFIED SHIPMATE: Wait. We got a motion on the floor.

RPNC-E COMBS: He wanted discussion.

UNIDENTIFIED SHIPMATE: It hasn't been voted on yet.

RPNC-E COMBS: Never mind.

NP COURNEYA: The motion is on the vote to reconsider. All in favor?

(Whereupon, the ayes were heard.)

NP COURNEYA: Opposed?

(Whereupon, the nays were heard.)

NP COURNEYA: The ayes have it.

RPNC-E COMBS: Shipmate National President. Combs, Delegate, Branch 161. I move that Section 401(b), Bravo, in parentheses, No. 1 in parentheses, be amended to read: For a payment of two years, a discount of \$32 be authorized, making that for the first two years dues for a new member at \$48.

NP COURNEYA: Shipmate, you have to wait until we get the next motion on the floor.

PRPNE STARKEY: Shipmate, this is on Constitution and Bylaws Resolution No. 4. From the Budget & Finance Committee.

Appears on page: Tab V, Page C&BL-4/5.

Resolved, That Article 4, Section 401 (a-m), be amended to read as follows:

Section 401(a). Membership dues in the FRA shall be \$40 per annum, payable in advance, except as provided in Section 401(b), Bravo. No refund of membership dues is authorized subsequent to receipt by the Finance Officer, except as provided in Article 5, Section 511.

Section 401(b). A membership dues discount may be obtained at the following standard rates and conditions:

(1) For a payment of two years, a discount of 6 percent of the total dues sum of \$75 with an annual renewal rate of \$40 thereafter.

(2) For an advance payment of five years, a discount of 10 percent of the total dues sum of \$108 is authorized.

Section 401(c). Only one such membership discount shall be in effect at any one time.

Section 401(d). All members shall have the option of paying membership dues by cash, check, or credit card. If paid by cash, check, or credit card, the membership effective date shall commence on the first day of the month in which payment is made and end on the last day of the month. Allotments set up prior to January 1, 2017 shall be honored in accordance with the original allotment dates. However, no new allotments will be accepted.

Section 401(e). Disabled members may be excused from payment of dues when payment would inflict hardship. Branches shall judge for their membership. The Director of Membership Development shall make the decision for the Membership-At-Large Roll members. Branch secretaries shall make an annual report in the month of March, to the Director of 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.

Section 401(f). Membership dues collected by any member are the property of the Fleet Reserve Association until prorated and distributed.

Section 401(g). Dues of members, except as provided in Section 401(h), Hotel and 401(i), India, shall be payable to the Branch Secretary, the Finance Officer, or to an approved agent of the Fleet Reserve Association as authorized by the National Board of Directors.

Section 401(h). Dues of members residing in the Republic of the Philippines shall be payable to the Finance Officer.

Section 401(i). Any member of the Fleet Reserve Association or person eligible to the Fleet Reserve Association membership, who is the recipient of the Medal of Honor and has paid one year's dues in the Association shall be granted continuous membership without payment of dues with all privileges of dues-paying member.

Section 401(j). All branches shall pay to the treasury of the Fleet Reserve Association, all money collected for membership dues. These payments shall be made at least monthly and mailed in time to reach the office of the Finance Officer or an approved agent of the Fleet Reserve Association by the date specified in a schedule provided by the Finance Officer in December of each year for the following calendar year. Any Branch receiving dues from a member of the Membership-at-Large Roll shall immediately forward the full amount of dues to the Finance Officer.

Section 401(k). 50 percent of each Branch member's dues received by the Finance Officer shall be forwarded monthly to the respective Branch.

Section 401(l). Members in good standing, upon attaining fifty years' continuous membership in the Fleet Reserve Association shall not be required to pay dues and shall be issued the prestigious Platinum FRA 50-plus Continuous Member Card.

Section 401(m). Members in good standing, upon attaining 85 years of age and who have at least 40 years' of continuous membership shall not be required to pay dues in

the FRA and shall be issued the prestigious Red, White, and Blue Membership Card; and be it further

Resolved, That this resolution become effective January 1, 2017.

CBL&R Recommendation: Is to approve.

Rationale: This resolution provides a better clarification than that of resolution No. 3.

NP COURNEYA: You've heard the recommendations of the Constitution and Bylaws Committee, and they have recommended once again to approve this Resolution. Do we have any discussion?

RPNC-E COMBS: Shipmate National President. Combs, Delegate, Branch 161. Is a proposed amendment in order yet?

NP COURNEYA: Yes, it is. Go ahead, Shipmate Combs.

RPNC-E COMBS: As a recruiter, I've been told for years that if you get someone to join for two years, you will keep them longer than you would if you only have them for one year. Now, with a 6 percent discount proposed here, no one hardly is going to join for two years. \$75, \$80, we used to do that in six-packs.

I move that we amend Section 401 Bravo No. 1 for a payment of two years a discount of, hell, I don't know bring it down to -- 20 percent would be \$64. I want to keep it at 48.

PNP BLACKBURN: Shipmate National President, may I interrupt?

NP COURNEYA: Yes, Shipmate Blackburn.

PNP BLACKBURN: I fully agree with what you are trying to say, Shipmate Combs. However, as the resolution is written, after you have recruited this man for two years, he's not going to be able to continue paying his dues at that rate. This resolution states if you pay two years' dues as you go along, you will get the 6 percent decrease, not on your initial recruitment.

RPNC-E COMBS: Shipmates, my rationale is you will not get anyone to sign up for two years.

PNP BLACKBURN: Shipmate, that has to be an addition to the Resolution, not an amendment to the portion that is already there.

RPNC-E COMBS: I move that 401 Bravo No. 1 be amended to read the first-time member shall pay an amount of \$48 for the first two years' dues, period, or some similar thing to that.

NP COURNEYA: Shipmate Combs, are you making a motion to have that changed, or are you just making a recommendation?

RPNC-E COMBS: Whatever to get this thing passed.

NP COURNEYA: You need to make a motion. We got to back up here. Is it a motion or a recommendation?

RPNC-E COMBS: I made a motion to reduce the first two years' membership for a new member to \$48 for the first two years.

NP COURNEYA: All right. Shipmates, before we move on to any more discussion, we have a motion on the floor. Do I have a second?

All right. The motion fails for lack of second.

NP COURNEYA: Shipmate.

PNP SMITH: Smith, Branch 070. I move to amend and add Section 401(b) No. 3, a first-time member will have to pay, not sure about the wording, \$64 for the first two years. It's a 20 percent discount like you have now.

NP COURNEYA: All right, Shipmates. We got a motion on the floor to amend the Resolution to have 401(b) No. 3 -- to add No. 3, and that a first time member, I think it was \$68 for two years.

UNIDENTIFIED SHIPMATE: I second.

NP COURNEYA: Wait a minute. I have a second.

PRPEC SLAWINSKI: Slawinski, Delegate, Branch 181 --

PRPNE/NEng BROWN: Point of order. Point of order, sir. Brown, Delegate, Branch 226. Point of order. We already voted on this Resolution. It's a problem that has to be addressed by the chair that, assuming it was a two-thirds vote required versus the 50 percent --

NP COURNEYA: No, no. We just covered that.

PRPNE/NEng BROWN: That isn't what he said before.

NP COURNEYA: Shipmate Brown, we had voted already to reconsider the vote according to the Standing Rules and the C&BLs with a majority vote, which it had, as the Standing Rules in the C&BLs have stated.

We have a motion on the floor. We have a second. We'll vote on the amendment to the original motion to add Paragraph 3 of Section 401(b) to have the Shipmates for first term pay a total of \$64 for two years.

You have heard the motion. All in favor, aye.

(Whereupon, the ayes were heard.)

NP COURNEYA: Opposed?

(Whereupon, the nays were heard.)

NP COURNEYA: The ayes have it.

All right. Now we will vote on the motion as amended. All in favor of the motion?

Any discussion?

JrPRPEC WILLIS: Shipmate National President, I will propose a further amendment to that.

NP COURNEYA: State it.

Willis, Delegate, Branch 060. I would propose that we strike the part of the last phrase in Section 401 Delta: however, no new allotments will be accepted.

NP COURNEYA: Are you referring to allotments?

SHIPMATE RANDALL: Charlie Randall, Branch 201. Second.

NP COURNEYA: We have a second motion on the floor to strike out the words: allotments set up prior to January 1, 2017 shall be honored in accordance with the original allotment date, however, no new allotments will be accepted.

Is that what you were wanting strike out?

SHIPMATE RANDALL: I have no problem with the allotments set up prior to January 1, 2017 shall be honored in accordance, et cetera. The part about no new allotments will be accepted.

NP COURNEYA: So, you want starting at "however, no new allotments will be accepted"?

SHIPMATE RANDALL: That's correct.

NP COURNEYA: All right. Right now we have another motion on floor for Section 401(d) to strike out in the last sentence the words "however, no new allotments will be accepted."

I need a second. We had a second?

All in favor of the amendment?

(Whereupon, the ayes were heard.)

NP COURNEYA: Opposed?

(Whereupon, the nays were heard.)

NP COURNEYA: The ayes have it.

UNIDENTIFIED SHIPMATE: Shipmate National President.

NP COURNEYA: Shipmate.

UNIDENTIFIED SHIPMATE: *Roberts Rules of Order* require that discussion be held on these amendments. Once you have a second, discussion by the members here should be allowed.

NP COURNEYA: I believe I was doing that.

UNIDENTIFIED SHIPMATES: No.

NP COURNEYA: All right. Go ahead, Shipmate.



UNIDENTIFIED SHIPMATE: Well, you got a motion on the floor now. Is it over and done with?

NP COURNEYA: It's over and done with.

SHIPMATE RICHMOND: All right. I would like to make a motion. Shipmate Richmond, Delegate, Branch 022. I would like to change 401(a) and any reference there to \$40. That was the big choking point to begin with, was the \$40 annually. That's what caused it not to pass.

I make a motion to change that to \$35. Leave all your discounts the same. Leave everything else the same, but I make a motion to pass it to \$35 a year and whatever the discounts are that you vote on today. The numbers will be different because you're working with \$35 instead of \$40.

UNIDENTIFIED SHIPMATE: Shipmate National President.

NP COURNEYA: Shipmate at the mic.

PNP SCARBRO: According to our Standing Rules, Article 14, Section 1402.

UNIDENTIFIED SHIPMATE: Who are you?

PNP SCARBRO: Scarbro, Delegate, Branch 040. It takes two-thirds vote to amend the C&BLs, so I don't know why we're having this discussion.

NP COURNEYA: We ain't amending the Constitution and Bylaws. We're amending a resolution.

PNP SCARBRO: You're trying to amend, to go back and take a vote.

NP COURNEYA: Yes. And it says in Standing Rule 4, that we can do that. And if you go back, in accordance with Article 9, Section 903(b), you need to read that, too, because now our Standing Rules are in --

UNIDENTIFIED SHIPMATE: At a convention.

NP COURNEYA: Yeah.

UNIDENTIFIED SHIPMATE: Move the motion. You have it on the floor.

UNIDENTIFIED SHIPMATE: Shipmate National President.

NP COURNEYA: Shipmates, do we want to move on with this?

UNIDENTIFIED SHIPMATE: Wait a minute. There was another motion.

NP COURNEYA: We have a motion on the floor right now. We have a motion to amend 401(a) from \$40 to \$35.

UNIDENTIFIED SHIPMATE: It has not been seconded.

NP COURNEYA: And it has not been seconded.

PRPSE BOLZ: Shipmate National President.

NP COURNEYA: Shipmate at the mic.

PRPSE BOLZ: Bolz, Branch 269, Delegate. I second the motion.

NP COURNEYA: All right. We have a second. Any discussion? No discussion.

All in favor.

(Whereupon, the ayes were heard.)

NP COURNEYA: Opposed?

(Whereupon, the nays were heard.)

NP COURNEYA: All right. The noes have it.

All right. At this time we will vote on the Resolution as amended. Shipmate at the mic.

PRPSE BRICE: Brice, 187, Delegate. We made a change to Section 401(d) to allow allotments. However, in the first sentence in that paragraph, an allotment is not listed as an acceptable payment. "All members shall have the option of paying membership dues by cash, check, or credit card."

NP COURNEYA: Do you want to make another amendment to that?

PRPSE BOLZ: I'm just trying to make Part A agree with Part B. I don't care how you do it. Since we've done that down

in the bottom portion of it, I'd like to make the motion that we add "or allotments" to that first sentence.

RPNC-E COMBS: Combs, Delegate, Branch 161. Second.

NP COURNEYA: We have a second. Shipmates, Section 401(d), we want to make a change to the reading where it says dues by cash, check, or credit cards, or allotments. Any discussion?

All in favor?

(Whereupon, the ayes were heard.)

NP COURNEYA: Opposed?

(Whereupon, the nays were heard.)

NP COURNEYA: Ayes have it.

Is there any more amendments?

At this time, we will vote on the Resolution as amended.  
Any discussion?

All in favor?

(Whereupon, the ayes were heard.)

NP COURNEYA: Opposed?

(Whereupon, the nays were heard.)

NP COURNEYA: Ayes have it.

All right, Shipmates. We're going to have elections.

UNIDENTIFIED SHIPMATE: Shipmate President, point of order. We just voted on amendments. We didn't vote on the main motion, did we?

NP COURNEYA: Yes, we did. You're asleep at the wheel. We'll take 5 minutes and come back and get into elections.

(Three raps of the gavel.)

NP COURNEYA: Shipmate National Chaplain.

NCHAP WALLACE: Shipmate National President, the Bible is now closed.

NP COURNEYA: Thank you, Shipmate National Chaplain.

(Recess.)

NP COURNEYA: Shipmate Master-at-Arms, invite the Shipmates into the hall and close the door.

MASTER-AT-ARMS: Shipmates are in the hall.

NP COURNEYA: Thank you, Shipmate Master-at-Arms.

(One rap of the gavel.)

NP COURNEYA: Shipmate National Chaplain.

NCHAP WALLACE: Shipmate National President, the Bible is now open.

JrPNP IPPERT: Shipmate National President.

NP COURNEYA: Shipmate at the mic.

JrPNP IPPERT: Junior Past National President is in the uniform of the day.

NP COURNEYA: All right, Shipmates. We will now proceed to the election of officers for the office of National President. Shipmate National Executive Director, you will please read the resolve.

NED SNEE: Shipmates, you can find for the National President a resolution in Section V, as in Victor, of your Delegate Handbook.

Resolved, That Corpus Christi Texas Branch 094, FRA at a regularly scheduled monthly meeting held on 10 January, 2016, a quorum being present, did unanimously vote to place the name of National Vice President Donald "Don" E. Larson in nomination for the office of National President, FRA for the Association year 2016-2017; and be it further

Resolved, That Corpus Christi, Texas Branch 094 earnestly solicits the support and endorsement of all branches of the FRA for the candidacy of National Vice President Donald "Don" E. Larson for the office of National President, FRA.

Signed Bill Kasperek, President, Branch 094 and National Vice President Don Larson, Secretary-Treasurer, Branch 094.

NP COURNEYA: Shipmates, you've heard the resolution for the nomination for the office of National President. Is there any other candidates for the office of National President? Is there any other candidates for the office of National President? Is there any other nominations for candidates for the office of National President?

At this time, the election is closed.

PNP BLACKBURN: Shipmate National President.

NP COURNEYA: Shipmate at the mic.

PNP BLACKBURN: Blackburn, Delegate, Branch 008. I make a motion that we elect Donald Larson by acclamation.

(Applause.)

NP COURNEYA: All in favor?

(Whereupon, the ayes were heard.)

NP COURNEYA: Opposed?

(No response.)

NP COURNEYA: Congratulations there, Shipmate Larson. You're the new National President Elect. Would you like to say a few words?

NVP LARSON: Shipmates, after this afternoon, I'm 6 foot 4, 260 pounds, retired Navy. Most of you all know my bride, Jenny, but I have not been scared until this afternoon.

(Laughter.)

NVP LARSON: I want to applaud the Delegates for your caring and concern about the Constitution and Bylaws and what's going on with the Resolutions. It's been a long afternoon, but that really shows each and every one of us today how much we are committed to this Association and how much we're going to work harder in the next few years to make it to our 100th anniversary. Thank you so much. We cannot stop. Thank you for the election.

(Applause.)

NP COURNEYA: Shipmates, we will now proceed to the election of the National Vice President.

National Executive Director, you will please read the resolved portion of the nomination resolution.

NED SNEE: Shipmates, you will find the resolution in Section Victor of your Delegate Handbook for National Vice President.

Resolved, That South Jersey Branch 057, FRA at a regularly scheduled monthly meeting held on 21 October, 2015, a quorum being present, did unanimously vote to place the name of Past Regional President Northeast William "Bill" E. Starkey in nomination for the office of National Vice President, FRA for the association year of 2016-2017; and be it further

Resolved, That South Jersey Branch 057, FRA currently solicits the support and endorsement of all branches of the FRA for the candidacy of Past Regional President Northeast William "Bill" E. Starkey for the office of National President.

NP COURNEYA: Shipmates, you've heard the resolve for the position of National Vice President. Do we have any other nominations for National Vice President?

JrPNP IPPERT: Shipmate National President.

NP COURNEYA: Shipmate at the mic.

JrPNP IPPERT: I nominate Regional President Northwest Julian J. Wynn for the office of Vice President.

NP COURNEYA: Regional President Wynn, do you accept?

RPNW WYNN: Shipmate National President, Shipmates, I'm a gunnery sergeant, and I do not accept. Thank you.

NP COURNEYA: Thank you, Shipmate Wynn.

PNP SCARBRO: Scarbro, Delegate, Branch 040. I nominate Shipmate Ralph Holcombe for Vice President.

NP COURNEYA: Shipmate Ralph Holcombe, do you accept?

PRPEC HOLCOMBE: This is rather sudden, Shipmates. I may have the wherewithal, and I may have the inclination, but I'm not so damn sure I got the time for it. So I'm going to respectfully decline the nomination and think about it for a while, and maybe if I should decide that I may live to be 90 years old, I will maybe put a resolution in. I really appreciate the offer. Thank you very much.

(Applause.)

NP COURNEYA: Thank you, Shipmate Holcombe. Do we have any other nominations for the position of National Vice President? Do we have any other nominations?

RPNC CUNNINGHAM: Cunningham, Branch 014. I'd like to nominate Marty Posekany, Branch 298 for National Vice President.

NP COURNEYA: Shipmate Posekany, do you accept?

PRPNC POSEKANY: Marty Posekany, Branch 298, Delegate, Grand Rapids Michigan. I respectfully decline.

NP COURNEYA: Thank you, Shipmate. Are there any other nominations? If there are no other nominations, elections are closed. Nominations are closed for the position of National Vice President.

PRPNE MUNDAY: Shipmate National President, Munday, Branch 124, Delegate. I make a motion that we Elect William Starkey as Vice President by acclamation.

(Applause.)

NP COURNEYA: All in favor?

(Whereupon, the ayes were heard.)

NP COURNEYA: Congratulations, Shipmate Starkey. National Vice Elect, would you like to say a few words?

PRPNE STARKEY: I'd like to thank all the Shipmates who, number one, worked on the C&BL Committee with me, Teresa Wiener in the Headquarters staff, and all the Shipmates who submitted resolutions. It seemed like Laurie Bailey and I, we had a revolving email address because we were sending each other emails like we were crazy.

I really appreciate the confidence that the Shipmates have in me, and as National Vice President for the association year 2016-2017, I'll do my best to uphold the tradition that my predecessors have shown when they were Vice President. Thank you very much.

(Applause.)

NP COURNEYA: National Executive Director will read the resolution for National Executive Director.

NED SNEE: Thank you, National Vice President.

You can find the resolution for the National Executive Director in Section Victor. National Executive Director.

Resolved, The Shipmates of FRA, Navy Department Branch 181, Arlington, Virginia, at a regularly scheduled meeting held November 5, 2015, a quorum being present, did unanimously vote to place the name of Shipmate Thomas J. Snee in nomination for the office of National Executive Director, Fleet Reserve Association, for the Association years 2016 to 2019; and be it further

Resolved, The Shipmates of Navy Branch 181 currently solicit the support and endorsement of all branches in the association for the candidacy of Shipmate NED Thomas J. Snee for nomination for the office of National Executive Director, Fleet Reserve Association, for the Association years 2016-2019.

Signed Stephen M. Tassin, FRA Branch 181 President,  
Christopher J. Slawinski, FRA Branch 181  
Secretary-Treasurer.

NP COURNEYA: Are there any other nominations for the office of National Executive Director?

PRPSE BOLZ: Shipmate National President.

NP COURNEYA: Shipmate at the mic.

PRPSE BOLZ: Shipmate Fred Bolz, Branch 269, Delegate. I would like to place in nomination Shipmate John Davis, Branch 181, Legislative Affairs, for the National Executive Director position.



NP COURNEYA: Thank you, Shipmate Bolz. Do we have any other nominations for the position of National Executive Director? Do we have any other nominations?

Do you accept, Shipmate Davis?

SHIPMATE DAVIS: Yes, I accept the nomination. Thank you.

NP COURNEYA: Is there any other nominations? If there's no other nominations, I'll have the two candidates come up and speak.

Shipmate Davis, will you come up and say a few words.

SHIPMATE DAVIS: Good afternoon, Shipmates. Can everybody hear me? Okay. Probably some of you are wondering why I want to do this, and it's really only one reason, is because I don't want to see FRA go out of business.

When I first came here about almost 11 years ago, we had 120,000 members. Today we have somewhere around 50,000 members. More to the point, each year of the last three years, we've had a net loss of members. Part of that reason is that we're a membership organization without a membership recruitment plan. If FRA was a ship, I think it would be floundering at sea.

Now, Tom Snee is a nice guy, and I like Tom, but I think we need to move in a different direction. I have 33 years of association experience, and not all of it is government affairs. I've also been involved with association marketing and fundraising. In fact, my last job, which I had for about four years, I spent about half my time supervising a direct mail marketing program which was, in fact, the sole source of revenue for the association.

Let me just also say another thing. I think the National Headquarters office ought to be doing more to help the branches. I think the branches are out there, some of them are struggling, and we need to give them support. I think we need to have all factions of FRA working together to deal with our membership challenges. That's the National Board of Directors, the National President, National Vice President, Past National Presidents, and the Branches and others.

Speaking of Past National Presidents, this year we invited them to come to Headquarters and talk about the challenges

we're experiencing in the membership and other places. I strongly support having the Past National Presidents come to FRA Headquarters or have a meeting somewhere in the country every year to help us out with our problems, because the past National Presidents are a huge source of information, and we need their help.

So, starting today with your help and support, we can turn this ship around and build a legacy for future generations of FRA members. Thank you for your help. Thank you.

NP COURNEYA: At this time, I'll have National Executive Director Snee speak.

NED SNEE: Good afternoon, Shipmates. Today I seek a second term as your National Executive Director for the Fleet Reserve Association. I feel we have made progress in these short three years and continue to move forward for others, never resting until we've gained to the fullest. Please allow me to give a little bit more information other than what's in my resolution.

I've been a member of the FRA for over 25 years. I have served on Regional and National committees in those years. I have further enhanced the FRA recognition within the Senior Enlisted Leadership as a visible conduit to understanding the focus on personnel issues and generational needs for membership.

We are back in the Senior Enlisted Leadership cycles on bases and at commands for discussions to provide value, information, and services to them.

We have *FRA Today* in the Navy, Marine Corps, Coast Guard, Career Centers, commonly known as recruiting offices, as well as other customer service areas, especially at Medical Commands and VA Centers.

We are back in; and by the way, the only Veterans Service organization, at the Senior Enlisted Academy in Newport, Rhode Island, the premiere training pipeline for all Senior Enlisted in DOD and also at a national and international level.

We have a re-engaged collaborative understanding with the senior Naval JAG personnel to permit FRA on bases.

We finished the reconstruction of the National Headquarters on time, on budget; and within a month, we had a new tenant.

I have visited bases. I've been on ships, and I have tried to be the ambassador to bring what we are as the Fleet Reserve Association.

We have advanced the technological, quality, and faster delivery of reports to branches and in the regions, a new app, Facebook, upgrade our website, and still within budgetary constraints. All of this to provide a faster delivery and to bring the FRA into the 21st century.

Our new Headquarters meeting room and museum has been recognized with its new facelift by visiting Congressional and Cabinet level members, veterans groups, visitors, and even reenlistments.

Finally, I have sincerely tried to be the best Ambassador for you and to you and still keep my personal commitment to recruit new members, as was demonstrated last year with 32 new members in the association and 3 this year and more to come.

While these may not be recognized by some as successes in the past three years, I feel they are benchmarks toward progress.

I do ask for your support. No one person can make assurances on any given legislative push, considering the mode that's going on in Washington, or success in any organization, but rather a continuum to serve with dignity and loyalty to its members. My phone is always open, as some of you already know. My sleeves are always ready to pitch in to help and make a positive difference, regardless of job descriptions. This week, as mentioned by the Force Master Chief of Navy Recruiting Command, I have tried to keep a balance not only to you the Shipmates to this Convention, but also as some of you may know, to my dear wife who could not make this convention.

Unlike the rumors that have been floating around, I am up and I am physically ready and I am fit. I'm in good shape. I seek this position as not a reputation, a title or pay, but be assured it is for you, the Shipmates.

I also want to thank you sincerely, the Headquarters staff, your uplift to me daily, with or without my Dunkin' Donuts coffee, has given me more than I can measure or even sincerely appreciate.

Shipmates, I again ask you for your support, your continued confidence from the experience of doing service for you in Loyalty, Protection and Service. I do not make reference to my opponent here, but rather further the causes that I have placed on the priority of character and service. If you remember in Chattanooga when I was elected, I made the reference of driving a car. We have the rearview mirror to look at the past. We have the side view mirrors to know what's hitting us on a daily basis; but most important, we have the windshield of the future.

Again I thank you very much, in Loyalty, Protection and Service, Thomas J. Snee. Thank you, National President.

NP COURNEYA: All right, Shipmates. We're going to get the Tally Committee together, and then we'll take about 10 minutes so you can caucus among yourselves. But prior to that, the ladies want to come over right away. We'll get them in here so they can say hello. We'll get them on their way. And we'll get on with the elections of NED.

Shipmate Master-at-Arms, tell the ladies to come on in, the Auxiliary.

While we're waiting for the Auxiliary to come over, one more time.

(Three raps of the gavel.)

NP COURNEYA: Shipmate National Chaplain, close the Bible, please.

NCHAP WALLACE: Shipmate National President, the Bible is now closed.

NP COURNEYA: Thank you, Shipmate National Chaplain.

(One rap of the gavel.)

NP COURNEYA: Shipmate Hill, have you got anybody that is going to do the Convention, any prospects?

PRPSE HILL: Not at this time. I have one.

NP COURNEYA: Do you have any that will commit during this convention?

PRPSE HILL: Shipmate National President. Hill, Delegate, Branch 290. I have none at this time that have committed. I have one possible.

NP COURNEYA: So at this time, I am going to dissolve your committee, and I am going to appoint the following people to serve on a special committee until such time that a branch may submit a letter to the National President requesting to host the convention for 2018.

PRPSE HILL: Thank you, National President.

NP COURNEYA: Thanks for your service, Shipmate Hill.

(Applause.)

(Three raps of the gavel.)

NP COURNEYA: Shipmates, you are not in recess.

PNP BILL COMBS: Shipmate National President.

NP COURNEYA: Shipmate.

PNP BILL COMBS: Combs, Delegate, Branch 005. Aren't we in the middle of an election? You inviting guests in?

NP COURNEYA: I just said we're going to get rid of them, and then we're going to get our tally sheet; we're going to caucus, and then we're going to do our final election.

UNIDENTIFIED SHIPMATE: Close the door and let's do it.

NP COURNEYA: Shipmate Master-at-Arms, is Auxiliary ready to come in?

(Three raps of the gavel.)

MASTER-AT-ARMS: The ladies are ready to enter the hall.

(Three raps of the gavel.)

NP COURNEYA: All right. Shipmate Master-at-Arms, have the Auxiliary come into the hall.

(Syncopated applause.)

(One rap of the gavel.)

LAFRA NP COURNEYA: Shipmates, I'm Helen Courneya. I have just been re-elected as the National President for 2016-2017.

(Applause.)

LAFRA NP COURNEYA: I brought my entourage with me, and we'd like to say hello. Jean Smith is our new National Vice President for 2016-2017. And Lauren Wynn is our National Executive Secretary for the years 2016 through 2019.

I'm going to pass the mic to my entourage, and they can introduce themselves.

LAFRA PNP WHITAKER: Carolyn Whitaker, National President, 2014-2015. Glad to see you all.

LAFRA PNP RODHAM-TUCK: Cindy Rodham Tuck, National President 2009-2010, with Gary Blackburn.

LAFRA PNP MAURATH: Dot Maurath, President 1999-2000. My counterpart was John Johnson. I don't think he's here.

LAFRA PNP DOLOWAY: Gail Doloway, National President 2007-2008. My counterpart, Larry Boudreaux.

LAFRA PNP ROBBINS: Sandra Robbins, 2006-2007. My counterpart was Jerry Sweeney, and I hope you all are still keeping him in your prayers and everything.

LAFRA PNP BOUDREAUX: Pat Boudreaux, 2005-2006. My counterpart was Edgar Zerr.

LAFRA PNP ROBERTS: Loretta Roberts, 96-97. And Robert Fudge was my counterpart. He's on the staff of the Supreme Commander.

LAFRA PNP HUYLEBROECK: Doreen Huylebroeck. I served 90-91, with the lovely Bill Combs over there. We had a great year.

LAFRA PNP LARSON: Ginny Larson. I was National President in 2011-2012 with Jeff Gilmartin.

LAFRA PNP HOOVER: Diane Hoover. I served 2012-2103. My counterpart was Mark Kilgore.

LAFRA PNP GARWOOD: Pat Garwood. I was National President 1985-1986. I served with T.I. King, the late T.I. King.

LAFRA PNP JOHNSON: Gail Johnson. I was National President long, long ago, '83-'84. I might not be the oldest Past National President, but I have the oldest hat. And I served with Dan Spaulding, who passed away recently, once upon a time.

NP COURNEYA: I want to thank you ladies for coming over, and I hope you have a -- continue with a successful Convention.

(Three raps of the gavel.)

(Applause.)

(Syncopated applause.)

NP COURNEYA: All right, Shipmates.

(One rap of the gavel.)

NP COURNEYA: I'm going to have you recess for 10 minutes so you can caucus. Then we'll come back and get on with elections.

Can I have the Tally Committee, the same one we had this morning, come up.

(Recess.)

NP COURNEYA: Shipmate Master-at-Arms, invite the Shipmates into the hall and close the doors.

MASTER-AT-ARMS: Shipmate National President, Shipmates are in the hall.

NP COURNEYA: Thank you, Shipmate Master-At-Arms.

Shipmate National Chaplain.

Uncover.

NCHAP WALLACE: Shipmate National President, the Bible is now open.

NP COURNEYA: Thank you, Shipmate National Chaplain.

(Three raps of the gavel.)

JrPNP IPPERT: Shipmate National President. Ippert, Junior Past National President. Let the record reflect the Junior Past National President is in the proper uniform of the day.

NP COURNEYA: Thank you, Shipmate.

JrPNP IPPERT: For one more time.

NP COURNEYA: All right, Shipmates. I'm going to turn this over to Past National President Boudreaux. He'll be calling the branches out for votes, and we have a Tally Committee already in place, so we're going to get started.

PNP BOUDREAUX: Shipmates, when you get up to the mic, all you need is your last name, whether you're a delegate, branch, and the number of votes you're voting. If you're a proxy, say proxy. Are we ready? Line up three deep on each mic. Let's get this over with.

Branch 001, 8 votes.

PRPNE MUNDAY: Branch 124, Delegate, proxy, Branch 001. Tom Snee as directed.

PNP BOUDREAUX: Snee, 8 votes. Branch 001.

Branch 004, 6 votes.

SHIPMATE CALIGUIRAN: Caliguiran, Branch 004, Delegate. 6 votes to Tom Snee.

PNP BOUDREAUX: Branch 004. 6 votes, Snee.

Branch 005, 11 votes.

PNP BILL COMBS: Combs, Delegate, Branch 005. 11 votes. 11 votes, Tom Snee.

PNP BOUDREAUX: Branch 005. 11 votes, Snee.



Branch 006, 4 votes.

PRPEC GUNTHER: Gunther, Delegate, Branch 182. Proxy for Branch 006. How many votes?

PNP BOUDREAUX: Four.

PRPEC GUNTHER: Four votes, Snee.

PNP BOUDREAUX: Branch 006. 4 votes, Snee.

Branch 008, 11 votes.

PNP BLACKBURN: Blackburn, Delegate, Chairman. 11 votes, Davis.

PNP BOUDREAUX: Branch 008. 11 votes, Davis.

Branch 010, 7 votes.

RPWC LeCLAIRE: LeClaire, Delegate. Proxy for Branch 010. 7 votes, Snee.

PNP BOUDREAUX: Branch 010. 7 votes, Snee.

Branch 011, 15 votes.

RPSC GIBSON: Gibson, Delegate. 15 votes, Snee.

PNP BOUDREAUX: Branch 011. 15 votes, Snee.

Branch 012, 4 votes.

PRPNC ZALEWSKI: Zalewski, proxy. 4 votes, Snee. Instructed.

PNP BOUDREAUX: Branch 012. 4 votes, Snee.

Branch 013, 5 votes.

SHIPMATE DAVENPORT: Davenport, Delegate, 013. All votes for Snee.

PNP BOUDREAUX: Branch 013. 5 votes, Snee.

Branch 014, 7 votes.

PRPNC ZALEWSKI: Zalewski, Delegate. 6 votes, Snee. One vote instructed, Davis.

PNP BOUDREAUX: Branch 014. 1 Davis; 6 Snee.

Branch 015, 3 votes.

SHIPMATE DAVIS: Davis, Branch 290, Delegate. Proxy instructed, 15 Davis.

UNIDENTIFIED SHIPMATES: Three.

SHIPMATE DAVIS: Branch 015, Davis, 3 votes, excuse me.

PNP BOUDREAUX: Branch 015. 3 votes, Davis.

Branch 017, 5 votes.

SHIPMATE BLIND: Blind, Branch 017. 5 votes, Snee.

PNP BOUDREAUX: Branch 017. 5 votes, Snee.

Branch 018, 10 votes.

PRPNW LAZZARETTI: Lazzaretti, Delegate, Chair, Branch 018. All votes, Snee.

PNP BOUDREAUX: Branch 018. 10 votes, Snee.

Branch 020, 22 votes.

SHIPMATE SULLIVAN: Branch 020, Sullivan, Delegate. 22 votes, Snee.

PNP BOUDREAUX: Branch 020. 22 votes, Snee.

Branch 021, 2 votes.

PNP BLACKBURN: Blackburn, proxy. 2 votes, Davis.

PNP BOUDREAUX: Branch 021. 2 votes, Davis.

Branch 022, 22 votes.

PNP KILGORE: Kilgore, Delegate. 22 votes, Davis.

PNP BOUDREAUX: Branch 022. 22 votes, Davis.

Branch 023, 4 votes.

RPNE/NEng SHARP: Sharp, proxy, Branch 023. 4 votes, Snee.

PNP BOUDREAUX: Branch 023. 4 votes, Snee.

Branch 024, 78 votes.

SHIPMATE JONES: Jones, Chair, Branch 024. 78 votes, Snee.

PNP BOUDREAUX: Branch 024. 78 votes, Snee.

Branch 026, 3 votes.

PNP SMITH: Smith, proxy. 3 votes, Snee.

PNP BOUDREAUX: Branch 026. 3 votes, Snee.

Branch 028, 3 votes.

RPNC CUNNINGHAM: Cunningham, proxy. 3 votes, Snee.

PNP BOUDREAUX: Branch 028. 3 votes, Snee.

Branch 031, 3 votes.

RPNE/NEng JANSKY: Jansky, Delegate. 3 votes, Snee.

PNP BOUDREAUX: Branch 031. 3 votes, Snee.

Branch 034, 3 votes.

PNC REED: Reed, Delegate. 3 votes, Davis.

PNP BOUDREAUX: Branch 034. 3 votes, Davis.

Branch 037, 2 votes.

SHIPMATE MARTIN: Martin, proxy. 2 votes, Snee.

PNP BOUDREAUX: Branch 037. 2 votes, Snee.

Branch 038, 5 votes.

RPNW WYNN: Wynn, Delegate. 5 votes, Snee. Proxy.

PNP BOUDREAUX: Branch 038. 5 votes, Snee.

Branch 040, 14 votes.

RVPEC PHELPS: Phelps, Delegate, Branch 040. 14 votes. 8 votes, Snee. 6 votes, Davis.

PNP BOUDREAUX: Branch 040. 8, Snee. 6, Davis.

Branch 041, 4 votes.

PRPEC GUNTHER: Gunther, Delegate, proxy, 041. 4 votes, Snee.

PNP BOUDREAUX: Branch 041. 4 votes, Snee.

Branch 042, 9 votes.

PRPNEng JUSTIN: Justin, Delegate. 9 votes for Snee.

PNP BOUDREAUX: Branch 042. 9 votes, Snee.

Branch 044, 3 votes.

SHIPMATE DAVIS: Davis, Delegate. 3 votes, Davis.

PNP BOUDREAUX: Branch 044. 3 votes, Davis.

Branch 046, 45 votes.

RPNW WYNN: Wynn, Delegate. All votes, Snee.

PNP BOUDREAUX: Branch 046. 45 votes, Snee.

Branch 047, 10 votes.

PRPSW FRONTZ: Frontz, Branch 047. 10 votes, Davis.

PNP BOUDREAUX: Branch 047. 10 votes, Davis.

Branch 049, 6 votes.

RPWC-E SHORTER: Shorter, proxy. 6 votes, Davis.

PNP BOUDREAUX: Branch 049. 6 votes, Davis.

Branch 051, 4 votes. Branch 051, 4 votes.

RPSE DAVIS: Davis, proxy, Delegate, Branch 290. All votes, Davis.

PNP BOUDREAUX: Branch 051. 4 votes, Davis.

Branch 053, 13 votes.

PRPNC ZALEWSKI: Zalewski, proxy. 13 votes, Snee.

PNP BOUDREAUX: Branch 053. 13 votes, Snee.

Branch 054, 2 votes.

RPNC CUNNINGHAM: Cunningham, proxy, 054. 2 votes, Snee.

PNP BOUDREAUX: Branch 054. 2 votes, Snee.

Branch 055, 6 votes.

PRPNW LAZZARETTI: Lazzaretti, proxy for Branch 055. As instructed, all votes Snee.

PNP BOUDREAUX: Branch 055. 6 votes, Snee.

Branch 057, 7 votes.

RPNE/NEng JANSKY: Jansky, proxy. 7 votes, Snee.

PNP BOUDREAUX: Branch 057. 7 votes, Snee.

Branch 059, 6 votes.

PRPNW LAZZARETTI: Lazzaretti, proxy for Branch 059. As instructed, all votes Snee.

PNP BOUDREAUX: Branch 059. 6 votes, Snee.

Branch 060, 31 votes.

JrPRPEC WILLIS: Willis, Branch 060. 31 votes, Snee.

PNP BOUDREAUX: Branch 060. 31 votes, Snee.

Branch 061, 33 votes.

JrPRPSW HERMES: Hermes, Delegate. 33 votes, Davis.

PNP BOUDREAUX: Branch 061. 33 votes, Davis.

Branch 062, 3 votes.

PRPSE SMITH: Smith, Delegate. 3 votes, Davis.

PNP BOUDREAUX: Branch 062. 3 votes, Davis.

Branch 067, 10 votes.

PRPEC GUNTHER: Gunther, Delegate, proxy for Branch 067.  
10 votes, Snee.

PNP BOUDREAUX: Branch 067. 10 votes, Snee.

Branch 070, 30 votes.

RPSW-E DAVIS: Davis, Delegate, Chair. All votes, Davis.

PNP BOUDREAUX: Branch 070. 30 votes, Davis.

Branch 071, 4 votes.

RPNE/NEng JANSKY: Jansky, proxy. 4 votes, Snee.

PNP BOUDREAUX: Branch 071. 4 votes, Snee.

Branch 072, 3 votes.

PRPNEng LOVELESS: Loveless, proxy. 3 votes, Snee.

PNP BOUDREAUX: Branch 072. 3 votes, Snee.

Branch 077, 6 votes.

SHIPMATE DAVIS: Davis, proxy 077. 6 votes, Davis.

PNP BOUDREAUX: Branch 077. 6 votes, Davis.

Branch 084, 9 votes. Branch 084, 9 votes.

UNIDENTIFIED SHIPMATE: Proxy. All votes, Davis.

PNP BOUDREAUX: Branch 084. 9 votes, Davis.

Branch 085, 4 votes.

RPSW KELLEY: Kelley, proxy for 085. 4 votes, Davis.

PNP BOUDREAUX: Branch 085. 4 votes, Davis.

Branch 086, 8 votes.

PRPSE BRICE: Brice, proxy. 8 votes, Davis.

PNP BOUDREAUX: Branch 086. 8 votes, Davis.

Branch 087, 3 votes.

PRPNE/NEng BROWN: Brown, proxy. 3 votes for Snee.

PNP BOUDREAUX: Branch 087. 3 votes, Snee.

Branch 090, 6 votes.

PRPSW HEWSON: Hewson, Delegate, Branch 090. 6 votes, Snee.

PNP BOUDREAUX: Branch 090. 6 votes, Snee.

Branch 091, 47 votes.

RPSE-E ROBBINS: Robbins, Delegate, Chairman. Snee all.

PNP BOUDREAUX: Branch 091. 47 votes, Snee.

Branch 092, 3 votes.

RPSC-E TALBOT: Talbot, proxy. 3 votes, Snee.

PNP BOUDREAUX: Branch 092. 3 votes, Snee.

Branch 093, 17 votes.

SHIPMATE JONES: Jones, Delegate, Branch 093. Split.  
Snee, 9. Davis, 8.

PNP BOUDREAUX: Branch 093. 17 votes. 9 votes for Snee.  
8 votes for Davis.

Branch 094, 16 votes.

NVP LARSON: Larson, Delegate, 094. 16 votes, Snee.

PNP BOUDREAUX: Branch 094. 16 votes, Snee.

Branch 098, 2 votes.

UNIDENTIFIED SHIPMATE: Branch 098, Chairman. 2 votes,  
Snee.

PNP BOUDREAUX: Branch 098. 2 votes, Snee.

Branch 099, 33 votes.

SHIPMATE FALU: Falu, Chairman. Snee.

PNP BOUDREAUX: Branch 099. 33 votes, Snee.

Branch 101, 11 votes.

SHIPMATE RUIZ: Ruiz, Branch 101. 11 votes, Davis.

PNP BOUDREAUX: Branch 101. Davis, 11 votes.

Branch 103, 10 votes.

RPNW WYNN: Wynn, Delegate, proxy. 10 votes, Snee.

PNP BOUDREAUX: Branch 103. 10 votes, Snee.

Branch 104, 6 votes.

RPNW-E THOMPSON: Thompson, 104 Delegate. 10 votes instructed, Davis -- 6 votes.

PNP BOUDREAUX: Branch 104. 6 votes, Davis.

Branch 105, 5 votes.

SHIPMATE MELSON: Melson, proxy. Davis, 5 votes.

PNP BOUDREAUX: Branch 105. 5 votes, Davis.

Branch 106, 7 votes.

SHIPMATE ENGLE: Engle, Delegate 106. All votes for Snee.

PNP BOUDREAUX: 106, 7 votes for Snee.

Branch 112, 3 votes.

SHIPMATE ODELL: Branch 112, Odell. 3 votes for Snee.

PNP BOUDREAUX: Branch 112. 3 votes, Snee.

Branch 113, 3 votes.

RPWC-E SHORTER: Shorter, proxy. 3 votes, Davis.



PNP BOUDREAUX: Branch 113. 3 votes, Davis.

Branch 115, 8 votes.

RPNE/NEng SHARP: Sharp, Delegate. All votes, Snee.

PNP BOUDREAUX: Branch 115. 8 votes, Snee.

Branch 117, 10 votes.

SHIPMATE MIDDLEKAUFF: Middlekauff, 117. 10 votes, Davis.

PNP BOUDREAUX: Branch 117. 10 votes, Davis.

Branch 118, 4 votes.

SHIPMATE PHILLIPS: Phillips, Delegate Branch 118. 4 votes, Davis.

PNP BOUDREAUX: Branch 118. 4 votes, Davis.

Branch 120, 9 votes.

RPSW KELLEY: Kelley, proxy. 9 votes, Davis.

PNP BOUDREAUX: Branch 120. 9 votes, Davis.

Branch 123, 2 votes.

PRPEC BUTLER: Butler, proxy. 2 votes, Snee.

PNP BOUDREAUX: Branch 123. 2 votes, Snee.

Branch 124, 8 votes.

SHIPMATE MUNDAY: 124, Munday. 8 votes, Snee.

PNP BOUDREAUX: Branch 124. 8 votes, Snee.

Branch 126, 16 votes.

RVPSE THOMAS: Thomas, Delegate. 8 votes, Davis. 8 votes, Snee.

PNP BOUDREAUX: 126, 8 votes Davis. 8 votes, Snee.

Branch 127, 5 votes.

UNIDENTIFIED SHIPMATE: Proxy 127. 5 votes, Snee.

PNP BOUDREAUX: Branch 127. 5 votes, Snee.

Branch 130, 6 votes.

SHIPMATE MELSON: Melson, Delegate. 6 votes, Davis.

PNP BOUDREAUX: Branch 130. 6 votes, Davis.

Branch 132, 2 votes.

PRPNEng LOVELESS: Loveless, proxy. 3 votes, Snee.

PNP BOUDREAUX: 2 votes.

PRPNEng LOVELESS: 2 votes, Snee.

PNP BOUDREAUX: Branch 132. 2 votes, Snee.

Branch 136, 17 votes.

PRPNC POSEKANY: Marty Posekany, proxy for 136. 17 votes, Snee.

PNP BOUDREAUX: Branch 136. 17 votes, Snee.

Branch 137, 5 votes.

PRPWC NASH: Nash, Delegate, proxy 137. 5 votes, Davis, as directed.

PNP BOUDREAUX: Branch 137. 5 votes Davis.

Branch 141, 6 votes.

PRPEC BUTLER: Butler, Delegate. All votes, Snee.

PNP BOUDREAUX: Branch 141. 6 votes, Snee.

Branch 146, 4 votes.

PRPNE MUNDAY: Munday, Delegate, proxy. 4 votes, Davis.

PNP BOUDREAUX: Branch 146. 4 votes, Davis.

Branch 147, 14 votes.

SHIPMATE HANSEN: Hansen, Delegate, 147. 14 votes, Davis.

PNP BOUDREAUX: Branch 147. 14 votes, Davis.

Branch 154, 3 votes.

RPNW WYNN: Wynn, Delegate, proxy. 3 votes, Snee.

PNP BOUDREAUX: Branch 154. 3 votes, Snee.

Branch 156, 8 votes.

PRPNEng LOVELESS: Loveless, Delegate. 8 votes, Snee.

PNP BOUDREAUX: Branch 156. 8 votes, Snee.

Branch 159, 6 votes.

RPSC-E TALBOT: Talbot, Delegate, Branch 159. 6 votes, Snee.

PNP BOUDREAUX: Branch 159. 6 votes, Snee.

Branch 161, 21 votes.

PNP COMBS: Combs, Delegate. 21 votes, Snee.

PNP BOUDREAUX: Branch 161. 21 votes, Snee.

Branch 162, 13 votes.

RPSC GIBSON: Gibson, proxy. 13 votes, Snee.

PNP BOUDREAUX: Branch 162. 13 votes, Snee.

Branch 163, 11 votes.

PRPSW KATZENBERGER: Katzenberger, Delegate Branch 163. 11 votes, Snee.

PNP BOUDREAUX: Branch 163. 11 votes, Snee.

Branch 166, 13 votes.

SHIPMATE MARTIN: Martin, Delegate. 13 votes, Snee.

PNP BOUDREAUX: Branch 166. 13 votes, Snee.

Branch 170, 10 votes.

PRPNW LAZZARETTI: Lazzaretti, proxy for Branch 170. All votes for Snee, as directed.

PNP BOUDREAUX: Branch 170. 10 votes, Snee.

Branch 171, 3 votes.

RPNW WYNN: Wynn, Delegate, proxy. 3 votes, Snee.

PNP BOUDREAUX: Branch 171. 3 votes, Snee.

Branch 172, 6 votes.

PNP SCARBRO: Scarbro, Delegate, proxy. 6 votes, Davis.

PNP BOUDREAUX: Branch 172. 6 votes, Davis.

Branch 174, 4 votes. 174, 4 votes.

RPNW WYNN: Wynn, Delegate, proxy. 4 votes, Snee.

PNP BOUDREAUX: Branch 174. 4 votes, Snee.

Branch 175, 17 votes.

PNP SMITH: Smith, proxy. 17 votes, Davis.

PNP BOUDREAUX: Branch 175. 17 votes, Davis.

Branch 177, 4 votes.

RPNC CUNNINGHAM: Cunningham, proxy, 177. 4 votes, Snee.

PNP BOUDREAUX: Branch 177. 4 votes, Snee.

Branch 178, 3 votes.

RPWC LeCLAIRE: LeClaire, Delegate, proxy for 178. 3 votes, Davis.

PNP BOUDREAUX: Branch 178. 3 votes, Davis.

Branch 181, 13 votes.

PRPEC WASHINGTON: Washington, Delegate, Chairman. Under instruction, 13 votes, Snee.

PNP BOUDREAUX: Branch 181. 13 votes, Snee.

Branch 182, 6 votes.

SHIPMATE PHILLIPP: Phillipp, Delegate. 6 votes, Snee.

PNP BOUDREAUX: Branch 182. 6 votes, Snee.

Branch 183, 4 votes.

SHIPMATE DAVIS: Davis, proxy, Delegate. All votes Davis.

PNP BOUDREAUX: Branch 183. 4 votes, Davis.

Branch 184, 2 votes.

PNP SMITH: Smith, proxy. 2 votes, Davis.

PNP BOUDREAUX: Branch 184. 2 votes, Davis.

Branch 185, 3 votes.

RPWC-E SHORTER: Shorter, proxy. 3 votes, Davis.

PNP BOUDREAUX: Branch 185. 3 votes, Davis.

Branch 186, 8 votes.

SHIPMATE HUSCHER: Huscher, 186, Delegate. 8 votes, Snee.

PNP BOUDREAUX: Branch 186. 8 votes, Snee.

Branch 187, 2 votes.

PRPSE BRICE: Brice, Delegate, 187. 2 votes, Davis.

PNP BOUDREAUX: Branch 187. 2 votes, Davis.

Branch 192, 5 votes.

JrPRPWC BRIGGS: Briggs, Delegate, 192. 5 votes, Snee.

PNP BOUDREAUX: Branch 192. 5 votes, Snee.

Branch 194, 5 votes.

PNP SMITH: Smith, Delegate. 5 votes, Davis.

PNP BOUDREAUX: Branch 194. 5 votes, Davis.

Branch 197, 3 votes.

RPWC-E SHORTER: Shorter, proxy. 3 votes, Davis.

PNP BOUDREAUX: Branch 197. 3 votes, Davis.

Branch 201, 8 votes.

SHIPMATE RANDALL: Charlie Randall, Delegate. 8 votes for Davis.

PNP BOUDREAUX: Branch 201. 8 votes, Davis.

Branch 202, 4 votes.

PNP SMITH: Smith, proxy. 4 votes, Davis.

PNP BOUDREAUX: Branch 202. 4 votes, Davis.

Branch 204, 3 votes.

RPEC-E VATTER: Vatter, proxy. 3 votes, Snee.

PNP BOUDREAUX: Branch 204. 3 votes, Snee.

Branch 207, 5 votes.

PNP SCARBRO: Scarbro, Delegate. 5 votes, Davis.

PNP BOUDREAUX: Branch 207. 5 votes, Davis.

Branch 208, 10 votes.

SHIPMATE CLEVELAND: Cleveland, Delegate 208. 10 votes, Snee.

PNP BOUDREAUX: Branch 208. 10 votes, Snee.

Branch 210, 11 votes.

SHIPMATE TRUELSEN: Truelsen, Delegate 210. 11 votes, Davis.

PNP BOUDREAUX: Branch 210. 11 votes, Davis.

Branch 212, 5 votes.

PRPEC GUNTHER: Gunther, Delegate, proxy. 5 votes, Snee.

PNP BOUDREAUX: Branch 212. 5 votes, Snee.

Branch 214, 3 votes.

RPNE/NEng JANSKY: Jansky, proxy. 3 votes, Snee.

PNP BOUDREAUX: Branch 214. 3 votes, Snee.

Branch 216, 5 votes.

PRPNC POSEKANY: Marty Posekany, proxy for 216. 5 votes, Snee.

PNP BOUDREAUX: Branch 216. 5 votes, Snee.

Branch 217, 4 votes.

RPEC-E VATTER: Vatter, proxy. 4 votes, Snee.

PNP BOUDREAUX: Branch 217. 4 votes, Snee.

Branch 219, 4 votes.

PRPEC CAMPBELL: Campbell, proxy 219. 4 votes, Snee.

PNP BOUDREAUX: Branch 219. 4 votes, Snee.

Branch 221, 3 votes.

RPNC CUNNINGHAM: Cunningham, proxy 221. 3 votes, Snee.

PNP BOUDREAUX: Branch 221. 3 votes, Snee.

Branch 222, 3 votes.

RPSC GIBSON: Gibson, proxy. 3 votes, Snee.

PNP BOUDREAUX: Branch 222. 3 votes, Snee.

Branch 223, 2 votes.

PNP COMBS: Combs, proxy. 2 votes, Snee.

PNP BOUDREAUX: Branch 223. 2 votes, Snee.

Branch 226, 6 votes.

PRPNE/NEng BROWN: Branch 226, Brown, Delegate. 6 for Davis.

PNP BOUDREAUX: Branch 226. 6 votes, Davis.

Branch 227, 2 votes.

RPSC GIBSON: Gibson, proxy. 2 votes, Snee.

PNP BOUDREAUX: Branch 227. 2 votes, Snee.

Branch 229, 5 votes.

RPNE/NEng SHARP: Sharp, proxy 229. 5 votes, Snee.

PNP BOUDREAUX: Branch 229. 5 votes, Snee.

Branch 230, 6 votes.

PNP BLACKBURN: Blackburn, proxy. 6 votes, Davis.

PNP BOUDREAUX: Branch 230. 6 votes, Davis.

Branch 232, 2 votes.

PRPNE MUNDAY: Munday, Delegate, proxy 232. 2 votes, Snee.

PNP BOUDREAUX: Branch 232. 2 votes, Snee.

Branch 238, 5 votes.

PRPNC POSEKANY: Marty Posekany, proxy for Branch 238. 5 votes, Snee.

PNP BOUDREAUX: Branch 238. 5 votes, Snee.

Branch 242, 2 votes.

RPNC CUNNINGHAM: Cunningham, proxy, 242. 2 votes, Snee.

PNP BOUDREAUX: Branch 242. 2 votes, Snee.

Branch 244, 2 votes.

RPWC LeCLAIRE: LeClaire, proxy 244. 2 votes, Snee.

PNP BOUDREAUX: Branch 244. 2 votes, Snee.



Branch 245, 4 votes.

RPNW WYNN: Wynn, Delegate, proxy. 4 votes, Snee.

PNP BOUDREAUX: Branch 245. 4 votes, Snee.

Branch 247, 4 votes.

RPNW WYNN: Wynn, Delegate, proxy, 247. 4 votes, Snee.

PNP BOUDREAUX: Branch 247. 4 votes, Snee.

Branch 257, 2 votes.

PRPSC HOLCOMB: Holcomb, proxy. 2 votes, Snee.

PNP BOUDREAUX: Branch 257. 2 votes, Snee.

Branch 258, 3 votes.

RPNE/NEng SHARP: Sharp, proxy, 258. 3 votes, Snee.

PNP BOUDREAUX: Branch 258. 3 votes, Snee.

Branch 259, 3 votes.

SHIPMATE MILEWSKI: Milewski, Branch 259. 3 votes, Snee.

PNP BOUDREAUX: Branch 259. 3 votes, Snee.

Branch 260, 4 votes.

PNP SMITH: Smith, proxy. 4 votes, Davis.

PNP BOUDREAUX: Branch 260. 4 votes, Davis.

Branch 261, 18 votes.

RPWC-E SHORTER: Shorter, proxy. 18 votes, Snee.

PNP BOUDREAUX: Branch 261. 18 votes, Snee.

Branch 263, 6 votes.

PRPEC CAMPBELL: Campbell, Delegate, 263. 6 votes, Davis.

PNP BOUDREAUX: Branch 263. 6 votes, Davis.

Branch 264, 7 votes.

RPSC GIBSON: Gibson, proxy. 7 votes, Snee.

PNP BOUDREAUX: Branch 264. 7 votes, Snee.

Branch 268, 7 votes.

PNP COMBS: Combs, proxy. 7 votes, Snee.

PNP BOUDREAUX: Branch 268. 7 votes, Snee.

Branch 269, 38 votes.

PRPSE BOLZ: Bolz, Delegate. 38 for Davis.

PNP BOUDREAUX: Branch 269. 38 for Davis.

Branch 274, 3 votes.

PRPWC McNAMARA: McNamara, Delegate. 3 for Davis,  
instructed.

PNP BOUDREAUX: Branch 274. 3 votes, Davis.

Branch 275, 4 votes.

4 votes Davis.

PNP BOUDREAUX: Branch 275. 4 votes, Davis.

Branch 276, 12 votes.

RPNC CUNNINGHAM: 276, Cunningham, proxy. 12 votes, Snee.

PNP BOUDREAUX: Branch 276. 12 votes, Snee.

Branch 278, 3 votes.

SHIPMATE HUSCHER: Huscher, 278, proxy. 3 votes, Snee.

PNP BOUDREAUX: Branch 278. 3 votes, Snee.

Branch 282, 6 votes.

RPSC GIBSON: 282, Gibson, proxy. 6 votes, Snee.

PNP BOUDREAUX: Branch 282. 6 votes, Snee.

Branch 285, 3 votes.

RPNE/NEng JANSKY: Jansky, proxy. 3 votes, Snee.

PNP BOUDREAUX: Branch 285. 3 votes, Snee.

Branch 287, 2 votes.

SHIPMATE WILSON: 287, Wilson, Delegate. 2 votes, Davis.

PNP BOUDREAUX: Branch 287. 2 votes, Davis.

Branch 289, 33 votes.

PRPSW FULTON: Fulton, Delegate, Chair. 33 votes, Davis.

PNP BOUDREAUX: Branch 289. 33 votes, Davis.

Branch 290, 30 votes.

RPSE DAVIS: Davis, Delegate. All votes for Davis.

PNP BOUDREAUX: Branch 290. 30 votes, Davis.

Branch 291, 3 votes.

RPSE DAVIS: Davis, Delegate, proxy. All votes for Davis.

PNP BOUDREAUX: Branch 291. 3 votes, Davis.

Branch 293, 8 votes.

SHIPMATE WRIGHT: Wright, Delegate, 293. 8 votes, Snee.

PNP BOUDREAUX: Branch 293. 8 votes, Snee.

Branch 294, 3 votes.

SHIPMATE MELLERT: 294, Mellert. Davis, all 3.

PNP BOUDREAUX: Branch 294. 3 votes, Davis.

Branch 295, 3 votes.

PRPSC HOLCOMB: Holcomb, proxy, 295. All votes Davis.

PNP BOUDREAUX: Branch 295. 2 votes, Davis.

Branch 296, 3 votes.

SHIPMATE FRANK: Frank, 296. 3 votes, Davis.

PNP BOUDREAUX: Branch 296. 3 votes, Davis.

Branch 298, 6 votes.

RVPNC POSEKANY: Rosemary Posekany. 6 votes, Snee.

PNP BOUDREAUX: Branch 298. 6 votes, Snee.

Branch 299, 3 votes.

RPEC-E VATTER: Vatter, proxy. 3 votes, Snee.

PNP BOUDREAUX: Branch 299. 3 votes, Snee.

Branch 301, 2 votes.

RPEC-E VATTER: Vatter, proxy. 2 votes, Snee.

PNP BOUDREAUX: Branch 301. 2 votes, Snee.

Branch 302, 5 votes.

PNP SMITH: Smith, proxy. 5 votes, Davis.

PNP BOUDREAUX: Branch 302. 5 votes, Davis.

Branch 307, 5 votes.

SHIPMATE GRUETZNER: 307, Gruetzner, proxy. As instructed, 5 votes, Davis.

PNP BOUDREAUX: Branch 307. 5 votes, Davis.

Branch 309, 4 votes.

RPEC-E VATTER: Vatter, proxy. 4 votes, Snee.

PNP BOUDREAUX: Branch 309. 4 votes, Snee.

Branch 310, 3 votes.

PRPNW LAZZARETTI: Lazzaretti, proxy for 310. As instructed, all votes Snee.

PNP BOUDREAUX: Branch 310. 3 votes, Snee.

Branch 311, 4 votes.

RPSC GIBSON: Gibson, proxy. 4 votes, Snee.

PNP BOUDREAUX: Branch 311. 4 votes, Snee.

Branch 315, 2 votes.

PRPNC POSEKANY: Marty Posekany, proxy, Branch 315. 2 votes, Snee.

PNP BOUDREAUX: Branch 315. 2 votes, Snee.

Branch 316, 7 votes.

PNP COMBS: Combs, proxy. 7 votes, Snee.

PNP BOUDREAUX: Branch 316. 7 votes, Snee.

Branch 324, 2 votes.

RPNC CUNNINGHAM: Cunningham, proxy, 324. 3 votes, Snee.

PNP BOUDREAUX: Branch 324. 3 votes, Snee.

Branch 328, 2 votes.

PNP BLACKBURN: Blackburn, proxy. 3 votes, Davis.

PNP BOUDREAUX: Branch 328. 3 votes, Davis.

Branch 334, 7 votes.

PRPSC HOLCOMB: Holcomb, proxy, 334. 7 votes, Davis.

PNP BOUDREAUX: Branch 334. 7 votes, Davis.

Branch 335, 2 votes.

PNP BEESE: 335, Beese. 2 votes, Davis.

PNP BOUDREAUX: Branch 335. 2 votes, Davis.

Branch 342, 3 votes.

RPNW WYNN: Wynn, Delegate, proxy. 3 votes, Snee.

PNP BOUDREAUX: Branch 342. 3 votes, Snee.

Branch 344, 2 votes.

PRPNEng LOVELESS: Loveless, proxy. 2 votes, Snee.

PNP BOUDREAUX: Branch 344. 2 votes, Snee.

Branch 346, 8 votes.

PNP KILGORE: Kilgore, proxy. 8 votes, Davis.

PNP BOUDREAUX: Branch 346. 8 votes, Davis.

Branch 358, 4 votes.

PRPNC POSEKANY: Marty Posekany, proxy, Branch 358. 4 votes, Snee.

PNP BOUDREAUX: Branch 358, 4 votes Snee.

Branch 364, 3 votes.

PRPNC ZALEWSKI: Zalewski, proxy. 3 votes, Snee.

PNP BOUDREAUX: Branch 364. 3 votes, Snee.

Branch 365, 4 votes.

PRPNC POSEKANY: Marty Posekany, proxy for 365. 4 votes, Snee.

PNP BOUDREAUX: Branch 365. 4 votes, Snee.

Branch 367, 7 votes.

RPNW WYNN: Wynn, Delegate, proxy. 7 votes, Snee.

PNP BOUDREAUX: Branch 367. 7 votes, Snee.

BRANCH 369, 2 votes.

PRPEC HOOVER: 369, Hoover, Delegate, proxy. 2 votes, Snee.

PNP BOUDREAUX: Branch 369. 2 votes, Snee.

Branch 371, 5 votes.

RVPSC THOMPSON: Thompson, Delegate 371. 5 votes for Davis.

PNP BOUDREAUX: Branch 371. 5 votes, Davis.

Branch 377, 2 votes.

RPNC CUNNINGHAM: Cunningham, proxy. 2 votes, Snee.

PNP BOUDREAUX: Branch 377. 2 votes, Snee.

Branch 382, 5 votes.

JrPNP IPPERT: Ippert, proxy, Branch 382. 5 votes, Snee.

PNP BOUDREAUX: Branch 382. 5 votes, Snee.

That concludes the roll call.

NP COURNEYA: Shipmates, I'll get the official tally, and I'll announce the winner.

All right. Shipmates, the winner is Tom Snee, our National Executive Director, with 878 votes. Congratulations.

UNIDENTIFIED SHIPMATE: Can we have a tally, please?

NP COURNEYA: I just did. 878 votes.

NED SNEE: Shipmate National President, Past National President, Shipmates, I just want to say thank you very much.

All I want to say is one thing. As the National President and I when we first came into this position and all that, we got to kick this can down the road, and we've got to keep moving to bring this Association up. And, again, I thank all of you for your vote of confidence, and let's make FRA number one. Thank you very much.

(Applause.)

NP COURNEYA: Shipmate Master-at-Arms, see if the Auxiliary is still over there.

All right, Shipmates, at this time I have made a selection, and we're going to need a vote on it, of the special

committee to handle the 2018 National Convention. And that's in accordance with the Standing Rule 6, Paragraph I.

So with that said, my following selections; then we can vote on them if that's who you want to handle your business for the 2018 for the National Convention:

Past National President Larry Boudreaux, Past Regional President Northwest Pete Lazzaretti, Past Regional President West Coast Charles McIntyre, Past Regional President Southwest Michael Fulton, Mick; and Shipmate Kathleen Gutierrez.

And from the Auxiliary side, I've got their names. They have elected, they chose Past National President Cindy Rodham-Tuck, Past National President Pat Boudreaux, and Past National President Doris Fri.

Hearing the selection for the Committee for the National Convention for 2018, unless someone submits a letter to the National President to take over the National Convention that year, all in favor aye?

(Whereupon, the ayes were heard.)

NP COURNEYA: Any opposed?

(No response.)

NP COURNEYA: Ayes have it.

Past National President Boudreaux, you'll need to get them together and elect a chairman, and you know what you got to do.

NP COURNEYA: Shipmate at the mic.

UNIDENTIFIED SHIPMATE: Branch 371. Let the record show that this Convention be named Operation Deep Freeze.

(Applause.)

NP COURNEYA: I agree, Shipmate. Next Convention, we'll turn the heat up.

A few notes. Tomorrow morning at 0900 in this room, Operation Deep Freeze here, we'll need all the Past, the Regional Presidents, and the Regional Presidents Elect.



Let's have both Boards here because we've got a change in design for pins. That's 0900. And you have some other things. The incoming has a few other things to sign for. The Finance Officer will be here to have you sign for everything.

Midyear Convention, just so you know, is 18 to 23 April at Headquarters. And National Convention next year will be at Fort Hunt, Maryland, 20 to 23 September.

UNIDENTIFIED SHIPMATE: Hunt Valley.

NP COURNEYA: Hunt Valley.

NSD/PRPEC SLAWINSKI: Shipmate National President. Thank you. Slawinski, Delegate, Branch 181, National Service Director.

This past February, I had the opportunity to represent the Fleet Reserve Association at the commemoration, the kickoff for the commemoration for the Vietnam, for the 50th anniversary of the Vietnam War. Shipmate National Executive Director Tom Snee was in attendance, and he was one of the first recipients of the pin recognizing his service during that era.

These pins are up for eligible people living in the United States, veterans who served on active duty in the U.S. Armed Forces at any time during the period of November 1, 1955 to 1975, regardless of location, are eligible to receive one of these pins.

What I'd like to do right now is ask those who served during that period of time to please stand up.

(Applause.)

NSD/PRPEC SLAWINSKI: Congratulations. From a grateful Nation, I want to say thank you for your service. Thank you for your service to the country. And now I'm going to ask if you have received one of these pins already, please take a seat so that we can recognize those who have not yet received a pin.

I've asked the Department of Veterans Affairs to get me the pins to distribute here at the convention, and so I'm going to ask my colleagues to help pass them out. So if you've

already received a pin, please have a seat. If you have not, we'll come around and present you a pin. Thank you.

NP COURNEYA: All right, Shipmates. While we're waiting for Shipmate Slawinski to come around with the pins, the Auxiliary has already left, so we ain't going to go over there and parade around. We'll do that tomorrow before we finally adjourn the convention. We can do that tomorrow.

Tomorrow morning we have at 1000, there is a rehearsal for the installation. That will be right here in this room. So make sure you're there if you're part of the installation tomorrow.

Also I want to thank -- hold it down for a minute. I want to thank our reporter, Ms. Lisa Nagy-Baker, for all of her hard work and putting up with us all weekend. She departs us today at 1900, so I want to thank her for being here and for putting up with a bunch of old vets.

(Applause.)

NP COURNEYA: If nobody has anything else, I will continue on. We'll call the Chaplain up and recess for today. Tomorrow we will resume at 1800 for the installation of officers.

We move now to the Good of the Order. Does anyone have anything?

UNIDENTIFIED SHIPMATES: No.

UNIDENTIFIED SHIPMATE: Proceed.

NP COURNEYA: Anyone want to speak? I'm trying to get us out of here. All right. Shipmate at the mic.

SHIPMATE RUIZ: Ruiz. I got a Marine Corps voice. I'm a Master Sergeant in the Marine Corps. Ruiz, Branch 101.

I'm on the Board of Education and Scholarships. Since the Branch of the FRA can no longer give us \$30,000 because of the funding, I'd like iMIS, to let us have access to it so we can ask for donations from the shipmates to the scholarship fund. That's my motion.

NP COURNEYA: All right, Shipmates. You heard his motion. And we did that last year, the year before last, for Branch 46. We gave it to them.

JrPNP IPPERT: It required a resolution.

NP COURNEYA: Right. Well, he made a motion on the floor. He made a motion to have the Foundation use your iMIS listing. And one thing I will tell you. It does not leave the building. It's done at Headquarters, and it is not sent out to everybody.

Any discussion on the motion?

UNIDENTIFIED SHIPMATE: Was there a second to the motion?

PNP BLACKBURN: Blackburn, Delegate, Branch 008. Second.

NP COURNEYA: We got a second. Discussion?

PNP BLACKBURN: Shipmates, if we can open up our membership list to an outside group on the Lifeline Screening, we should be able to allow our own Association and our own Foundation to use the e-mail addresses that are listed in iMIS to solicit funds from our Shipmates during the giving season.

NP COURNEYA: It is no cost to the association, and the Foundation pays for all the mailing and postage and whatever else is incurred to do that.

So we have a motion. We have a second. Any further discussion? All in favor?

(Whereupon, the ayes were heard.)

NP COURNEYA: Opposed?

(Whereupon, the nays were heard.)

NP COURNEYA: Ayes have it.

All right. At this time, anybody else have anything for the assembly under the Good of the Order? All right.

Shipmate National Chaplain.

(Three raps of the gavel.)

NCHAP WALLACE: Shipmate National President, the Bible is now closed.

NP COURNEYA: Thank you, Shipmate National Chaplain. We will reconvene tomorrow at 1800 for installation.

Salute the flag.

Hand salute. Ready. Two.

(Whereupon at 4:40 p.m., the Fourth Business Session was adjourned.)