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96th Fleet Reserve Association
National Convention

Fourth Business Session

14 November 2024

Doubletree Hotel
Annapolis, Maryland

1 (Called to order at 1300.)

2 NP HANDZUK: Shipmate Master at Arms,
3 invite the shipmates into the hall and close the
4 door please.

5 MSS: Shipmate National President, we
6 might have a few stragglers.

7 NP HANDZUK: Shipmate National Chaplain,
8 please open the Bible. Uncover.

9 NCHAP BEHM: Shipmate National
10 President, the Bible is open.

11 NP HANDZUK: Very well. Cover.
12 Shipmate at the mic.

13 JPNP ROBBINS: Shipmate National
14 President, Junior Past Robbins, 126 delegate.
15 Let the record reflect that I am in the uniform
16 of the day.

17 (Applause.)

18 NP HANDZUK: Thank you. Shipmate at the
19 mic.

20 PRPEC (Inaudible): Shipmate National
21 President, Past Regional President East Coast

1 (Inaudible). We're going to pass on information
2 from Loretta Jordan and the actual committee for
3 the hundredth anniversary. Some of you have been
4 asking about the hats and the bags for the actual
5 hundredth anniversary. She has two different
6 style hats, a gray one and a blue-gray one with
7 the hundredth anniversary patch, along with the
8 bag. The hats are \$30, the bag is \$40. All the
9 proceeds go to the actual convention event to pay
10 the bills.

11 NP HANDZUK: Thank you. Shipmate
12 Posekany, would you come forward and complete
13 your report please?

14 PRPNC POSEKANY: Two resolutions to go,
15 shipmates, resolution 14 and 15, they've been
16 dispersed on the tables.

17 Constitution and bylaws resolution
18 number 14, national board of directors.

19 Resolved, Article 8, Section 807(a) be
20 amended to read: The national executive director
21 shall not engage in any other business but shall

1 devote their entire time and attention to the
2 duties of their office and the business of the
3 Fleet Reserve Association. Their duties
4 allowing, he or she shall perform subsidiary
5 duties. He or she shall comply with the
6 provisions of the Constitution and Bylaws,
7 Standing Rules, and regulations and directives of
8 the national board of directors.

9 Be it further resolved, Article 8,
10 Section 807(b) be amended to read, in the absence
11 of the executive director from the national
12 headquarters, the line of succession of duties
13 shall be the designated office manager.

14 And be it further resolved, that
15 Article 8, Section 809(a) be amended to read, the
16 finance officer shall be the finance, disbursing
17 and purchasing officer of the Fleet Reserve
18 Association, and shall work at direction of the
19 national executive director.

20 The constitution and bylaws committee's
21 recommendation is to adopt. Rationale is to

1 clarify the succession of duties in the temporary
2 absence of the NED and to state the chain of
3 command for the national executive director.

4 NP HANDZUK: Recommendation is to adopt.
5 Any questions, any comments? All those in favor
6 of adoption, indication with a sign of aye.

7 (Chorus of ayes.)

8 Opposed?

9 SPEAKERS: Nay.

10 The ayes have it.

11 PRPNC POSEKANY: Constitutional and
12 bylaws resolution number 15, membership and
13 retention committee.

14 Resolved, that Section 311(d) be amended
15 to read, Silver Anchor Squadron Award. Any
16 member of the FRA or FRA Auxiliary who obtains 50
17 new or reinstated members for the FRA within a
18 five-year period shall be presented with a Silver
19 Anchor Squadron Award pin, a Silver Anchor
20 Squadron certificate, and a letter of
21 commendation signed by the national president.

1 Resolved, this amendment becomes
2 effective November 30th, 2024.

3 Constitution and bylaws recommends
4 adoption. Rationale, this affects the timeframe,
5 it does not change any awards given, and it
6 should be noted that the committee vote was
7 unanimous on this resolution.

8 NP HANDZUK: Shipmates, you heard the
9 resolved. Questions, comments? All those in
10 favor of adoption indicate by a sign of aye.

11 (Chorus of ayes.)

12 Opposed? The motion carries.

13 PRPNC POSEKANY: Shipmate National
14 President, it's been our privilege to serve as
15 constitutional bylaws for this year, and we
16 request that our appointments be relieved at this
17 time. Thank you.

18 NP HANDZUK: Permission granted, and I
19 want to thank the committee for its diligence and
20 hard work. Thank you very much, shipmates.

21 (Applause.)

1 All right. We have a little bit of
2 housekeeping. Are you ready for the reading?
3 Are they ready?

4 MAA: They're ready.

5 NP HANDZUK: All right. Shipmate
6 National Chaplain, would you please close the
7 Bible? Uncover.

8 NCHAP BEHM: Shipmate National
9 President, the Bible is closed.

10 NP HANDZUK: Very well. Cover.

11 I thought they were outside The door.
12 While we wait, Shipmate Murphy and Shipmate Dan
13 from Branch 37, will you please come to the
14 podium to get your hat bags?

15 MAA: Shipmates, I thought they were
16 coming over here, not us going over there. We
17 haven't even voted for ours yet. Let me find out
18 what they're doing.

19 NP HANDZUK: All right. While we wait,
20 one note of housekeeping. Typically the C&BL
21 committee report is toward the end of reports

1 because various committees have recommendations
2 that have to go before C&BL. I'm going to take
3 that, I'm going by the script that was given to
4 me yesterday, so I was just following the script.
5 So we may have to come back and visit it when the
6 respective committees come up with
7 recommendations, okay. Now, we still have NBRs
8 from the board we have to ratify, and I will
9 defer to the NED.

10 MAA: Shipmate National President, the
11 auxiliary leaders are here.

12 NP HANDZUK: Bring them aboard.

13 (LAFRA past national presidents
14 approached the rostrum.)

15 PNP LAFRA FULTON: Good afternoon,
16 shipmates. I'm Past President Nadine Fulton, I'm
17 here with my crew, with my esteemed leaders from
18 the LAFRA, and she's not wearing something like
19 Robby, so, Sandy?

20 PNP LAFRA ROBBINS: I'm Sandra Robbins,
21 past national president. I served in 2006, 2007,

1 a long time ago. I am so blessed to be here. I
2 wish Jerry, my running mate could be here with
3 us, but we do carry them in our prayers and I do
4 talk to him from time to time, but his health is,
5 as we all get older, and I do have a quick funny.

6 It's called sleeping with a snorer, none
7 of would know about that. By the time the chief
8 pulled into the little town, every hotel room was
9 taken. The chief shows up at the counter at one
10 of the hotels and pleads with the manager, you've
11 got to have a room somewhere with a bed. I don't
12 care. Well, I do have a double room with one
13 occupant, a Marine gunny. And he admitted that
14 he might be glad to split the cost, but to tell
15 you the truth, he snores so loudly that people in
16 adjoining rooms have complained about that, I'm
17 not sure it would be worth it for you. No
18 problem, the retired chief assured him.

19 The next morning the chief came down to
20 breakfast bright eyed and bushy tailed. The
21 manger asked, how did you sleep? Oh, never

1 better, I had a great night. The manager was so
2 impressed and asked, no problem with the other
3 guy snoring? No, I shut him up in no time. How
4 did you manage to do that, the manager asked? He
5 was already in bed snoring away when I came into
6 the room. I went over to him, gave him a quick
7 kiss on the cheek and said good night beautiful,
8 and he sat right up all night long.

9 (Laughter.)

10 PNP LAFRA RODHAM TUCK: Hi, I'm Cindy
11 Rodham Tuck, past national president 2009-10. My
12 running mate was the illustrious Gary Blackburn.
13 We tried to travel several miles over the course
14 of that year and had a great time, even though we
15 yelled at each other a lot.

16 I have also a joke. A car full of Irish
17 nuns was sitting at a traffic light in downtown
18 Dublin when a bunch of rowdy drunks pull up
19 alongside them. Hey, show us your teats, you
20 bloody penguins, shouts one of the drunks. Quite
21 in shock, the mother superior turns to Sister

1 Mary Magdalata and says I don't think they know
2 who we are, show them your cross. Sister Mary
3 Magdalata rolls down her window and shouts piss
4 off you fucking little bikers, before I come over
5 there and rip your balls off. She then rolls up
6 her window and looks back at the mother superior
7 quite innocently and asks, did that sound cross
8 enough?

9 (Laughter.)

10 PNP LAFRA COURNEYA: Good afternoon,
11 shipmates, I am Helen Courneya, I was national
12 president 2010 to 2011 with James Scarborough,
13 2015 to 2016 with Virgil Courneya, and 2016-2017
14 with Don Larson.

15 PNP LAFRA LARSON: Hi. Virginia Larson,
16 National President 2011-2012, and my running mate
17 was Jeff Gilmartin. I'm not telling any jokes
18 today.

19 PNP LAFRA FRI: I'm Doris Fri, National
20 President in 2014-15. My running mate was John
21 Ippert, who has gone to the supreme commander.

1 And I don't have a joke to tell either but I'm
2 going to tell you what, I like to listen to this
3 room. I tell my neighbors all the time, I go to
4 conventions because I get to see a whole lot of
5 sailors, and that's just on the floor. I'm happy
6 to be here.

7 (Applause.)

8 PNP LAFRA HOOVER: Howdy, shipmates.
9 Diane Hoover, Unit 024, Naval Academy, and I
10 served with the late Mark Kilgore, and I miss him
11 and I know you do too. So here's the joke, you
12 may have heard this.

13 Have you heard about kids who identify
14 as cats and dogs? Sitting at the supper table
15 one night the son says to his dad, dad, I think
16 I'm a cat. The dad says no, son, you're a boy.
17 No, dad, some of my friends at school identify as
18 cats. They call themselves cats and I will too,
19 it's my right and you can't do anything about it.
20 Okay, the dad says. After supper the dad says
21 I'm putting the cat food in the corner. Now get

1 off of this table, you mangy cat. What? The dad
2 says get off the table. The son leans forward
3 and says did that cat leave? The dad decides to
4 I make a point, he says your mother and I have
5 decided we don't want a house cat, you need to go
6 out in the bran and chase those mice. So he
7 picked up a broom and said to his son, get out of
8 here. The son again, dad, I think I'm a boy. I
9 thought you would, now sit down and eat your
10 supper.

11 (Applause.)

12 PNP LAFRA (inaudible): Michelle
13 (inaudible) National President 2013-2014 with
14 Virgil Courneya. Yeah, I'm the second wife
15 actually. We spent a lot of time together. Hope
16 you all have a great convention.

17 (Applause.)

18 PNP LAFRA MURRAY: Good afternoon,
19 National President, good afternoon, shipmates.
20 I'm Christina Murray, Past National President
21 2018-2019, and happy to be here. I have a little

1 joke for you.

2 SPEAKER: Who was your running mate?

3 PNP LAFRA MURRAY: Oh, my running mate
4 was Bob Washington. So what is a lawyer's
5 favorite drink? A subpoena colada.

6 (Groans and laughter.)

7 PNP LAFRA PARKO: Good afternoon,
8 shipmates. I'm really proud of what all of
9 you've done for us and our families and our
10 communities. I am Chris Parko, was national
11 president from 2019 to 2020, and my counterpart
12 was Donna Jansky, we had a hell of a year at that
13 time, but I really thank you for all the support
14 during that time. I guess that's all I have to
15 say, right?

16 (Applause.)

17 Good afternoon, National President. I'm
18 sure everyone wants to know who I am, I'm Pat
19 Suckow, Past National President 2021-2022 and my
20 counterpart, I don't know where he is, was
21 National President James Campbell. Anyway, I

1 want to thank everybody and I hope everybody is
2 having a great time.

3 (Applause.)

4 (LAFRA past presidents escorted from
5 assembly hall.)

6 NPAR HIGHLAND: Shipmate National
7 Presidents of the Fleet Reserve Association,
8 would you please form up outside to bring back
9 our greetings to them?

10 NP HANDZUK: Yes, we are reconvening the
11 meeting. Shipmate National Chaplain, please open
12 the Bible. Uncover.

13 NCHAP BEHM: Shipmate National
14 President, the Bible is open.

15 NP HANDZUK: Thank you, Shipmate
16 Chaplain. Cover.

17 Okay. The next item, the resolutions,
18 the NBRs, excuse me that were covered during
19 pre-board. NED, we need to again, as I mentioned
20 earlier, they need to be approved by the
21 delegates, so if you will proceed with those,

1 Shipmate NED.

2 NED REID: Reid, Branch 181, delegate.

3 We have one, two, three, four, five of the NBRs.

4 One is NBR 39-24, we did not have the
5 affirmation on it, so we'll start with that one
6 and go there from there. I have put on the
7 tables copies of the NBRs, the ones that have not
8 been ordered.

9 The national board of directors approved
10 the use of FRA's logo for Branch 316. Ten
11 affirmatives.

12 NBR 40-24. The national board of
13 directors approved the sale of the FRA's van. 12
14 affirmatives.

15 NBR 41-24. National board of directors
16 approved changes to bylaws for the East Coast
17 Region presented by Regional President East
18 Coast. 12 affirmatives.

19 NBR 42-24. The national board of
20 directors approved the changes to bylaws of the
21 Southeast Region presented by Regional President

1 Southeast Bob Turner.

2 NBR 43-24. The national board of
3 directors approved extension of the charter of
4 Branch 050. 12 affirmatives.

5 Any questions or comments?

6 I make a motion that the delegates
7 approve these additional NBRs that were done at
8 the pre-board meeting November 10th, 2024.

9 NP HANDZUK: Shipmate at the mic.

10 SPEAKER: (Inaudible), 170, second.

11 NP HANDZUK: Thank you, Shipmate. On
12 the motion, any questions? All those in favor,
13 indicate by sign of aye.

14 (Chorus of ayes.)

15 Opposed? The motion carries, thank you.

16 Okay. We will proceed with standing
17 committee reports. My script tells me the next
18 one up for reporting is the committee, national
19 committee on future planning. Shipmate Talbot,
20 are you ready to render a report?

21 PRPSC TALBOT: Talbot, delegate, Branch

1 159, chairman of the future planning committee.
2 The national convention committee on future
3 planning met at various locations of the
4 Doubletree Hotel, Annapolis, Maryland,
5 November 13, 2024 during the morning hours to
6 receive ideas from shipmates. Myself, Bruce
7 Talbot, Marcia Cunningham, James Richmond,
8 Charles McIntyre, accepted any ideas and
9 suggestions from shipmates throughout the
10 morning. Our committee is an open group, all are
11 welcome and have a place at the meeting, so
12 occasionally we did have a dead horse and beat it
13 again, but we did hold closely to our one-hour
14 schedule and agenda, so our meeting did
15 essentially last one hour, maybe going over for a
16 few minutes.

17 So Shipmate National President, I will
18 proceed with this report, most of which you have
19 already heard, but these items are still on the
20 minds of our shipmates and deserve consideration.
21 Due to many of the standing members having

1 multiple committee responsibilities at the same
2 time, the members talked to shipmates for ideas
3 wherever they were throughout the morning. The
4 chairman was available in the meeting room during
5 the morning to canvass available shipmates. This
6 was primarily a function of being stretched too
7 thin that led to shipmates having multiple
8 responsibilities, rather than a scheduling
9 conflict. So we were tasked on our other
10 committees because we needed all the bodies to
11 fill them out rather than one assigned committee.

12 The future planning committee will work
13 with the convention committee to provide a
14 working schedule for the next convention.
15 Additionally, the committee will hold regular
16 meeting throughout the year to minimize whatever
17 they have to do at the convention whenever
18 possible, understanding that some of you have to
19 make reports that don't arrive until the
20 convention, but all the other work, they could be
21 done in advance, and the future planning

1 committee finished all their stuff up in July.

2 Regional items. North Central and South
3 Central regions agreed to realign to become one
4 region and will be ready to function as one
5 following this convention. Official realignment
6 will require bylaws provisions that were meant to
7 be incorporated into the 2025 constitutional
8 convention, which may not be held as a
9 constitutional convention but just as a
10 convention.

11 The West Coast and Southwest region
12 voluntary realignment was discussed. These two
13 small regions could possibly benefit by combining
14 to take advantage that a region with larger
15 numbers bring.

16 No action is in progress. We recommend
17 that the budget, finance and audit committee
18 adjust the power and strength of regional
19 presidents based on the number of branches and
20 geography of the region.

21 The future planning committee recommends

1 that the FRA draw up a strategic business plan to
2 guide the future of the organization. It has
3 fully benefited the membership in other
4 organizations to hire professional organizations
5 to perform specific tasks to reduce the physical
6 footprint of headquarters minimizing expenses,
7 and allowing those who can work from home to do
8 so.

9 Action, recommend the NP appoint an
10 ad hoc committee to develop a strategic business
11 plan for the FRA's next hundred years.

12 Realizing the current membership trends,
13 a qualified NED candidate may not exist within
14 our membership. The future planning committee
15 recommends a resolution that will allow the
16 national board of directors to conduct a search
17 for the best qualified candidate from within the
18 organization or external to the organization. In
19 the case of similarly qualified candidates, the
20 FRA member will be given precedence.

21 Action, the resolution will be

1 resubmitted and we encourage you to vote in
2 favor. It cannot wait another year and the NED's
3 term will expire in 2025, and this resolution
4 will cancel the ultimate worry.

5 Branches benefitting from the use of the
6 FRA trademark or name should be required to renew
7 annually. This would include items for sale by
8 branches in club rooms. Additionally,
9 headquarters returns all the inventory and sale
10 of all items to a branch or branches.

11 Action, bylaws change submitted, and we
12 encourage you to vote in favor.

13 Our intent here was to protect our logo
14 should a branch be taken over by the club room.
15 We want to make sure we have accountability for
16 where our logo, our names, likeness is being used
17 and control over that by registration annually
18 every year, but the shipmates rejected that.

19 That (inaudible) include legislative
20 visits. Otherwise, it is not going to justify
21 the travel expense to Washington D.C.

1 Action, recommend scheduling the midyear
2 when Congress is in session.

3 If a branch loses membership and drops
4 below ten members, it may still be viable to
5 operate with five members being active and
6 attending meetings and functioning. Many
7 branches with a hundred members only have a
8 handful of members, active members that show up
9 and attend these meetings and they're considered
10 in good working order.

11 Our action, reduce the minimum number of
12 members required to maintain a branch to the
13 number of officers required for the annual
14 report, recommend membership and retention
15 committee present a bylaws change.

16 Many branches may not have a competitive
17 voice in the voting process for procedural cases
18 and elections.

19 Action, future planning committee will
20 conduct a review and proposed recommended changes
21 if necessary.

1 Based on the current trend,
2 decommissioning the FRA may become a reality.
3 Current income sources including proceeds from
4 the sale of the building are dismal, providing a
5 budget forecast of only a few years, pending a
6 miracle or an alternative source of revenue.
7 Consideration should be giving to merging with
8 other appropriate organizations or exiting with
9 dignity, grace and pride if necessary. The
10 future planning committee recommends preparing
11 exit plans and a timeline in any case, as a
12 proper decommissioning would take two or three
13 years. We are not saying we have to put the plan
14 into effect, we just need a viable plan.

15 Action, appoint an ad hoc committee to
16 develop a viable decommissioning plan which
17 includes options for branches that have
18 substantial resources or property. My personal
19 story is our branch home, which I wanted to
20 decommission about ten years ago when I came off
21 active duty and realized we were only using it

1 once a month, it was a liability to us because if
2 a hurricane came through we would go broke. When
3 our last member retired from the FRA, we said
4 yeah, go ahead and sell the home, when the last
5 older member that was adamant about keeping the
6 home said go ahead and sell it. We enlisted my
7 sister Nicole to do all the work of closing that
8 up in a very short timeline to get it off our
9 role and out of our hands. So we just need a
10 plan so we can put it into effect if we need to,
11 I'm not saying we ever will have to.

12 We heard the vice admiral make the
13 comment we are capitalizing on the skills of our
14 young midshipmen -- sorry. We are capitalizing
15 on the skills of our young midshipmen bringing us
16 their cell phones, she said that yesterday. And
17 also to make our comment, what excites you and
18 draws members your age is not necessarily what
19 the younger generation is interested in, you have
20 to change to meet them. So our actions today
21 have to stop living in the past and please move

1 forward in the present if we're not going to
2 embrace the future.

3 I move that my report be received.

4 SPEAKER: Shipmate National President.

5 NP HANDZUK: Shipmate at the mic.

6 SPEAKER: Did he ask that it be received
7 or accepted?

8 PRPSC TALBOT: I moved that this report
9 be received. It was on the script that they gave
10 us.

11 NP HANDZUK: Basically what we have,
12 he's got recommendations there that have to be
13 forwarded to the respective committees. Can
14 you -- it's basically the same thing, but what I
15 need you to do, if you say accepted, then I can
16 say your recommendations are forwarded to next
17 year's committees.

18 PRPSC TALBOT: Tell me what you want me
19 to say.

20 NP HANDZUK: You move that your report
21 be accepted.

1 PRPSC TALBOT: I move that my report be
2 accepted.

3 NP HANDZUK: Okay, accepted. Does not
4 need a second. Thank you. Your recommendations
5 will be forwarded to the respective committees
6 for next year. Okay.

7 Is Shipmate John Davis in the meeting
8 hall, legislative services? Are you ready to
9 render a report, national committee on
10 legislative services.

11 DLP DAVIS: John Davis, Branch 181,
12 chairman of the national committee on legislative
13 service. We submitted our report. We met
14 yesterday morning at 7:30 here in the hotel and
15 we met for legislative updates, and we approved
16 the legislative agenda for 2025, and I ask that
17 this report as submitted be accepted.

18 NP HANDZUK: Accepted. Thank you,
19 Shipmate. My head's in a fog, and I'm sorry,
20 shipmates. I need seconds so they can be voted
21 on. Shipmate at the mic.

1 S/M IRVIN: Irvin, Branch 91, delegate.
2 I would like to second Shipmate Talbot's motion.

3 NP HANDZUK: All right, thank you. All
4 right. The motion has been made to accept
5 Shipmate Talbot's report.

6 On the question, all those in favor give
7 a sign of aye.

8 (Chorus of ayes.)

9 Opposed? The motion is carried.

10 I need a second for Shipmate Davis'
11 report.

12 S/M KERR: Kerr, delegate, Branch 91. I
13 would like to second the motion.

14 NP HANDZUK: Thank you. It's been moved
15 and seconded to accept the legislative service
16 report.

17 On the question, all those in favor
18 indicate by signing aye.

19 (Chorus of ayes.)

20 Opposed? The motion is carried.

21 National convention committee on

1 honorary membership and certificate of merit. We
2 didn't have any nominations. Okay.

3 The next report is the chairman,
4 national convention committee on budget, finance
5 and audit.

6 JPNP ROBBINS: Shipmate National
7 President, Junior Past Robbins, delegate, 126. I
8 would prefer to be the last.

9 NP HANDZUK: Very well.

10 JPNP ROBBINS: You know, because ours is
11 going to take quite a while.

12 NP HANDZUK: You can wait.

13 PRPNC LICKTEIG: Shipmate National
14 President, Shipmate Lickteig, delegate, Branch
15 161, A-P chairman. I am ready to deliver my
16 report.

17 NP HANDZUK: Come on up.

18 PRPNC LICKTEIG: Good afternoon,
19 shipmates. The national convention committee on
20 Americanism and Patriotism met in the mainsail
21 main and west rooms of the Doubletree Hotel,

1 Annapolis, Maryland on November 12th, 2024 from
2 1300 to 1700, and November 13th, 2024 from 0900
3 to 1039. The following actual shipmates that are
4 on the committee that were present: Shipmate
5 Regional Past President North Central Jerry
6 Lickteig as the chairman, Branch 161. Shipmate
7 Richard A. Reed, National Master at Arms, Branch
8 101, and Shipmate Past Regional President North
9 Central Norm Combs, advisor, Branch 161. Other
10 shipmates joined us, Shipmate Richard Ruiz --
11 Rivas, excuse me, sorry about that, Richard, vice
12 president, Branch 161; David Butts, president,
13 Branch 251; Denise Torrafranca, I'm probably
14 pronouncing that wrong, Branch 91; Regional
15 President West Coast Elect John Bob Huffman,
16 Branch 197; Bill McCain, chairman, Northeast/New
17 England Branch 232; Regional Vice President
18 Southwest Ed Lebeau, Branch 302; Regional
19 President Northwest Rex Faubion, Branch 104. And
20 I misspoke, he actually got assigned to our
21 committee mitt midway through the year.

1 Based off the script that I was given,
2 the national committee A-P duties shall be to
3 encourage the regions and branches to honor the
4 Flag of the United States of America, to observe
5 the anniversary of distinguished persons and
6 events in our history, to work and encourages the
7 participation of others in city programs, and
8 sponsor the principles of our founding fathers as
9 expressed in the Constitution of the United
10 States of America. The national convention
11 committee on Americanism and Patriotism shall
12 conduct annual Americanism essay contests. The
13 Americanism and Patriotism committee shall
14 encourage the regions and branches to honor our
15 departed shipmates in a manner as expressed in
16 the Preamble and Constitution of the Fleet
17 Reserve Association, and any appropriate honors
18 provided by any such solemn occasions. Guidance
19 shall be provided on how such activities should
20 be conducted in conjunction with community
21 observations, and whenever possible, the

1 committee recognizes FRA branches and members for
2 their activities and programs to support
3 Americanism and Patriotism.

4 Below are the branches that are
5 recognized for their outstanding efforts to
6 promote Americanism and Patriotism for the
7 2023-24 membership year. The results of
8 evaluation and committee reports are as follows.
9 Break out your pencils or pens.

10 First place. Group I, Branch 269, Low
11 Country, Southeast. Group II, Branch 161,
12 Spokane, region North Central. Group III, Branch
13 101, Santa Clara Valley, region West Coast.
14 Group IV, Branch 14, Milwaukee, North Central.
15 Group V, Branch 32, Lake of the Ozarks, region
16 North Central.

17 Second place. Group I, Branch 24,
18 Annapolis, region East Coast. Group II, Branch
19 99, Kempsville, region East Coast. Group III,
20 Branch 126, FRA Branch 126 Incorporated,
21 Southeast. Group IV, Branch 197, Modesto, region

1 West Coast. Group V, Branch 98, Shreveport,
2 South Central.

3 Third place. There is no Group I.
4 Group II, Branch 22, Mark A. Kilgore, region
5 Southeast. Group III, Branch 97, Whidbey Island,
6 region Northwest. Group IV, Branch 293,
7 Elizabeth City, region East Coast. Group V,
8 Branch 185, Golden Spike, Ogden, region West
9 Coast.

10 The Walter C. "Step" Rowell Award for
11 the first place overall goes to Branch MO-KAN
12 161. 161.

13 The Leonard D. "Swede" Nelson Award for
14 shipmate of the year goes to Shipmate Laurie
15 Bailey, Low Country Branch 269.

16 The Robert E. Doherty Award goes to Art,
17 I'm going to mess this up, Bucad, City of Carson,
18 Branch 302.

19 The committee recommends the theme for
20 the 2025-2026 Americanism essay contest be What
21 Patriotism Means to Me. That gets us back on

1 track after this upcoming year.

2 The committee also discussed mailing of
3 regional reports. There were some regions that
4 mailed their reports and were not received.

5 These reports were not sent via priority mail,
6 just regular mail, so there was no way on
7 tracking the reports. Several regional
8 presidents hand carried their original letters
9 with them, and others mailed the reports with
10 tracking information. The committee recommended
11 recommends that all regional reports be hand
12 carried or mailed with tracking information to
13 eliminate this problem.

14 This was also an issue for the
15 Americanism and Patriotism essay contest. Some
16 of these essays were mailed via first class and
17 it took over 30 days for me to receive them.

18 The committee also believes with the
19 declining membership in the FRA, that combining
20 some reports be looked at, since several report
21 contains the same information. The committee

1 believes that the Americanism and Patriotism,
2 public relations and youth activities could be
3 combined into one report.

4 Shipmate National President, this
5 concludes my report. On behalf of all the
6 members of the committee, we thank you for asking
7 us to serve.

8 Now my script says I move to adopt, but
9 I'm going to move to receive the recommendations
10 contained therein. Thank you.

11 (Applause.)

12 Can somebody get up there and say I
13 second?

14 SPEAKERS: You said received.

15 NP HANDZUK: You said received. Okay.

16 PRPNC LICKTEIG: Shipmate Lickteig,
17 delegate, Branch 161, chairman A-P. I have your
18 pennants, first, second and third. I will hand
19 them out once I get them written down correctly
20 on the back of them, so they'll be available for
21 handout later today, and I know who is receiving

1 them. Thank you.

2 NP HANDZUK: Thank you, Shipmate.

3 Okay. At this time I'm told that the
4 finance officer is ready to give his report in
5 Tab E.

6 NED REID: Shipmate Phillip Reid, Branch
7 181. As you may recall yesterday, I did not ask
8 you to accept my report because we had additional
9 work to do, and I'm going to tell you what the
10 pen and ink changes are, and that's it. So you
11 need to have your pens out, or pencils, and turn
12 to the budget.

13 The budget is going to be, we have, the
14 first pen and ink change is on page four, and it
15 is 5506.P, for parking. Currently for the 2025
16 budget it shows \$10,000. That has been changed
17 to \$12,420.

18 SPEAKER: What line number?

19 NED REID: P as in papa. On page four
20 if you go down, it says parking, P. Go across on
21 page four, it has \$10,080, it's going to be

1 changed to \$12,420. Everybody see that change?
2 It goes to one two four two zero. The change
3 reflects an increase of \$2,340.

4 We discussed other line items and what
5 we came up with after that was a total, that was
6 the only line item that was changed on this
7 budget, and the head of the budget, finance and
8 audit committee will provide you with the next
9 report. So what that does, your bottom line here
10 is going to change. The bottom line now is two
11 two seven one seven five six, \$2,271,756.

12 In addition, all right, now we're going
13 to what's called operating revenue, and your
14 projected operating revenue, there's a line
15 called miscellaneous income, line 11. It's the
16 next page, all right? And you're going to add
17 2,700 to the miscellaneous income, \$2,700 revenue
18 to the miscellaneous income.

19 SPEAKER: Under which category?

20 NED REID: Line 11, miscellaneous
21 income, two seven zero zero.

1 SPEAKER: You're on '24 or this is 25?

2 NED REID: This is for '25, budget year
3 '25. Everything is a change for budget year '25,
4 that's what's going to be presented to you by the
5 head of the budget, finance and audit committee,
6 '25. So line 11, \$2,700 you're going to put
7 there, and that's going to change your total
8 line, this is for the 2025 budget, to \$2,286,700,
9 two two eight six seven zero zero, 2,286,700; for
10 those AC guys, two two eight six seven zero zero.

11 And there are no other changes, and I
12 request that you receive this report. Receive
13 this report.

14 NP HANDZUK: All right.

15 S/M COURNEYA: Shipmate National
16 President, Courneya, delegate, Branch 274. The
17 report has to be accepted to make the changes.
18 You just made changes.

19 NED REID: The chairman of the budget,
20 finance and audit is going to make request that
21 it be accepted.

1 S/M COURNEYA: Well then, we have to
2 wait for him to do it.

3 NED REID: I just said receive it as is,
4 he's going to ask that it be accepted, and he's
5 the next speaker.

6 S/M COURNEYA: I know that.

7 NP HANDZUK: Okay. The report's been
8 received.

9 Shipmate Junior Past.

10 JPNP ROBBINS: Junior Past Robbins,
11 delegate, 126. The budget and finance met for
12 three grueling days. We talked over and went
13 through line by line item. As the financial
14 officer said, the changes are in your book. We
15 went over those. We talked about many things, we
16 discussed this over and over.

17 There is two -- no. If there were any
18 question, I would like to move that my report be
19 accepted with the changes that were pen and ink
20 changes to the budget.

21 I move that the 2025 budget be accepted,

1 be received and accepted with the changes in pen
2 and ink. That's all we need.

3 NP HANDZUK: Do I have a second?

4 PRPNC CUNNINGHAM: Cunningham, past
5 regional president North Central, Branch 14,
6 seconds.

7 NP HANDZUK: Thank you. Now,
8 discussion? Is there any discussion about the
9 budget?

10 PRPSC TALBOT: Talbot, delegate, Branch
11 269.

12 NP HANDZUK: Yes, Shipmate.

13 PRPSC TALBOT: Are we allowed to know
14 how much money we have in reserve from the sale
15 of the building and in our bank accounts?

16 NP HANDZUK: All right, shipmates. As
17 of 30 September this year -- listen up. Sale of
18 headquarters building, \$2,670,350. Capital
19 improvement, \$83,110, redesignated for lease
20 payments. Disaster relief, there's \$595,037 in
21 that investment account. In the life membership

1 fund, \$625,705. The sum of the four figures is
2 \$3,975,102. Does that answer your question,
3 Shipmate?

4 PRPSC TALBOT: It does. So my next
5 question is, or next statement is, based on
6 having to withdraw \$822,000 a year to make up the
7 difference between our income and our outgoes, we
8 have about four years remaining.

9 JPNP ROBBINS: Roughly, yes. Unless we
10 get some kind of income. We're trying to work
11 on, I know the grants come under another 501C3,
12 so if anybody in here is knowing you're going to
13 kick the bucket, would you like to will us some
14 money?

15 We put a thing out in what was called
16 building fund, we asked everybody if they would
17 donate \$10 toward the building fund, and that was
18 supposed to give us 200-some thousand.

19 NED REID: I'll make a comment on that.
20 So Reid, Branch 181, delegate.

21 Shipmate, you're absolutely correct, it

1 looks like on paper it's about four years, but
2 there are a lot of things that can be done.

3 One of the numbers he just gave you was
4 the \$83,000 that we have in the building fund
5 currently. We no longer have a building so
6 that's going to be designated by the board of
7 directors to pay our rent.

8 If any of you read my column in FRA
9 Today, one of the things I talked about was the
10 home fund, and literally that \$83,000 is going to
11 be part of the home fund. So for the next five
12 years what we have is an obligation to pay rent
13 at about \$600,000. My analysis is if every
14 single member of FRA paid \$25, we actually could
15 cover that. And what that would basically do,
16 shipmates, is provide an additional year of
17 funds, because I don't have to remove that
18 \$600,000 from the \$2.7 million that we currently
19 have.

20 We're not going to lay down. We're
21 going to go forward with this, and my goal is

1 really in the last year of the Booker grant, we
2 have the Veteran Service Organization, which is a
3 501C3. Many grantees will only give money to a
4 501C3, and one of the things that we have to do
5 is have programs out. However, most of those
6 grants will provide you with a 10 to 15 percent
7 admin overhead, and that 10 to 15 percent admin
8 overhead is what we would use to continue.

9 There are other organizations like us
10 that are on the beep line. At the pre-board
11 meeting I told the board about the National Sonar
12 Association, NSA. The National Sonar Association
13 has decided to stop business, and they provided
14 us with a grant of \$7,200. It had to go to the
15 assessment because they're a 501C3 and I had to
16 actually make, put up a, give them a reason why,
17 what we were going to do with those funds. So
18 we're going to set that aside.

19 But there are a lot of other
20 organizations that I've spoken to, sea service
21 related organizations is what I call them. We

1 have to look at all the associations in sea
2 services, there are other organizations that are
3 in fact on the way out, and it does two things.
4 A, it gives us another group of individuals that
5 we can approach for membership, and B, if they
6 are going out of business, maybe some additional
7 assets that they could provide us with.

8 Number three, one of the things we have
9 right now is we spend quite a bit of money on our
10 dedicated system that we have everybody's name
11 in. We could actually be the back office for a
12 lot of other sea service organizations that are
13 smaller than us. Because when you've got the
14 computer system already set up, it's simply a
15 matter of identifying them. So if we were to
16 identify everybody in the FRA with an F, and
17 everybody in the NSA with an N, when I had to do
18 a report, a full report, I would report everybody
19 who was an N as NSA.

20 So there's a lot of opportunities that
21 we have and I hope to be able to move forward

1 with over the next year, that will help us move
2 forward, and so I just wanted to provide that
3 additional information.

4 I'm not, it doesn't bother me that it's
5 only four years of money available. I can tell
6 you that there are other organizations with a lot
7 less money, and we've got to do something about
8 it. This isn't the first time you've done this.
9 You did this before. Who paid off the old
10 building? The mortgage was paid off by the
11 members and the branches.

12 So this is literally the same thing.
13 Instead of paying off a building, you're paying
14 the rent. And if that rent, like I said, over
15 five years \$600,000, that money stays in and
16 continues to grow. Thank you.

17 JPNP ROBBINS: I need to read changes.
18 The budget needs to be adopted, so I move that
19 this budget be adopted for 2025.

20 PRPNC CUNNINGHAM: Cunningham, past
21 regional president North Central, Branch 14,

1 seconds.

2 NP HANDZUK: It's been moved and
3 seconded to adopt the fiscal year 2025 FRA
4 budget. On the question, all those in favor
5 indicate by a sign of aye.

6 (Chorus of ayes.)

7 Opposed?

8 (Single nay.)

9 The motion is carried. Thank you,
10 Shipmate Junior Past.

11 Shipmate National Chaplain, please close
12 the Bible. Uncover.

13 NCHAP BEHM: Shipmate National
14 President, the Bible is closed.

15 NP HANDZUK: We stand in recess until
16 1430.

17 (Recess.)

18 NP HANDZUK: Shipmate Master at Arms,
19 invite the shipmates in and close the doors.

20 MAA: There are stragglers, sir.

21 NP HANDZUK: Very well. Shipmate

1 National Chaplain, please open the Bible.

2 Uncover.

3 NCHAP BEHM: Shipmate National

4 President, the Bible is open.

5 NP HANDZUK: Thank you, Shipmate

6 Chaplain. Cover.

7 Next report up, hospital, welfare and

8 rehab.

9 PRPSE RICHMOND: Good afternoon,

10 shipmates. Now comes the fun stuff. The

11 national committee on hospital, welfare and

12 rehabilitation met in the mainsail room of the

13 Doubletree Hotel, Annapolis, Maryland,

14 November 12th at 1530. In addition to myself,

15 the following members were present: Past

16 Regional President Southwest Donald L. Kelly,

17 Junior Past Regional President South Central C.

18 Ursula Gruetzner, Past Regional President West

19 Coast Patrick LeClaire, Past Regional President

20 Southeast Laurie Bailey, Past Regional President

21 East Coast Gabriel Falu. Advisor present was

1 Shipmate PNC Paul Gunther. And visitors and
2 assistants, Jerome P. Dupree, Branch 162, Steven
3 Piclianaco, Branch 117 and Vic Carion, Branch
4 302.

5 All right, shipmates. We did, you all
6 know what HWR does. Hours spent, this is not
7 throughout the entire FRA HWR, it's strictly from
8 the reports that were submitted to me. I would
9 recommend that each regional president gets a
10 report from their regional HWR that shows how
11 many hours, how many widows assisted, how many
12 this or that, so that way we can give all the
13 delegates at a national convention a true picture
14 of what we're doing for HWR, rather than just
15 what's submitted on the reports for your first
16 place winners.

17 Even so, the first place winners,
18 2,987.5 hours for incapacitated members, drove
19 over 18,332 miles to support those members. They
20 spent 874 hours assisting needy families and
21 shipmates, 4,765 miles driven assisting these

1 families of these shipmates. And hours of
2 volunteer work performed at hospitals, 2,224.
3 Widows assisted, 209, or 547 hours. 27 shipmates
4 donated blood, and 845 rituals were performed by
5 the shipmates.

6 As far as disaster relief, the national
7 president and national board of directors
8 approved three requests for disaster relief,
9 expenditures totaling \$6,000. Let's get to the
10 winners, got your pens and paper ready?

11 First place, Group I, Branch 289,
12 Imperial Beach. First place, Group II, Branch --
13 I'm sorry -- Group II, Branch 99, Kempsville.
14 Group III, first place, Branch 163, Valley of the
15 Sun. Group IV, first place, Branch 293,
16 Elizabeth City. Group V, first place, Branch 98,
17 Shreveport. There's another name, Broussard, but
18 anyway, you know what I'm talking about.

19 SPEAKERS: Bossier.

20 PRPSE RICHMOND: Bossier, thank you,
21 shipmates.

1 Group V was Branch 98, Shreveport.

2 Second place in Group I, Branch 91,

3 First Coast. Group two, Branch 136, Viking.

4 Group III, Branch 97, Whidbey Island. Group IV,

5 197, Modesto. And Group V, Branch 32, Lake of

6 the Ozarks. Okay.

7 Third place, Group I, Branch 24,

8 Annapolis. Group II, Branch 302, Carson City.

9 Group III, Branch 40, Chesapeake. Group IV,

10 Branch 298, Wolverine Branch. And Group V,

11 Branch 62, San Diego.

12 My committee received, and this is the

13 first time in I can't remember how many years,

14 eight nominations for shipmate of the year. So

15 to those who did that hard work, the committee

16 selected the following shipmate to be the

17 national shipmate of the year. That shipmate's

18 name is Arthur Cranston, Branch 112, Birmingham,

19 Alabama.

20 Now the committee, we had so many of

21 them, and this person I want to recognize next

1 was within a microscopic hair of having the same
2 exact score, so the committee also wanted to give
3 honorable mention posthumously to Shipmate
4 Christina Martinez, Branch 163, Valley of the
5 Sun. It was an excellent report that the branch
6 did, kudos to both of those.

7 There's a couple of recommendations
8 here. So, four reports were disqualified, I'm
9 not pointing fingers or anything, because they
10 were using the old forms and I mean, two of the
11 forms were from 2023, one form was I think 2018
12 or 19. And one form was not actually the form we
13 have, somebody had retyped a form in a different
14 format and basically saying the same things but
15 not necessarily in the same order. So out of
16 those four that were disqualified, two of those
17 reports would have earned one of the prizes, one
18 of the ribbons, had they been put on the proper
19 forms. They were good reports, but this needs to
20 be taken care of, we're going to do a better job
21 of letting people know, use the current form.

1 Shipmates, this concludes the report of
2 the national convention committee on hospitals,
3 welfare and rehabilitation. I move that it be
4 received.

5 SPEAKER: Shipmate National President.

6 NP HANDZUK: Shipmate at the mic.

7 PNC GUNTHER: Gunther, delegate, Branch
8 182. Could you repeat the names again please?

9 PRPSE RICHMOND: What, the winner of
10 shipmate of the year?

11 PNC GUNTHER: The shipmate of the year
12 that was posthumous.

13 PRPSE RICHMOND: Oh, the posthumous? It
14 was Christina Martinez, Branch 163.

15 PNC GUNTHER: Thank you.

16 PRPSE RICHMOND: And when we have a
17 break, my ribbons are all labeled, and I hope you
18 can come to my table right there in the center,
19 and I will give you your ribbons to hang on.

20 NP HANDZUK: Okay. The next report is
21 membership and retention. National.

1 NVP BEHM: Good afternoon, shipmates.

2 ASSEMBLY: Good afternoon.

3 NVP BEHM: Yesterday through no fault of
4 my brain, I got ahead of myself, that happens a
5 lot. But anyway, moving forward, I have a couple
6 real quick reports that I will try and cover for
7 you here. We have -- yesterday I went over a few
8 of the small awards. All right.

9 I'm going to start with the -- there
10 were zero branches -- I'm going through branch
11 awards. On the Lofgren there were zero branches
12 in Group I and II, there were none from those two
13 groups. Group II, Branch 029 did see an increase
14 but that was the direct result of merging with
15 310.

16 Group III, the Charles E. Lofgren
17 Membership Award goes to Branch 101, Santa Clara,
18 California, with an increase of 39.47 percent or
19 45 new members. Group V, Charles E. Lofgren
20 Membership Award, another one, goes to Branch
21 183, Interlachen, Florida, did I say that right,

1 with an increase of 10.45 percent or 70 members.

2 Congratulations.

3 SPEAKER: Can you go back?

4 NVP BEHM: The first three?

5 SPEAKER: And slow down.

6 NVP BEHM: Okay. It says that there
7 were zero branches in Group I and II, the Group I
8 and II did not, they had an increase but this was
9 only due to a merger of 29, Branch 29 with 310,
10 got it? Okay.

11 Then Group IV, Branch 274, Reno, Nevada,
12 had an increase of 26.92 percent, also seven
13 members. Congratulations to all of you. Each of
14 these branches will receive a ship's bell as an
15 award for their great work.

16 One at a time please.

17 NP HANDZUK: Shipmate at the mic.

18 S/M BAILEY: Group I had none. Bailey,
19 Branch 269, delegate. Group II had none. And
20 then, national vice president, Group III had 101,
21 right?

1 NVP BEHM: On Group I and II there was
2 nobody, right. Group III just had 274. Oh, 274
3 -- I'm sorry.

4 (Inaudible colloquy, many speakers at
5 one time.)

6 All right. Let's try this again. Group
7 III, the Charles Lofgren Award goes to Branch
8 101, Santa Clara, okay? IV, the award goes to
9 Branch 183, Interlachen, Florida. Group V, 274,
10 Reno.

11 SPEAKER: What's the percentage for 274?

12 NVP BEHM: 274, 26.92 percent, 183 was
13 10.45 percent and 101 was 39.47 percent.

14 I believe there were no individuals, no
15 nominations were received for the individual
16 Charles E. Lofgren Award, correct, Christina?

17 DMD HITCHCOCK: Correct.

18 NVP BEHM: Now we come to the Rosenberg
19 trophy. Do we need the definition of that, or I
20 think we pretty much know that, correct, how it
21 was started? All right.

1 Apparently -- all right. From the
2 branches receiving the Charles E. Lofgren Award,
3 one branch is selected for outstanding membership
4 promotion. Shipmate Abraham Rosenberg was
5 credited with contributing to the association's
6 financial stability in the late 1930s, and Branch
7 101, Santa Clara, California will be receiving
8 that Abraham Rosenberg Award. The plaque has
9 been ordered and will be delivered as soon as we
10 receive their plaque, so congratulations to you
11 guys as well.

12 (Applause.)

13 The next one, I can't read it too slow
14 or too fast. This is the Frank J. McPherson
15 Award. I believe we had three candidates this
16 year, or three shipmates of the year submitted,
17 so let's get to the good part. The shipmate
18 selected according to what we need, the shipmate
19 selected must have extended efforts toward the
20 overall growth of the Fleet Reserve Association.
21 They need not be a top recruiter, but an

1 individual who maintains positive public attitude
2 as it affects the membership and retention of
3 association members. So basically names called
4 as nominees for this award are accompanied by
5 affidavits supporting the nominations submitted
6 by branches. Okay, now I'm going to get down to
7 it here.

8 The committee received a nomination from
9 Northwest, North Central and Southeast regions.
10 One of the three nominees was selected for the
11 2024 McPherson Award. There's a lot more to
12 this, I'm breaking this up to the best parts.
13 This shipmate was dedicated to the association
14 and shipmates and held leadership positions in
15 all branches that he has been affiliated with in
16 his FRA career, and currently is a branch
17 secretary.

18 This person consistently works as a
19 recruiter for the FRA and takes the time and
20 effort to explain the purpose of the FRA and what
21 it means to support those who served. In his

1 lifetime of about 50 years in the FRA, and
2 records not being completely there, this person
3 has recruited more than probably 700 shipmates in
4 the past 50 years. During his career, he
5 received the Golden Pelican for recruiting in
6 '88, Silver Anchor Squadron in '89, the Charles
7 E. Lofgren Award in 1991. This shipmate
8 personally visits local veterans to explain the
9 purpose of the FRA and what it means to those who
10 have served and who serve continuously. He is a
11 dependable attendee at send off and welcome home
12 events for Stars and Stripes, honor flights, had
13 participated in four events this year and
14 volunteering over 21 hours. This shipmate is a
15 walking talking recruiting poster for the FRA.

16 And for retention, this person is always
17 on the lookout for information that affects
18 current and former veterans, knowledgeable on
19 current legislation and information, and does not
20 hesitate to pass on to shipmates, veterans and
21 the enlisted community members any information

1 that he feels is important or there needs to be
2 action.

3 This shipmate represents veterans and
4 the FRA at presentations, ceremonies and
5 services, volunteering regularly at a function
6 that serves our veteran population. Included in
7 this service, he assisted in placing 27,315 flags
8 in the fields at the War Memorial Center.

9 Serving the needs of the veterans at the VA
10 center by working bingo, adding to their
11 enjoyment. He remains steadfast in his
12 determination to continue to serve veterans at
13 the local as well as regional and national level
14 of the FRA.

15 There is no way all his dedication,
16 contributions can be put on just a few pieces of
17 paper. This shipmate has been recognized as a go
18 to person in veterans organizations for the past
19 five years during this dedication of the
20 shipmate's hard work. Shipmates, if you will
21 please give a nice warm welcome and a nice

1 applause for Shipmate Kurt Baker, from Branch 14,
2 Milwaukee.

3 (Applause.)

4 NP HANDZUK: You didn't move that your
5 report be received.

6 NVP BEHM: Oh. I move that my report be
7 received, shipmates.

8 PRPSC TALBOT: Talbot, Branch 159.

9 NP HANDZUK: Shipmate at the mic.

10 PRPSC TALBOT: I'm going to move that
11 the report be received, but first of all, since
12 the constitution and bylaws went before the
13 membership committee report, I would like to
14 address Article 4 again that we rejected, and
15 give a little bit of explanation for it, and ask
16 that we have a revote on it if possible. This is
17 the one about the --

18 NP HANDZUK: What's the number?

19 PRPSC TALBOT: Article 4. This is --

20 SPEAKER: No, the number at the top.

21 PRPSC TALBOT: Sorry, C&BL number two.

1 NP HANDZUK: Proceed.

2 PRPSC TALBOT: So the --

3 NP HANDZUK: Shipmates, please, listen
4 up.

5 PRPSC TALBOT: The membership and
6 retention committee discussed long and hard on
7 this. If you read some of the details in here,
8 there's 13 members that are in this category and
9 there is no hard and fast definition of what a
10 hardship is, and it talks about disability, and
11 I'm a disabled veteran, so do I qualify for that?
12 So it's very vague and we would like, the purpose
13 of this was to ask the branches to take this
14 responsibility on vice national, because national
15 has to foot the bill for them and we would like
16 to move that locally down to branches, to have
17 the branches foot the bill for their disabled
18 veterans for membership in their branch, because
19 it does affect their voting strength.

20 For example, I have three votes at
21 Branch 159, Houston. If I go out and round up a

1 couple additional veterans, disabled individuals
2 that I could declare have a financial hardship, I
3 could easily boost my voting strength to four,
4 not that it would matter in the whole number
5 thing, but it's an unfair balance with that.

6 NP HANDZUK: All right.

7 PRPSC TALBOT: I have a motion to
8 reconsider constitution and bylaws resolution
9 number two, and I need five seconds.

10 NP HANDZUK: From five different
11 branches.

12 PRPEC MARTIN: Martin, delegate, Branch
13 166, second.

14 PRPNW LAZZARETTI: Lazzaretti, delegate,
15 Branch 18, third.

16 SPEAKER: (Inaudible) delegate, Branch
17 364, second.

18 SPEAKERS: Fourth.

19 SPEAKER: (Inaudible) Branch 39,
20 delegate, five.

21 NP HANDZUK: That's only four. I need

1 one more.

2 JrPRPSC GRUETZNER: Gruetzner, delegate,
3 Branch 201, five.

4 NP HANDZUK: All right, shipmates, it's
5 on the floor for reconsideration. Is there any
6 discussion about C&BL number two on Article 4,
7 section 401 regarding disabled membership
8 payment? Shipmate at the mic.

9 PRPNC POSEKANY: Shipmate National
10 President, Posekany, delegate, Branch 14.

11 Just to recap, keep in mind that this
12 was rejected so it is on the floor to adopt the
13 resolution, it will go away. The resolution is
14 to delete 401(e); if you vote yes on the
15 resolution, 401(e) will go away.

16 NP HANDZUK: The vote that we're calling
17 for is to reconsider bringing it back. A vote to
18 approve bringing it back then brings it to
19 discussion as to whether to adopt or not.
20 Understand? What do you mean, no?

21 You're voting to bring it back to be

1 reconsidered. A yes vote brings it back to be
2 reconsidered because it was originally rejected.
3 A no vote says you don't want to reconsider it.
4 All those in favor of reconsidering C&BL
5 resolution number two, signify by a sign of aye.

6 (Chorus of ayes.)

7 Opposed?

8 (Chorus of nays.)

9 All right. All those in favor of
10 bringing it back to the floor, stand up if you
11 can. Raise your hand if you can't.

12 All right. All those opposed to
13 bringing it back. The ayes have it.

14 All right. Now, you brought it back.
15 Is there any discussion about deleting it? This
16 is what it's about, it says to delete Section
17 401(e) and renumber it.

18 Shipmate at the mic.

19 RPSC SMITH: Smith, delegate, 98. How
20 would this affect a member at large? I mean, the
21 branches can take care of their own, but it

1 doesn't specify a branch member or a member at
2 large.

3 PRPNC POSEKANY: Shipmate National
4 President.

5 NP HANDZUK: Shipmate at the mic.

6 PRPNC POSEKANY: Posekany, Branch 14,
7 delegate. It does state that members at large,
8 the director of membership and department shall
9 make that decision, which is the same decision
10 branches would make, so members at large are
11 covered.

12 NP HANDZUK: Is there any further
13 discussion? Shipmate Christina, did you want to
14 speak to this?

15 DMD HITCHCOCK: Shipmate National
16 President, as an honorary member, do I have
17 privilege of the floor?

18 NP HANDZUK: You do.

19 DMD HITCHCOCK: So yes. We do have at
20 headquarter the members at large. There is
21 currently already one on the disability list, so

1 it wouldn't be a big issue.

2 NP HANDZUK: Thank you. Okay. Shipmate
3 at the mic.

4 RVPEC TOULOTTE: Thank you, Shipmate
5 President. Valerie Toulotte, Branch 24. Since
6 Vice President Maria Behm wrote this, would she
7 be willing to explain a little more? Thank you.

8 NVP BEHM: Okay, shipmates. I'm
9 starting to think that the wrong one was put in
10 here. Christina and I had discussed removing
11 certain bylaws and just changing them. This one
12 had become controversial because there were so
13 many branches at the time that had people that
14 were just on the membership and stated, they were
15 being brought into branches stating that they
16 were a hundred percent, so that made it a
17 financial hardship. But they didn't say that,
18 they came in and they said I'm a hundred percent
19 disabled, and so according to the way the bylaw
20 was written, that they were, they didn't have to
21 pay, and that's what we were told by the

1 branches, okay?

2 This does not mean that if you yourself
3 are, it's financial, that's what we were trying
4 to put in, a financial disability or delete it.
5 So instead of going though and doing the whole
6 concept of rewriting the whole bylaw, the
7 branches are commonly taking care of their people
8 that are on disability anyway. All this was is
9 giving you back the service, which is why I want
10 to give the choice, or the service to my branch
11 as well, which is I'm sure what you did. We're
12 talking \$20 a year, but some people have been
13 there for what, 13, 14 years as a disabled
14 veteran. They're getting money, they're not
15 financially, have a financial hardship. Am I
16 correct? Okay.

17 Well, we can consider that, right, but
18 we find a way to take care of them. So what it
19 was about was basically going through, you know,
20 what is best right now, which is deleting it. So
21 it's not impeding on anybody's disability. We're

1 going to take care of you if you're our member
2 because that's what we do, isn't it? I need to
3 hear that from more than a few people.

4 SPEAKERS: Yes.

5 NVP BEHM: Thank you. So what I'm
6 saying is, we're not having a constitutional
7 convention now, so that means we're going to have
8 more things like this that we have to deal with.
9 And our people on the constitution and bylaws
10 committee, you're going to have to dig into that
11 book and take out these things that just do not
12 make sense. It is and was always meant, and I
13 always attributed and understood it to mean a
14 financial disability, a financial hardship, not a
15 hundred percent personal body disability. It was
16 not meant to take away from any of our shipmates
17 and before we even finished writing it, I got a
18 call from one of my people in the North Central
19 region, and he explained to me that I don't want
20 to take anything away from our shipmates. I said
21 neither do I, but we want to empower them with

1 the things that they do need, and this bylaw was
2 very confusing.

3 And just imagine how many branches have
4 people that are disabled, how many of you. With
5 26,000 people in this organization, where are we
6 heading? Just so you know, in a hundred percent
7 in this whole thing we're talking about, we don't
8 get paid, nothing goes into national, you don't
9 get any money. So for 18, 20 years, some of you
10 paid the whole membership and been done with it.
11 But we lose too, and the member loses. So this
12 isn't about taking away any part of their
13 disability. I thank you for some time, thank
14 you. Hope it helped.

15 PRPSW QUESNEL: Shipmate President.

16 NP HANDZUK: Shipmate at the mic.

17 PRPSW QUESNEL: Quesnel, 289, delegate.

18 I believe when we were having our committee
19 meeting, we stated that if we just put the one
20 word financial in front of hardship, that would
21 resolve the problem. But I think the easiest way

1 to fix this would be to amend this to include the
2 word financial.

3 NP HANDZUK: Shipmate Marty.

4 PRPNC POSEKANY: Posekany, delegate,
5 Branch 14. I don't think that's possible because
6 then we would be changing the intent of this
7 resolution, which was to get rid of 401(e). You
8 can't change, you can add, enhance, but you
9 cannot make an amendment that changes the intent
10 of the resolution.

11 NP HANDZUK: On the question, any more
12 questions or comments? On the motion to delete
13 Section 401(e), all those in favor indicate by a
14 sign of aye.

15 (Chorus of ayes.)

16 Opposed?

17 SPEAKERS: Nay.

18 NP HANDZUK: Approved. All right, thank
19 you.

20 Next item, public relations, are you
21 ready?

1 NCHAP BEHM: Shipmate National
2 President, I just woke up, my apologies.

3 Shipmate, we had a second part and the
4 national convention committee on public relations
5 met in the coastal plain room of the Doubletree
6 Hotel in Annapolis, Maryland on November 13th at
7 ten o'clock a.m. and November 14th at 12:30. The
8 national committee on public relations primary
9 duty is to promulgate to the membership nothing
10 but fostering good public relations for the Fleet
11 Reserve Association, and to assist branches in
12 establishing well organized public relation
13 programs consistent with the aims and principles
14 of the Preamble to the C&BL. The committee
15 recognizes the FRA branches annually for their
16 activities and programs.

17 So in first place is, in Group I, 269,
18 Low Country. In Group II, 302, Carson City.

19 SPEAKERS: No.

20 NCHAP BEHM: Carson City, California?

21 SPEAKERS: No, just Carson.

1 NCHAP BEHM: Okay. III, Lehigh Valley
2 Branch 115. IV, the Triangle Branch 182. And in
3 Group V, Leland Alexander, Branch 15.

4 Second place, Group I, Branch 24,
5 Annapolis. Second place, Branch 161, MO-KAN.
6 III, Valley of the Sun, Branch 163. IV,
7 Mr. Rainier Branch 104. And V, Ozone, Branch
8 222.

9 Third place, there was no third place
10 for Group I. Group II is Kilgore Branch 22.
11 III, Atlanta Branch 89. IV, Las Vegas, 90. And
12 V, 62, San Diego.

13 The shipmate of the year was awarded to
14 Balu Transfiguracion.

15 SPEAKER: Spell that.

16 NCHAP BEHM:
17 T-R-A-N-S-F-I-G-U-R-A-C-I-O-N, and he's in Branch
18 302.

19 The key recommendation from the
20 committee, the signature line, make it a
21 requirement for the signature to be made crystal

1 clear to the supporting documentation. Include
2 all supporting documentation with all positive
3 reports. We got positive reports with no backup
4 documentation. The benefit of this is to ensure
5 comprehensive and verifiable reporting.

6 Number three, revision of the public
7 relations manual. The proposal is to update the
8 public relations manual dated 2008. Additions to
9 include instructions for filling out the updated
10 report and guidelines for social media
11 implementation as well as guidelines for proper
12 usage of the social media.

13 The committee recommends that to attend
14 the public relations meeting on Zoom, encourage
15 all branch PR committee chairs to attend the Zoom
16 PR monthly committee meeting and anybody else
17 that's interested in public relations. Benefit,
18 to enhance communication, networking
19 opportunities, skill development, effective
20 problem solving, and consistency in effort.

21 Emphasis the importance of each branch

1 to streamline the process to ensure clarity in
2 documentation and reporting.

3 I want to thank all the shipmates who
4 participated in the evaluation of these reports,
5 for our guests, one, two or more, about the
6 public relations committee, and I move that this
7 report be received.

8 NP HANDZUK: Thanks, Shipmate Behm.

9 Shipmate Fogel, are you ready for your
10 report? Come on up.

11 NCHAP BEHM: One more thing. You can
12 pick up your reports here if you submitted on.
13 Also, I have your awards here also. Carry on.

14 PRPSE FOGEL: Shipmate National
15 President, John Fogel, delegate, Branch 294. I'm
16 here for the national youth activities. It was
17 held here November 12th at 1300. Members, Past
18 Regional President East Coast Brian Jones, Branch
19 32. All the rest of the body were visitors.
20 Regional President Southwest Chris Chapman,
21 Branch 289; Shipmate Michael Kovenik, Branch 182;

1 Shipmate Marcia Pena, Branch 287; Shipmate
2 Geraldine Fox, Branch 251; Shipmate Kurt Baker,
3 Branch 14. I thank them very much for doing
4 these reviews.

5 Youth activities, I'm pretty sure
6 everybody knows what youth activities means, but
7 I will reiterate. Primary duty shall be to study
8 the various methods by which the branches and the
9 members may best serve the youth in their
10 communities to begin that these young people may
11 be properly guided in their endeavors to become
12 better and more useful citizens, and to solicit
13 the full cooperation of all branches and members
14 to assist in carrying out these duties.

15 The committee recognizes FRA branches
16 annually for their activities and programs. I
17 will continue on with the review report, starting
18 off with:

19 First place, Group I, Branch 269, that
20 is branch 269, Southeast. Group II, Branch 161,
21 Branch 161, North Central. Group III, Branch

1 163, Branch 163, that is the Southwest. Group
2 IV, Branch 124, 124, East Coast. Group V, Branch
3 294, Southeast. Branch 294, Southeast.

4 Second place, Group I, 289, Branch 289,
5 Southwest. Group II, Branch 261, West Coast;
6 Group II, 261, West Coast. Group III, Branch 40,
7 Branch 40, East Coast. Group IV, Branch 182,
8 East Coast. Branch V, Branch 37, East Coast,
9 Branch 37, East Coast.

10 Third place, Group I, there were no
11 winners in Group I. Group II, Branch 302, Branch
12 302, that was Southwest. Group III, Branch 97,
13 that is Southwest. Oh, Northwest, okay, I stand
14 corrected. Group IV, 17, Branch 17, Group IV,
15 and that's in North Central. Group V, 31, Branch
16 31, and that's New England/Northeast.

17 We came up with, we had three entries
18 for shipmate of the year. One was rejected for
19 paperwork not being done properly, and the
20 selection out of the three was Shipmate David,
21 first name David, last name Sheets, S-H-E-E-T-S,

1 Branch 17.

2 We had a total of 25 submitted reports.

3 Any questions? I want to thank the shipmates.

4 NP HANDZUK: Shipmate at the mic.

5 PNC GUNTHER: Shipmate Gunther, delegate
6 from 182. We don't have a Branch 124 in the
7 northeast region, New England/Northeast. Oh, you
8 said it was for the East Coast region.

9 PRPSE FOGEL: That concludes my report,
10 and I move that it be received.

11 NP HANDZUK: Okay. I have been asked by
12 S.D. Martin to make a presentation but I would
13 like to do that presentation after we do
14 elections, do you mind?

15 So we've got elections. I'm going to
16 call for a ten-minute recess, we're going to come
17 back and vote for national president and vice
18 president, and then I want to bring S.D. Martin
19 up here to do something special for us to do
20 before we leave, and I think it might surprise
21 you all.

1 So Shipmate National Chaplain, please
2 close the Bible. Uncover.

3 NCHAP BEHM: Shipmate National
4 President, the Bible is closed.

5 NP HANDZUK: Thank you, Shipmate
6 National Chaplain. We stand in recess until
7 1540.

8 (Recess.)

9 NP HANDZUK: Shipmate Master at Arms,
10 invite the shipmates into the assembly hall and
11 close the doors.

12 NP HANDZUK: Shipmate National Chaplain,
13 please open the Bible. Uncover.

14 NCHAP BEHM: Shipmate National
15 President, the Bible the open.

16 NP HANDZUK: Thank you, National
17 Chaplain. Cover.

18 Shipmate Hatcliff, are there any changes
19 or updates to the credentials report?

20 S/M HATCLIFF: Shipmate National
21 President, Hatcliff, delegate, Branch 59,

1 chairman of the credentials committee. There are
2 no changes from the morning business session.

3 However, I would like to bring up the
4 branches that are not registered.

5 NP HANDZUK: Okay.

6 S/M HATCLIFF: That should be at, I
7 think Tab 60, beginning with Branch 281. Branch
8 247.

9 SPEAKER: What is Branch 281, not
10 registered?

11 S/M HATCLIFF: Branch 281, certificate
12 not received. These are all branches not
13 registered.

14 NP HANDZUK: Okay.

15 S/M HATCLIFF: 247, the voting strength
16 is zero. Northwest, 174. Northwest, 050.

17 SPEAKER: 050, that's suspended.

18 S/M HATCLIFF: That's right. Shipmates,
19 that concludes the credentials report. Thank
20 you.

21 NP HANDZUK: Thank you, shipmate, your

1 report is received.

2 All right, shipmates, we are now going
3 to proceed to the election of the national
4 president. Shipmate NED, will you please read
5 the resolved?

6 NED REID: Lake of the Ozarks Branch
7 032, Inc., Fleet Reserve Association. National
8 President, Fleet Reserve Association, nominating
9 resolution:

10 Whereas, it will be the duty and
11 responsibility of the delegates assembled at the
12 96th National Convention of the Fleet Reserve
13 Association to elect a dedicated, experienced and
14 qualified shipmate to the office of National
15 President for the year 2024-2025; and

16 Whereas, the assembled delegates realize that the
17 shipmate elected must demonstrate leadership,
18 integrity, knowledge and dedication to the three
19 cardinal principles of loyalty, protection and
20 service to their fellow shipmates, members, their
21 families and the FRA; and

1 Whereas, Lake of the Ozarks Branch 032 has within
2 its membership a shipmate who is amply qualified,
3 Shipmate Maria A. Behm, who demonstrates all the
4 required qualifications, all of the required
5 qualifications, and is dedicated to and
6 continually shows her dedication to the Fleet
7 Reserve Association by continuously practicing
8 the three cardinal principles; and

9 Whereas, the shipmate joined the Fleet Reserve
10 Association as a member of Branch 113 in January
11 of 2011 and has maintained continuous membership.
12 This shipmate has served the FRA and shipmates
13 diligently in the following capacity: Served as
14 branch president and membership chairman during
15 the entire five years in Branch 113, Stockton,
16 California, and shown dedication to FRA and
17 Branch 113 by serving as a delegate to the West
18 Coast Regional Convention each of those years;
19 and

20 Whereas, on a national level, served as West
21 Coast Regional vice president 2015-2016, and West

1 Coast Regional President 2017-2018. In March of
2 2020 the shipmate transferred her membership to
3 Ozark Empire Branch 316 and was a dedicated
4 member who served the shipmates while continually
5 showing the three cardinal principles. She
6 served as North Central Regional Vice President
7 2020-2011, where she assumed the role as both the
8 membership chairman and the Americanism chairman,
9 and in 2023 she was elected as the national vice
10 president for the association years 2023 and
11 2024; and

12 Whereas, this shipmate has demonstrated her
13 loyalty and service to the Fleet Reserve
14 Association by recruiting 45 shipmates, earning
15 her a life membership. Starting in April 2021
16 even with the pandemic, she showed her dedication
17 and determination to the three cardinal
18 principles of the FRA by standing up a new
19 branch, Lake of the Ozarks Branch 032, which was
20 instituted August 10th, 2021 during the North
21 Central Region convention. In 2021-2022 this

1 dedicated shipmate was elected as North Central
2 Regional President, where she continues to train
3 her shipmates to stand for what you believe in,
4 and to be a leader while recruiting; and

5 Whereas, this shipmate has been nominated twice
6 for the very prestigious Frank J. McPherson
7 Memorial Award. Her membership endeavors and
8 positive attitude towards the growth of our
9 association is well known. In 2017 the West
10 Coast Region submitted her first nomination and
11 in 2022 the North Central Region submitted her
12 second nomination, in which she was awarded the
13 Frank J. McPherson Memorial Award;

14 Whereas, her knowledge of the Association
15 afforded her the ability to begin Training 101
16 Workshops she developed and conducted for
17 shipmates of the WCR, and bringing it to the
18 North Central Region and encouraging members to
19 accept leadership positions and increase their
20 membership numbers and retention; and

21 Whereas, this shipmate continually seeks new

1 ideas, suggestions and direction from shipmates
2 to assist the region and to further the mission
3 of the FRA in our three cardinal principles,
4 loyalty, protection and service, her dedication
5 to our organization is steadfast and continuously
6 noted. It is well known that this shipmate
7 consistently assumes the role of an ambassador
8 for the Fleet Reserve Association in everything
9 she says and does.

10 Whereas, she served in the United States Naval
11 Reserve from 1986 through 1991 during the Desert
12 Shield and Desert Storm era as a hospital
13 corpsman at Rock and Ready Island in Stockton,
14 California, while attached to Naval Hospital
15 Oakland, California. She was a nurse upon
16 entering the service but chose to enlist rather
17 than accept a commission. She received the
18 Meritorious Service Medal for outstanding
19 shipmate of the quarter. She was employed by the
20 Veterans Administration, Livermore, California,
21 and California Department of Corrections,

1 Stockton, California, and retired as a peace
2 officer/medical technical assistant; therefore,
3 be it

4 Resolved, that Lake of the Ozarks Branch 032,
5 FRA, at a regular meeting held on 11 January
6 2024, a quorum being present, did vote
7 unanimously to place the name of Maria A. Behm in
8 nomination for the office of National President
9 for the term of 2024-2025; and be it further

10 Resolved, that the shipmates of Lake of the
11 Ozarks Branch 32, FRA, do earnestly solicit your
12 support for our candidate, Maria A. Behm, whose
13 exemplified dedication, grace and knowledge
14 qualify her for the office of National President
15 for the term of 2024-2025.

16 Signed, James Paczkowski, President, Branch 32,
17 and Robert T. Behm, Secretary, Branch 32.

18 I give you Maria A. Behm for president of the
19 Fleet Reserve Association.

20 (Applause.)

21 NP HANDZUK: Are there any other

1 nominations for the office of national president?
2 Are there any other nominations for the office of
3 national president? Are there any other
4 nominations for the office of national president?
5 Nominations are closed.

6 Shipmate at the mic.

7 PNP FULTON: Shipmate National
8 President, shipmates, I move the NED cast one
9 ballot in acclimation for Maria Behm as National
10 President for the FRA 2024-2025. SPEAKER: Who
11 are you?

12 PNP FULTON: Fulton, delegate, Branch
13 289.

14 (Applause.)

15 NED REID: Just for the record, I cast
16 one vote for Maria Behm for president 2024-2025.

17 NP ELECT BEHM: Thank you so much
18 shipmates. I just want to say that I thank you.
19 You know I love this organization, and I love you
20 all. I think together, I don't like to use the
21 word I, we're not going to use I this year, it

1 can't be done with I, but I think for most of us
2 it's not anything at all, it's not a red hat, it
3 is about saving an organization that I believe we
4 all love, but I can't do that without you.

5 This year I've had the privilege and
6 sometimes the worst support, help and training
7 from John Handzuk, the past -- well, he's not the
8 past yet, but any way, of our President John.
9 He's taught me a lot. I have to admit, he
10 started something, he started something, and
11 moving forward in this being our 101st year, I
12 really believe we can figure out how to get back
13 on track. And I don't want to stay here too
14 long, because you know me, I love to talk, I'm an
15 entertainer, I love to chat with people.

16 But I have to say this. This morning I
17 sat in on the budget, finance and audit
18 committee. One thing I said to them was this,
19 and I want you to, the branches that have funds,
20 put your branch or your fund into the fund
21 making. We, we, all of us, I'm here because of

1 you. I'm here because one person talked to my
2 husband some years ago, and I found it as my
3 vision that the two of us could be together,
4 could do things together. I think that every
5 time I see Shipmate Valerie and her husband,
6 because that's what it's all about, that we get
7 to share this together, hoping to share it with
8 you, all of you.

9 But I'm going to say this to you. Years
10 ago, I think the one mistake I might have made in
11 person, and the one mistake I think we made when
12 we founded was not thinking of the future. And
13 when we hear, when branches close and they give
14 their money to the American Legion, VFW and all
15 those others, that's really killing us. We've
16 got to start thinking more of us. That is our
17 task, every one of you in this room, and with
18 your help, we've got some great things planned
19 this year. Things are happening around here.
20 Anyway, we've got some great things planned, and
21 I think you're going to like it. There's some

1 motivation this week, I know we're trying to get
2 some regions together and combined and become
3 one, and I think it will make us bigger. That's
4 something I've been kind of telling you about
5 this year, that is a passion of the national
6 president and myself, and strengthening what I'm
7 talking about. I want and I'm looking forward to
8 the I part.

9 I want you to send us some of your best
10 recruiters because what we want is people that
11 are going to come in and help those small
12 branches get back on their feet. It's going to
13 take some dedication. Got anything left, any
14 energy? Sure we do.

15 You know, they gave us a story today
16 that scares me. Nobody tells me we've got four
17 years. I had patients who were dying and I said
18 you're not going anywhere, you know what I'm
19 saying? We've got more than that. We've got a
20 101st and I'm not going to lead you down, I want
21 to be more. We've got to be more. I can't do it

1 without your help, shipmates, I cannot do it.

2 This year I put all of our national --
3 excuse me -- our national officers, our regional
4 presidents on a committee, because I want to know
5 what's going on with those committees. I also
6 hold some update meetings with regional
7 presidents just to see what's going on in their
8 regions. We've got to start being more
9 accountable, accountable to membership and
10 national, we've got to get it fixed. But again,
11 I cannot do it without you.

12 National president, when he becomes
13 junior past, I have some things for him too. He
14 is real good at writing evolution, so I want to
15 get our plan, and I'm going to pull out that
16 little trifecta, the little triangle that makes
17 things work. What we need right here, why would
18 I only be looking month to month for budget and
19 finance?

20 Our national presidents, we are going to
21 hold, or past nationals, we are going to hold

1 those advisory meetings. I'm going to pull out
2 my schedule and you're going to know when that
3 is, okay? Was that a hundred dollar fine over
4 there? The price goes up with me, you know what
5 I mean? All right. Thank you so much,
6 shipmates. God bless you, and we are going to do
7 this, okay? Thank you.

8 (Applause.)

9 NP HANDZUK: Shipmate at the mic.

10 SPEAKER: Shipmate National President,
11 just a point of order.

12 NP HANDZUK: Name and branch?

13 SPEAKER: Branch 289. I know there was
14 a motion for the vote and NED cast it, but I
15 don't think anybody seconded it.

16 NP HANDZUK: You don't need a second in
17 a vote for acclimation.

18 SPEAKER: Well, I was going too.

19 NP HANDZUK: Very well. Okay. Now we
20 will proceed to the election of the national vice
21 president. Shipmate Lazzaretti and Fetro, as

1 your resolved are read, will you please come to
2 the podium? NED?

3 NED REID: Fleet Reserve Association,
4 Branch 18, Seattle. National vice president
5 nominating resolution.

6 Resolved, that at a regularly scheduled meeting
7 of Seattle FRA Branch Number 18 on December 9th,
8 2023, a quorum being present, she shipmates did
9 with great pride and pleasure vote unanimously to
10 place the name of Shipmate Past Regional
11 President Northwest Pete Lazzaretti in nomination
12 for the office of national vice president. And
13 be it further

14 Resolved, that Seattle Fleet Reserve Association
15 Branch 18 sincerely solicits the support and
16 endorsement of all branches of the Fleet Reserve
17 Association for the candidacy of Past Regional
18 President Northwest Pete Lazzaretti for the
19 office of national vice president for the year
20 2024-2025.

21 In loyalty, service and protection, Jamie

1 McKenzie, Branch 18 President 2020 through 2024,
2 Shipmate Pete Lazzaretti, Past Regional President
3 Northwest Branch 18, Secretary 2015 through 2024.

4 Fleet Reserve Association, Santa Clara
5 Valley Branch 101, national vice president
6 nominating resolution.

7 Resolved, that Santa Clara Valley Branch 101,
8 FRA, at a regular meeting held on August 12th,
9 2023, a quorum being present, did vote
10 unanimously to place the name of Richard J.

11 "Rick" Fetro in nomination for the office of
12 national vice president for term 2024-2025. And
13 be it further

14 Resolved, that the shipmates of Santa Clara
15 Valley Branch 101, FRA, do earnestly solicit your
16 support for our candidate Richard J. "Rick"
17 Fetro, whose exemplified dedication, service and
18 knowledge qualify him for the office of national
19 vice president for the term 2024-2025.

20 Signed, Richard A. Ruiz, Sr., Branch 101
21 President, and Richard J. "Rick" Fetro, Branch

1 101 Secretary/Treasurer.

2 Shipmates I give you the two candidates
3 for vice president for the year 2024-2025.

4 (Applause.)

5 NP HANDZUK: I'm going to relinquish the
6 podium to Shipmate Lazzaretti for a moment
7 please.

8 PRPNW LAZZARETTI: Shipmates, it has
9 been one heck of a year, very proud of
10 everything, and I thank everybody for all the
11 support I have been given. Unfortunately, due to
12 an item of a personal nature that came to light
13 this week, I am unable to fulfill the duties of
14 national vice president in the coming year, and I
15 will return as a candidate at a future time.

16 I hate to have to do this but this is
17 for everybody, including my own best interests.
18 Shipmates, I care about this association, I care
19 about you and I am looking forward to continuing
20 to serve this association at the pleasure of our
21 National Presidents. Thank you.

1 (Applause.)

2 NP HANDZUK: Are there any other
3 nominations for national vice president? Are
4 there any other nominations for national vice
5 president? Are there any other nominations for
6 national vice president?

7 Shipmate at the mic.

8 RVPSE ANGER: National president, I'd
9 like to nominate --

10 NP HANDZUK: Name and branch.

11 RVPSE ANGER: Anger, delegate,
12 Southeast. I'd like to nominate Past Regional
13 President Southeast Jim Richmond.

14 PRPSE RICHMOND: Shipmate, I appreciate
15 your nominating me -- Richmond, Past Regional
16 President Southeast, Branch 22. And I appreciate
17 the nomination, I'm humbled by it. Unfortunately
18 at this time with my job, to be the national vice
19 president and national president you really have
20 to work and be able to devote your time to it.
21 At this point in my real estate life, I cannot do

1 that, but you will see a nominating resolution
2 from me in the very near future. Thank you.

3 (Applause.)

4 NP HANDZUK: Okay, shipmates,
5 nominations are closed.

6 PNP COURNEYA: Shipmate National
7 President.

8 NP HANDZUK: Shipmate at the mic.

9 PNP COURNEYA: Courneya, delegate,
10 Branch 274. I make a motion that the NED cast
11 one vote by acclimation for Shipmate Fetro for
12 national vice president for the year 2024-2025.

13 (Applause.)

14 NED REID: The NED casts one vote for
15 the acclimation of Shipmate Rick Fetro for
16 national vice president 2024-2025.

17 (Applause.)

18 NVP Elect FETRO: Thank you so much.
19 First of all, I would really like to thank the
20 committee for this convention, because I think
21 they did an outstanding job and I don't think we

1 can thank them enough.

2 (Applause.)

3 You know, I was not expecting this way
4 to be elected for national vice president. At
5 last year's convention I put my nomination in and
6 since that time, 13 months ago, I traveled over
7 20,000 miles to go to conventions and to state my
8 case. Shipmates, I'm ready to serve. I say that
9 again, I'm ready to serve.

10 It's kind of fitting though sometimes,
11 we always talk about numbers, and I am from
12 Branch 101. Just two days ago we started our
13 101st anniversary, so maybe it's karma, whatever
14 it is, it will work for me.

15 To summarize, I'd just like to say, and
16 I said this to many people as I was going around,
17 that as a scoutmaster I used to teach boy scouts
18 to always leave a place a little bit better than
19 you found it, and I promise you shipmates that's
20 exactly what I'm going to do, and like Maria
21 said, it's never going to be about I or me, it's

1 going to be about we. Thank you.

2 (Applause.)

3 NP HANDZUK: Shipmate S.D., are you
4 ready?

5 PRPEC MARTIN: Whenever you are.

6 NP HANDZUK: Proceed.

7 PRPEC MARTIN: First of all, National
8 President, I'd like to say one or two words.

9 SPEAKER: Who are you?

10 PRPEC MARTIN: You know who I am.
11 Martin, delegate, Branch 166, VSO instructor,
12 highly trained specialist, Past Regional
13 President East Coast.

14 NP HANDZUK: Please proceed.

15 PRPEC MARTIN: Okay. This last year we
16 had 22 students in VSO. That's our future. It
17 gives me great honor to ask these students who
18 are present to be presented their graduating
19 certificate by the National President and myself.
20 Please join me when your name is called.

21 I would like to start with the

1 recertification after five years of service, Past
2 Regional President East Coast Paul Phelps.

3 (Applause.)

4 Branch President 93, Eugene Gonzalez.

5 (Applause.)

6 Branch 99, Miss (unintelligible) Dean.

7 (Applause.)

8 Out of the Southeast, Past Regional
9 President Frederick R. Bolz.

10 (Applause.)

11 From the South Central, Past Regional
12 President Cathleen Gruetzner.

13 (Applause.)

14 From the West Coast, Sean Wilson.

15 (Applause.)

16 If he is not here, will his regional
17 president please come and accept this award?

18 West Coast. Thank you.

19 North Central, VSO Michael H. Russell.

20 (Applause.)

21 And last but not least, our new

1 proofreader for VSO committee, Past Regional
2 President North Central Marcia Cunningham.

3 (Applause.)

4 She complained so much about the
5 proofreading, I had to take 15 phone calls from
6 her.

7 (Applause.)

8 NP HANDZUK: Okay, shipmates. We've
9 just added a couple more things to the agenda.
10 We do have a report from the Veteran Service
11 Foundation, it is the first annual report and the
12 chairman PNP Mick Fulton would like to address
13 you and give you an update. Mick?

14 PNP FULTON: Shipmate National
15 President, shipmates, the Veteran Service
16 Foundation, which was voted in to reality in 2016
17 and actually chartered in 2017, I was approached
18 in my junior past year by the late NED Slawinsky
19 to chair the Veteran Service Foundation. I did
20 not even know that there was a set of bylaws,
21 which we have subsequently found. The foundation

1 for, as it is, met Sunday, November 10th, in the
2 coastal west room at the Doubletree Hotel in
3 Annapolis, Maryland, at 1900. We reviewed the
4 bylaws. The existing board members that were
5 present was myself as the chair, PNP Donna
6 Jansky, Past Regional President North Central
7 Marty Posekany, and National Vice President Maria
8 Behm.

9 During the review of those bylaws, we
10 realized that the bylaws of the foundation were
11 written for an organization that was probably
12 three to four times the size of what we are.
13 Subsequently we made some recommended changes to
14 the bylaws, and so I'm not taking be everybody's
15 time here, I am going to recommend that Marty and
16 I put these in writing, send them out to the
17 branches, so that the branches can review the
18 proposed changes to the Veteran Service
19 Foundation bylaws and the national board will
20 request at some time during this year
21 ratification of the bylaw changes.

1 I do have financials for the Veteran
2 Service Foundation. The Veteran Service
3 Foundation currently has \$50,329.28 in retained
4 earnings, and \$7,340 in current year earnings,
5 but that is the National Sonar Association
6 donation that is restricted funds. So that is
7 your financial status of the Veteran Service
8 Foundation.

9 Marty, did you have anything that you
10 specifically wanted to address? We thoroughly
11 went over the bylaws, we have the bylaws chopped
12 up pending, and we'll go ahead and get those
13 assembled and out to all the branches. This is
14 the first report of the Veteran Service
15 Foundation, and I move that it be received.

16 NP HANDZUK: Received. Shipmate Mick,
17 thank you for this report, it's been a long time
18 coming.

19 Okay. Shipmate Rizzo? Oh, shipmate at
20 the mic.

21 S/M HATCLIFF: Shipmate National

1 President, this is -- oh, Hatcliff, delegate,
2 Branch 59. We have some meal tickets that have
3 not been claimed. I'm just going to read the
4 last name that we have. If you folks know these
5 guys, John's got the tickets. Last name of
6 Denton, Lopez, Reddy, Spurgeon, Villanova, Leder,
7 Patton and Stone. If they're not picked up by
8 the time we recess, they will be turned back in.

9 SPEAKER: Sounds like auxiliary.

10 NP HANDZUK: That announcement probably
11 needs to be made over there too before they
12 leave. Okay, thank you. Stand by.

13 I have a special committee report.
14 Shipmate Jansky, you're chairman of the
15 convention committee.

16 PNP JANSKY: Jansky, Branch 31,
17 delegate. Is everyone having a good time so far?

18 (Applause.)

19 Don't complain. All right, the banquet
20 is tomorrow night following the installation.
21 Unfortunately, it's in the same room that the

1 installation is being housed so we cannot get
2 into this room. We will have cocktails out in
3 the hall for an hour while the room is being set
4 up, so no saving seats, sorry. You are going to
5 have to go through a reception line to get into
6 the room, all right?

7 The other thing that I want to say, this
8 is not convention related, is that Past Regional
9 President Southeast Fred Kilt's widow is asking
10 for information if people are coming down for his
11 celebration of life on November 30th, down at
12 Branch 290, 390 Mayport Road in Atlantic Beach.
13 It's from three to six p.m. She's just looking
14 for a head count, you know, she wants to have a
15 good sendoff for Fred, and to let you know, he
16 was cremated on Veterans Day.

17 Also, I would like to have the following
18 committee members stay behind after this meeting
19 is closed, Broom, Dillon, Quesnel, me, Smith,
20 Jones, Kelly, Phillips, Lassen, Washington,
21 Toulotte, Bailey and Carlton. Thank you.

1 NP HANDZUK: Thank you, Shipmate Jansky.
2 Okay. Now, Shipmate Rizzo and Oliveira.

3 RPNE/NEng RIZZO: Shipmate National
4 President, Rizzo, Regional President
5 Northeast/New England, delegate, 124.

6 My esteemed colleague from the East
7 Coast and I have a presentation that I'm sure the
8 shipmates will be interested in, so if we may
9 proceed?

10 NP HANDZUK: You may proceed.

11 RPNE/NEng RIZZO: Shipmates, I'm going
12 to keep this short and sweet and under two
13 minutes. As we know, headquarters was
14 disestablished or decommissioned. Unless
15 otherwise directed, my esteemed colleague and I
16 navigated the mean streets of Alexandria on a
17 black operation to retrieve the National Ensign
18 that was flying outside of headquarters, and the
19 FRA flag, and we would like to present those now.

20 NP HANDZUK: Proceed. You may approach.
21 Shipmates, rise please.

1 (Applause.)

2 RPNE/NEng RIZZO: Thank you, shipmates.

3 NP HANDZUK: Shipmate at the mic.

4 SPEAKER: Shipmate National President,
5 this is Shipmate (unintelligible) Branch 22,
6 chairman of the hospitality room. Tonight in
7 about 30 minutes, I'm going to have pizza
8 upstairs, so please come in and eat your hearts
9 out.

10 A couple of things here. Shipmates that
11 were here on Sunday evening, we still have not
12 had anyone come forward with the winning ticket.
13 Also, last night's winning ticket, nobody has
14 come forward. So if you go in the hospitality
15 room, please bring your tickets because if you
16 don't, if people still don't claim by tomorrow
17 morning, I'm going to return the money back into
18 the hospitality room and help you have fun for
19 tomorrow night. They're the 50-50 daily tickets,
20 they're orange in color. No, that person who won
21 was for Monday night. Sunday's winnings is worth

1 \$120, last night's winnings are worth \$250. So
2 bring your yellow tickets. If you have them
3 here, I will give you the winning numbers.

4 Now how many people were here for Sunday
5 night, bought Sunday night tickets? Oh, okay.
6 Sunday night's ticket if you have them, the
7 number is 609264. That's Sunday night. Last
8 night's number, 609498.

9 SPEAKER: Bingo.

10 SPEAKER: Okay. Let me say that again.

11 SPEAKER: 609498.

12 SPEAKER: That's correct. That was last
13 night, \$250. Okay. And Sunday night, again, the
14 number was 609264. People on Sunday, if you've
15 got your tickets, check them out, okay? If
16 you've got them, bring them to the hospitality
17 room and you'll receive your money. So tonight
18 we're having pizza thank you.

19 NP HANDZUK: Thank you. If I may,
20 shipmates, I am shocked, surprised, humbled to
21 have received the last flag that flew over our

1 national headquarters. I spend my spare time
2 woodworking. I basically make toys for kids.
3 Some shipmates in here have actually seen some of
4 my toys and purchase them, and I put the money
5 back into it. I'm going to make a flag case for
6 this Ensign.

7 (Applause.)

8 And when I come up to the board meeting,
9 I'm going to donate it to the headquarters so it
10 can be displayed there, if nobody objects. I
11 think it needs to stay with the FRA forever, but
12 I thank you for the presentation, I'm humbled.

13 Now, I don't have a protocol list, I
14 know we've got to get going, everybody's hungry
15 and I'm tired.

16 We are on the good of the order, so if
17 you will forgive me, we are on the good of the
18 order, if there's something you want to say, keep
19 it short please so we can get it done. Use the
20 microphone, name and branch.

21 SPEAKER: John, can I talk about next

1 year's convention?

2 NP HANDZUK: You can talk about it at
3 the microphone under the good of the order and it
4 will be short, you will be timed.

5 (Laughter.)

6 I'm sorry.

7 S/M CARTER: Carter, Branch 40,
8 delegate. Just a reminder. For the actual
9 hundredth anniversary hats and bags and that, see
10 Loretta out in the breezeway, that's all we've
11 got registered for at the convention.

12 SPEAKER: Again, (unintelligible) Branch
13 22 delegate, chairman of the hospitality room.
14 While we were cleaning up last night I found a
15 ticket to a room, Room 315. Is anyone here from
16 315?

17 NP HANDZUK: Turn it in at the desk.

18 Past National President Fulton.

19 PNP FULTON: Shipmate National President
20 and shipmates, Fulton, Branch 289, delegate,
21 chair. I recommend for next year's convention

1 that we have a steering committee to assist the
2 national president in moving along the reports,
3 that national headquarters does not have the
4 personnel or resources to do that. There are
5 enough people that have attended conventions here
6 before that can assist in having a steering
7 committee.

8 NP HANDZUK: Thank you, Shipmate
9 National President. Shipmate at the mic.

10 S/M SMILEY: Shipmate National
11 President, Gabe Smiley, Branch 40. It has been
12 brought to my attention that I have the honor of
13 asking this body of shipmates, if you served in
14 the 70s, some of you may have some beautiful
15 items, dungarees with the stencils, so get with
16 me if you have any items to donate.

17 NP HANDZUK: Okay, thank you. Shipmate
18 Pete?

19 PRPNW LAZZARETTI: Lazzaretti, delegate,
20 Seattle Branch 18. As a lot of you know, I'm a
21 leather smith and at the last several conventions

1 I have had belts available with FRA buckles.
2 With all the chaos of coming to the convention
3 this year and in view of my campaign, I did not
4 many with me. I have do have one belt with me
5 other than the one I'm already delivering. If
6 you a get a belt the with an FRA buckle, contact
7 me. Thank you.

8 NP HANDZUK: Thank you, Shipmate.

9 PNC GUNTHER: Shipmate National
10 President.

11 NP HANDZUK: Shipmate at the mic.

12 PNP GUNTHER: Gunther, delegate, Branch
13 182. Are you going to do a disaster relief
14 check?

15 I guess we'll have to do it while we're
16 doing good of the order. Oh, I'm sorry, we have
17 to close the Bible, I'm sorry. We will do it
18 once we close the Bible. The master at arms can
19 stand at the door and take them and we can
20 announce it tomorrow.

21 PNC GUNTHER: The presentation?

1 NP HANDZUK: Oh, to the point of the
2 shipmate, okay. Shipmate at the mic.

3 PRPNC COMBS: Shipmates, Combs,
4 delegate, Branch 161. Next year as one of the
5 hosts of the national convention in Springfield,
6 Missouri, at the dinner, the banquet, you are
7 going to have the chance to eat a piece of cow,
8 beef. And I want a show of hands, it's going to
9 be pricey, and you can have filet mignon for
10 around 80 bucks a pop, you can have prime rib for
11 around \$75 a pop, rib eye for around 70, or
12 Kansas City /STPREUP for closer to 60, or you can
13 have medallions for about a dollar less. Could I
14 have a show of hands who wants the menu to be
15 filet mignon? Okay. Show of hands, there's one.
16 Show of hands for prime rib? There's a few more.
17 And a show of hands for rib eye? How about
18 Kansas City strip?

19 SPEAKER: Depends on who it is.

20 PRPNC COMBS: It won't be me. The
21 second choice would be chicken or fish or

1 something else, or maybe a third one. Thank you,
2 shipmates.

3 NP HANDZUK: Thank you.

4 PRPSW QUESNEL: Shipmate National
5 President, Quesnel, Branch 289. This would
6 probably be for NED. I noticed quite a few
7 errors in the convention manual this year. Could
8 we get together and kind of fix them moving
9 forward, because one I noticed was really wrong.

10 NED REID: NED Reid, Branch 181,
11 delegate. Any incoming board members, you have a
12 meeting right after this in the leeward room
13 downstairs, but you have a meeting and we will
14 talk about the financial side, what you're doing
15 and what the expectation is.

16 JPNP ROBBINS: Shipmate National
17 President.

18 NP HANDZUK: Shipmate at the mic.

19 JPNP ROBBINS: Junior Past Robbins,
20 delegate, 126. Do we not pass the hat for our
21 new National President's cap?

1 NP HANDZUK: We do. I have to close the
2 Bible. You made an issue about it when we passed
3 the hat for the author. And we also have people
4 who, as I was reminded, want to make disaster
5 relief d donations. So what I want to do upon
6 finishing good of the order, you folks can do
7 your thing. We're already running late. What I
8 would like to do is if there's no other business
9 under good of the order, is we will close the
10 Bible, we'll pass the hat, I can stand over here
11 by the recorder to receive disaster relief
12 checks, and tomorrow tonight when we reconvene
13 for installation, we can announce the
14 contribution. Is there any objections? If not,
15 I will proceed.

16 Before I do, I never did get this
17 gentlemen's name. I want to ask you to give a
18 warm FRA thank you to our recorder.

19 (Applause.)

20 Shipmate National Chaplain, would you
21 please close the Bible? Uncover.

1 NCHAP BEHM: Shipmate National

2 President, the Bible is closed.

3 NP HANDZUK: All right, cover. Please

4 join me in saluting the colors. Hand salute.

5 Two.

6 We stand in recess until 1800 tomorrow

7 night.

8 (Adjourned at 1645.)

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20

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WORD INDEX

< \$ >	10.45 54:1 55:13	1530 47:14	20,000 97:7	2025-2026 33:20
\$10 41:17	101 30:8 32:13 53:17 54:20	1540 78:7	2006 8:21	209 49:3
\$10,000 36:16	55:8, 13 56:7	159 18:1 60:8 61:21	2007 8:21	21 58:14
\$10,080 36:21	83:15 93:5, 7, 15, 20 94:1	161 29:15 30:6, 9, 12 32:11	2008 73:8	22 33:4 72:10 95:16 98:16
\$12,420 36:17 37:1	97:12	33:12 35:17 72:5 75:20, 21 112:4	2009-10 10:11	106:5 109:13
\$120 107:1	101st 87:11	162 48:2	200-some 41:18	222 72:8
\$2,271,756 37:11	89:20 97:13	163 49:14 51:4 52:14 72:6 76:1	201 63:3	232 30:17
\$2,286,700 38:8	1039 30:3	1645 115:8	2010 11:12	24 32:17 38:1 50:7 66:5 72:4
\$2,340 37:3	104 30:19 72:7	166 62:13 98:11	2011 11:12 81:11	247 79:8, 15
\$2,670,350 40:18	10th 17:8 82:20 101:1	17 76:14 77:1	2011-2012 11:16	25 38:1, 2, 3, 6 77:2
\$2,700 37:17 38:6	11 37:15, 20 38:6 85:5	170 17:10	2013-2014 13:13	251 30:13 75:2
\$2.7 42:18	112 50:18	1700 30:2	2014-15 11:20	26,000 69:5
\$20 67:12	113 81:10, 15, 17	174 79:16	2015 11:13 93:3	26.92 54:12 55:12
\$25 42:14	115 72:2	18 62:15 69:9 92:4, 7, 15 93:1, 3 110:20	2015-2016 81:21	261 76:5, 6
\$250 107:1, 13	117 48:3	18,332 48:19	2016 11:13 100:16	269 32:10 33:15 40:11
\$3,975,102 41:2	12 16:13, 18 17:4	1800 115:6	2016-2017 11:13	54:19 71:17 75:19, 20
\$30 3:8	12:30 71:7	181 16:2 27:11 36:7 41:20 113:10	2017 83:9 100:17	27 49:3
\$40 3:8	124 76:2 77:6 105:5	182 52:8 72:2 74:21 76:7 77:6 111:13	2017-2018 82:1	27,315 59:7
\$50,329.28 102:3	126 2:14 29:7 32:20 39:11 113:20	183 53:21 55:9, 12	2018 51:11	274 38:16 54:11 55:2, 9, 11, 12 96:10
\$595,037 40:20	12th 30:1 47:14 74:17 93:8	185 33:8	2018-2019 13:21	281 79:7, 9, 11
\$6,000 49:9	13 18:5 61:8 67:13 97:6	19 51:12	2019 14:11	287 75:1
\$600,000 42:13, 18 45:15	1300 2:1 30:2 74:17	1900 101:3	2020 14:11 82:2 93:1	289 49:11 69:17 74:21 76:4 86:13 91:13 109:20 113:5
\$625,705 41:1	136 50:3	1930s 56:6	2020-2011 82:7	29 54:9
\$7,200 43:14	13th 30:2 71:6	197 30:16 32:21 50:5	2021 82:15, 20	290 104:12
\$7,340 102:4	14 1:11 3:15, 18 32:14 40:5 45:21 60:1 63:10 65:6 67:13 70:5 75:3	1986 84:11	2021-2022 14:19 82:21	293 33:6 49:15
\$75 112:11	1430 46:16	1991 58:7 84:11	2022 83:11	294 74:15 76:3
\$822,000 41:6	14th 71:7	< 2 >	2023 51:11 82:9, 10 92:8 93:9	298 50:10
\$83,000 42:4, 10	15 3:15 5:12 43:6, 7 72:3 100:5	2,224 49:2	2023-24 32:7	< 3 >
\$83,110 40:19		2,286,700 38:9	2024 1:11 6:2 17:8 18:5 30:1, 2 57:11 82:11 85:6 93:1, 3	30 34:17 40:17 106:7
< 0 >		2,700 37:17	2024-2025 80:15 85:9, 15 86:10, 16 92:20 93:12, 19 94:3 96:12, 16	302 30:18 33:18 48:4 50:8 71:18 72:18 76:11, 12
024 12:9		2,987.5 48:18	2025 20:7 22:3 27:16 36:15 38:8 39:21 45:19 46:3	30th 6:2 104:11
029 53:13		20 69:9		
032 80:7 81:1 82:19 85:4				
050 17:4 79:16, 17				
0900 30:2				
< 1 >				
10 43:6, 7				

31 76:15, 16
103:16
310 53:15 54:9
311(d) 5:14
315 109:15, 16
316 16:10 82:3
32 32:15 50:5
74:19 85:11, 16,
17
364 62:17
37 7:13 76:8, 9
39 62:19
39.47 53:18
55:13
390 104:12
39-24 16:4

< 4 >
4 60:14, 19
63:6
4,765 48:21
40 50:9 76:6, 7
109:7 110:11
401 63:7
401(e) 63:14, 15
64:17 70:7, 13
40-24 16:12
41-24 16:15
42-24 16:19
43-24 17:2
45 53:19 82:14

< 5 >
50 5:16 58:1, 4
501C3 41:11
43:3, 4, 15
50-50 106:19
547 49:3
5506.P 36:15
59 78:21 103:2

< 6 >
60 79:7 112:12
609264 107:7,
14
609498 107:8,
11
62 50:11 72:12

< 7 >
7:30 27:14
70 54:1 112:11
700 58:3
70s 110:14

< 8 >
8 3:19 4:9, 15
80 112:10
807(a) 3:19
807(b) 4:10
809(a) 4:15
845 49:4
874 48:20
88 58:6
89 58:6 72:11

< 9 >
90 72:11
91 28:1, 12
30:14 50:2
93 99:4
96th 1:6 80:12
97 33:5 50:4
76:12
98 33:1 49:16
50:1 64:19
99 32:19 49:13
99:6
9th 92:7

< A >
a.m 71:7
ability 83:15
able 44:21
95:20
aboard 8:12
Abraham 56:4,
8
absence 4:10
5:2
absolutely 41:21
AC 38:10
Academy 12:9
accept 28:4, 15
36:8 83:19
84:17 99:17
accepted 18:8
26:7, 15, 21
27:2, 3, 17, 18

38:17, 21 39:4,
19, 21 40:1
acclimation
86:9 91:17
96:11, 15
accompanied
57:4
account 40:21
accountability
22:15
accountable
90:9
accounts 40:15
action 20:16
21:9, 21 22:11
23:1, 11, 19
24:15 59:2
actions 25:20
active 23:5, 8
24:21
activities 31:19
32:2 35:2
71:16 74:16
75:5, 6, 16
actual 3:2, 4, 9
30:3 109:8
ad 21:10 24:15
adamant 25:5
add 37:16 70:8
added 100:9
adding 59:10
addition 37:12
47:14
additional 17:7
36:8 42:16
44:6 45:3 62:1
Additionally
19:15 22:8
Additions 73:8
address 60:14
100:12 102:10
adjoining 9:16
Adjourned
115:8
adjust 20:18
admin 43:7
Administration
84:20
admiral 25:12

admit 87:9
admitted 9:13
adopt 4:21 5:4
35:8 46:3
63:12, 19
adopted 45:18,
19
adoption 5:6
6:4, 10
advance 19:21
advantage
20:14
advisor 30:9
47:21
advisory 91:1
affect 61:19
64:20
affidavits 57:5
affiliated 57:15
affirmation
16:5
affirmatives
16:11, 14, 18
17:4
afforded 83:15
afternoon 8:15
11:10 13:18, 19
14:7, 17 29:18
47:9 53:1, 2
age 25:18
agenda 18:14
27:16 100:9
ago 9:1 24:20
88:2, 10 97:6,
12
agreed 20:3
ahead 25:4, 6
53:4 102:12
aims 71:13
Alabama 50:19
Alexander 72:3
Alexandria
105:16
allow 21:15
allowed 40:13
allowing 4:4
21:7
alongside 10:19
alternative 24:6

ambassador
84:7
amend 70:1
amended 3:20
4:10, 15 5:14
amendment 6:1
70:9
America 31:4,
10
American 88:14
Americanism
29:20 31:11, 12,
13 32:3, 6
33:20 34:15
35:1 82:8
amply 81:2
analysis 42:13
Anchor 5:15,
19 58:6
ANGER 95:8,
11
Annapolis 1:14
18:4 30:1
32:18 47:13
50:8 71:6 72:5
101:3
anniversary
3:3, 5, 7 31:5
97:13 109:9
announce
111:20 114:13
announcement
103:10
annual 23:13
31:12 100:11
annually 22:7,
17 71:15 75:16
answer 41:2
anybody 41:12
73:16 91:15
anybody's 67:21
Anyway 14:21
49:18 53:5
67:8 88:20
A-P 29:15
31:2 35:17
apologies 71:2
Apparently
56:1

<p>Applause 2:17 6:21 12:7 13:11, 17 14:16 15:3 35:11 56:12 60:1, 3 85:20 86:14 91:8 94:4 95:1 96:3, 13, 17 97:2 98:2 99:3, 5, 7, 10, 13, 15, 20 100:3, 7 103:18 106:1 108:7 114:19 appoint 21:9 24:15 appointments 6:16 appreciate 95:14, 16 approach 44:5 105:20 approached 8:14 100:17 appropriate 24:8 31:17 approve 17:7 63:18 approved 15:20 16:9, 13, 16, 20 17:3 27:15 49:8 70:18 April 82:15 Arms 2:2 30:7 46:18 78:9 111:18 arrive 19:19 Art 33:16 Arthur 50:18 Article 3:19 4:9, 15 60:14, 19 63:6 aside 43:18 asked 9:21 10:2, 4 41:16 77:11 asking 3:4 35:6 104:9 110:13 asks 11:7</p>	<p>assembled 80:11, 16 102:13 assembly 15:5 53:2 78:10 assessment 43:15 assets 44:7 assigned 19:11 30:20 assist 71:11 75:14 84:2 110:1, 6 assistant 85:2 assistants 48:2 assisted 48:11 49:3 59:7 assisting 48:20, 21 Association 1:6 4:3, 18 15:7 31:17 43:12 56:20 57:3, 13 71:11 80:7, 8, 13 81:7, 10 82:10, 14 83:9, 14 84:8 85:19 92:3, 14, 17 93:4 94:18, 20 102:5 associations 44:1 association's 56:5 assumed 82:7 assumes 84:7 assured 9:18 Atlanta 72:11 Atlantic 104:12 attached 84:14 attend 23:9 73:13, 15 attended 110:5 attendee 58:11 attending 23:6 attention 4:1 110:12 attitude 57:1 83:8 attributed 68:13</p>	<p>audit 20:17 29:5 37:8 38:5, 20 87:17 August 82:20 93:8 author 114:3 Auxiliary 5:16 8:11 103:9 available 19:4, 5 35:20 45:5 111:1 Award 5:15, 19 33:10, 13, 16 53:17, 20 54:15 55:7, 8, 16 56:2, 8, 15 57:4, 11 58:7 83:7, 13 99:17 awarded 72:13 83:12 awards 6:5 53:8, 11 74:13 aye 5:6 6:10 17:13 28:7, 18 46:5 64:5 70:14 ayes 5:7, 10 6:11 17:14 28:8, 19 46:6 64:6, 13 70:15 < B > back 8:5 11:6 15:8 33:21 35:20 44:11 54:3 63:17, 18, 21 64:1, 10, 13, 14 67:9 77:17 87:12 89:12 103:8 106:17 108:5 backup 73:3 bag 3:8 bags 3:4 7:14 109:9 Bailey 33:15 47:20 54:18 104:21 Baker 60:1</p>	<p>75:2 balance 62:5 ballot 86:9 balls 11:5 Balu 72:14 bank 40:15 banquet 103:19 112:6 based 20:19 24:1 31:1 41:5 Basically 26:11, 14 42:15 51:14 57:3 67:19 108:2 Beach 49:12 104:12 beat 18:12 beautiful 10:7 110:14 bed 9:11 10:5 beef 112:8 beep 43:10 beginning 79:7 behalf 35:5 BEHM 2:9 7:8 15:13 46:13 47:3 53:1, 3 54:4, 6 55:1, 12, 18 60:6 66:6, 8 68:5 71:1, 20 72:1, 16 74:8, 11 78:3, 14 81:3 85:7, 12, 17, 18 86:9, 16, 17 101:8 115:1 believe 55:14 56:15 69:18 83:3 87:3, 12 believes 34:18 35:1 bell 54:14 belt 111:4, 6 belts 111:1 benefit 20:13 73:4, 17 benefited 21:3 benefitting 22:5 best 21:17 57:12 67:20</p>	<p>75:9 89:9 94:17 better 10:1 51:20 75:12 97:18 Bible 2:8, 10 7:7, 9 15:12, 14 46:12, 14 47:1, 4 78:2, 4, 13, 15 111:17, 18 114:2, 10, 21 115:2 big 66:1 bigger 89:3 bikers 11:4 Bill 30:16 61:15, 17 bills 3:10 bingo 59:10 107:9 Birmingham 50:18 bit 7:1 44:9 60:15 97:18 black 105:17 Blackburn 10:12 bless 91:6 blessed 9:1 blood 49:4 bloody 10:20 blue-gray 3:6 board 3:18 4:8 8:8 16:9, 12, 15, 19 17:2 21:16 42:6 43:11 49:7 101:4, 19 108:8 113:11 Bob 14:4 17:1 30:15 bodies 19:10 body 68:15 74:19 110:13 Bolz 99:9 book 39:14 68:11 Booker 43:1 boost 62:3 Bossier 49:19,</p>
--	---	---	--	---

<p>20 bother 45:4 bottom 37:9, 10 bought 107:5 boy 12:16 13:8 97:17 brain 53:4 bran 13:6 Branch 7:13 16:2, 10 17:4, 21 22:10, 14 23:3, 12 24:19 27:11 28:1, 12 29:14 30:6, 7, 9, 12, 13, 14, 16, 17, 18, 19 32:10, 11, 12, 14, 15, 17, 18, 20, 21 33:1, 4, 5, 6, 8, 11, 15, 18 35:17 36:6 38:16 40:5, 10 41:20 45:21 48:2, 3 49:11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16 50:1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 18 51:4, 5 52:7, 14 53:10, 13, 17, 20 54:9, 11, 19 55:7, 9 56:3, 6 57:16 60:1, 8 61:18, 21 62:12, 15, 16, 19 63:3, 10 65:1, 6 66:5 67:10 70:5 72:2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 10, 11, 17 73:15, 21 74:15, 18, 21 75:1, 2, 3, 19, 20, 21 76:1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 11, 12, 14, 15 77:1, 6 78:21 79:7, 9, 11 80:6 81:1, 10, 14, 15, 17 82:3, 19 85:4, 11, 16, 17 86:12 87:20 91:12, 13 92:4, 7, 15 93:1, 3, 5, 7, 15, 20, 21</p>	<p>95:10, 16 96:10 97:12 98:11 99:4, 6 103:2, 16 104:12 106:5 108:20 109:7, 12, 20 110:11, 20 111:12 112:4 113:5, 10 branches 20:19 22:5, 8, 10 23:7, 16 24:17 31:3, 14 32:1, 4 45:11 53:10, 11 54:7, 14 56:2 57:6, 15 61:13, 16, 17 62:11 64:21 65:10 66:13, 15 67:1, 7 69:3 71:11, 15 75:8, 13, 15 79:4, 12 87:19 88:13 89:12 92:16 101:17 102:13 Break 32:9 52:17 breakfast 9:20 breaking 57:12 breezeway 109:10 Brian 74:18 bright 9:20 Bring 8:12 15:8 20:15 63:21 77:18 79:3 106:15 107:2, 16 bringing 25:15 63:17, 18 64:10, 13 83:17 brings 63:18 64:1 broke 25:2 broom 13:7 104:19 brought 64:14 66:15 110:12 Broussard</p>	<p>49:17 Bruce 18:6 Bucad 33:17 bucket 41:13 buckle 111:6 buckles 111:1 bucks 112:10 budget 20:17 24:5 29:4 36:12, 13, 16 37:7 38:2, 3, 5, 8, 19 39:11, 20, 21 40:9 45:18, 19 46:4 87:17 90:18 building 24:4 40:15, 18 41:16, 17 42:4, 5 45:10, 13 bunch 10:18 bushy 9:20 Business 1:9 3:21 4:2 21:1, 10 43:13 44:6 79:2 114:8 Butts 30:12 bylaw 66:19 67:6 69:1 101:21 bylaws 3:17 4:6, 20 5:12 6:3, 15 16:16, 20 20:6 22:11 23:15 60:12 62:8 66:11 68:9 100:20 101:4, 9, 10, 14, 19 102:11 < C > C&BL 7:20 8:2 60:21 63:6 64:4 71:14 California 53:18 56:7 71:20 81:16 84:14, 15, 20, 21 85:1</p>	<p>call 12:18 43:21 68:18 77:16 Called 2:1 9:6 37:13, 15 41:15 57:3 98:20 calling 63:16 calls 100:5 campaign 111:3 Campbell 14:21 cancel 22:4 candidacy 92:17 candidate 21:13, 17 85:12 93:16 94:15 candidates 21:19 56:15 94:2 canvass 19:5 cap 113:21 capacity 81:13 Capital 40:18 capitalizing 25:13, 14 car 10:16 cardinal 80:19 81:8 82:5, 17 84:3 care 9:12 51:20 64:21 67:7, 18 68:1 94:18 career 57:16 58:4 Carion 48:3 Carlton 104:21 carried 28:9, 20 34:8, 12 46:9 carries 6:12 17:15 carry 9:3 74:13 carrying 75:14 Carson 33:17 50:8 71:18, 20, 21 CARTER 109:7</p>	<p>case 21:19 24:11 97:8 108:5 cases 23:17 cast 86:8, 15 91:14 96:10 casts 96:14 cat 12:16, 21 13:1, 3, 5 category 37:19 61:8 Cathleen 99:12 cats 12:14, 18 celebration 104:11 cell 25:16 center 52:18 59:8, 10 Central 20:2, 3 30:5, 9 32:12, 14, 16 33:2 40:5 45:21 47:17 57:9 68:18 75:21 76:15 82:6, 21 83:1, 11, 18 99:11, 19 100:2 101:6 ceremonies 59:4 certain 66:11 certificate 5:20 29:1 79:11 98:19 chain 5:2 chair 100:19 101:5 109:21 chairman 18:1 19:4 27:12 29:3, 15 30:6, 16 35:17 38:19 79:1 81:14 82:8 100:12 103:14 106:6 109:13 chairs 73:15 chance 112:7 change 6:5 22:11 23:15 25:20 36:14</p>
---	--	--	---	--

37:1, 2, 10 38:3,
7 70:8
changed 36:16
37:1, 6
changes 16:16,
20 23:20 36:10
38:11, 17, 18
39:14, 19, 20
40:1 45:17
70:9 78:18
79:2 101:13, 18,
21
changing 66:11
70:6
chaos 111:2
Chaplain 2:7
7:6 15:11, 16
46:11 47:1, 6
78:1, 6, 12, 17
114:20
Chapman 74:20
Charles 18:8
53:16, 19 55:7,
16 56:2 58:6
charter 17:3
chartered
100:17
chase 13:6
chat 87:15
check 107:15
111:14
checks 114:12
cheek 10:7
Chesapeake
50:9
chicken 112:21
chief 9:7, 9, 18,
19
choice 67:10
112:21
chopped 102:11
Chorus 5:7
6:11 17:14
28:8, 19 46:6
64:6, 8 70:15
chose 84:16
Chris 14:10
74:20
Christina 13:20
51:4 52:14

55:16 65:13
66:10
Cindy 10:10
citizens 75:12
city 31:7 33:7,
17 49:16 50:8
71:18, 20
112:12, 18
claim 106:16
claimed 103:3
Clara 32:13
53:17 55:8
56:7 93:4, 7, 14
clarify 5:1
clarity 74:1
class 34:16
cleaning 109:14
clear 73:1
close 2:3 7:6
46:11, 19 78:2,
11 88:13
111:17, 18
114:1, 9, 21
closed 7:9
46:14 78:4
86:5 96:5
104:19 115:2
closely 18:13
closer 112:12
closing 25:7
club 22:8, 14
Coast 2:21
16:16, 18 20:11
30:15 32:13, 18,
19 33:1, 7, 9
47:19, 21 50:3
74:18 76:2, 5, 6,
7, 8, 9 77:8
81:18, 21 82:1
83:10 98:13
99:2, 14, 18
105:7
coastal 71:5
101:2
cocktails 104:2
colada 14:5
colleague 105:6,
15
colloquy 55:4

color 106:20
colors 115:4
column 42:8
combined 35:3
89:2
combining
20:13 34:19
Combs 30:9
112:3, 20
come 3:12
7:13 8:5, 6
11:4 29:17
41:11 52:18
55:18 74:10
77:16 89:11
92:1 99:17
106:8, 12, 14
108:8
comes 47:10
coming 7:16
94:14 102:18
104:10 111:2
command 5:3
commander
11:21
commendation
5:21
comment 25:13,
17 41:19
comments 5:5
6:9 17:5 70:12
commission
84:17
committee 3:2
5:13 6:6, 19
7:21 17:17, 18,
19 18:1, 2, 10
19:1, 11, 12, 13,
15 20:1, 17, 21
21:10, 14 23:15,
19 24:10, 15
27:9, 12 28:21
29:4, 19 30:4,
21 31:2, 11, 13
32:1, 8 33:19
34:2, 10, 18, 21
35:6 37:8 38:5
47:11 50:12, 15,
20 51:2 52:2
57:8 60:13

61:6 68:10
69:18 71:4, 8,
14 72:20 73:13,
15, 16 74:6
75:15 79:1
87:18 90:4
96:20 100:1
103:13, 15
104:18 110:1, 7
committees 8:1,
6 19:10 26:13,
17 27:5 90:5
committee's
4:20
commonly 67:7
communication
73:18
communities
14:10 75:10
community
31:20 58:21
competitive
23:16
complain
103:19
complained
9:16 100:4
complete 3:12
completely 58:2
comply 4:5
comprehensive
73:5
computer 44:14
concept 67:6
concludes 35:5
52:1 77:9
79:19
conduct 21:16
23:20 31:12
conducted
31:20 83:16
conflict 19:9
confusing 69:2
Congratulations
54:2, 13 56:10
Congress 23:2
conjunction
31:20
consider 67:17

consideration
18:20 24:7
considered 23:9
consistency
73:20
consistent 71:13
consistently
57:18 84:7
Constitution
3:17 4:6, 20
6:3 31:9, 16
60:12 62:8
68:9
Constitutional
5:11 6:15 20:7,
9 68:6
contact 111:6
contained 35:10
contains 34:21
contest 33:20
34:15
contests 31:12
continually
81:6 82:4
83:21
continue 43:8
59:12 75:17
continues 45:16
83:2
continuing
94:19
continuous
81:11
continuously
58:10 81:7
84:5
contributing
56:5
contribution
114:14
contributions
59:16
control 22:17
controversial
66:12
Convention 1:7
3:9 13:16 18:2
19:13, 14, 17, 20
20:5, 8, 9, 10
28:21 29:4, 19

31:10 48:13
 52:2 68:7 71:4
 80:12 81:18
 82:21 96:20
 97:5 103:15
 104:8 109:1, 11,
 21 111:2 112:5
 113:7
conventions
 12:4 97:7
 110:5, 21
cooperation
 75:13
copies 16:7
corner 12:21
corpsman 84:13
correct 41:21
 55:16, 17, 20
 67:16 107:12
corrected 76:14
Corrections
 84:21
correctly 35:19
cost 9:14
count 104:14
counter 9:9
counterpart
 14:11, 20
Country 32:11
 33:15 71:18
couple 51:7
 53:5 62:1
 100:9 106:10
COURNEYA
 11:10, 11, 13
 13:14 38:15, 16
 39:1, 6 96:6, 9
course 10:13
Cover 2:11
 7:10 15:16
 42:15 47:6
 53:6 78:17
 115:3
covered 15:18
 65:11
cow 112:7
Cranston 50:18
credentials
 78:19 79:1, 19
credited 56:5

cremated
 104:16
crew 8:17
cross 11:2, 7
crystal 72:21
Cunningham
 18:7 40:4
 45:20 100:2
current 21:12
 24:1, 3 51:21
 58:18, 19 102:4
Currently
 36:15 42:5, 18
 57:16 65:21
 102:3
 < D >
D.C 22:21
dad 12:15, 16,
 17, 20 13:1, 3, 8
daily 106:19
Dan 7:12
dated 73:8
David 30:12
 76:20, 21
Davis 27:7, 11
 28:10
day 2:16
 104:16
days 34:17
 39:12 97:12
dead 18:12
deal 68:8
Dean 99:6
December 92:7
decided 13:5
 43:13
decides 13:3
decision 65:9
declare 62:2
declining 34:19
decommission
 24:20
decommissioned
 105:14
decommissioning
 24:2, 12, 16
dedicated
 44:10 57:13

80:13 81:5
 82:3 83:1
dedication
 59:15, 19 80:18
 81:6, 16 82:16
 84:4 85:13
 89:13 93:17
defer 8:9
definition
 55:19 61:9
delegate 2:14
 16:2 17:21
 28:1, 12 29:7,
 14 35:17 38:16
 39:11 40:10
 41:20 52:7
 54:19 62:12, 14,
 16, 20 63:2, 10
 64:19 65:7
 69:17 70:4
 74:15 77:5
 78:21 81:17
 86:12 95:11
 96:9 98:11
 103:1, 17 105:5
 109:8, 13, 20
 110:19 111:12
 112:4 113:11,
 20
delegates 15:21
 17:6 48:13
 80:11, 16
delete 63:14
 64:16 67:4
 70:12
deleting 64:15
 67:20
deliver 29:15
delivered 56:9
delivering 111:5
demonstrate
 80:17
demonstrated
 82:12
demonstrates
 81:3
Denise 30:13
Denton 103:6
departed 31:15

department
 65:8 84:21
dependable
 58:11
Depends 112:19
Desert 84:11, 12
deserve 18:20
designated 4:13
 42:6
desk 109:17
details 61:7
determination
 59:12 82:17
develop 21:10
 24:16
developed 83:16
development
 73:19
devote 4:1
 95:20
Diane 12:9
Diego 50:11
 72:12
difference 41:7
different 3:5
 51:13 62:10
dig 68:10
dignity 24:9
diligence 6:19
diligently 81:13
Dillon 104:19
dinner 112:6
direct 53:14
directed 105:15
direction 4:18
 84:1
directives 4:7
director 3:20
 4:11, 19 5:3
 65:8
directors 3:18
 4:8 16:9, 13, 15,
 20 17:3 21:16
 42:7 49:7
disability 61:10
 65:21 67:4, 8,
 21 68:14, 15
 69:13
disabled 61:11,
 17 62:1 63:7

66:19 67:13
 69:4
Disaster 40:20
 49:6, 8 111:13
 114:4, 11
disbursing 4:16
discussed 20:12
 34:2 37:4
 39:16 61:6
 66:10
discussion 40:8
 63:6, 19 64:15
 65:13
disestablished
 105:14
dismal 24:4
dispersed 3:16
displayed
 108:10
disqualified
 51:8, 16
distinguished
 31:5
DLP 27:11
DMD 55:17
 65:15, 19
documentation
 73:1, 2, 4 74:2
dogs 12:14
Doherty 33:16
doing 7:18
 48:14 67:5
 75:3 111:16
 113:14
dollar 91:3
 112:13
Don 11:14
Donald 47:16
donate 41:17
 108:9 110:16
donated 49:4
donation 102:6
donations 114:5
Donna 14:12
 101:5
door 2:4 7:11
 111:19
doors 46:19
 78:11

Doris 11:19
double 9:12
Doubletree
 1:13 18:4
 29:21 47:13
 71:5 101:2
downstairs
 113:13
downtown
 10:17
draw 21:1
draws 25:18
drink 14:5
driven 48:21
drops 23:3
drove 48:18
drunks 10:18,
 20
Dublin 10:18
Due 18:21
 54:9 94:11
dungarees
 110:15
Dupree 48:2
duties 4:2, 3, 5,
 12 5:1 31:2
 75:14 94:13
duty 24:21
 71:9 75:7
 80:10
dying 89:17

 < E >
earlier 15:20
earned 51:17
earnestly 85:11
 93:15
earning 82:14
earnings 102:4
easiest 69:21
easily 62:3
East 2:21
 16:16, 17 32:18,
 19 33:7 47:21
 74:18 76:2, 7, 8,
 9 77:8 98:13
 99:2 105:6
eat 13:9 106:8
 112:7
Ed 30:18

effect 24:14
 25:10
effective 6:2
 73:19
effort 57:20
 73:20
efforts 32:5
 56:19
eight 38:9, 10
 50:14
either 12:1
Elect 30:15
 80:13 86:17
 96:18
elected 80:17
 82:9 83:1 97:4
election 80:3
 91:20
elections 23:18
 77:14, 15
eliminate 34:13
Elizabeth 33:7
 49:16
embrace 26:2
Emphasis 73:21
Empire 82:3
employed 84:19
empower 68:21
encourage 22:1,
 12 31:3, 14
 73:14
encourages 31:6
encouraging
 83:18
endeavors
 75:11 83:7
endorsement
 92:16
energy 89:14
engage 3:21
England 30:17
 105:5
England/Northe
ast 76:16 77:7
enhance 70:8
 73:18
enjoyment
 59:11
enlist 84:16

enlisted 25:6
 58:21
Ensign 105:17
 108:6
ensure 73:4
 74:1
entering 84:16
entertainer
 87:15
entire 4:1 48:7
 81:15
entries 76:17
era 84:12
errors 113:7
escorted 15:4
essay 31:12
 33:20 34:15
essays 34:16
essentially
 18:15
establishing
 71:12
estate 95:21
esteemed 8:17
 105:6, 15
Eugene 99:4
evaluation 32:8
 74:4
evening 106:11
event 3:9
events 31:6
 58:12, 13
everybody 15:1
 37:1 41:16
 44:16, 17, 18
 75:6 94:10, 17
everybody's
 44:10 101:14
 108:14
evolution 90:14
exact 51:2
exactly 97:20
example 61:20
excellent 51:5
excites 25:17
excuse 15:18
 30:11 90:3
executive 3:20
 4:11, 19 5:3

exemplified
 85:13 93:17
exist 21:13
existing 101:4
exit 24:11
exiting 24:8
expectation
 113:15
expecting 97:3
expenditures
 49:9
expense 22:21
expenses 21:6
experienced
 80:13
expire 22:3
explain 57:20
 58:8 66:7
explained 68:19
explanation
 60:15
expressed 31:9,
 15
extended 56:19
extension 17:3
external 21:18
eye 112:11, 17
eyed 9:20

 < F >
fact 44:3
Falu 47:21
families 14:9
 48:20 49:1
 80:21
far 49:6 103:17
fast 56:14 61:9
fathers 31:8
Faubion 30:19
fault 53:3
favor 5:5 6:10
 17:12 22:2, 12
 28:6, 17 46:4
 64:4, 9 70:13
favorite 14:5
feels 59:1
feet 89:12
fellow 80:20

Fetro 91:21
 93:11, 17, 21
 96:11, 15, 18
fields 59:8
figure 87:12
figures 41:1
filet 112:9, 15
fill 19:11
filling 73:9
finance 4:16
 20:17 29:4
 36:4 37:7 38:5,
 20 39:11 87:17
 90:19
financial 39:13
 56:6 62:2
 66:17 67:3, 4,
 15 68:14 69:20
 70:2 102:7
 113:14
financially
 67:15
financials 102:1
find 7:17 67:18
fine 91:3
fingers 51:9
finished 20:1
 68:17
finishing 114:6
First 32:10
 33:11 34:16
 35:18 36:14
 45:8 48:15, 17
 49:11, 12, 14, 15,
 16 50:3, 13
 54:4 60:11
 71:17 75:19
 76:21 83:10
 96:19 98:7
 100:11 102:14
fiscal 46:3
fish 112:21
fitting 97:10
five 16:3 23:5
 37:11 42:11
 45:15 59:19
 62:9, 10, 20
 63:3 81:15
 99:1

five-year 5:18
fix 70:1 113:8
fixed 90:10
Flag 31:4
 105:19 107:21
 108:5
flags 59:7
Fleet 1:6 4:3,
 17 15:7 31:16
 56:20 71:10
 80:7, 8, 12 81:6,
 9 82:13 84:8
 85:19 92:3, 14,
 16 93:4
flew 107:21
flights 58:12
floor 12:5 63:5,
 12 64:10 65:17
Florida 53:21
 55:9
flying 105:18
fog 27:19
Fogel 74:9, 14,
 15 77:9
folks 103:4
 114:6
following 8:4
 20:5 30:3
 47:15 50:16
 81:13 103:20
 104:17
follows 32:8
food 12:21
foot 61:15, 17
footprint 21:6
forecast 24:5
forever 108:11
forgive 108:17
form 15:8
 51:11, 12, 13, 21
format 51:14
former 58:18
forms 51:10, 11,
 19
forward 3:12
 13:2 26:1
 42:21 44:21
 45:2 53:5
 87:11 89:7

94:19 106:12,
 14 113:9
forwarded
 26:13, 16 27:5
fostering 71:10
found 88:2
 97:19 100:21
 109:14
Foundation
 100:11, 16, 19,
 21 101:10, 19
 102:2, 3, 8, 15
founded 88:12
founding 31:8
four 16:3
 36:14, 19, 21
 37:2 41:1, 8
 42:1 45:5 51:8,
 16 58:13 62:3,
 21 89:16
 101:12
Fourth 1:9
 62:18
Fox 75:2
FRA 5:16, 17
 21:1, 20 22:6
 24:2 25:3 32:1,
 20 34:19 42:8,
 14 44:16 46:3
 48:7 57:16, 19,
 20 58:1, 9, 15
 59:4, 14 71:15
 75:15 80:21
 81:12, 16 82:18
 84:3 85:5, 11
 86:10 92:7
 93:8, 15 105:19
 108:11 111:1, 6
 114:18
Frank 56:14
 83:6, 13
FRA's 16:10,
 13 21:11
Fred 104:9, 15
Frederick 99:9
FRI 11:19
friends 12:17
front 69:20
fucking 11:4
fulfill 94:13

full 10:16
 44:18 75:13
fully 21:3
FULTON 8:15,
 16 86:7, 12
 100:12, 14
 109:18, 19, 20
fun 47:10
 106:18
function 19:6
 20:4 59:5
functioning
 23:6
fund 41:1, 16,
 17 42:4, 10, 11
 87:20
funds 42:17
 43:17 87:19
 102:6
funny 9:5
further 4:9, 14
 65:12 84:2
 85:9 92:13
 93:13
future 17:19
 18:1, 2 19:12,
 21 20:21 21:2,
 14 23:19 24:10
 26:2 88:12
 94:15 96:2
 98:16
 < G >
Gabe 110:11
Gabriel 47:21
Gary 10:12
generation
 25:19
gentlemen's
 114:17
geography
 20:20
Geraldine 75:2
getting 67:14
Gilmartin 11:17
give 28:6 36:4
 41:18 43:3, 16
 48:12 51:2
 52:19 59:21
 60:15 67:10

85:18 88:13
 94:2 100:13
 107:3 114:17
given 6:5 8:3
 21:20 31:1
 94:11
gives 44:4
 98:17
giving 24:7
 67:9
glad 9:14
go 3:9, 14 8:2
 12:3 13:5 16:6
 25:2, 4, 6 36:20
 42:21 43:14
 54:3 59:17
 61:21 63:13, 15
 97:7 102:12
 104:5 106:14
goal 42:21
God 91:6
goes 33:11, 14,
 16 37:2 53:17,
 20 55:7, 8 69:8
 91:4
going 3:1 7:16
 8:2, 3 12:2
 18:15 22:20
 26:1 29:11
 33:17 35:9
 36:9, 13, 21
 37:10, 12, 16
 38:4, 6, 7, 20
 39:4 41:12
 42:6, 10, 20, 21
 43:17, 18 44:6
 51:20 53:9, 10
 57:6 60:10
 67:5, 19 68:1, 7,
 10 77:15, 16
 80:2 86:21
 88:9, 21 89:11,
 12, 18, 20 90:5,
 7, 15, 20, 21
 91:1, 2, 6, 18
 94:5 97:16, 20,
 21 98:1 101:15
 103:3 104:4
 105:11 106:7,

17 108:5, 9, 14
 111:13 112:7, 8
Golden 33:8
 58:5
Gonzalez 99:4
Good 8:15
 10:7 11:10
 13:18, 19 14:7,
 17 23:10 29:18
 47:9 51:19
 53:1, 2 56:17
 71:10 90:14
 103:17 104:15
 108:16, 17
 109:3 111:16
 114:6, 9
grace 24:9
 85:13
graduating
 98:18
grant 43:1, 14
granted 6:18
grantees 43:3
grants 41:11
 43:6
gray 3:6
great 10:1, 14
 13:16 15:2
 54:15 88:18, 20
 92:9 98:17
greetings 15:9
Groans 14:6
group 18:10
 32:10, 11, 12, 14,
 15, 17, 18, 19, 21
 33:1, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7
 44:4 49:11, 12,
 13, 14, 15, 16
 50:1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 7,
 8, 9, 10 53:12,
 13, 16, 19 54:7,
 11, 18, 19, 20
 55:1, 2, 6, 9
 71:17, 18 72:3,
 4, 10 75:19, 20,
 21 76:1, 2, 4, 5,
 6, 7, 10, 11, 12,
 14, 15
groups 53:13
grow 45:16

<p>growth 56:20 83:8 grueling 39:12 Gruetzner 47:18 63:2 99:12 guess 14:14 111:15 guests 74:5 Guidance 31:18 guide 21:2 guided 75:11 guidelines 73:10, 11 gunny 9:13 Gunther 48:1 52:7, 11, 15 77:5 111:9, 12, 21 guy 10:3 guys 38:10 56:11 103:5</p> <p>< H > hair 51:1 hall 2:3 15:5 27:8 78:10 104:3 hand 34:8, 11 35:18 64:11 115:4 handful 23:8 handout 35:21 hands 25:9 112:8, 14, 15, 16, 17 HANDZUK 2:2, 7, 11, 18 3:11 5:4 6:8, 18 7:5, 10, 19 8:12 15:10, 15 17:9, 11 26:5, 11, 20 27:3, 18 28:3, 14 29:9, 12, 17 35:15 36:2 38:14 39:7 40:3, 7, 12, 16 46:2, 15, 18, 21 47:5 52:6, 20 54:17 60:4,</p>	<p>9, 18 61:1, 3 62:6, 10, 21 63:4, 16 65:5, 12, 18 66:2 69:16 70:3, 11, 18 74:8 77:4, 11 78:5, 9, 12, 16 79:5, 14, 21 85:21 87:7 91:9, 12, 16, 19 94:5 95:2, 10 96:4, 8 98:3, 6, 14 100:8 102:16 103:10 105:1, 10, 20 106:3 107:19 109:2, 17 110:8, 17 111:8, 11 112:1 113:3, 18 114:1 115:3 hang 52:19 happening 88:19 happens 53:4 happy 12:5 13:21 hard 6:20 50:15 59:20 61:6, 9 hardship 61:10 62:2 66:17 67:15 68:14 69:20 hat 7:14 87:2 113:20 114:3, 10 Hatcliff 78:18, 20, 21 79:6, 11, 15, 18 102:21 103:1 hate 94:16 hats 3:4, 6, 8 109:9 head 37:7 38:5 104:14 heading 69:6 headquarter 65:20 headquarters 4:12 21:6 22:9</p>	<p>40:18 105:13, 18 108:1, 9 110:3 head's 27:19 health 9:4 hear 68:3 88:13 heard 6:8 12:12, 13 18:19 25:12 hearts 106:8 heck 94:9 held 20:8 57:14 74:17 85:5 93:8 Helen 11:11 hell 14:12 help 45:1 87:6 88:18 89:11 90:1 106:18 helped 69:14 hesitate 58:20 Hey 10:19 Hi 10:10 11:15 HIGHLAND 15:6 highly 98:12 hire 21:4 history 31:6 HITCHCOCK 55:17 65:15, 19 hoc 21:10 24:15 hold 18:13 19:15 90:6, 21 home 21:7 24:19 25:4, 6 42:10, 11 58:11 honor 31:3, 14 58:12 98:17 110:12 honorable 51:3 honorary 29:1 65:16 honors 31:17 HOOVER 12:8, 9 Hope 13:15 15:1 44:21</p>	<p>52:17 69:14 hoping 88:7 horse 18:12 hospital 47:7, 11 84:12, 14 hospitality 106:6, 14, 18 107:16 109:13 hospitals 49:2 52:2 hosts 112:5 Hotel 1:13 9:8 18:4 27:14 29:21 47:13 71:6 101:2 hotels 9:10 hour 18:15 104:3 hours 18:5 48:6, 11, 18, 20 49:1, 3 58:14 house 13:5 housed 104:1 housekeeping 7:2, 20 Houston 61:21 Howdy 12:8 Huffman 30:15 humbled 95:17 107:20 108:12 hundred 21:11 23:7 66:16, 18 68:15 69:6 91:3 hundredth 3:3, 5, 7 109:9 hungry 108:14 hurricane 25:2 husband 88:2, 5 HWR 48:6, 7, 10, 14</p> <p>< I > ideas 18:6, 8 19:2 84:1 identify 12:13, 17 44:16 identifying 44:15</p>	<p>II 32:11, 18 33:4 49:12, 13 50:8 53:12, 13 54:7, 8, 19 55:1 71:18 72:10 75:20 76:5, 6, 11 III 32:12, 19 33:5 49:14 50:4, 9 53:16 54:20 55:2, 7 72:1, 6, 11 75:21 76:6, 12 illustrious 10:12 imagine 69:3 impeding 67:21 Imperial 49:12 implementation 73:11 importance 73:21 important 59:1 impressed 10:2 improvement 40:19 Inaudible 2:20 3:1 13:12, 13 17:10 22:19 55:4 62:16, 19 incapacitated 48:18 include 22:7, 19 70:1 73:1, 9 Included 59:6 includes 24:17 including 24:3 94:17 income 24:3 37:15, 17, 18, 21 41:7, 10 incoming 113:11 incorporated 20:7 32:20 increase 37:3 53:13, 18 54:1, 8, 12 83:19 indicate 6:10 17:13 28:18</p>
--	---	---	--	--

46:5 70:13
indication 5:6
individual
 55:15 57:1
individuals
 44:4 55:14
 62:1
information
 3:1 34:10, 12,
 21 45:3 58:17,
 19, 21 104:10
ink 36:10, 14
 39:19 40:2
innocently 11:7
installation
 103:20 104:1
 114:13
instituted 82:20
instructions
 73:9
instructor 98:11
integrity 80:18
intent 22:13
 70:6, 9
interested
 25:19 73:17
 105:8
interests 94:17
Interlachen
 53:21 55:9
inventory 22:9
investment
 40:21
invite 2:3
 46:19 78:10
Ippert 11:21
Irish 10:16
IRVIN 28:1
Island 33:5
 50:4 84:13
issue 34:14
 66:1 114:2
item 15:17
 37:6 39:13
 70:20 94:12
items 18:19
 20:2 22:7, 10
 37:4 110:15, 16
its 6:19 81:2

IV 32:14, 21
 33:6 49:15
 50:4, 9 54:11
 55:8 72:2, 6, 11
 76:2, 7, 14
 < **J** >
James 11:12
 14:21 18:7
 85:16
Jamie 92:21
Jansky 14:12
 101:6 103:14,
 16 105:1
January 81:10
 85:5
Jeff 11:17
Jerome 48:2
Jerry 9:2 30:5
Jim 95:13
job 51:20
 95:18 96:21
John 11:20
 27:7, 11 30:15
 74:15 87:7, 8
 108:21
John's 103:5
join 98:20
 115:4
joined 30:10
 81:9
joke 10:16
 12:1, 11 14:1
jokes 11:17
Jones 74:18
 104:20
Jorden 3:2
JPNP 2:13
 29:6, 10 39:10
 41:9 45:17
 113:16, 19
JrPRPSC 63:2
July 20:1
Junior 2:14
 29:7 39:9, 10
 46:10 47:17
 90:13 100:18
 113:19
justify 22:20

< **K** >
Kansas 112:12,
 18
karma 97:13
keep 63:11
 105:12 108:18
keeping 25:5
Kelly 47:16
 104:20
Kempsville
 32:19 49:13
KERR 28:12
key 72:19
kick 41:13
kids 12:13
 108:2
Kilgore 12:10
 33:4 72:10
killing 88:15
Kilt's 104:9
kind 41:10
 89:4 97:10
 113:8
kiss 10:7
know 9:7 11:1
 12:11 14:18, 20
 29:10 35:21
 39:6 40:13
 41:11 48:6
 49:18 51:21
 55:20 67:19
 69:6 86:19
 87:14 89:1, 15,
 18 90:4 91:2, 4,
 13 97:3 98:10
 100:20 103:4
 104:14, 15
 105:13 108:14
 110:20
knowing 41:12
knowledge
 80:18 83:14
 85:13 93:18
knowledgeable
 58:18
known 83:9
 84:6
knows 75:6

Kovenik 74:21
kudos 51:6
Kurt 60:1 75:2
 < **L** >
labeled 52:17
LAFRA 8:13,
 15, 18, 20 10:10
 11:10, 15, 19
 12:8 13:12, 18
 14:3, 7 15:4
Lake 32:15
 50:5 80:6 81:1
 82:19 85:4, 10
large 64:20
 65:2, 7, 10, 20
larger 20:14
Larson 11:14,
 15
Las 72:11
Lassen 104:20
late 12:10 56:6
 100:18 114:7
Laughter 10:9
 11:9 14:6
 109:5
Laurie 33:14
 47:20
lawyer's 14:4
lay 42:20
LAZZARETTI
 62:14 91:21
 92:11, 18 93:2
 94:6, 8 110:19
lead 89:20
leader 83:4
leaders 8:11, 17
leadership
 57:14 80:17
 83:19
leans 13:2
lease 40:19
leather 110:21
leave 13:3
 77:20 97:18
 103:12
Lebeau 30:18
LeClaire 47:19
led 19:7

Leder 103:6
leeward 113:12
left 89:13
Legion 88:14
legislation 58:19
legislative
 22:19 27:8, 10,
 12, 15, 16 28:15
Lehigh 72:1
Leland 72:3
Leonard 33:13
letter 5:20
letters 34:8
letting 51:21
level 59:13
 81:20
liability 25:1
LICKTEIG
 29:13, 14, 18
 30:6 35:16
life 40:21
 82:15 95:21
 104:11
lifetime 58:1
light 10:17
 94:12
likeness 22:16
line 4:12 36:18
 37:4, 6, 9, 10, 14,
 15, 20 38:6, 8
 39:13 43:10
 72:20 104:5
list 65:21
 108:13
listen 12:2
 40:17 61:3
literally 42:10
 45:12
little 7:1 9:8
 11:4 13:21
 60:15 66:7
 90:16 97:18
Livermore
 84:20
living 25:21
local 58:8
 59:13
locally 61:16
locations 18:3

<p>Lofgren 53:11, 16, 19 55:7, 16 56:2 58:7 logo 16:10 22:13, 16 long 9:1 10:8 61:6 87:14 102:17 longer 42:5 look 44:1 looked 34:20 looking 89:7 90:18 94:19 104:13 lookout 58:17 looks 11:6 42:1 Lopez 103:6 Loretta 3:2 109:10 lose 69:11 loses 23:3 69:11 lot 10:15 12:4 13:15 42:2 43:19 44:12, 20 45:6 53:5 57:11 87:9 110:20 loudly 9:15 love 86:19 87:4, 14, 15 Low 32:10 33:15 71:18 loyalty 80:19 82:13 84:4 92:21 < M > MAA 7:4, 15 8:10 46:20 Magdalata 11:1, 3 mail 34:5, 6 mailed 34:4, 9, 12, 16 mailing 34:2 main 29:21 mainsail 29:20 47:12 maintain 23:12</p>	<p>maintained 81:11 maintains 57:1 making 87:21 manage 10:4 manager 4:13 9:10 10:1, 4 manger 9:21 mangy 13:1 manner 31:15 manual 73:7, 8 113:7 March 82:1 Marcia 18:7 75:1 100:2 Maria 66:6 81:3 85:7, 12, 18 86:9, 16 97:20 101:7 Marine 9:13 Mark 12:10 33:4 MARTIN 62:12 77:12, 18 98:5, 7, 10, 11, 15 Martinez 51:4 52:14 Marty 70:3 101:7, 15 102:9 Mary 11:1, 2 Maryland 1:14 18:4 30:1 47:13 71:6 101:3 Master 2:2 30:7 46:18 78:9 111:18 mate 9:2 10:12 11:16, 20 14:2, 3 matter 44:15 62:4 Mayport 104:12 McCain 30:16 McIntyre 18:8 McKenzie 93:1 McPherson 56:14 57:11</p>	<p>83:6, 13 meal 103:2 mean 51:10 63:20 64:20 67:2 68:13 91:5 105:16 Means 33:21 57:21 58:9 68:7 75:6 meant 20:6 68:12, 16 Medal 84:18 medallions 112:13 media 73:10, 12 meet 25:20 meeting 15:11 17:8 18:11, 14 19:4, 16 27:7 43:11 69:19 73:14, 16 85:5 92:6 93:8 104:18 108:8 113:12, 13 meetings 23:6, 9 90:6 91:1 member 5:16 21:20 25:3, 5 42:14 64:20 65:1, 16 68:1 69:11 81:10 82:4 members 5:17 18:21 19:2 23:4, 5, 7, 8, 12 25:18 32:1 35:6 45:11 47:15 48:18, 19 53:19 54:1, 13 57:3 58:21 61:8 65:7, 10, 20 74:17 75:9, 13 80:20 83:18 101:4 104:18 113:11 membership 5:12 21:3, 12, 14 23:3, 14 29:1 32:7 34:19 40:21</p>	<p>44:5 52:21 53:17, 20 56:3 57:2 60:13 61:5, 18 63:7 65:8 66:14 69:10 71:9 81:2, 11, 14 82:2, 8, 15 83:7, 20 90:9 Memorial 59:8 83:7, 13 mention 51:3 mentioned 15:19 menu 112:14 merger 54:9 merging 24:7 53:14 merit 29:1 Meritorious 84:18 mess 33:17 met 18:3 27:13, 15 29:20 39:11 47:12 71:5 101:1 methods 75:8 mic 2:12, 19 17:9 26:5 27:21 52:6 54:17 60:9 63:8 64:18 65:5 66:3 69:16 77:4 86:6 91:9 95:7 96:8 102:20 106:3 110:9 111:11 112:2 113:18 mice 13:6 Michael 74:21 99:19 Michelle 13:12 Mick 100:12, 13 102:16 microphone 108:20 109:3 microscopic 51:1</p>	<p>midshipmen 25:14, 15 midway 30:21 midyear 23:1 mignon 112:9, 15 miles 10:13 48:19, 21 97:7 million 42:18 Milwaukee 32:14 60:2 mind 63:11 77:14 minds 18:20 minimize 19:16 minimizing 21:6 minimum 23:11 minutes 18:16 105:13 106:7 miracle 24:6 miscellaneous 37:15, 17, 18, 20 mission 84:2 Missouri 112:6 misspoke 30:20 mistake 88:10, 11 mitt 30:21 Modesto 32:21 50:5 MO-KAN 33:11 72:5 moment 94:6 Monday 106:21 money 40:14 41:14 43:3 44:9 45:5, 7, 15 67:14 69:9 88:14 106:17 107:17 108:4 month 25:1 90:18 monthly 73:16 months 97:6 morning 9:19 18:5, 10 19:3, 5 27:14 79:2 87:16 106:17 mortgage 45:10</p>
---	--	--	---	---

<p>mother 10:21 11:6 13:4 motion 6:12 17:6, 12, 15 28:2, 4, 9, 13, 20 46:9 62:7 70:12 91:14 96:10 motivation 89:1 move 25:21 26:3, 20 27:1 35:8, 9 39:18, 21 44:21 45:1, 18 52:3 60:4, 6, 10 61:16 74:6 77:10 86:8 102:15 moved 26:8 28:14 46:2 moving 53:5 87:11 110:2 113:8 MSS 2:5 multiple 19:1, 7 Murphy 7:12 MURRAY 13:18, 20 14:3</p> <p>< N > Nadine 8:16 name 22:6 44:10 49:17 50:18 76:21 85:7 91:12 92:10 93:10 95:10 98:20 103:4, 5 108:20 114:17 names 22:16 52:8 57:3 National 1:7 2:5, 7, 9, 13, 20 3:18, 20 4:8, 11, 19 5:3, 21 6:13 7:6, 8 8:10, 13, 21 10:11 11:11, 16, 19 13:13, 19, 20 14:10, 17, 19, 21 15:6, 11, 13 16:9, 12, 15, 19</p>	<p>17:2, 18 18:2, 17 21:16 26:4 27:9, 12 28:21 29:4, 6, 13, 19 30:7 31:2, 10 35:4 38:15 43:11, 12 46:11, 13 47:1, 3, 11 48:13 49:6, 7 50:17 52:2, 5, 21 54:20 59:13 61:14 63:9 65:3, 15 69:8 71:1, 4, 8 74:14, 16 77:17 78:1, 3, 6, 12, 14, 16, 20 80:3, 7, 12, 14 81:20 82:9 85:8, 14 86:1, 3, 4, 7, 9 89:5 90:2, 3, 10, 12, 20 91:10, 20 92:4, 12, 19 93:5, 12, 18 94:14, 21 95:3, 4, 6, 8, 18, 19 96:6, 12, 16 97:4 98:7, 19 100:14 101:7, 19 102:5, 21 105:3, 17 106:4 108:1 109:18, 19 110:2, 3, 9, 10 111:9 112:5 113:4, 16, 21 114:20 115:1 nationals 90:21 nature 94:12 Naval 12:9 84:10, 14 navigated 105:16 Nay 5:9 46:8 70:17 nays 64:8 NBR 16:4, 12, 15, 19 17:2 NBRs 8:7 15:18 16:3, 7 17:7</p>	<p>NCHAP 2:9 7:8 15:13 46:13 47:3 71:1, 20 72:1, 16 74:11 78:3, 14 115:1 near 96:2 necessarily 25:18 51:15 necessary 23:21 24:9 NED 5:2 8:9 15:19 16:1, 2 21:13 36:6, 19 37:20 38:2, 19 39:3 41:19 80:4, 6 86:8, 15 91:14 92:2, 3 96:10, 14 100:18 113:6, 10 NED's 22:2 need 13:5 15:19, 20 24:14 25:9, 10 26:15 27:4, 20 28:10 36:11 40:2 45:17 55:19 56:18, 21 62:9, 21 68:2 69:1 90:17 91:16 needed 19:10 needs 45:18 51:19 59:1, 9 103:11 108:11 needy 48:20 neighbors 12:3 neither 68:21 Nelson 33:13 networking 73:18 Nevada 54:11 never 9:21 97:21 114:16 new 5:17 53:19 76:16 77:7 82:18 83:21 99:21 113:21</p>	<p>nice 59:21 Nicole 25:7 night 10:1, 7, 8 12:15 103:20 106:19, 21 107:5, 7, 13 109:14 115:7 night's 106:13 107:1, 6, 8 nominate 95:9, 12 nominated 83:5 nominating 80:8 92:5 93:6 95:15 96:1 nomination 57:8 83:10, 12 85:8 92:11 93:11 95:17 97:5 nominations 29:2 50:14 55:15 57:5 86:1, 2, 4, 5 95:3, 4, 5 96:5 nominees 57:4, 10 Norm 30:9 North 20:2 30:5, 8 32:12, 14, 16 40:5 45:21 57:9 68:18 75:21 76:15 82:6, 20 83:1, 11, 18 99:19 100:2 101:6 northeast 77:7 Northeast/New 30:16 105:5 Northwest 30:19 33:6 57:9 76:13 79:16 92:11, 18 93:3 note 7:20 noted 6:6 84:6 noticed 113:6, 9 November 1:11 6:2 17:8 18:5</p>	<p>30:1, 2 47:14 71:6, 7 74:17 101:1 104:11 NP 2:2, 7, 11, 18 3:11 5:4 6:8, 18 7:5, 10, 19 8:12 15:10, 15 17:9, 11 21:9 26:5, 11, 20 27:3, 18 28:3, 14 29:9, 12, 17 35:15 36:2 38:14 39:7 40:3, 7, 12, 16 46:2, 15, 18, 21 47:5 52:6, 20 54:17 60:4, 9, 18 61:1, 3 62:6, 10, 21 63:4, 16 65:5, 12, 18 66:2 69:16 70:3, 11, 18 74:8 77:4, 11 78:5, 9, 12, 16 79:5, 14, 21 85:21 86:17 91:9, 12, 16, 19 94:5 95:2, 10 96:4, 8 98:3, 6, 14 100:8 102:16 103:10 105:1, 10, 20 106:3 107:19 109:2, 17 110:8, 17 111:8, 11 112:1 113:3, 18 114:1 115:3 NPAR 15:6 NSA 43:12 44:17, 19 number 3:18 5:12 20:19 23:11, 13 36:18 44:8 60:18, 20, 21 62:4, 9 63:6 64:5 73:6 92:7 107:7, 8, 14 numbers 20:15 42:3 83:20</p>
--	--	--	---	---

97:11 107:3
nuns 10:17
nurse 84:15
NVP 53:1, 3
 54:4, 6 55:1, 12,
 18 60:6 66:8
 68:5 96:18

 < O >
Oakland 84:15
objections
 114:14
objects 108:10
obligation 42:12
observations
 31:21
observe 31:4
obtains 5:16
occasionally
 18:12
occasions 31:18
occupant 9:13
o'clock 71:7
office 4:2, 13
 44:11 80:14
 85:8, 14 86:1, 2,
 4 92:12, 19
 93:11, 18
officer 4:16, 17
 36:4 39:14
officer/medical
 85:2
officers 23:13
 90:3
Official 20:5
Ogden 33:8
Oh 9:21 14:3
 52:13 55:2
 60:6 76:13
 77:7 102:19
 103:1 107:5
 111:16 112:1
okay 8:7 12:20
 15:17 17:16
 27:3, 6 29:2
 35:15 36:3
 39:7 50:6
 52:20 54:6, 10
 55:8 57:6 66:2,
 8 67:1, 16 72:1

76:13 77:11
 79:5, 14 91:3, 7,
 19 96:4 98:15
 100:8 102:19
 103:12 105:2
 107:5, 10, 13, 15
 110:17 112:2,
 15
old 45:9 51:10
older 9:5 25:5
Oliveira 105:2
once 25:1
 35:19 111:18
one-hour 18:13
ones 16:7
open 2:8, 10
 15:11, 14 18:10
 47:1, 4 78:13,
 15
operate 23:5
operating
 37:13, 14
operation
 105:17
opportunities
 44:20 73:19
Opposed 5:8
 6:12 17:15
 28:9, 20 46:7
 64:7, 12 70:16
options 24:17
orange 106:20
order 2:1
 23:10 51:15
 91:11 108:16,
 18 109:3
 111:16 114:6, 9
ordered 16:8
 56:9
organization
 21:2, 18 43:2
 69:5 84:5
 86:19 87:3
 101:11
organizations
 21:4 24:8 43:9,
 20, 21 44:2, 12
 45:6 59:18
organized 71:12

original 34:8
originally 64:2
outgoes 41:7
outside 7:11
 15:8 105:18
outstanding
 32:5 56:3
 84:18 96:21
overall 33:11
 56:20
overhead 43:7,
 8
Ozark 82:3
Ozarks 32:15
 50:6 80:6 81:1
 82:19 85:4, 11
Ozone 72:7

 < P >
p.m 104:13
Paczkowski
 85:16
page 36:14, 19,
 21 37:16
paid 42:14
 45:9, 10 69:8,
 10
pandemic 82:16
papa 36:19
paper 42:1
 49:10 59:17
paperwork
 76:19
parking 36:15,
 20
PARKO 14:7,
 10
part 42:11
 56:17 69:12
 71:3 89:8
participated
 58:13 74:4
participation
 31:7
parts 57:12
pass 3:1 58:20
 113:20 114:10
passed 114:2
passion 89:5

Pat 14:18
patch 3:7
patients 89:17
Patrick 47:19
Patriotism
 29:20 31:11, 13
 32:3, 6 33:21
 34:15 35:1
Patton 103:7
Paul 48:1 99:2
pay 3:9 42:7,
 12 66:21
paying 45:13
payment 63:8
payments 40:20
peace 85:1
Pelican 58:5
pen 36:10, 14
 39:19 40:1
Pena 75:1
pencils 32:9
 36:11
pending 24:5
 102:12
penguins 10:20
pennants 35:18
pens 32:9
 36:11 49:10
people 9:15
 51:21 66:13
 67:7, 12 68:3, 9,
 18 69:4, 5
 75:10 87:15
 89:10 97:16
 104:10 106:16
 107:4, 14 110:5
 114:3
percent 43:6, 7
 53:18 54:1, 12
 55:12, 13 66:16,
 18 68:15 69:6
percentage
 55:11
perform 4:4
 21:5
performed 49:2,
 4
period 5:18
Permission 6:18

person 50:21
 57:18 58:2, 16
 59:18 88:1, 11
 106:20
personal 24:18
 68:15 94:12
personally 58:8
personnel 110:4
persons 31:5
Pete 92:11, 18
 93:2 110:18
Phelps 99:2
Phillip 36:6
Phillips 104:20
phone 100:5
phones 25:16
physical 21:5
pick 74:12
picked 13:7
 103:7
Piclianaco 48:3
picture 48:13
piece 112:7
pieces 59:16
pin 5:19
piss 11:3
pizza 106:7
 107:18
place 18:11
 32:10, 17 33:3,
 11 48:16, 17
 49:11, 12, 14, 15,
 16 50:2, 7
 71:17 72:4, 5, 9
 75:19 76:4, 10
 85:7 92:10
 93:10 97:18
placing 59:7
plain 71:5
plan 21:1, 11
 24:13, 14, 16
 25:10 90:15
planned 88:18,
 20
planning 17:19
 18:1, 3 19:12,
 21 20:21 21:14
 23:19 24:10
plans 24:11

plaque 56:8, 10	posthumously 51:3	15, 21 80:4, 8, 15 81:14, 21	problem 9:18 10:2 34:13 69:21 73:20	provide 19:13 37:8 42:16 43:6 44:7 45:2
pleads 9:10	power 20:18	82:1, 6, 10 83:2	procedural 23:17	provided 31:18, 19 43:13
please 2:4, 8 3:13 7:6, 13 15:8, 11 25:21 46:11 47:1 52:8 54:16 59:21 61:3 78:1, 13 80:4 92:1 94:7 98:14, 20 99:17 105:21 106:8, 15 108:19 114:21 115:3	PR 73:15, 16	85:8, 14, 16, 18 86:1, 3, 4, 8, 10, 16 87:8 89:6 90:12 91:10, 21 92:4, 11, 12, 18, 19 93:1, 2, 5, 12, 19, 21 94:3, 14 95:3, 5, 6, 8, 13, 16, 19 96:7, 12, 16 97:4 98:8, 13, 19 99:2, 4, 9, 12, 17 100:2, 15 101:6, 7 103:1 104:9 105:4 106:4 109:18, 19 110:2, 9, 11 111:10 113:5, 17 115:2	proceed 15:21 17:16 18:18 61:1 80:3 91:20 98:6, 14 105:9, 10, 20 114:15	providing 24:4
pleasure 92:9 94:20	practices 81:7	106:4 109:18, 19 110:2, 9, 11 111:10 113:5, 17 115:2	proceeds 3:9 24:3	provisions 4:6 20:6
PNC 48:1 52:7, 11, 15 77:5 111:9, 21	prayers 9:3	presidents 8:13 15:4, 7 20:19 34:8 90:4, 7, 20 94:21	process 23:17 74:1	PRPEC 2:20 62:12 98:5, 7, 10, 15
PNP 8:15, 20 10:10 11:10, 15, 19 12:8 13:12, 18 14:3, 7 86:7, 12 96:6, 9 100:12, 14 101:5 103:16 109:19 111:12	Preamble 31:16 71:14	President's 113:21	professional 21:4	PRPNC 3:14 5:11 6:13 29:13, 18 35:16 40:4 45:20 63:9 65:3, 6 70:4 112:3, 20
podium 7:14 92:2 94:6	pre-board 15:19 17:8 43:10	prestigious 83:6	programs 31:7 32:2 43:5 71:13, 16 75:16	PRPNW 62:14 94:8 110:19
point 13:4 91:11 95:21 112:1	precedence 21:20	pretty 55:20 75:5	progress 20:16	PRPSC 17:21 26:8, 18 27:1 40:10, 13 41:4 60:8, 10, 19, 21 61:2, 5 62:7
pointing 51:9	prefer 29:8	price 91:4	projected 37:14	PRPSE 47:9 49:20 52:9, 13, 16 74:14 77:9 95:14
pop 112:10, 11	preparing 24:10	pricey 112:9	promise 97:19	PRPSW 69:15, 17 113:4
population 59:6	present 23:15 26:1 30:4 47:15, 21 85:6 92:8 93:9 98:18 101:5 105:19	pride 24:9 92:9	promote 32:6	public 35:2 57:1 70:20 71:4, 8, 10, 12 73:6, 8, 14, 17 74:6
Posekany 3:12, 14 5:11 6:13 63:9, 10 65:3, 6 70:4 101:7	presentations 59:4	primarily 19:6	promotion 56:4	pull 10:18 90:15 91:1
positions 57:14 83:19	presented 5:18 16:17, 21 38:4 98:18	primary 71:8 75:7	promulgate 71:9	pulled 9:8
positive 57:1 73:2, 3 83:8	President 2:5, 10, 14, 21 5:21 6:14 7:9 8:10, 16, 21 10:11 11:12, 16, 20 13:13, 19, 20 14:11, 17, 19, 21 15:14 16:17, 21 18:17 26:4 29:7, 14 30:5, 8, 12, 15, 17, 19 35:4 38:16 40:5 45:21 46:14 47:4, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20 48:9 49:7 52:5 54:20 63:10 65:4, 16 66:5, 6 69:15 71:2 74:15, 18, 20 77:17, 18 78:4,	prime 112:10, 16	pronouncing 30:14	purchase 108:4
possible 19:18 31:21 60:16 70:5	presentations 59:4	principles 31:8 71:13 80:19 81:8 82:5, 18 84:3	proofreader 100:1	purchasing 4:17
possibly 20:13	presented 5:18 16:17, 21 38:4 98:18	priority 34:5	proofreading 100:5	purpose 57:20 58:9 61:12
poster 58:15	presented 5:18 16:17, 21 38:4 98:18	privilege 6:14 65:17 87:5	proper 24:12 51:18 73:11	put 16:6 24:13 25:10 38:6 41:15 43:16 51:18 59:16 66:9 67:4 69:19 87:20 90:2 97:5
posthumous 52:12, 13	presentations 59:4	prizes 51:17	properly 75:11 76:19	
	presented 5:18 16:17, 21 38:4 98:18	probably 30:13 58:3 101:11 103:10 113:6	property 24:18	
	presented 5:18 16:17, 21 38:4 98:18		proposal 73:7	
	presented 5:18 16:17, 21 38:4 98:18		proposed 23:20 101:18	
	presented 5:18 16:17, 21 38:4 98:18		protect 22:13	
	presented 5:18 16:17, 21 38:4 98:18		protection 80:19 84:4 92:21	
	presented 5:18 16:17, 21 38:4 98:18		protocol 108:13	
	presented 5:18 16:17, 21 38:4 98:18		proud 14:8 94:9	

101:16 108:4 putting 12:21	real 53:6 90:14 95:21 realign 20:3 realignment 20:5, 12 reality 24:2 100:16 realize 80:16 realized 24:21 101:10 Realizing 21:12 really 14:8, 13 43:1 87:12 88:15 95:19 96:19 113:9 reason 43:16 recall 36:7 recap 63:11 receive 18:6 34:17 35:9 38:12 39:3 54:14 56:10 107:17 114:11 received 26:3, 6, 9 34:4 35:14, 15 39:8 40:1 50:12 52:4 55:15 57:8 58:5 60:5, 7, 11 74:7 77:10 79:12 80:1 84:17 102:15, 16 107:21 receiving 35:21 56:2, 7 reception 104:5 recertification 99:1 recess 46:15, 17 77:16 78:6, 8 103:8 115:6 recognize 50:21 recognized 32:5 59:17 recognizes 32:1 71:15 75:15 recommend 20:16 21:9 23:1, 14 48:9 101:15 109:21	recommendation 4:21 5:4 72:19 recommendation s 8:1, 7 26:12, 16 27:4 35:9 51:7 recommended 23:20 34:10 101:13 recommends 6:3 20:21 21:15 24:10 33:19 34:11 73:13 reconsider 62:8 63:17 64:3 reconsideration 63:5 reconsidered 64:1, 2 reconsidering 64:4 reconvene 114:12 reconvening 15:10 record 2:15 86:15 recorder 114:11, 18 records 58:2 recruited 58:3 recruiter 56:21 57:19 recruiters 89:10 recruiting 58:5, 15 82:14 83:4 red 87:2 Reddy 103:6 redesignated 40:19 reduce 21:5 23:11 Reed 30:7 reflect 2:15 reflects 37:3 regarding 63:7 Region 16:17, 21 20:4, 11, 14,	20 32:12, 13, 15, 18, 19, 21 33:4, 6, 7, 8 68:19 77:7, 8 82:21 83:10, 11, 18 84:2 Regional 2:21 16:17, 21 20:2, 18 30:5, 8, 14, 17, 18 34:3, 7, 11 40:5 45:21 47:16, 17, 18, 19, 20 48:9, 10 59:13 74:18, 20 81:18, 21 82:1, 6 83:2 90:3, 6 92:10, 17 93:2 95:12, 15 98:12 99:2, 8, 11, 16 100:1 101:6 104:8 105:4 regions 20:3, 13 31:3, 14 34:3 57:9 89:2 90:8 registered 79:4, 10, 13 109:11 registration 22:17 regular 19:15 34:6 85:5 93:8 regularly 59:5 92:6 regulations 4:7 rehab 47:8 rehabilitation 47:12 52:3 REID 16:2 36:6, 19 37:20 38:2, 19 39:3 41:19, 20 80:6 86:15 92:3 96:14 113:10 reinstated 5:17 reiterate 75:7 rejected 22:18 60:14 63:12 64:2 76:18 related 43:21	104:8 relation 71:12 relations 35:2 70:20 71:4, 8, 10 73:7, 8, 14, 17 74:6 relief 40:20 49:6, 8 111:13 114:5, 11 relieved 6:16 relinquish 94:5 remaining 41:8 remains 59:11 remember 50:13 reminded 114:4 reminder 109:8 remove 42:17 removing 66:10 render 17:20 27:9 renew 22:6 Reno 54:11 55:10 rent 42:7, 12 45:14 renumber 64:17 repeat 52:8 report 3:13 7:21 17:20 18:18 23:14 26:3, 8, 20 27:1, 9, 13, 17 28:5, 11, 16 29:3, 16 34:20 35:3, 5 36:4, 8 37:9 38:12, 13, 17 39:18 44:18 47:7 48:10 51:5 52:1, 20 60:5, 6, 11, 13 73:10 74:7, 10 75:17 77:9 78:19 79:19 80:1 100:10, 11 102:14, 17 103:13 reporting 17:18 73:5 74:2
--------------------------------------	---	--	---	--

reports 7:21 17:17 19:19 32:8 34:3, 4, 5, 7, 9, 11, 20 48:8, 15 51:8, 17, 19 53:6 73:3 74:4, 12 77:2 110:2	rest 74:19 restricted 102:6 resubmitted 22:1 result 53:14 results 32:7 retained 102:3 retention 5:13 23:14 52:21 57:2 58:16 61:6 83:20 retired 9:18 25:3 85:1 retrieve 105:17 return 94:15 106:17 returns 22:9 retyped 51:13 revenue 24:6 37:13, 14, 17 review 23:20 75:17 101:9, 17 reviewed 101:3 reviews 75:4 revision 73:6 revote 60:16 rewriting 67:6 Rex 30:19 rib 112:10, 11, 16, 17 ribbons 51:18 52:17, 19 Richard 30:7, 10, 11 93:10, 16, 20, 21 Richmond 18:7 47:9 49:20 52:9, 13, 16 95:13, 14, 15 Rick 93:11, 16, 21 96:15 rid 70:7 right 7:1, 5, 19 10:8 12:19 14:15 28:3, 4 37:12, 16 38:14 40:16 44:9 48:5 52:18 53:8, 21 54:21 55:2, 6, 21 56:1	62:6 63:4 64:9, 12, 14 67:17, 20 70:18 79:18 80:2 90:17 91:5 103:19 104:6 113:12 115:3 rip 11:5 rise 105:21 rituals 49:4 Rivas 30:11 Rizzo 102:19 105:2, 3, 4, 11 106:2 Road 104:12 ROBBINS 2:13, 14 8:20 29:6, 7, 10 39:10 41:9 45:17 113:16, 19 Robby 8:19 Robert 33:16 85:17 Rock 84:13 RODHAM 10:10, 11 role 25:9 82:7 84:7 rolls 11:3, 5 room 9:8, 11, 12 10:6 12:3 19:4 22:14 47:12 71:5 88:17 101:2 103:21 104:2, 3, 6 106:6, 15, 18 107:17 109:13, 15 113:12 rooms 9:16 22:8 29:21 Rosenburg 55:18 56:4, 8 rostrum 8:14 Roughly 41:9 round 61:21 rowdy 10:18 Rowell 33:10 RPNE/NEng 105:3, 11 106:2 RPSC 64:19	Ruiz 30:10 93:20 Rules 4:7 running 9:2 10:12 11:16, 20 14:2, 3 114:7 Russell 99:19 RVPEC 66:4 RVPSE 95:8, 11 < S > S.D 77:12, 18 98:3 S/M 28:1, 12 38:15 39:1, 6 54:18 78:20 79:6, 11, 15, 18 102:21 109:7 110:10 sailors 12:5 sale 16:13 22:7, 9 24:4 40:14, 17 salute 115:4 saluting 115:4 San 50:11 72:12 Sandra 8:20 Sandy 8:19 Santa 32:13 53:17 55:8 56:7 93:4, 7, 14 sat 10:8 87:17 saving 87:3 104:4 saying 24:13 25:11 51:14 68:6 89:19 says 11:1 12:15, 16, 20 13:2, 3, 4 35:8 36:20 54:6 64:3, 16 84:9 Scarborough 11:12 scares 89:16 schedule 18:14 19:14 91:2 scheduled 92:6	scheduling 19:8 23:1 school 12:17 score 51:2 scoutmaster 97:17 scouts 97:17 script 8:3, 4 17:17 26:9 31:1 35:8 sea 43:20 44:1, 12 Sean 99:14 search 21:16 seats 104:4 Seattle 92:4, 7, 14 110:20 second 13:14 17:10 27:4 28:2, 10, 13 32:17 35:13, 18 40:3 50:2 62:13, 17 71:3 72:4, 5 76:4 83:12 91:16 112:21 seconded 28:15 46:3 91:15 seconds 27:20 40:6 46:1 62:9 secretary 57:17 85:17 93:3 Secretary/Treas urer 94:1 Section 3:19 4:10, 15 5:14 63:7 64:16 70:13 see 12:4 37:1 53:13 88:5 90:7 96:1 109:9 seeks 83:21 seen 108:3 selected 50:16 56:3, 18, 19 57:10 selection 76:20 sell 25:4, 6
---	--	--	--	---

<p>send 58:11 89:9 101:16 sendoff 104:15 sense 68:12 sent 34:5 September 40:17 serve 6:14 35:7 58:10 59:12 75:9 94:20 97:8, 9 served 8:21 12:10 57:21 58:10 81:12, 13, 20 82:4, 6 84:10 110:13 serves 59:6 service 27:13 28:15 43:2, 20 44:12 59:7 67:9, 10 80:20 82:13 84:4, 16, 18 92:21 93:17 99:1 100:10, 15, 19 101:18 102:2, 7, 14 services 27:8, 10 44:2 59:5 Serving 59:9 81:17 Session 1:9 23:2 79:2 set 43:18 44:14 100:20 104:3 seven 37:11, 21 38:9, 10 54:12 share 88:7 Sheets 76:21 S-H-E-E-T-S 76:21 Shield 84:12 Shipmate 2:2, 5, 7, 9, 12, 13, 18, 20 3:11 6:13 7:5, 8, 12 8:10 15:6, 11, 13, 15 16:1 17:9, 11, 19 18:17 26:4, 5 27:7, 19, 21</p>	<p>28:2, 5, 10 29:6, 13, 14 30:4, 6, 8, 10 33:14 35:4, 16 36:2, 6 38:15 39:9 40:12 41:3, 21 46:10, 11, 13, 18, 21 47:3, 5 48:1 50:14, 16, 17 51:3 52:5, 6, 10, 11 54:17 56:4, 17, 18 57:13 58:7, 14 59:3, 17 60:1, 9 63:8, 9 64:18 65:3, 5, 13, 15 66:2, 4 69:15, 16 70:3 71:1, 3 72:13 74:8, 9, 14, 21 75:1, 2 76:18, 20 77:4, 5 78:1, 3, 5, 9, 12, 14, 18, 20 79:21 80:4, 14, 17 81:2, 3, 9, 12 82:2, 12 83:1, 5, 21 84:6, 19 86:6, 7 88:5 91:9, 10, 21 92:10 93:2 94:6 95:7, 14 96:6, 8, 11, 15 98:3 100:14 102:16, 19, 21 103:14 105:1, 2, 3 106:3, 4, 5 109:19 110:8, 9, 10, 17 111:8, 9, 11 112:2 113:4, 16, 18 114:20 115:1 shipmates 2:3 3:15 6:8, 20 7:15 8:16 11:11 12:8 13:19 14:8 18:6, 9, 20 19:2, 5, 7 22:18 27:20 29:19 30:3, 10 31:15 40:16 42:16</p>	<p>46:19 47:10 48:5, 21 49:1, 3, 5, 21 52:1 53:1 56:16 57:14 58:3, 20 59:20 60:7 61:3 63:4 66:8 68:16, 20 74:3 77:3 78:10 79:18 80:2, 20 81:12 82:4, 14 83:3, 17 84:1 85:10 86:8, 18 90:1 91:6 92:8 93:14 94:2, 8, 18 96:4 97:8, 19 100:8, 15 105:8, 11, 21 106:2, 10 107:20 108:3 109:20 110:13 112:3 113:2 shipmate's 50:17 59:20 ship's 54:14 shock 10:21 shocked 107:20 short 25:8 105:12 108:19 109:4 shouts 10:20 11:3 show 10:19 11:2 23:8 112:8, 14, 15, 16, 17 showed 82:16 showing 82:5 shown 81:16 shows 9:9 36:16 48:10 81:6 Shreveport 33:1 49:17 50:1 shut 10:3 side 113:14 sign 5:6 6:10 17:13 28:7</p>	<p>46:5 64:5 70:14 signature 72:20, 21 signed 5:21 85:16 93:20 signify 64:5 signing 28:18 Silver 5:15, 18, 19 58:6 similarly 21:19 simply 44:14 sincerely 92:15 single 42:14 46:8 sir 46:20 Sister 10:21 11:2 25:7 sit 13:9 sitting 10:17 12:14 six 37:11 38:9, 10 104:13 size 101:12 skill 73:19 skills 25:13, 15 Slawinsky 100:18 sleep 9:21 sleeping 9:6 slow 54:5 56:13 small 20:13 53:8 89:11 smaller 44:13 SMILEY 110:10, 11 SMITH 64:19 104:19 110:21 snorer 9:6 snores 9:15 snoring 10:3, 5 social 73:10, 12 solemn 31:18 solicit 75:12 85:11 93:15 solicits 92:15 solving 73:20 somebody 35:12 51:13</p>	<p>son 12:15, 16 13:2, 7, 8 Sonar 43:11, 12 102:5 soon 56:9 sorry 25:14 27:19 30:11 49:13 55:3 60:21 104:4 109:6 111:16, 17 sound 11:7 Sounds 103:9 source 24:6 sources 24:3 South 20:2 33:2 47:17 99:11 Southeast 16:21 17:1 32:11, 21 33:5 47:20 57:9 75:20 76:3 95:12, 13, 16 99:8 104:9 Southwest 20:11 30:18 47:16 74:20 76:1, 5, 12, 13 spare 108:1 speak 65:14 SPEAKER 14:2 17:10 26:4, 6 36:18 37:19 38:1 39:5 52:5 54:3, 5 55:11 60:20 62:16, 19 72:15 79:9, 17 86:10 91:10, 13, 18 98:9 103:9 106:4 107:9, 10, 11, 12 108:21 109:12 112:19 SPEAKERS 5:9 35:14 49:19 55:4 62:18 68:4 70:17 71:19, 21</p>
---	--	---	---	--

<p>special 77:19 103:13 specialist 98:12 specific 21:5 specifically 102:10 specify 65:1 Spell 72:15 spend 44:9 108:1 spent 13:15 48:6, 20 Spike 33:8 split 9:14 Spokane 32:12 spoken 43:20 sponsor 31:8 Springfield 112:5 Spurgeon 103:6 Squadron 5:15, 19, 20 58:6 Sr 93:20 stability 56:6 stand 46:15 64:10 76:13 78:6 83:3 103:12 111:19 114:10 115:6 Standing 4:7 17:16 18:21 82:18 Stars 58:12 start 16:5 53:9 88:16 90:8 98:21 started 55:21 87:10 97:12 starting 66:9 75:17 82:15 state 5:2 65:7 97:7 stated 66:14 69:19 statement 41:5 States 31:4, 10 84:10 stating 66:15 status 102:7</p>	<p>stay 87:13 104:18 108:11 stays 45:15 steadfast 59:11 84:5 steering 110:1, 6 stencils 110:15 Step 33:10 Steven 48:2 Stockton 81:15 84:13 85:1 Stone 103:7 stop 25:21 43:13 Storm 84:12 story 24:19 89:15 STPREUP 112:12 stragglers 2:6 46:20 strategic 21:1, 10 streamline 74:1 streets 105:16 strength 20:18 61:19 62:3 79:15 strengthening 89:6 stretched 19:6 strictly 48:7 strip 112:18 Stripes 58:12 students 98:16, 17 study 75:7 stuff 20:1 47:10 style 3:6 submitted 22:11 27:13, 17 48:8, 15 56:16 57:5 74:12 77:2 83:10, 11 subpoena 14:5 subsequently 100:21 101:13 subsidiary 4:4</p>	<p>substantial 24:18 succession 4:12 5:1 Suckow 14:19 suggestions 18:9 84:1 sum 41:1 summarize 97:15 Sun 49:15 51:5 72:6 Sunday 101:1 106:11 107:4, 5, 6, 7, 13, 14 Sunday's 106:21 superior 10:21 11:6 supper 12:14, 20 13:10 support 14:13 32:2 48:19 57:21 85:12 87:6 92:15 93:16 94:11 supporting 57:5 73:1, 2 supposed 41:18 supreme 11:21 sure 9:17 14:18 22:15 67:11 75:5 89:14 105:7 surprise 77:20 surprised 107:20 suspended 79:17 Swede 33:13 sweet 105:12 system 44:10, 14 < T > Tab 36:5 79:7 table 12:14 13:1, 2 52:18 tables 3:16</p>	<p>16:7 tailed 9:20 take 8:2 20:14 24:12 29:11 61:13 64:21 67:18 68:1, 11, 16, 20 89:13 100:5 111:19 taken 9:9 22:14 51:20 takes 57:19 Talbot 17:19, 21 18:7 26:8, 18 27:1 40:10, 13 41:4 60:8, 10, 19, 21 61:2, 5 62:7 Talbot's 28:2, 5 talk 9:4 87:14 97:11 108:21 109:2 113:14 talked 19:2 39:12, 15 42:9 88:1 talking 49:18 58:15 67:12 69:7 89:7 talks 61:10 task 88:17 tasked 19:9 tasks 21:5 taught 87:9 te 4:16 teach 97:17 teats 10:19 technical 85:2 tell 9:14 12:1, 2, 3 26:18 36:9 45:5 telling 11:17 89:4 tells 17:17 89:16 temporary 5:1 Ten 16:10 23:4 24:20 71:7 ten-minute 77:16</p>	<p>term 22:3 85:9, 15 93:12, 19 Thank 2:18 3:11 6:17, 19, 20 14:13 15:1, 15 17:11, 15 27:4, 18 28:3, 14 35:6, 10 36:1, 2 40:7 45:16 46:9 47:5 49:20 52:15 66:2, 4, 7 68:5 69:13 70:18 74:3 75:3 77:3 78:5, 16 79:19, 21 86:17, 18 91:5, 7 94:10, 21 96:2, 18, 19 97:1 98:1 99:18 102:17 103:12 104:21 105:1 106:2 107:18, 19 108:12 110:8, 17 111:7, 8 113:1, 3 114:18 Thanks 74:8 theme 33:19 thin 19:7 thing 26:14 41:15 45:12 62:5 69:7 74:11 87:18 104:7 114:7 things 39:15 42:2, 9 43:4 44:3, 8 51:14 68:8, 11 69:1 88:4, 18, 19, 20 90:13, 17 100:9 106:10 think 11:1 12:15 13:8 51:11 55:20 66:9 69:21 70:5 77:20 79:7 86:20 87:1 88:4, 10, 11, 21 89:3</p>
---	--	--	---	--

91:15 96:20, 21
108:11
thinking 88:12, 16
Third 33:3
35:18 50:7
62:15 72:9
76:10 113:1
thoroughly
102:10
thought 7:11, 15 13:9
thousand 41:18
three 16:3
24:12 39:12
43:19 44:8
49:8 54:4
56:15, 16 57:10
61:20 73:6
76:17, 20 80:18
81:8 82:5, 17
84:3 101:12
104:13
ticket 106:12, 13 107:6
109:15
tickets 103:2, 5
106:15, 19
107:2, 5, 15
time 4:1 6:17
9:1, 4, 7 10:3,
14 12:3 13:15
14:13, 14 15:2
19:2 36:3 45:8
50:13 54:16
55:5 57:19
66:13 69:13
88:5 94:15
95:18, 20 97:6
101:15, 20
102:17 103:8,
17 108:1
timed 109:4
timeframe 6:4
timeline 24:11
25:8
times 101:12
tired 108:15

today 11:18
25:20 35:21
42:9 89:15
told 36:3
43:11 66:21
tomorrow
103:20 106:16,
19 111:20
114:12 115:6
Tonight 106:6
107:17 114:12
top 56:21
60:20
Torrafranca
30:13
total 37:5 38:7
77:2
totaling 49:9
TOULOTTE
66:4, 5 104:21
town 9:8
toys 108:2, 4
track 34:1
87:13
tracking 34:7,
10, 12
trademark 22:6
traffic 10:17
train 83:2
trained 98:12
Training 83:15
87:6
transferred
82:2
Transfiguracion
72:14
**T-R-A-N-S-F-I-
G-U-R-A-C-I-O-
N** 72:17
travel 10:13
22:21
traveled 97:6
trend 24:1
trends 21:12
Triangle 72:2
90:16
tried 10:13
trifecta 90:16
trophy 55:19

true 48:13
truth 9:15
try 53:6 55:6
trying 41:10
67:3 89:1
TUCK 10:10,
11
turn 36:11
109:17
turned 103:8
Turner 17:1
turns 10:21
twice 83:5
two 3:5, 14
16:3 20:12
24:12 37:2, 10,
11, 21 38:9, 10
39:17 44:3
50:3 51:10, 16
53:12 60:21
62:9 63:6 64:5
74:5 88:3 94:2
97:12 98:8
105:12 115:5
Typically 7:20

< U >
ultimate 22:4
unable 94:13
unanimous 6:7
unanimously
85:7 92:9
93:10
Uncover 2:8
7:7 15:12
46:12 47:2
78:2, 13 114:21
Understand
63:20
understanding
19:18
understood
68:13
unfair 62:5
Unfortunately
94:11 95:17
103:21
uniform 2:15

unintelligible
99:6 106:5
109:12
Unit 12:9
United 31:4, 9
84:10
upcoming 34:1
update 73:7
90:6 100:13
updated 73:9
updates 27:15
78:19
upstairs 106:8
Ursula 47:18
usage 73:12
use 16:10 22:5
43:8 51:21
86:20, 21
108:19
useful 75:12

< V >
VA 59:9
vague 61:12
Valerie 66:5
88:5
Valley 32:13
49:14 51:4
72:1, 6 93:5, 7,
15
van 16:13
various 8:1
18:3 75:8
Vegas 72:11
verifiable 73:5
Veteran 43:2
59:6 61:11
67:14 100:10,
15, 19 101:18
102:1, 2, 7, 14
veterans 58:8,
18, 20 59:3, 9,
12, 18 61:18
62:1 84:20
VFW 88:14
viable 23:4
24:14, 16
Vic 48:3

vice 25:12
30:11, 17 54:20
61:14 66:6
77:17 81:21
82:6, 9 91:20
92:4, 12, 19
93:5, 12, 19
94:3, 14 95:3, 4,
6, 18 96:12, 16
97:4 101:7
view 111:3
Viking 50:3
Villanova 103:6
Virgil 11:13
13:14
Virginia 11:15
vision 88:3
visit 8:5
visitors 48:1
74:19
visits 22:20
58:8
voice 23:17
voluntary 20:12
volunteer 49:2
volunteering
58:14 59:5
vote 6:6 22:1,
12 63:14, 16, 17
64:1, 3 77:17
85:6 86:16
91:14, 17 92:9
93:9 96:11, 14
voted 7:17
27:20 100:16
votes 61:20
voting 23:17
61:19 62:3
63:21 79:15
VSO 98:11, 16
99:19 100:1

< W >
wait 7:12, 19
22:2 29:12
39:2
walking 58:15
Walter 33:10
want 6:19
13:5 15:1

22:15 26:18
 50:21 64:3
 65:13 67:9
 68:19, 21 74:3
 77:3, 18 86:18
 87:13, 19 89:7,
 9, 10, 20 90:4,
 14 104:7
 108:18 112:8
 114:4, 5, 17
wanted 24:19
 45:2 51:2
 102:10
wants 14:18
 104:14 112:14
War 59:8
warm 59:21
 114:18
Washington
 14:4 22:21
 104:20
way 34:6 44:3
 48:12 59:15
 66:19 67:18
 69:21 87:8
 97:3
WCR 83:17
wearing 8:18
week 89:1
 94:13
welcome 18:11
 58:11 59:21
welfare 47:7,
 11 52:3
well 2:11 7:10
 9:12 29:9 39:1
 46:21 56:11
 59:13 67:11, 17
 71:12 73:11
 83:9 84:6 87:7
 91:18, 19
went 10:6
 39:12, 15 53:7
 60:12 102:11
We're 3:1
 26:1 37:12
 41:10 42:20
 43:18 48:14
 51:20 63:16
 67:11, 21 68:6,

7 69:7 77:16
 86:21 89:1
 107:18 111:15
 114:7
West 20:11
 29:21 30:15
 32:13 33:1, 8
 47:18 76:5, 6
 81:17, 20, 21
 83:9 99:14, 18
 101:2
we've 45:7
 77:15 88:15, 18,
 20 89:16, 19, 21
 90:8, 10 100:8
 108:14 109:10
Whidbey 33:5
 50:4
widow 104:9
widows 48:11
 49:3
wife 13:14
willing 66:7
Wilson 99:14
window 11:3, 6
winner 52:9
winners 48:16,
 17 49:10 76:11
winning 106:12,
 13 107:3
winnings
 106:21 107:1
wish 9:2
withdraw 41:6
woke 71:2
Wolverine
 50:10
won 106:20
woodworking
 108:2
word 69:20
 70:2 86:21
words 98:8
work 4:18
 6:20 19:12, 20
 21:7 25:7 31:6
 36:9 41:10
 49:2 50:15
 54:15 59:20

90:17 95:20
 97:14
working 19:14
 23:10 59:10
works 57:18
Workshops
 83:16
worry 22:4
worst 87:6
worth 9:17
 106:21 107:1
writing 68:17
 90:14 101:16
written 35:19
 66:20 101:11
wrong 30:14
 66:9 113:9
wrote 66:6

< Y >
Yeah 13:14
 25:4
year 6:15
 10:14 14:12
 19:16 22:2, 18
 27:6 30:21
 32:7 33:14
 34:1 38:2, 3
 40:17 41:6
 42:16 43:1
 45:1 46:3
 50:14, 17 52:10,
 11 56:16 58:13
 67:12 72:13
 76:18 80:15
 86:21 87:5, 11
 88:19 89:5
 90:2 92:19
 94:3, 9, 14
 96:12 98:15
 100:18 101:20
 102:4 111:3
 112:4 113:7
years 21:11
 24:5, 13, 20
 41:8 42:1, 12
 45:5, 15 50:13
 58:1, 4 59:19
 67:13 69:9
 81:15, 18 82:10

88:2, 9 89:17
 99:1
year's 26:17
 97:5 109:1, 21
yelled 10:15
yellow 107:2
yesterday 8:4
 25:16 27:14
 36:7 53:3, 7
young 25:14,
 15 75:10
younger 25:19
youth 35:2
 74:16 75:5, 6, 9

< Z >
zero 37:2, 21
 38:9, 10 53:10,
 11 54:7 79:16
Zoom 73:14, 15