

2026



Fall Department Executive Committee Meeting – August 2, 2026

AMERICAN LEGION POST 83, MERCED, CA PART 1 OF 2
EVENTS COORDINATOR

THE AMERICAN LEGION DEPARTMENT OF CALIFORNIA | 1601 7th Street, Sanger, CA 93657

The American Legion Fall Department Executive Committee Meeting

Sunday, August 2nd, 2026

American Legion Post 83

Merced, CA

Department Commander Janice Somers

Department Adjutant Sam Flores

Department Commander, Janice Somers ([00:00:27](#)):

Dr. Cash is going to bless us. Please uncover. Gentlemen, ladies do not have to uncover if you want to.

Department Chaplain, Kathy Cash ([00:00:39](#)):

Good morning everyone. Good morning. Shall we bow?

Department Commander, Janice Somers ([00:00:45](#)):

It's working. It's working.

Department Chaplain, Kathy Cash ([00:00:49](#)):

Shall we bow? Gracious God, our Father, how we thank you for another day, another opportunity to be of service to the veterans in our community. We ask for your blessings upon this meeting and that you continue to bless the leadership. We ask for your guidance, we ask for your strength, and we ask that you remind us of the purpose that we are here. We thank you for our remembrance of those who have passed on. We continue to remember those who are still fighting and those who have yet to return home. We ask your blessings upon us individually and collectively. In your mighty, matchless name we pray. Amen. Amen. Amen. Amen.

Department Commander, Janice Somers ([00:01:26](#)):

Thank you. Cover and have a seat. Thank you. I declare. Oh wait, excuse me. Yes. We have to have roll call. Have a seat. We have to have roll call so that we can declare that we have a quorum. Sir?

Department Adjutant, Sam Flores ([00:01:44](#)):

All right. Thank you, commander. Oh my God. Well, I got to write as well. All right. Can you hear me? Okay. All right. Commander? Thank you, ma'am. National executive committee person, Eric Measles. Here, sir. Thank you. Alternate national executive committee person. Mr. James Heguera. Good morning, sir. Department judge advocate. Joseph Fenton. Present.

([00:02:29](#)):

Thank you. Department chaplain, Ms. Kathy Cash. Army strong. Thank you, ma'am. Department historian, Ms. Liliana Armenta. Present. Thank you. Department Assistant Department Parliamentarian, Ms. Janet Wilson. Present. Thank you. Department Senator at Arms, Mike Smith. Five. Kill. Department Service Officer Steven Belt. Here, sir. Thank you. Junior Past Commander David Brambilla. Present. Thank you. Commander, Vice Commander, Area one, Bob Tindall. Present. Thank you, sir. Vice Commander, Area Two, Phil Cazella. Thank you. Vice Commander, Area three, Roy Santiago. Present. Thank you. The Vice Commander, Area Four, David Fuller. Thank you, sir. That's weird. Vice Commander, Area Five, Vic Martin. Thank you, sir. Vice Commander, Area Six, Jeff Daly. Real. Commander, District one, Kennedy Cooper. Yes, sir.

([00:03:37](#)):

Thank you. Commander, District two, Zacharay Van Cleave. Present, Your Honor. Thank you. Commander District three, Marj Goosey. Excused. Excuse me. Commander, District four, Ryan Belflower. Present. Thank you, sir. Commander, District five, Raymond Hart. Thank you, sir. Commander, District six, Jonathan Heitzman. Number five. Killed. Commander District seven, Nick Bonji. Here. Thank you. Commander, District eight, Helen Wong. Excused online. Thank you. Commander, District nine, Dave Jackson. Present. Thank you, sir. Commander, District 10, Don Reed. Present. Thank you, sir.

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Commander, District 11, Mike Green. Killed. Commander, District 12, John Kirwan. Sir. Thank you, sir.
Commander District 13, Richard Perales. Commander

[\(00:04:47\):](#)

13 went to Texas. Oh. Okay. Thank you, sir. He did let me know. Appreciate the reminder. Commander District 14, John Anderson. Present. Thank you. Commander District 15, Robert Lasatovich. Commander District 16, Chris Robert. Still armed strong. Thank you, sir. Commander District 17, Stuart Chan. Excused. Commander District 18, Sam Cafero. Present. Thank you, sir. Commander District 19, Carl Wilbert. Thank you, sir. Commander District 20, Steve Ramirez. Present. Thank you. Commander District 21, Al Mendoza. Thank you, sir. Commander District 22, Thomas Moore. Present. Thank you, sir. Commander District 23, Gregory Taylor. Thank you, sir. Commander District 24, Quentin Farina. Present. Thank you, sir. Commander District 25, Billy Stacy.

[\(00:05:59\):](#)

Commander District 26, Steven Harden. Present. Thank you, sir. Commander District 27, Thomas Maloney. Thank you, sir. Commander District 28, Jose Martinez. Kill. Commander District 29, Scott McKee is excused. Commander District 30, Kenneth Gregory. Thank you, sir. Past National Commander Bruce Deeson is excused. Past Department Commander Nick Rosa. Is he on? Thank you, sir. Present online. Past Department Commander John Aldridge. Is he online? Excused. Past Department Commander Larry Leonardo. Did he. Okay. Excused. Past Department Commander Robert Hynish. Present online. Thank you, sir. Past Department Commander Gary Leach. Thank you, sir. Past Department Commander Larry Van Curen. Thank you, sir. Past Department Commander Janet Wilson. Present. Thank you, ma'am. Past Department Commander Joseph Garcia. Excused. Past Department Commander Kenneth Kremlich. Excused. Past Department Commander Hugh Crooks. Present, sir. Thank you, sir. Good morning. Past Department Commander Dennis Furko. Excuse me. Excuse. Past Department Commander Lennox, absent. Past Department Commander Howard Darter.

[\(00:07:50\):](#)

Excused. Past Department Commander David Eby. Say called. Thank you, sir. First Vice Commanders, District One, James Ziebel. Excused? Yes.

[\(00:08:11\):](#)

Thank you. First Vice Commander, District Two, Skip Nagle. Thank you. First Vice District Three. No name. Absent. First Vice, District Four, Jesse Neff. Thank you, sir. First Vice District five, Mark Almida. Excused. Thank you, sir. First vice district six, Amy Goodwin. Thank you, ma'am. First Vice District seven, Larry Laverne. Thank you. First Vice District eight, Michael Martinelli. Absent. First Vice District nine, Janet Wilson. Present. Thank you, ma'am. First vice district 10, Alfredo Rodriguez. Thank you. First vice district 11, Carlene Curris. Thank you, ma'am. First Vice District 12, Roy Santiago. Thank you, sir. First Vice District 13, John Carlson. First Vice District 14, Barbara Jung Lowe. Thank you, ma'am. First Vice District 15, James McKay. First Vice District 16, Joseph Scota. Here. Thank you. First Vice District 17, Richard Escobido. Thank you. First vice district 18, Domingo Almanzar. Thank you. First Vice District 19, Manny Batal.

[\(00:09:52\):](#)

Thank you, sir. First vice district 20, Ralph Bellador. Present. Thank you, sir. First Vice 21, Francis Blakesley. Thank you. First vice 22, Desiree Schmidt. Vacant, right? Present. Yes, sir. Thank you. First vice 23, Kathy Cash. Present.

[\(00:10:16\):](#)

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Thank you, ma'am. First vices 24, Mylan Morgan. Thank you, sir. First vice is 25, Michael Husier. Thank you, sir. First vice is District 26, Richard Earhart. Excuse me. Thank you. First vice, District 27, Connie Koch. Thank you, ma'am. First Vice District 28 to Brian Lapore. Killed. District 29, First Vice John Manila is excused. First Vice District 30, Sky Ainsworth. Excused. John Aldridge. Online. Thank you, ma'am. John Aldridge, present online. Okay. Commander, that is your roll call. You do have a quorum. Thank you.

Department Commander, Janice Somers ([00:11:15](#)):

I declare this DEC continued at the quorum. And I'm going to turn it back to Sam as the adjective. We have a couple announcements and we have a couple of commissions and committees that need to be ratified. Just a couple changes, a couple additions. Thank you.

Department Adjutant, Sam Flores ([00:11:37](#)):

Thank you, commander. Just a reminder, checks will be available at the conclusion of this session. For those of you that are leaving early, I believe you've already provided notice. So if you need to pick up your check, let us know.

([00:11:51](#)):

After this DEC session, the department is moving away from the Zoom platform. We will be going into the Discord use of virtual sessions. So if you all are not familiar with the Discord platform, you're going to need to start looking into that, download that. That way we can start sending you invites so we can add you to our session list. Okay? So remember, Discord is the platform we're moving into. All right.

([00:12:23](#)):

Some additions and corrections onto the commission committee list. So I'm just going to go. I'm not going to read the entire list, all right? Just so that we're clear.

([00:12:33](#)):

Under the Artificial Intelligence Committee, the addition is Vice Chair, and that is Janet Wilson.

([00:12:46](#)):

Under. Oh no, we read that one yesterday.

([00:12:48](#)):

Under personnel, TA, Larry Leonardo.

([00:12:56](#)):

Under Women Veteran Committee, Chair is Amy Goodwin. TA, Rocio Palmero.

([00:13:22](#)):

Constitution and Bylaws, TA, Ken Kramlich.

([00:13:25](#)):

Legislative TA, Roy Santiago.

([00:13:43](#)):

Commander, I believe those were all the additions.

Department Commander, Janice Somers ([00:13:45](#)):

Okay. And Mr. Yates, do you have any others that we did at the meeting yesterday to just confirm that we have them all so that we can ratify them?

Chris Yates, Post 365 District 22 ([00:13:58](#)):

Commander Chris Yates, 365 District 22. The only change that I recall that wasn't mentioned was legislative area five, replace Marquis Palmer with Joanne Vargas.

Department Adjutant, Sam Flores ([00:14:26](#)):

What is the name? Remove Marquis.

Department Commander, Janice Somers ([00:14:29](#)):

Yes.

Department Adjutant, Sam Flores ([00:14:30](#)):

What was the name provider?

Department Commander, Janice Somers ([00:14:32](#)):

Joanne something.

Chris Yates, Post 365 District 22 ([00:14:33](#)):

Joanne Vargas. Commander, is that correct? Yes. Joanne Vargas. And Marquis Palmer as a TA.

Department Commander, Janice Somers ([00:14:53](#)):

And Mr. Yates, isn't Marquis? Is he a national rep?

Chris Yates, Post 365 District 22 ([00:14:58](#)):

Yes, that's why they're recommending that he be a TA.

Department Commander, Janice Somers ([00:15:01](#)):

Perfect. Thank you. Last chance for anybody else?

Chris Yates, Post 365 District 22 ([00:15:09](#)):

Amateur radio, ma'am. Amateur radio. Area four take off the vice commander.

Department Commander, Janice Somers ([00:15:22](#)):

Yeah, but does he have anybody else?

Chris Yates, Post 365 District 22 ([00:15:24](#)):

Yes. Ken Calvert. Carl. Carl Calvert. What? Oh, Wilford.

Department Commander, Janice Somers ([00:15:36](#)):

Mr. Yates, what's the name again?

Chris Yates, Post 365 District 22 ([00:15:39](#)):

Wilford. Here.

David Fuller, Area 4 Vice Commander ([00:15:46](#)):

It's Carl Wilbert.

Department Commander, Janice Somers ([00:15:50](#)):

Thank you.

Chris Yates, Post 365 District 22 ([00:15:51](#)):

Sorry about that.

Department Commander, Janice Somers ([00:15:56](#)):

Oh, nice. Yes.

David Fuller, Area 4 Vice Commander ([00:15:59](#)):

Housing. We put in. Change area four. Housing from - You got to

Department Commander, Janice Somers ([00:16:05](#)):

Stand up, sir, and tell us your name.

David Fuller, Area 4 Vice Commander ([00:16:08](#)):

David Fuller, fourth area vice commander. Change from Hadley for housing to Ethel Butler. James Hadley for housing for area four. And change that out to Ethel Butler.

Department Commander, Janice Somers ([00:16:26](#)):

You good with that? Vice Commander Fuller? Is Ethel going to be still vice commander? Or vice chair, rather? Sorry. Vice chair? Thank you. Okay. Okay.

([00:16:43](#)):

Do I need a motion for the names that we updated to ratify for our commissions and committees? Mr. Mendoza. Thank you. Do I have a second? Seconded by (District 20 Commander Steve Ramirez) Thank you. Okay. We had a motion to ratify the names were just updated on commissions and committees. Do we have any more discussion? Hearing none. All yes. Aye. Aye. Oh yeah. Aye. Yes. And any nays? We'll get this. Any nays? Yes. Thank you.

([00:17:36](#)):

We have a special little treat for you from our historian, Liliana Armenta. She made a little video to just highlight what we would like to do for LAX is have a video running to show this is your department. This is what we did. Not that you're drinking and all the dinners.

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(00:18:01):

It's what are you doing for veterans? What are you doing out of the community? And send them to Liliana and Jeff Daly's going to help. And if we have little stall time, you'll see your department. Be more coming up. But just so you know, this is a little taser. Thank you. Excuse me. Thank you. Who's doing it?

(00:18:25):

While Sam gets it ready, I feel like I'm standing up. When Sam is getting this ready, I'm going to be calling up if you can have Vice Commander Phil Cazella. If you can come up, stand on deck, we are going to do resolutions. Whoa. Thank you.

Department Adjutant, Sam Flores (00:18:46):

Is Curtis back there by any chance?

Department Commander, Janice Somers (00:18:48):

Curtis. This is the kids that come and help the grandparents. Thank you, Curtis. We are really doing well today. We are going to have resolutions, but at 10:45, our adjutant going to let me know so that we can have a little break before the memorial service. And then think about the longest person that drove. I mean, a member that drove the furthest and the member that drove the shortest, which is probably the Hamill's. I was given a little socks. Are they ready? Go for it. Well done. And let me introduce you to our story. And again, Liliana Armenta. Thank you. Vice Commander Phil Cazella, would you please come on deck and present or come up to the podium? Thank you, sir. Enjoy. Oh

Phil Cazella, Resolutions Speaker (00:22:39):

Yeah. Enjoy. This will be fun. Okay. Turn this just a hair. So we do have a number of resolutions. As all of us probably remember, there was quite a few that were voted out of order at convention. I've kind of ordered these to try and get through them. And rather than go through too many of the all of the whereas clauses, those that I believe are self-explanatory by the resolve clauses, I'll just read those. The first two resolutions that we have to read have to do with the sale of the Madera post and as well as in some assets in Fresno. Previously, the junior past commander was listed as the person who had the authority to do that. So resolutions are to change that to our current commander so we can execute those. So I'm going to read these are short.

(00:23:27):

Whereas this is resolution 033, sale of property from Madera Post 11. Whereas we, the undersigned, all being the directors of this corporation, consent and agree to the sale of the real property more commonly known as Madera American Legion Post 11, located at 17408 Road 26, Madera, California for a sale price of 525,000. And whereas no further signatures of any members of the board of directors or officers of the corporation are needed to complete the purchase and transaction herein to therefore be resolved by the American Legion Department of California Executive Committee in Merced, California, July 31st through 2nd, that we, the department executive committee, appoint Janice Somers in her capacity as a department commander as the party authorized to sign any and all documents regarding Madera Post 11 on behalf of the American Legion Department of California, a California nonprofit organization. Therefore, it be finally resolved that we do hereby consent to the adoption of the proceeding at the regularly convened meeting of the Department Executive Committee of this corporation in accordance with California state law and the law of this corporation.

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[\(00:24:40\):](#)

This of course was recommended to be passed by the resolutions committee. I make a motion that we as a DEC pass or adopt, what is it? Adopt? No. Accept, pass, resolved. I forget, what is it? Accept. Make a motion we accept this resolution. Okay.

Department Commander, Janice Somers [\(00:24:59\):](#)

There's a motion on the table to accept this resolution. Is there a second. David Fuller, Area Four Vice Commander, Thank you, sir. Any discussion? Hearing none, pass. Thank you. Sir.

Phil Cazella, Resolutions Speaker [\(00:25:17\):](#)

Okay. Onto the next. Shall I hit? Just go

Department Commander, Janice Somers [\(00:25:20\):](#)

With this.

Phil Cazella, Resolutions Speaker [\(00:25:20\):](#)

Okay. One

Unknown Speaker [\(00:25:23\):](#)

Point of order.

Department Commander, Janice Somers [\(00:25:34\):](#)

Oh, sorry. I didn't hear any discussion. All in favor. Yay. Aye. All opposed? Nays? No. Pass. Thank you.

Phil Cazella, Resolutions Speaker [\(00:25:51\):](#)

Okay. Okay. All right. There was that one. The other one, the next one is very similar. This has to do with the Fresno Post instead. Reading almost identically the whereas the resolved, therefore be it resolved by the American Legion Department of California and the Department Executive Committee in Merced, California, July 31st through the 2nd, that we, the Department Executive Committee appoint Janice Summers in her capacity as department commander as the party authorized to sign any and all documents regarding Fresno Post 511 on behalf of the American Legion Department of California, California nonprofit organization. And therefore be it finally resolved that we hear. We do hear on consent to the adoption of the proceeding at the regularly convened meeting of the department executive committee of this corporation in accordance with California state law and the laws of this corporation. The committee voted of course to pass this.

[\(00:26:49\):](#)

I make a motion to accept this resolution.

Department Commander, Janice Somers [\(00:26:53\):](#)

You made a motion?

Phil Cazella, Resolutions Speaker [\(00:26:53\):](#)

Yeah.

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Department Commander, Janice Somers ([00:26:55](#)):

Okay. There's another motion on the table to have the commander sign all papers for post 511. Do I have a second? Seconded by (District 1 Commander, Kennedy Cooper) Thank you, sir. So there's a second. And is there any discussion about having the commander be able to sign any papers that would warrant through the escrow and through any of the realtors to continue the sale and close post 511 in Fresno? Hearing none. All in favor? Aye. Aye. Opposed? Nay. Ayes have it. Thank you.

Phil Cazella, Resolutions Speaker ([00:27:35](#)):

All right. Those are out of the way. This next resolution actually comes from the resolutions committee as the origin. And this is to try and address some of the problems that we had there at convention. Whereas the uniform code of procedures for the Department of Convention state in section titled Resolutions to be Considered by the Convention, paragraph one, post-approved commission recommended resolutions shall come to the department at least 21 days before the opening of convention. And whereas resolutions may be submitted by the convention or to the convention by a department commission or committee or post. And whereas time can be scarce and valuable at the convention in that only proper and well-written resolutions should be read on the floor of convention. And whereas it is a function of the department resolution committee to review resolutions to assure they are properly written, signed, placed in the proper form and are well written for passage at convention.

([00:28:34](#)):

And whereas it can take some time for the resolution committee to properly review and service submitted resolutions. And whereas in the past, getting this done in a timely fashion has been difficult and nearly impossible to giving submitted resolutions the time and effort required to assure they were ready for presentation on the convention floor. Now therefore be it resolved by the American Legion Department of California Executive Committee meeting in Merced, California, July 30th through the 2nd, that the uniform code of procedures for department convention paragraph one of resolutions to be considered by the convention to be changed to state, "Post-approved or department commission or committee recommendation resolutions shall be submitted to the department resolution committee by five weeks prior to the opening of convention. Late submissions shall not be accepted." And be it finally resolved that paragraph eight of the same section be changed to read, "All resolutions submitted to the department shall be signed by the adjutant of the post or the chair of the committee or commission initially submitting the resolution.

([00:29:37](#)):

Electronic signatures are acceptable." Make a motion that this resolution be accepted.

Department Commander, Janice Somers ([00:29:47](#)):

Do I have a second? Oh, we don't need a second. Okay. Did

Kennedy Cooper, District 1 Commander ([00:29:52](#)):

The committee -

Department Commander, Janice Somers ([00:29:55](#)):

Wait a minute.

Kennedy Cooper, District 1 Commander ([00:29:56](#)):

Post 174. Did the committee recommend approving this? Yes. Then no

Department Commander, Janice Somers ([00:30:01](#)):

Second is needed. Thank you. Okay. Okay. Thank you. So we have a motion on the table that changed the timeframe for five weeks out and then the second one was what?

Phil Cazella, Resolutions Speaker ([00:30:10](#)):

Oh, that was just to clarify that it needed to be signed.

Department Commander, Janice Somers ([00:30:12](#)):

Oh, and it needed to be signed by the evidence, sir? No,

Phil Cazella, Resolutions Speaker ([00:30:15](#)):

They have submitted the post.

Department Commander, Janice Somers ([00:30:16](#)):

Okay. Needed to be signed by the post. A lot of the resolutions have not been come in, haven't been coming in for signing. So any more discussion? Yeah. Vice Commander Daly.

Jeff Daly, Area 6 Vice Commander ([00:30:34](#)):

58. My question is, what was the time before the change?

Phil Cazella, Resolutions Speaker ([00:30:45](#)):

If I could, commander. Yeah. As part of the whereas clauses, it also stated that the previous was 21 days prior to convention. And then everything had to be posted 15 days before convention. So it left one week to get them in, get them tuned up and then posted.

Jeff Daly, Area 6 Vice Commander ([00:31:00](#)):

Because my reservation on this is that five weeks is a long time. It's two post meetings if the timing works out. And then you have to do. The thinking ahead though process is, I think it's a bit long because for example, some of the resolutions that are coming through today, items were brought up in the national scheme of things. We would not have been able to do this with that amount of time. From when things went public nationally to when we submitted solutions, when we submitted resolutions, we would not have had time to get them in five weeks ahead of time. And I think it's restrictive and I think it's going to hamper the resolution process. And right now the resolution process was being equated with the member's voice. And what this is going to do is it had more restrictions on the member voice.

([00:32:08](#)):

I'm wondering if we can amend the timeframe. Thank you.

Department Commander, Janice Somers ([00:32:22](#)):

Any more discussion?

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Roy Santiago, Area 3 Vice Commander ([00:32:25](#)):

Roy Santiago. Area three vice commander. I command the commission for bringing this up. I think it's worthwhile because it allows us to bring those resolutions or discussion in our district to caucus and to have clarity prior to convention and save time on our meetings. I think most of our districts meet 30 days prior to convention. We can discuss, bring it up. We come to a consensus within our delegations and then have a sound vote. That's all I have, sir.

Department Commander, Janice Somers ([00:33:07](#)):

Thank you, sir.

Don Reed, District 10 Commander ([00:33:16](#)):

Don Reed. District 10 commander, post 117, concur with Jeff Daly on his point about the timing. I also asked, does this at all intend to address the process by the resolution commission? And to that, I share my experience that prior to convention, I got feedback on the AI commission resolution approximately one week before convention. And I was fortunate enough that our post meets on the last Friday of the month. So I rapid fire got review and approval and a resubmission fortunately and time for it. But I can understand that there could be mitigating circumstances for that for the resolution commission. We're all volunteers, but should we address the processing of those resolutions as well? Or is that done somewhere else? Thank you.

Department Commander, Janice Somers ([00:34:15](#)):

Address that.

Phil Cazella, Resolutions Speaker ([00:34:18](#)):

If you don't mind, I would prefer to have the resolutions chair address that particular question. He's holding the microphone at the moment.

Department Commander, Janice Somers ([00:34:26](#)):

Well, he was past chair last year.

Phil Cazella, Resolutions Speaker ([00:34:29](#)):

Sory, the chair from last year. So actually I'll tell you what. I appreciate the question, Don. And I think so this resolution as written is not addressing processes or procedures other than the timeframe for submission in order to have, as it's stated in here, adequate time for that processing. It does not address the process itself and how that's affected, how it's supposed to work. And that is absolutely something I believe that the resolution committee should dial in and publish. So that way that is well known. I agree. But that's not what this. Unfortunately, this resolution does not have that listed as part of the resolved. Yeah. No, understood.

Don Reed, District 10 Commander ([00:35:18](#)):

Thanks.

Department Commander, Janice Somers ([00:35:23](#)):

Yes. He's not a member.

Phil Cazella, Resolutions Speaker ([00:35:29](#)):

He was last year.

Department Commander, Janice Somers ([00:35:30](#)):

He was last year NEC, or DEC, but he's not a member. Do we need a vote to have him speak? Two thirds?

Phil Cazella, Resolutions Speaker ([00:35:39](#)):

Actually, he is the submitter of the resolution.

Department Commander, Janice Somers ([00:35:43](#)):

All Right. You can speak on the resolution, sir. We just want to make sure everything's right. So what you say will count. Thank you. Mr. Rice.

Phil Cazella, Resolutions Speaker ([00:35:55](#)):

No.

Department Commander, Janice Somers ([00:35:58](#)):

We don't need a motion because he's the submitter of it. Okay.

Mark Rice, District 6 Post 383 ([00:36:05](#)):

Commander Mark Rice, post meeting post 383 district six. I wrote this resolution. In the Oceanside DEC back about four or five years ago, there was a resolution that I wrote then to develop a resolution processing policy guide that was approved by the DEC, which has been written. We're requesting this time mostly because we want to be able to get the resolutions and the time to write to make sure they are good. They're written properly. We keep getting backed up with both submitting things late at the last minute. And it turns to the difficulty in getting all the members of the committee together to get these proper addressing so that we can make sure that they are properly written resolutions. Folks, I don't understand why all of a sudden that is the only timeframe that people can work on resolution. Something's on your mind. Start working on it early and get it done early so we can do it right.

([00:37:16](#)):

Thank you.

Department Commander, Janice Somers ([00:37:17](#)):

Thank you. Thank you, sir. Any other discussions? All right. Seeing none. Hearing none. All in favor say aye. Aye. Opposed? No. Ayes have it. Thank you.

Phil Cazella, Resolutions Speaker ([00:37:47](#)):

Okay. Onto a couple that should be relatively straightforward. The training committee, Mr. Chris Yates has submitted a number of different resolutions here pertaining to the training committee themselves and some of the actions that they should take on an annual basis. The purpose behind all of these is really to ensure the training committee has some mandates from the DEC for the type of training that should be conducted on an annual basis. So I'm just going to read the resolves on these kind of right in a

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row here. We'll start with number 13. Resolved by the American Legion Department of California Executive Committee in Merced, California on August 1st and 2nd. The Department of California shall provide DEC orientation training conducted by the training committee within 45 days after the department's annual convention. And be it further resolved that this orientation training shall cover at a minimum the following topics to ensure robust governance, financial integrity, program impact, and program impact.

[\(00:38:53\)](#):

They are corporate responsibility, rules of the DEC, four pillars of a program, department mission, vision and impact, financial literacy and oversight, risk management and oversight, parliamentary procedures. And be it further resolved, the orientation training shall be delivered in a manner accessible to all DEC members, including in-person sessions, virtual sessions, or hybrid format. And be it finally resolved that this resolution shall take effect immediately and upon adoption shall apply to all current and future members of the DEC subject to the department's bylaws. The resolutions committee recommends that this be passed and make a motion that this resolution be accepted.

Department Commander, Janice Somers [\(00:39:33\)](#):

Okay. Do we have a second. Seconded by (District 28 Commander, Jose Martinez) Thank you. Okay. We have a motion and a second for this resolution. And it's for training, for orientation, for topics and financial integrity. So any discussion? What? Okay. Sorry. We just want to make sure we're doing okay. So any discussion on this training? Hearing none, seeing none. All in favor? Aye. Aye. Opposed? No? Pass. Thank you. I got to pay

Phil Cazella, Resolutions Speaker [\(00:40:36\)](#):

More time. There we go. All right. The next one is of a similar nature. Again, from the Department Training Committee resolved by the American Legion Department of California, the Department Executive Committee meeting in Merced, California, August 1st and 2nd, that the Department of California shall provide orientation training for all appointed commission and committee chairpersons within 90 days of the appointment. And be it further resolved, that orientation training shall cover at a minimum, the mission, purpose, expected outcomes of that committee or commission, the four pillars of the American Legion Program, roles and responsibilities of the chairperson and members. And be it further resolved that orientation training will be delivered in a manner acceptable to all chairpersons, including in-person sessions, virtual sessions, or hybrid format. And be it finally resolved that this resolution shall take effect immediately and upon adoption shall apply to all current and future committee and commission chairpersons.

[\(00:41:28\)](#):

The resolution committee recommends that this be passed and make a motion to accept this resolution.

Department Commander, Janice Somers [\(00:41:35\)](#):

Thank you. Do I have a second? Oh, I'm sorry. Seconded by (District 21 Commander, Al Mendoza) Thank you. And then we don't need a second just like, but thank you. If it comes out of the committee, we're a learning process here. So thank you very much. So we have a motion on the table for chairs of committees and commissions to be trained so they know what they're supposed to do. Any more discussion? Hearing none, seeing none. All in favor? Aye. Aye. Opposed? No. Ayes have it. Thank you.

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Phil Cazella, Resolutions Speaker ([00:42:14](#)):

Okay, All right. Moving right along. The third one in this kind of series of training committee proposed resolutions. Resolved by the American Legion Department of California. Oh, sorry, this is number 18. Resolved by the American Legion Department of California, the Department Executive Committee in Merced, California on August 1st through 2nd, that the American Legion provide NEC orientation conducted by the Internal Affairs Division within 90 days of the opening of the national convention each year. And be it further resolved that orientation training shall cover at a minimum the following topics to ensure robust governance, financial integrity and program impact within the American Legion. They are corporate responsibility rules of the NEC. Four rules of a program, mission and vision and impact, financial literacy, the American Legion trademarking, legislative priorities, operational oversight, and therefore be further resolved that the orientation training shall be delivered in a manner acceptable to all NEC members, including in-person sessions, virtual sessions, or hybrid format and therefore be finally resolved.

([00:43:18](#)):

That this resolution shall take effect immediately and upon adoption shall apply to all current and future members of the NEC subject to the national bylaws. The committee recommend that this be passed and make a motion to accept.

Department Commander, Janice Somers ([00:43:30](#)):

Okay. We have a motion to accept that our NEC gets trained.

Vic Martin District 22, Area 5 Vice Commander ([00:43:36](#)):

Vic Martin, district 22, area five. Thank you. I second that.

Department Commander, Janice Somers ([00:43:42](#)):

Thank you. And we do not need it, but thank you, sir. All right. Any discussion on our NEC knowing what they need to do for this motion? Hearing none. All in favor? Aye. Aye. Opposed? Nay. No. Passed. Okay. Motion passed. All

Phil Cazella, Resolutions Speaker ([00:44:08](#)):

Right. Moving right along. Moving right along. Okay. We've got a couple of resolutions here related to social media, AI and the Veterans Gaming Commission. They're kind of all similar veins. So I'm going to read those one in a row. So the first one is number 15. The title is Department Social Media Management. The submitter Chris Yates through post 365. Whereas the effective communication engagement via social media are critical to advancing the mission and public profile of the American Legion of California. And whereas consistent responsible management of social media accounts is necessary to maintain the integrity, reputation, and brand identity of the Department of California. And whereas the protection of trademarks, logos, and official Department of California information necessitates clear oversight and control mechanisms. Now therefore be it resolved by the American Legion Department of California at the executive committee meeting, Merced, California August 1st and 2nd, that the Department of California shall adopt best practices for social media account management and be it further resolved that all official social media accounts representing the American Legion Department of California shall be managed by the Department Adjutant and the Media and

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Communications Commission who shall retain exclusive administrative permission to ensure consistency, security, and proper use of department trademarks and brand identity.

(00:45:33):

And be it further resolved that only the department adjutant shall possess administrative access to all official social media accounts and any additional personnel authorized to contribute content where assistant management must receive written approval from the Media and Communications Commission and be granted appropriate permission levels. Be it further resolved that all social media content must align with the department's mission, values and brand guidelines and that content shall be reviewed by the department adjutant and the Media and Communications Commission to ensure accuracy, appropriateness, and compliance with established policies. And be it further resolved, the department adjutant shall implement security measures to protect social media accounts from unauthorized access, including the use of strong passwords, regular monitoring, confidential or sensitive information shall not be disseminated through social media channels. And therefore be it finally resolved that all social media activities shall comply with applicable laws, regulations, and the department's code of conduct, consequently assuring ethical and responsible use or be subject to immediate removal.

(00:46:39):

The resolutions committee recommended that this also be passed and I make a motion to accept. Thank you,

Department Commander, Janice Somers (00:46:46):

Sir. Okay. We have a motion on the table about social media to make sure that the adjutant is aware of everything and approved and protect the Department of California. Any discussion? Sir?

David Brambila, Jr. Past Dept Commander, Post 742 District 21 (00:47:04):

Commander. David Brambila, Jr. Past Commander, Post 742 District 21. The reason why we're hearing parts of this resolution is I just want to just make you all advise there are accounts. For example, the Fifth Area Facebook page, that page is actually not owned by the Department of California. When I was Fifth Area Vice Commander, the whole year I was unable to post, do make any changes, do anything regarding the Fifth Area because the administrator decided I should not have administrative rights as the Fifth Area Vice Commander. That right there is unacceptable. Our pages should not be hijacked by any individuals. Department of California should have ownership of these pages and be able to administer rights and be able to control the content as pleased by the administrators or addition of administrators. That's all I have. Thank you, Commander.

Ryan Bellflower, District 4 Commander Post 789 (00:48:08):

Commander? Sir. Ryan Bellflower, District four, post 789 Wheatland. Interesting comments from David. We could reserve those comments for later, but my only comment was if I heard you correct, there was a single source of truth for the admin rights. And I've fallen victim to the single source person having admin rights. So my only comment would be let's add somebody else in case somebody decides to no longer be with us. That's all.

Department Commander, Janice Somers (00:48:37):

Thank you, sir. Any others?

Kennedy Cooper, District 1 Commander ([00:48:41](#)):
Commander?

Department Commander, Janice Somers ([00:48:42](#)):
Oh, sorry.

Kennedy Cooper, District 1 Commander ([00:48:45](#)):
Post 174. So as the district four commanders has pointed out, I would like to amend the resolution to fix that problem. Let's see. I need to rewrite clause three that the department Adjutant and the Media Communications Commission shall possess administrative access. Could

Department Commander, Janice Somers ([00:49:05](#)):
You repeat that, sir?

Phil Cazella, Resolutions Speaker ([00:49:06](#)):
So the third resolve?

Kennedy Cooper, District 1 Commander ([00:49:07](#)):
Yes. The third resolved clause that says only the department adjutant shall possess administrative access. I would like to amend that. Excuse me. I make a motion to amend that to state that the department adjutant and the media communications commission shall possess administrative access.

Phil Cazella, Resolutions Speaker ([00:49:27](#)):
Media And communications. Commissioner.

Department Commander, Janice Somers ([00:49:30](#)):
Second.

Phil Cazella, Resolutions Speaker ([00:49:33](#)):
I prefer somebody also up here second it.

Don Reed, District 10 Commander ([00:49:35](#)):
Don Reed District 10th Commander. I second that.

Department Commander, Janice Somers ([00:49:39](#)):
Thank you, sir. Thank you, sir. Okay. We have a motion on the table for an amendment first of changing the third resolve from only department adjutant to and media and communication, including the adjutant for possessing administrative access. That's the amendment on it. So we have a motion on that? I'm sorry. I thought he was talking to me. Any discussions on the amendment only for the wording? Hearing none. All in favor? Aye. Aye. Opposed? No? Thank you. The amendment is passed. Okay. Huh?
([00:50:22](#)):

Yeah. So now we have the resolution still on the table. And Mr. Daly, you wanted the floor?

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Jeff Daly, Area 6 Vice Commander ([00:50:29](#)):

Yes, ma'am. I appreciate it, commander. My question is, does the person. So let's say baseball is out. The baseball commission's out covering baseball. Things are happening live and in the moment. Do they have to have every post approved by the two entities that were named?

Department Commander, Janice Somers ([00:50:49](#)):

Vice Commander Phil's going to answer that question.

Phil Cazella, Resolutions Speaker ([00:50:52](#)):

I appreciate the question, Commander Daly. There was some discussion about that. I know we conferred with the author, Mr. Yates. And Mr. Yates, I don't know if you wanted to speak on the scope of this as written. I believe, and I don't want to put words in your mouth, that this is the Department of California social media's only. That this is not post. Beyond that, this has to do specifically with just the Department of California social media accounts. Is that correct? Mr. Yates?

Jeff Daly, Area 6 Vice Commander ([00:51:22](#)):

Understood. Okay. My question still stands because the Baseball Commission is a department program in my example. So if they're covering a baseball. I posted a lot for baseball in the moment live as it happens. So I would now have to have a delay to submit it to an approving authority before we could post it.

Phil Cazella, Resolutions Speaker ([00:51:47](#)):

As written, the third resolve, excuse me, says that in this case, the department adjutant and the median communications would be basically the owners of the access and be able to provide for any additional personnel authorized to contribute content. So I think this is really just putting the authorization to distribute said credentials to whatever committee or commissions representing the department, that they have the authority to pull that back at any time.

Jeff Daly, Area 6 Vice Commander ([00:52:12](#)):

Okay. And in the common theme of ownership, the department also cannot hijack an account. So if I start a discussion group page about California Legion stuff, because none of those are copywritten words, you can't copyright California. Legion's not copywritten. If I don't use the Bundler logo, the department cannot take control of those entities. So I just want to make that clear because that's a violation of copyright. It's a misappropriation of copyright law. Thank you.

Department Commander, Janice Somers ([00:52:52](#)):

Thank you. Any further discussion? Hearing none, seeing none. All in favor? Aye. Aye. Opposed? No? Pass. Thank you. All right.

Phil Cazella, Resolutions Speaker ([00:53:06](#)):

Okay. Next resolution. Oh, sorry. There's your cut. Next resolution is 23. Subject is human review and approval of official public communications. I am the submitter through my post 237 where it was passed. I'm just going to read the resolved on this. If there's any questions, I'd be happy to expand on that. I think it's pretty self-explanatory. Again, title is Human Review and Approval of Official Public

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Communication resolved by the American Legion Department of California Executive Committee in Merced, California, July 31st through the 2nd, that the Department of California adopt a policy requiring that all official communications issued in the name of a post district or department within California be reviewed and approved by an elected officer of that organization or a duly appointed designee. Whether or not artificial intelligence was used in the preparation of the communication. And be it further resolved that nothing in this policy should be construed to prohibit the use of artificial intelligence as a tool to assist in the preparation of communications, provided that human reviewer with appropriate authority remains accountable for the final content before publication or release.

[\(00:54:20\)](#):

The resolutions committee recommends passing this. I make a motion to approve. Thank you,

Department Commander, Janice Somers [\(00:54:26\)](#):

Sir. Okay. This resolution is to have a human look over any AI before submitting. Any discussion?

Kennedy Cooper, District 1 Commander [\(00:54:39\)](#):

I know that we've already made the motion from that committee. So my discussion is this. Every post and body department, it does not require this resolution. This is already a requirement by policies that are already in place. And this resolution is just solidifying that all commanders, adjutants, your executive boards should be reviewing everything you put out already. That this is nothing new.

Department Commander, Janice Somers [\(00:55:10\)](#):

Talk to me.

Kennedy Cooper, District 1 Commander [\(00:55:10\)](#):

Excuse me. This is nothing new and it's just being brought before the board to solidify that. Thank you.

Department Commander, Janice Somers [\(00:55:15\)](#):

Thank you, sir. Okay. Anything else? Any other discussion or clarification? Seeing none, hearing none. All in favor? Aye. Aye. Opposed? No. Pass. Thank you.

Phil Cazella, Resolutions Speaker [\(00:55:28\)](#):

Okay. One more down. Okay. Yeah, that's it. Flip it over, ma'am. Okay. So this next one's a little bit longer. And this is the resolution 035, establishment of ALG Veterans and Gaming Foundation as a department controlled entity. So this one has been posted for a while. I hope others have had an opportunity to read it. It is a little bit long and a little wordy. So I'll try and read through this. Whereas the department established a gaming committee through resolution 2023001 and through resolution 2026008 recognized the American Legion Gaming as an official department initiative subject to the four rules of an American Legion program. Whereas ALG Veterans and Video Game Foundation, separate EIN and the numbers here, here unto known as the Foundation, is a separate California nonprofit public benefit corporation recognized as exempt under 501 of the Internal Revenue Code and provides charitable support for gaming related to veteran serving activities.

[\(00:56:51\)](#):

Whereas four rules apply to programs organized as a subsidiary corporation or other entity in California Corporate Code Section 5220 Delta permits a nonprofit company's directors to serve as the designation

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or selection of a specified designator. And whereas the department and foundation desire the foundation to become a department controlled charitable entity supporting American Legion Gaming under the attached amended and restated bylaws of their group while remaining legally separated and responsible for its own obligations. Now therefore be it resolved by the American Legion Department of California at the executive committee meeting in Merced, California, July 31st through the 2nd, that ALG Veterans and Video Games Foundation is.

[\(00:57:51\):](#)

Okay. I retract everything I just previously said. Apparently this is being referred to. The former resolutions chair is being referred to committee for further analysis as there's been other information related to it. It'll come back to the DEC and some legal related things. We want to make sure that's taken care of first. Thank you, sir. Okay. I'll just take that one here. All right. Okay. Let's get down to one submitted by Louis Valarde, post 731. Subject is number 025. Those who are following on the bingo card. Subject support and expansion of the Forward Act to include private individual retirement accounts, IRAs. This is not that long, so I'm just going to read that. That way there's some context as a result this month. Whereas career military personnel dedicate 20 or more years of arduous service to the United States earning their retirement pensions through decades of physical and personal sacrifice.

[\(00:58:56\):](#)

And whereas the current Internal Revenue Service Code Section 219 classifies military retirement pensions and VA disability compensation as unearned income or deferred compensation, barring veterans from using these funds to contribute to private Roth or traditional IRAs unless they secure secondary employment. And whereas the Bipartisan Forward Act of 2025 actively seeks to correct a similar inequity by allowing military veterans to use their pensions to contribute to the thrift savings plan, S, TSP. And whereas veterans deserve complete financial autonomy to build wealth and manage their retirement utilizing the full spectrum of private market investment vehicles, not just internal government plans, now therefore be it resolved at the American Legion Department of California executive committee meeting in Merced, California, August 1st through 2nd, that the American Legion urges Congress to amend the Forward Act of 2000 2025 or introduce supplemental legislation to formally reclassify military retirement pensions and a VA compensation as earned income, strictly for the purpose of authorizing contributions to private individual retirement accounts.

[\(01:00:15\):](#)

The resolutions committee met on this and at this time does not recommend passing this resolution. I make a motion to reject. The committee makes a motion to reject this resolution.

Department Commander, Janice Somers [\(01:00:29\):](#)

Okay. There's a motion from the committee to reject this motion, which is 2026-025. Any discussion?

Eric Measles, NEC Post 283 District 24 [\(01:00:46\):](#)

I second that motion.

Department Commander, Janice Somers [\(01:00:49\):](#)

Thank you. Any more discussion? Hearing nine, seeing nine. Oh, sorry, sir.

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Jonathan Hitesman, District 6 Post 362 ([01:01:00](#)):

Commander Jonathan Hitesman, district six, post 362. I would just say that I don't really trust the IRS and we got \$40 trillion in debt. I would rather not give an opportunity to the IRS to tax our earned income under this resolution. Keep it as it is. Thank you. Thank

Department Commander, Janice Somers ([01:01:25](#)):

You, sir. Any other discussion on this resolution that's rejected by the committee? We have one more.

Roy Santiago, Area 3 Vice Commander ([01:01:40](#)):

Roy Santiago, vice commander area three. So to clarify, if we vote, we are killing this resolution. Yep.

Department Commander, Janice Somers ([01:01:47](#)):

We are killing this resolution. We're going to agree with the committee if we vote aye because they are recommended to reject. So that's the motion on the table to reject this. Any other discussion? Hearing none. For rejection of this resolution, all in favor say aye. Aye. Oppose? No. Yes.

Phil Cazella, Resolutions Speaker ([01:02:13](#)):

Okay. So it doesn't get signed? No. Okay. Let's see if I can do it this way. That way we can share the same size.

Department Commander, Janice Somers ([01:02:23](#)):

Oh, Nick, don't stand on my test.

Phil Cazella, Resolutions Speaker ([01:02:26](#)):

Oh, this thing really is floppy, huh?

Department Commander, Janice Somers ([01:02:28](#)):

Yes. Just put it back up. All

Phil Cazella, Resolutions Speaker ([01:02:31](#)):

Right, there we go. Close enough. Okay. Okay. So these last three are actually very similar. So I'm not sure what was the recommendation. Was it to Mike? Sergeant Arms? So we have three resolutions that came to the resolution standing committee of the DEC. They are almost identical in. So how are we proceeding with this?

Mike Smith, Department Sgt at Arms ([01:02:55](#)):

With this one, we have to pick basically the best one

Phil Cazella, Resolutions Speaker ([01:02:58](#)):

And

Mike Smith, Department Sgt at Arms ([01:02:58](#)):

Then combine parts and then move forward since they're basically the same thing.

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Phil Cazella, Resolutions Speaker ([01:03:02](#)):

Okay. Everybody hear that?

Department Commander, Janice Somers ([01:03:06](#)):

Basically, we have three resolutions on the same

Phil Cazella, Resolutions Speaker ([01:03:11](#)):

Topic. Well, yeah, I've got two. Where's the third one? Sergeant Arms? I have two. I have 31 and 32. 029. 029. Do you have it? Excellent. I had it earlier when we're trying to do these together. Yes. So the whereases are all almost identical. So I'm going to read the one of the whereases and then we'll read any if there's differences in the resolved. Is that what we're.

Mike Smith, Department Sgt at Arms ([01:03:57](#)):

Yes.

Phil Cazella, Resolutions Speaker ([01:03:57](#)):

Yes? Okay. Because we're trying to figure out either which one to move forward, because they're all three the same. They're asking national to do something. Yeah. Okay. This has to do with the disapproval of the National American Legion's support for the taking care of American Veterans Act and reaffirming of the membership adopted legislative resolutions. So whereas the American Legion is a grassroots resolution-based organization whose official legislative positions are established by resolution, adopted by the National Convention and the National Executive Committee. And those positions remain in effect until amended or rescinded through the same governing process. And whereas resolution number 187 of 2016, protect veterans disability compensation and benefits, directs the American Legion to oppose any administrative or legislative proposal that would dilute, eliminate, or offset any provision of the disability compensation program, thereby affirming the organization's longstanding commitment to protecting earned disability compensation. And whereas resolution number 38 of 2016, exempt Department of the Veterans Affairs benefits from pay as you go or pay go supports legislation to exempt Department of Veteran Affairs benefits and services provided to the service connected disabled veterans, their dependents and survivors from pay as you go provisions of the Budget Enforcement Act, thereby opposing the financing of veterans' benefits through budgetary offsets.

([01:05:43](#)):

And whereas resolution 33, 2022, retain Tinnitus Diagnostic Code 6260 as a standalone condition supports retaining diagnostic code 6260 in the Department of Veteran Affairs schedule for rating disabilities and recognizes tinnitus as a standalone compensable disability reflecting the American Legion's commitment to preserving compensation for veterans with service connected disabilities. And whereas resolution 19 of 2023, protect American veterans disability compensation and benefits reaffirmed the organization's policy to oppose any administrative or legislative proposal that would dilute or eliminate provision of the disability compensation program, thereby strengthening or reaffirming its policy as adopted in resolution 187.

([01:06:40](#)):

And whereas the taking care of America's Veterans Act, the TCAVA, is as introduced in Congress, includes provisions that would authorize revisions to the disability compensation for further service

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members, including changes affecting compensation for tinnitus and sleep apnea and other proposed revisions to the Department of Veteran Affairs schedule for ratings disabilities. And whereas the TVAVA also relies on budgetary offsets that many members believe are inconsistent with the American Legion's longstanding opposed to financing, the longstanding opposition to financing veteran benefits through PEGO mechanisms as expressed in resolution 38 in 2016. Whereas the National American Legion publicly expressed support for TCAVA despite the existence of member adopted resolutions and that many members believe conflict with the legislative disability compensation and funding provisions. And whereas many legionnaires believe support for legislation that appears inconsistent with the adopted resolutions undermines the confidence in the organization's resolution-based governance process and the principles that the membership through adopted resolutions establishes the organization's legislative priorities.

[\(01:08:14\):](#)

And therefore be it resolved. Then we go into the resolves.

[\(01:08:19\):](#)

So this first one, resolved by the American Legion Department of California at the executive committee meeting in Merced, California, August 1st to 2nd, that the department reaffirms its support for nationally adopted resolutions 87 of 2026, 38 of 20, excuse me, 187 of 2016, 38 of 2016, 33 of 2022, and 19 of 2023 as the governing legislative policy of the American Legion concerning veterans disability compensation and opposition to funding veterans benefits through Paygo offsets. And therefore be it further resolved that this department urges the National Executive Committee and the National Legislative Commission to withdraw the National American Legion's endorsement of TCAVA unless and until legislation is amended to fully conform with the policies established by the membership through adopted resolutions. And be it further resolved that this department calls on the national executive committee to ensure that future legislative positions involving veterans disability compensation are consistent with existing membership adopted resolutions.

[\(01:09:34\):](#)

Or if a change in policy is desired that such change be presented to the membership through the established resolution policy before any endorsement is made. And be it finally resolved that this department declares that the American Legion must remain the nation's foremost advocate for veterans by defending, not bargaining away the benefits earned through military service and that the American Legion exists to protect the promises made to those who have served and to the future generations who will serve and should never support legislation that finances one veteran's benefits by reducing or offsetting another.

[\(01:10:12\):](#)

That's that one. All of the whereas are the same. And that in fact. I got a question. Where was it? I believe as I've read them, because we have two of them from. The first one that I read was 29. Yes. The question is, is the resolve for 32 is identified. Excuse

Eric Measles, NEC Post 283 District 24 [\(01:10:46\):](#)

Me. I'm standing here in front of that microphone.

Phil Cazella, Resolutions Speaker [\(01:10:48\):](#)

Just tell them that. So there was two resolutions that were brought forward. 29 is the one I just read. Mr. Daly has a comment.

Jeff Daly, Area 6 Vice Commander ([01:10:59](#)):

Commander, I wanted to clarify. Two of them are for me. One should have been backup for the other. One is my post declaring that we have an opposing point of view to what nationals is doing. And then the other is to go along with the first one. So there's only two. And then I don't know because I didn't go through the process. You normally would've combined those, right? Because of the exact wording.

Phil Cazella, Resolutions Speaker ([01:11:29](#)):

Excuse me. Yes. Thank you.

([01:11:31](#)):

I appreciate that. Yeah. And looking at it, Mr. Daly, you are correct. The one I just read is identical to the other one that's 32 and 29 are the identical text. So I'm not going to read that one. That was a backup for that. So there's really two. The one that I just read, and then I would like to read the resolved of the second. The question is to this body, which one we would end up moving forward with.

Eric Measles, NEC Post 283 District 24 ([01:11:53](#)):

Point of order, commander, please. Eric Measles, NEC. My question is here, have you at that podium decided to merge those resolutions and create a single resolution?

Phil Cazella, Resolutions Speaker ([01:12:04](#)):

Negative.

Eric Measles, NEC Post 283 District 24 ([01:12:05](#)):

Because it sounds like to me you're reading the whereas from one and be it further resolved from another. Am I correct?

Phil Cazella, Resolutions Speaker ([01:12:14](#)):

The resolution I just read was all from resolution 029, top to bottom.

Eric Measles, NEC Post 283 District 24 ([01:12:19](#)):

Okay.

Phil Cazella, Resolutions Speaker ([01:12:21](#)):

There's another resolution of similar content.

Eric Measles, NEC Post 283 District 24 ([01:12:23](#)):

Oh, I'm well aware of the resolutions.

Phil Cazella, Resolutions Speaker ([01:12:24](#)):

So I see people motioning me. I really would appreciate if Mr. Rice would maybe be granted permission to speak because he was part of the standing committee for the resolutions.

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Eric Measles, NEC Post 283 District 24 ([01:12:36](#)):

Yeah, I understand. We're not at that point yet. We don't have a motion on the floor yet.

Phil Cazella, Resolutions Speaker ([01:12:40](#)):

Okay.

Department Commander, Janice Somers ([01:12:48](#)):

Just a second. Just do them all. Just do them all. Joseph. We are discussing behind the scenes by the parliamentary, but our judge advocate because we have three. Two of them are very similar in wording. They are the same. 32 and 29 are the same resolution. It's just different numbers. And 31, I haven't read. Okay. While we're waiting for these is who do you think is the. As far as the DEC, which member was the longest driving? So more mileage. Miles to get here.

Janet Wilson, Parliamentarian ([01:13:46](#)):

Arizona.

Eric Measles, NEC Post 283 District 24 ([01:13:48](#)):

Doesn't count. Foreigners don't count.

Department Commander, Janice Somers ([01:13:53](#)):

What? I can't see you. How many miles? How many miles did you do? Did you say Brawley or Hemet? Okay. They're still dilating, so we're just paying. 50 miles. You are or she is? She's further Arizona. Anybody further than Arizona? Kingman? Okay. She gets one of the socks that were donated by Chris Hoffman.

James Higuera, Alternate NEC ([01:14:37](#)):

Let's do some business.

Department Commander, Janice Somers ([01:14:39](#)):

Which would you like, ma'am? This one? Okay. Well, Pamela, I think you won. You're the closest. Would you say anybody else that's sitting here that is closer than you two? And out of the father and the son, which one's closer? Curtis, you are? Closest? Did they make a recommendation? Okay, close. Curtis Hamill is the closest. Oh, Ed. Is it Ed? This is a distraction. You are? Are you Ed? Vince? Bill. Okay. Bill. Lucas? Ducus? Dakis. Bill Dakis is the winner of the short drive. Congratulations, sir. Congratulations. Oh, that's okay. Here you go, enjoy. Thank you. Compliments of Chris Hoffman. Thank you. Thank you. Are we ready?

Phil Cazella, Resolutions Speaker ([01:15:44](#)):

Yes.

Department Commander, Janice Somers ([01:15:45](#)):

Okay. I'll turn it back to Vice Commander Phil.

Phil Cazella, Resolutions Speaker ([01:15:47](#)):

Okay.

Vic Martin District 22, Area 5 Vice Commander ([01:15:48](#)):

Point of order, if I may, Commander.

Department Commander, Janice Somers ([01:15:53](#)):

Sir, what is your point?

Vic Martin District 22, Area 5 Vice Commander ([01:15:55](#)):

As I understand it, we read resolution 029 from the beginning to the end.

Department Commander, Janice Somers ([01:16:02](#)):

Correct.

Vic Martin District 22, Area 5 Vice Commander ([01:16:03](#)):

And I'm of the belief that a motion should be made to either accept this or not. And then there should be a second, and then there should be a discussion about this resolution. And then we would move on to the next resolution. And I would hope that if both passed, that then potentially we could work on maybe combining them at that point. But as I understand it, we are not into discussion and we still need a nomination. Is that correct?

Department Commander, Janice Somers ([01:16:34](#)):

That's correct.

Vic Martin District 22, Area 5 Vice Commander ([01:16:35](#)):

I'd like to make a nomination to accept this resolution.

Department Commander, Janice Somers ([01:16:39](#)):

The motion.

Vic Martin District 22, Area 5 Vice Commander ([01:16:40](#)):

I'd like to make a motion to accept the resolution for approval.

Department Commander, Janice Somers ([01:16:45](#)):

Yeah. And that's 2026-029. Is that the one? Yes. Sir?

Vic Martin District 22, Area 5 Vice Commander ([01:16:50](#)):

Yes.

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American Legion Post 83

Merced, CA

Department Commander Janice Somers

Department Adjutant Sam Flores

Department Commander, Janice Somers ([01:16:51](#)):

Okay. All right. There's a motion on the table to accept resolution 2026-029 that was read in completion between whereas and resolves. Do I have a second?

District 18 Commander Sam Cafiero ([01:17:10](#)):

I second that motion.

Department Commander, Janice Somers ([01:17:11](#)):

Thank you, sir. All right. Now, any more discussion? To accept this motion? Any discussion? No, sir. All right. How many minutes? We got a bunch. The parliamentarian is going to time everybody that's coming up for any debate or discussion for three minutes each. And the maker will have the last discussion.

Chris Yates, Post 365 District 22 ([01:17:44](#)):

Okay. But remember we have a timer.

Department Commander, Janice Somers ([01:17:47](#)):

And the maker can have first too. There's two makers. Chris Yates and Art Hessler are the makers of

Mike Smith, Department Sgt at Arms ([01:17:55](#)):

This. Let us control it though.

Department Commander, Janice Somers ([01:17:57](#)):

Oh, it's submitted. Oh, all right. Alvin Dunn was the maker of the motion for American Legion Post 365. Is he here? He could talk first and last. Thank you. Three minutes.

Chris Yates, Post 365 District 22 ([01:18:19](#)):

365 District 22 author of this resolution. Hopefully the discussion will be about the merits or whether we agree with TCAVA or do not agree with TCA based on its applications. To me, it doesn't even get out the gate. The only way that the membership of the American Legion can express its views is through resolution. There is no new business at department conventions. There is no new business at national conventions. The only way we can communicate what we want is through resolution. So in these resolutions, it clearly states that TCAVA goes against four resolutions. They were read, they were referred to, and they were referenced in the whereas clauses. So to me, for us to deny this resolution, we're basically taking out the entire infrastructure of the American Legion by saying your approved resolutions at the National Convention only apply if we agree with them. And that's a very dangerous slippery slope to get down.

([01:19:34](#)):

We should stand up for our blue caps. We should stand behind our resolutions and we should demand that the national headquarters withdraw their support of TCAVA. Thank you.

Department Commander, Janice Somers ([01:19:52](#)):

Any further discussion?

Mike Smith, Department Sgt at Arms ([01:19:54](#)):

Anybody against? He just went fours or an against.

Eric Measles, NEC Post 283 District 24 ([01:20:04](#)):

Commander Eric Measles, NEC. This is a heavy subject. It's been kicked around Facebook for a month and a half.

Department Commander, Janice Somers ([01:20:11](#)):

Look at me. Thank you.

Eric Measles, NEC Post 283 District 24 ([01:20:12](#)):

And very just. I'm sorry.

Department Commander, Janice Somers ([01:20:15](#)):

No, you're good.

Eric Measles, NEC Post 283 District 24 ([01:20:16](#)):

It's a very divisive situation. We all realize prior resolutions should be honored. Things change. This is a unique situation. Those that have get into. And I'm not going to get into the nuts and bolts of Takava because we could be here till tomorrow evening and I don't want to do that. I'm still looking at you, but my body may turn this way.

Department Commander, Janice Somers ([01:20:35](#)):

No, no, just look at me.

Eric Measles, NEC Post 283 District 24 ([01:20:36](#)):

I got you. Anyways.

Department Commander, Janice Somers ([01:20:37](#)):

Me, sir.

Eric Measles, NEC Post 283 District 24 ([01:20:37](#)):

Anyway, so the point is, ask yourself this. Does the leadership of the American Legion endorse Takava to take anything away from veterans? It's a pretty heavy question I ask myself. I've been beating this up for months and the gentleman behind me have great reasons, but I ask myself, what did our administration do? Do we think that they huddled in a corner sands a resolution to discuss this situation? Or did they weigh the merits of this resolution, this legislation to figure out how many benefits are brought to the table for our veterans? And their answer was yes. This piece of legislation incorporates about 60 different pieces that we've been pushing for over the years. And they're all wrapped up in this nice little package. It's not perfect. Nothing's perfect. Things change. Resolutions change. That's why we have recurring resolutions to fix and support prior resolutions. This situation also brings perhaps a watered down version of the Major Richard Starr Act, but it's included in this legislation.

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[\(01:21:51\):](#)

There are so many benefits to this piece of legislation in the House and the Senate, and it's incumbent upon us to support that, to get these things through that we've been working on for so many years. I get it. Tinnitus and sleep apnea. The big sticking point, Section 180. If I could get on the phone and Mr. President, would you do an executive order to remove Section 180 from this legislation so we could push it through and move more quickly? I would do that. I don't have that power.

[\(01:22:18\):](#)

I have to go with the national on this. I think they've weighed this out. Pros and cons. They've come out on the positive side. They're endorsing this legislation and I support that. I'm going with the National Organization on this. Thank you for your time. Thank

Department Commander, Janice Somers [\(01:22:31\):](#)

You, sir. Thank you, sir. Any others?

Jeff Daly, Area 6 Vice Commander [\(01:22:41\):](#)

I don't want to get scolded. So Jeff Daly again, Area six, District 24, Post 43. When you put together an omnibus of 62 different bills, you're going to find some good things. When you put together an omnibus of 62 separate bills, there are consequences hidden inside of that bundle. The consequences we all know, and since I only have three minutes, I'm not going to get into all of that. But I will say that this package needs to go down because it violates our resolutions. And yes, there are some resolutions that are consistent with the package, but they are very specific to specific things within the 62. The overarching things that it violates are about the package itself. When you have Pego, when you're pitting one against the other, it's a package deal. And so if you're violating the package, a package should never exist. Take the Richard Starr Act out of it, vote it by itself and handle it that way.

[\(01:23:52\):](#)

I don't care if there's a risk to this. The co-sponsors of this overwhelmingly were bipartisan and overwhelmingly should have been given the light of day to get a vote. Then it was held hostage, put in as the proverbial star of the omnibus so that they could force change through the whole entire package. That's wrong. And omnibus packages are typically two to 12 bills. This is 62 and it's done for a reason. Now, do I think the American Legion had mal intent and they're trying to be evil? No. You can have good intentions and still be wrong. And this is wrong. Thank you, Commander.

Department Commander, Janice Somers [\(01:24:40\):](#)

Thank you, sir.

Jonathan Hitesman, District 6 Post 362 [\(01:24:48\):](#)

Jonathan Hitesman, District Six, Post 362. I do want to commend those who have advocated so zealously on behalf of our veterans. There's been some incredible creativity and zeal, and that is awesome. I hope that we can apply some of that towards the things that threaten our organization, like membership. My reservation to this resolution is pretty simple. It seems we're taking an extraordinary act to tell national you're wrong at what you're doing. That I believe should come from the blue caps. That should come at convention. And I realize the timeline wouldn't allow that, but that is my reservation to this resolution. Thank you.

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Vic Martin District 22, Area 5 Vice Commander ([01:25:41](#)):

Vic Martin, district 22, area five. When our NEC measles asked the question if this was a group decision or if we really thought that there was a small group of people in a corner making this decision. And on the town hall with the national legislative council person who was talking to us shared that that's exactly what happened. And that the legislative council wasn't part of that process and that they made the decision based on a small group of people who made the decision. And I'm not a fan of the term blue caps because I feel we're all legionnaires no matter what cap we wear. But I'll tell you, legionnaires have spoken through resolution. I apologize, commander. I'm working on it. Me

Department Commander, Janice Somers ([01:26:35](#)):

Me too. Don't worry.

Vic Martin District 22, Area 5 Vice Commander ([01:26:37](#)):

So they have shared their voice. There was three resolutions where they shared their voice. So it's already been established that the legionnaires don't want to have their disabilities taken away to get another right. That's what we're talking about. So again, thank you.

Department Commander, Janice Somers ([01:26:56](#)):

Thank you, sir.

Nick Bonge, District 7 Post 775 ([01:27:02](#)):

Nick Bonje, district seven, post 775. So we are a resolutions-based organization and we passed these resolutions already. And by the legion headquarters giving support to this, they're taking the process of changing the disability rating away from the VA and putting it in the hands of Congress. That's something that we can't have. Congress should never be able to touch our disability ratings at all. That has to go through the VA. With the VA, we have an easier fight to get those overturned. If it's with Congress, then it's an even more of a battle. So I am against the TCVA because it takes benefits away from veterans. Thank you.

Department Commander, Janice Somers ([01:27:50](#)):

Thank you, sir. Sir, I'm sorry to say you do not have a voice. Your NEC does. Your alternate. You do not have a voice.

James Higuera, Alternate NEC ([01:28:07](#)):

I do not have a voice?

Department Commander, Janice Somers ([01:28:08](#)):

No, you do not have a sir.

James Higuera, Alternate NEC ([01:28:10](#)):

Then why am I sitting at the table?

Department Commander, Janice Somers ([01:28:12](#)):

Look pretty.

James Higuera, Alternate NEC ([01:28:15](#)):

I was answering roll call.

Department Commander, Janice Somers ([01:28:16](#)):

The question is to the DEC. We need a two-third vote if you would like Mr. Higuera, I speak. Do I have a motion on the table to have Mr. Higuera speak? I spoke

James Higuera, Alternate NEC ([01:28:31](#)):

I spoke yesterday.

Department Commander, Janice Somers ([01:28:32](#)):

I know.

James Higuera, Alternate NEC ([01:28:34](#)):

And now I'm not given that opportunity.

Department Commander, Janice Somers ([01:28:35](#)):

You know, it's a learning curve.

Phil Cazella, Resolutions Speaker ([01:28:38](#)):

We're going to make a motion.

David Brambila, Jr. Past Dept Commander, Post 742 District 21 ([01:28:43](#)):

Commander? Yes. Past District 21 post 742. I make a motion that we allow our alternate NEC to speak at this DEC floor.

Department Commander, Janice Somers ([01:28:53](#)):

Thank you, sir. Do I have a second? (Unclear who second the motion)Thank you, sir. All right. We have a motion to let Mr. Higuera, Alternate NEC speak. Any more discussion? Oh, sorry, sir.

Larry Van Kuran, PDC Post 826 District 20 ([01:29:11](#)):

Larry Van Kuran, past NEC, past DEC.

Department Commander, Janice Somers ([01:29:15](#)):

Wait.

Larry Van Kuran, PDC Post 826 District 20 ([01:29:16](#)):

Post 826 District 20, Area Six. I'm not going to talk pro or con

Department Commander, Janice Somers ([01:29:21](#)):

Wait, I don't think you have a voice either. No. Oh, you do?

Larry Van Kuran, PDC Post 826 District 20 ([01:29:26](#)):

I have a voice, don't have a vote.

Department Commander, Janice Somers ([01:29:27](#)):

Okay You have the mic.

Larry Van Kuran, PDC Post 826 District 20 ([01:29:29](#)):

That's Past Commander.

Department Commander, Janice Somers ([01:29:30](#)):

Yes.

Larry Van Kuran, PDC Post 826 District 20 ([01:29:31](#)):

I'm not going to argue a pro or con about the deal, but I'm going to talk to you practically about budgeting. Congress gave the VA a set number

([01:29:39](#)):

Of -

Department Commander, Janice Somers ([01:29:40](#)):

We have a motion on the table to let Mr. Higuera speak first.

Larry Van Kuran, PDC Post 826 District 20 ([01:29:43](#)):

Say again.

Department Commander, Janice Somers ([01:29:44](#)):

We have a motion on the table that we need to vote to let Mr. Higuera speak first.

Larry Van Kuran, PDC Post 826 District 20 ([01:29:50](#)):

Okay. So don't recognize me. Let me speak.

Department Commander, Janice Somers ([01:29:54](#)):

Okay. We have a motion on the table and a second to have Mr. Gerrera Mr. Higuera speak and we need a two third vote. All in favor? Aye. Opposed? No? Pass. Mr. Higuera, you have the mic. Just a process.

James Higuera, Alternate NEC ([01:30:18](#)):

Thank you commander and thank you NEC for allowing me this privilege. I am neither for or against this resolution, but I need to educate everybody at the table at this very moment.

Department Commander, Janice Somers ([01:30:27](#)):

Look at me, sir. Thank you.

James Higuera, Alternate NEC ([01:30:30](#)):

Oh, I thought it was mentioned when I had permission. Jimmy Higuera, alternate NEC.

Department Commander, Janice Somers ([01:30:34](#)):

Laughs

James Higuera, Alternate NEC ([01:30:34](#)):

Past department vice commander. No. And past national and past national vice commander.

Department Commander, Janice Somers ([01:30:43](#)):

Yes, sir.

James Higuera, Alternate NEC ([01:30:44](#)):

My process is that just as we are having a betting on this resolution, it's going to be forward to the national organization. There are going to be 54 representatives, one from each department that will consider any and all resolutions put on their table. They will individually make a decision whether that resolution goes forward or it is dunked. Simple as that. So the thing is, the author of this resolution from California should be present at that meeting to voice why are we requesting the whatever the issue may be. So the thing is, the ultimate decision, the ultimate decision is going to be with that vetting committee of representatives from across the country and foreign departments. Are we clear with that comrades? So regardless, yay or nay, whichever they say is going to be put on the table, the resolution number is going to be read. The title of that resolution and the final whereas.

([01:32:08](#)):

That's if it's made it to the convention for actual voting by the national delegation. Thank you.

Department Commander, Janice Somers ([01:32:16](#)):

Thank you, sir. Yes. Okay. Thank you, sir. All right. Can I just ask the time because it's 20 minutes for debate, isn't it? No, but what's the tone? Right. Okay. Okay. All right. So yes, we're okay. Everybody has three minutes. So any other discussion?

Don Reed, District 10 Commander ([01:32:59](#)):

Don Reed District 10, post 117. I would like to echo the concerns about section 108 of Pack Act. It's a dangerous precedent that we've seen in the healthcare industry for quite a while. And this would set a dangerous precedent. If you get a bad vehicle, brand new, and you have a significantly important part that's bad, you take it back to the dealer or you take it back to the shop or whatever and get that part fixed before you drive on and have a critical issue later. I believe that setting the precedent in 108 of making this a monetary decision instead of a medical decision is a bad precedent. Thank you.

Department Commander, Janice Somers ([01:33:37](#)):

Thank you, sir. Any more discussion?

Larry Van Kuran, PDC Post 826 District 20 ([01:33:51](#)):

Last one.

Department Commander, Janice Somers ([01:33:52](#)):

Yes. The maker of the motion or the maker of the resolution can end it.

Chris Yates, Post 365 District 22 ([01:34:00](#)):

I'm the author. I love you. Commander, thank you for the opportunity to speak, be the last speaker on this resolution. Again, I agree with some of the opposition in that it's not a good look. I am very uncomfortable as being the NEC elect to go into the NEC opposing those that I'm being elected to serve with and to work with and to collaborate with. This is not a comfortable position. However, if we don't stand for something, we stand for absolutely nothing. And this is unprecedented and we're not trying to create something new. What we're trying to do is tell the national organization that we are watching. There are four resolutions that's resolution number 187, 2016, 38, 2016, 33, 2022, and resolution 19, 2023. Those resolutions clearly talk about adjusting sleep apnea and tinnitus. And it also talks very strongly about opposing Pago. What TCAVA does is exactly those two things.

([01:35:18](#)):

We have already spoken through resolution and said, no, we will not. We will be an advocate for veterans with prejudice, as Commander Daly says, with prejudice. Advocate for us, not against us. And that's what they're doing right now. So this resolution simply holds them accountable to what we asked them and told them to do through resolution. Thank you, Commander.

Department Commander, Janice Somers ([01:35:39](#)):

You're welcome. Thank you, sir. All right. We finished the discussion. We have a motion on the table to accept resolution 2026-029. And it is to tell our national NECs to go back to Congress and to include the divisions that it would include and not dissolve the resolution of 187, resolution 38, resolution 33 and resolution 19 to go back to Congress and rework that. You got that right? Or do I have that right? Okay. All right. This is the resolution. All in favor say aye. Aye. All opposed say no. No. Ayes have it. Thank you.

Phil Cazella, Resolutions Speaker ([01:36:49](#)):

Okay. As I mentioned, there was others that were similar. The resolutions committee met to move forward with that one as it encompassed all of the same aspects whereas and resolved all in one. So this resolution 031 does not need to move forward. 32 was identical to that one. So I believe that is all the resolutions that I have. Is that it? I believe that's it.

Department Commander, Janice Somers ([01:37:13](#)):

I don't have any.

Phil Cazella, Resolutions Speaker ([01:37:14](#)):

All right.

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Department Commander, Janice Somers ([01:37:15](#)):

Thank you. Okay. What time is this, sir? 10:38, ma'am. 10:38. We have. The good news is we have a memorial that we can honor our post-everlasting veterans at 11:00. So you have a break to 10:55 so that we can. Oh, wait. Time out. Sorry. Did not have that on my agenda. Go ahead. Just tell them if they have anything different. Okay. Okay. One thing we have to clarify. Go for it.

Department Adjutant, Sam Flores ([01:38:08](#)):

Okay. So it was brought to our attention that there are some resolutions coming from the district horseshoe. The opportunity was provided yesterday during the probation suspension portion. If there's new developments, we'll go around really quick. If you have resolutions for suspension or revocation of post-charters, we'll entertain those now. Is that okay? Yes.

Department Commander, Janice Somers ([01:38:30](#)):

Go for it.

Department Adjutant, Sam Flores ([01:38:30](#)):

All right. District one?

Department Commander, Janice Somers ([01:38:32](#)):

Only the Changes.

Department Adjutant, Sam Flores ([01:38:33](#)):

District one?

Kennedy Cooper, District 1 Commander ([01:38:38](#)):

My understanding is it's not just those resolutions. We can bring any resolution to the floor. Is that not my correct understanding from rule seven, section F?

Department Adjutant, Sam Flores ([01:38:46](#)):

So if it's outside of suspension or revocation of charter, the opportunity was provided yesterday. The cutoff for submission of any resolutions to be considered on this floor was 10 o'clock per the announcements yesterday and the opening of the session.

Kennedy Cooper, District 1 Commander ([01:39:02](#)):

Correct. Can I get clarification why the agenda is overruling the rules? The rules said that they bring it at any time.

Department Commander, Janice Somers ([01:39:12](#)):

I'm going to go and refer to the parliamentarian, just so that we're all on the same page. It's the first I heard. Hey, Madam President. Go for it.

Janet Wilson, Parliamentarian ([01:39:43](#)):

Madam

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Department Commander, Janice Somers ([01:39:43](#)):

President. Okay. Parliamentary Janet Wilson. Just hold it.

Janet Wilson, Parliamentary ([01:39:48](#)):

Okay. Under procedure section B, the department executive committee may receive and act upon resolutions presented to it unless said resolutions concern changes in the bylaws of the Department of California or in the opinion of the department commander or judge advocate would be most appropriate reviewed at the convention committees or commissions. So yes, we can accept resolutions if they do not concern bylaws.

Department Commander, Janice Somers ([01:40:17](#)):

I'll hold it. It's easier. Okay. Do you have it?

Department Adjutant, Sam Flores ([01:40:24](#)):

I don't have them.

Department Commander, Janice Somers ([01:40:26](#)):

This is the first time that we heard about it. Kennedy? Commander? Yes. If anybody else has a resolution, please stand on deck behind Commander Kennedy. And please let us know before the final, like when we're ready to close down. Thank you.

Kennedy Cooper, District 1 Commander ([01:40:51](#)):

Commander, can I clarify really quick?

Department Commander, Janice Somers ([01:40:54](#)):

Yes, sir.

Kennedy Cooper, District 1 Commander ([01:40:54](#)):

Okay. So for clarification, what I'm trying to do right now is fix two of the resolutions that did not get rolled over from convention due to being declared out of order. So under rule seven, section F, it is my privilege as a member of this DEC to bring these resolutions back to the floor as copies, not the original resolutions, but as copies. And I apologize if the timing did not work out and I'll do better in the future. All

Department Commander, Janice Somers ([01:41:22](#)):

Right? That's okay. Thank you.

Kennedy Cooper, District 1 Commander ([01:41:24](#)):

So the first resolution, which the convention voted on and gaveled, but was ultimately found out of order was originally resolution 2026009, subject James Romano War on Cancer. I'll read the resolution clause. Whereas the Department of California has lost Audrey James and Jerry Romano, two of California's past four department commanders to cancer. And whereas 2022, the American Legion recognized the implications for the health of veterans who experienced toxic exposure by supporting

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and helping to pass the honoring our PACT Act. And whereas since the PACT Act passage through December 31, 2025, the Culminative Total PACT Act related claims submitted reached over 3.2 million with over three million claims completed and 2.2 million claims approved. And whereas the VA is well positioned with the target market and reputation in the medical research field to take on the prevention of care and search for cures to cancer. And whereas the American Legion is the largest voice for advocacy of veterans, now therefore be it resolved.

[\(01:42:34\)](#):

I got to read the right one. By the American Legion Department of California at the department executive committee meeting in Merced, California on August one through two, 2026, that the American Legion promote the ideas of war on cancer and be it further resolved that the American Legion will actively promote awareness to the veteran community paired with the advice to regularly schedule screenings via the VA. And be it further resolved that the American Legion promote, support and lobby for the research to prevent, treat, and cure all toxic exposure ailments, including the more than 20 cancers that are now presumed to be service connected. And be it finally resolved that the American Legion leverage its influence to take advantage of the unique position that the VA has to lead the fight against toxic exposure ailments, including cancer for the overall health of veterans, which also benefit the greater population.

[\(01:43:30\)](#):

I move that we accept this resolution.

Department Commander, Janice Somers [\(01:43:33\)](#):

Okay, sir, could you tell me the number again, sir? That's

Mike Smith, Department Sgt at Arms [\(01:43:37\)](#):

Fine.

Department Commander, Janice Somers [\(01:43:38\)](#):

Commander Kennedy.

Mike Smith, Department Sgt at Arms [\(01:43:39\)](#):

It was already

Department Commander, Janice Somers [\(01:43:41\)](#):

Approved. 09? Thank you. Yes, it is.

Kennedy Cooper, District 1 Commander [\(01:43:44\)](#):

Okay. Commander, I'm being told it was already approved and that this has been fixed.

Mike Smith, Department Sgt at Arms [\(01:43:52\)](#):

I'll speak as the resolution chair now. Michael Smith, resolution for the committee for resolutions. And I concurred with the judge advocate. This was passed at convention and it was prior to the motion made by Comrade Curtis. And I confirmed that with the judge advocate. It was put on the website as out of

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order. However, that does need to be changed. And that was right before. I apologize. I didn't know what you were going to be bringing up or you wouldn't have had to come up here and waste your time.

Department Commander, Janice Somers ([01:44:20](#)):

So it passed or didn't pass?

Kennedy Cooper, District 1 Commander ([01:44:22](#)):

It was passed. I withdraw that resolution since I don't have a second. I do have a second resolution though.

Department Commander, Janice Somers ([01:44:29](#)):

So are we keeping the resolution for a vote?

Kennedy Cooper, District 1 Commander ([01:44:31](#)):

Jere Romano War on Cancer. I rescind that resolution as it was already passed at convention and they're going to fix it on the website. I have a second one that was not passed because it was not even read and I'd like to read that one now.

Department Commander, Janice Somers ([01:44:45](#)):

Okay. And can you tell me the number of that one, sir?

Kennedy Cooper, District 1 Commander ([01:44:47](#)):

Yes. The other resolution is 2026-024. Subject: Support the Congressional Gold Medal for World War II nurses submitted by Kathy Post 384 and Helen Wong. This resolutions whereas during World War II, more than 59,000 Army nurses and 14,000 Navy nurses volunteered to serve providing critical medical care and combat zones aboard hospital ships in the evacuation aircraft often under fire and extreme conditions. And whereas these nurses endured bombing, sniper attacks and captivity of prisoners of war while continuing the care of wounded service members with skill and compassion contributing to the historically low mortality rate among American veterans, or excuse me, soldiers and whereas service connected beyond the battlefield to post-war humanitarian missions, including caring for victims of the atomic bombings in Hiroshima and preventing disease outbreaks in refugee camps across Europe. And whereas World War II nurses, including women of diverse racial and ethnic backgrounds such as African American, Chinese American, Japanese American, and nurses from American territories in Guam, Hawaii, and the Philippine Commonwealth who overcame discrimination to serve honorably and heroically.

([01:46:05](#)):

And whereas despite their valor, many of these nurses served without full military status, equal pay, or veteran benefits, and their contributions have not been adequately recognized. And whereas S2193 introduced by Senator Tammy Baldwin and co-sponsored by Senators Steve Daines and Ben Ray Lejeune and HR 4901 introduced by representatives Elise Stefank and co-sponsored by representatives Christopher Deluzo and Jennifer Kiggins seek to honor these nurses with congressional gold medal, one of the highest civilian honors in the United States, now therefore be it resolved by the American Legion Department of California at the Department Executive Committee meeting in Merced, California on August one through two, 2026, that the United States Congress is hereby urged to pass S2195 and HR

4901, the World War II Nurses Congressional Medal Act to honor the courageous service, sacrifice and legacy of the World War II nurses who served our nation. I move that we accept this resolution.

Department Commander, Janice Somers ([01:47:16](#)):

Thank you, sir. Carry a motion on the table to accept it. (Unclear who second the motion). Thank you, sir. Okay. There's a motion on the table to urge Congress with S2125 and HR49 for supporting World War II nurses to get their benefits. And there's over 59,000 of them. And the resolution is 2026-024. Any discussion?

Kennedy Cooper, District 1 Commander ([01:47:49](#)):

Commander, as the maker of the motion, can we confirm that Helen Wong is on the Zoom? And is it possible that if I yield my time to her, can she speak?

Department Commander, Janice Somers ([01:48:01](#)):

Yes, she can speak.

Kennedy Cooper, District 1 Commander ([01:48:02](#)):

I yield my time as the maker of the motion to Helen Wong.

Department Commander, Janice Somers ([01:48:05](#)):

Yes. I'm not sure if we'll hear her, but she can speak. Matthew, you need a microphone? Sergeant Arms, could you give Matthew our wonderful person that's taking care of everything online? Sir. Helen, you have the floor, commander. She talking? Helen, you have the floor? Oh, unmute. Oh.

Helen Wong, District 8 Commander ([01:49:00](#)):

Commander, I am online.

Department Commander, Janice Somers ([01:49:02](#)):

Yes, you are now, ma'am.

Helen Wong, District 8 Commander ([01:49:05](#)):

And I urge the passing of this resolution.

Department Commander, Janice Somers ([01:49:12](#)):

Go ahead. So everyone to say, ma'am, that you urge this passing of the resolution?

Helen Wong, District 8 Commander ([01:49:34](#)):

That is all I wish to say at this time. Thank you.

Department Commander, Janice Somers ([01:49:37](#)):

Thank you, ma'am. Okay. Any other discussion on this resolution? Hearing none, seeing none. Oops. Sorry, sir.

Kennedy Cooper, District 1 Commander ([01:50:01](#)):

District one, post one is any four as the maker of the motion and the last to speak. I just want to clarify that this is not going to national. This was just here at department. And thank you for your time.

Department Commander, Janice Somers ([01:50:11](#)):

You're welcome, sir. Okay. We have a motion on it and a second. Oh, wait. Another discussion. We have a motion on the table for. Excuse me, on the floor. So sorry. On the floor. On the floor. Okay. All in favor of 2026 029 to honor our nurses that took care of our wounded in World War II. All in favor say aye. Aye. Opposed? No. Motion carried. Thank you. It's time to have a break before our memorial service will continue afterwards. Thank you. And what time is it? 10:52. It's 10:52. Come back at 10:59 and be ready to go. Thank you so much.

2026



Fall Department Executive Committee Meeting – August 2, 2026

AMERICAN LEGION POST 83, MERCED, CA PART 2 OF 2
EVENTS COORDINATOR

THE AMERICAN LEGION DEPARTMENT OF CALIFORNIA | 1601 7th Street, Sanger, CA 93657

The American Legion Fall Department Executive Committee Meeting

Sunday, August 2nd, 2026

American Legion Post 83

Merced, CA

Department Commander Janice Somers

Department Adjutant Sam Flores

Department Commander, Janice Somers (00:00):

Dr. Kathy Cash is our chaplain for this year, and she is going to lead us in our memorial service to honor our post-everlasting fellow comrades. Thank you.

Department Chaplain, Kathy Cash (00:14):

Good morning. It is my honor and privilege to lead this post-everlasting ceremony. Our commander of all in his infinite wisdom has promoted our beloved comrades to the jurisdiction of post-everlasting of the American Legion. All present will remain silent until the conclusion of this ceremony. Commanders, officers, legionnaires, family members, distinguished guests. Today we gather to honor our departed comrades, proud veterans, faithful legionnaires, and devoted servants of God and country. Our comrades answered the call to serve our nation in uniform, but understood that service does not end with military duty. Through the American Legion, they continued that commitment by serving fellow veterans, strengthening our community and living the values of duty, honor, loyalty, and patriotism. The Apostle Paul reminds us, "I have fought the good fight. I have finished the race. I have kept the faith." Today, we give thanks for a life well lived and a mission faithfully fulfilled.

(01:48):

Though our comrades earthly watch has ended, their legacy of service lives on in all the posts and in all who are privileged to know them. As we transfer their membership to post everlasting, may we remember that the greatest way to honor their memory is to continue serving with compassion, integrity, and unwavering devotion to God and country. Let us remain faithful to the mission they embraced until our own watch is complete. Blessed are those who mourn, for they shall be comforted. I will call out the names of those who have transferred to post everlasting by district as submitted via the online form. When I call your district, I ask that all the members of the district stand in their honor. After we have honored our comrades by district, I will offer a word of prayer and we will further honor them with the final salute and the playing of tabs.

(02:54):

District number five. Post 306. Victor Kessner. Post 550. Ursie Ball.

Quinton Breana District 24 Commander Post 43 (03:19):

No response.

Department Chaplain, Kathy Cash (03:25):

District six. Post 362. Lynn Dabish.

Dept Sgt at Arms Mike Smith (03:39):

No response.

Department Chaplain, Kathy Cash (03:43):

District 13. Post 217. Meryl Johnson. R. Picazzo. Post 419. Irinio Cirialis. Paul Douglas. Ruben Wilhite. Post 564. Michael Gamero. Richard Wilkinson. Post 642. Patrick Montijo. Post 791. Henry Hermosilio. Paul Douglas. Post 858. Maximo Trujico.

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Unknown Speaker ([05:06](#)):

No response.

Department Chaplain, Kathy Cash ([05:10](#)):

District 14. Thank you. Post 147. Leland House. Milan Heil.

Unknown Speaker ([05:30](#)):

No response.

Department Chaplain, Kathy Cash ([05:33](#)):

District 17. Post 285. John Stamatiadis. Post 628. Tony Wong. Post 677. Rodney Fairweather. District 18.

Unknown Speaker ([06:07](#)):

Oops.

Department Chaplain, Kathy Cash ([06:10](#)):

Thank you. District 18. Johannes Rozek. Post 180.

Unknown Speaker ([06:26](#)):

No response.

Department Chaplain, Kathy Cash ([06:29](#)):

District 19. Post 184. William Wolf Jr. Post 496. Hal Solem.

Unknown Speaker ([06:50](#)):

No response.

Department Chaplain, Kathy Cash ([06:56](#)):

District 21. Post 328. Richard Walstrum. Robert Bobby Mendoza. Clarence. Bob Stiffler. Eric Link. Larry Schweiger. Michael Mujica. Don Cripe. Charles Potter. Robert Adams. Elisio M. Helayandren. Clifton Collins.

Unknown Speaker ([08:03](#)):

No response.

Department Chaplain, Kathy Cash ([08:06](#)):

District 22. Post 255. John Lamaitre. Evarado Carillo. Post 275. Daniel Dudas.

Unknown Speaker ([08:35](#)):

No response.

Department Chaplain, Kathy Cash ([08:40](#)):

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District 24. Post 43. Robert True.

Unknown Speaker ([08:54](#)):

No response.

Department Chaplain, Kathy Cash ([08:57](#)):

District 26. Post 85. Jerry Redfern.

Unknown Speaker ([09:12](#)):

No response.

Department Chaplain, Kathy Cash ([09:16](#)):

District 29. Post 132. Sam De Leon. Mike Nepsa. Theodore Robinson. Santiago Segovia.

Unknown Speaker ([09:45](#)):

No response.

Department Chaplain, Kathy Cash ([09:48](#)):

That concludes our list of names. Uncover. Shall we pray? Almighty God, commander of all, how we thank you for the lives of the comrades who have transferred to post everlasting. We thank you for their life, their legacy, their service. We thank you that you allowed them to cross this path in our lifetime. We ask as we continue to carry on the work that they started, the work that they worked on as we continue to carry on their legacy. We ask that you remind us about the reasons we are here. The purpose that we have as veterans continuing to serve veterans. And we thank you for the strength that you give to the families, to the friends, and to the posts who lost a loved one. Lord, we thank you and we praise you in your mighty matchless name. Amen. Amen. Amen. Cover. Hand salute. Thank you very much for your participation in this memorial service.

([12:19](#)):

I return the meeting to our esteemed commander.

Department Commander, Janice Somers ([12:24](#)):

And thank you to our sergeant at arms, Mike Smith, for doing our honors of plan taps for our post-everlasting. Okay. I believe there was another resolution that was going to be presented. Is that true, sir? Is this the last one? Anybody else have another one that we know of? That was it. Ooh, we're almost done. Good job, everybody.

Quinton Farina District 24 Commander Post 43 ([13:05](#)):

Comrade commander. Quinta Brena, 24th District Commander. Post 43. A resolution for Baltic Post 405 merge request. Whereas Baltic Post 405 membership, in particularly the post leadership, have reached an age that increasingly placed limitation for memberships to attend meetings. And whereas the few remaining post leaders have serious medical issues requiring hospitalization. And whereas the post leaders have struggled for years to find younger veterans to join or transfer and accept leadership position in a post without success. And whereas the post leadership has reluctantly concluded that they

can no longer function on their own. And as a post wishes to merge with Culver City Community Post 46. And whereas written notification to all the members of the post in good standing was made notifying them of the intent to merge with 46 post 46. And whereas membership concurs with the intent to merge with post 46 and has made their wishes known as to a transfer to post 46 or another post closer to their residence.

(14:11):

And whereas the members of Culver City Post 46 have agreed to accept this merging action now. Therefore, it is being resolved by the American Legion Department of California at the Department Executive Committee meeting in Merced, California on July 31st to August 2nd, 2026, that Baltic Post 405 be merged with Culver City Community Post 46.

Department Commander, Janice Somers (14:36):

Do you make a motion for that merger, sir? I'd like to

Quinton Farina District 24 Commander Post 43 (14:39):

Make a motion.

Department Commander, Janice Somers (14:40):

Okay. Do we have a second?

Eric Measles, NEC District 24 Post 283 (14:43):

Eric Measles, NEC. I second that motion.

Department Commander, Janice Somers (14:46):

Thank you. Okay. Is there any discussion about. I believe it's Hollywood Post, sir. 43?

Quinton Farina District 24 Commander Post 43 (14:55):

Culver City 46.

Department Commander, Janice Somers (14:58):

Post

Quinton Farina District 24 Commander Post 43 (14:58):

405 to merge with Post 46.

Department Commander, Janice Somers (15:01):

Oh, okay. I didn't get the number. Post 405 is requesting to merge with Post 46 in Culver City. Is that correct, sir? That is correct, Your Honor. Okay. Is there any discussion on that?

Quinton Farina District 24 Commander Post 43 (15:17):

I would just like to thank Post 46 for their actions, accepting these new members, and we hope they have a great home.

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Department Adjutant Sam Flores

Department Commander, Janice Somers ([15:26](#)):

Thank you, sir. Is there any other discussion with this merger from post 105 to - 405. Excuse me. 405. I'll get it. Sorry, I didn't hear you. 405 to Post 46, Culver City. Any other discussion? Seeing none, hearing none. All in favor of this merger say aye. Aye. Aye. Opposed? No. Pass. Thank you. Thank you, sir. Okay. According to my agenda, is there any further business for the good of the department? Oh, sorry. We got mail.

Quinton Farina District 24 Commander Post 43 ([16:48](#)):

Okay.

Department Commander, Janice Somers ([16:50](#)):

Past commander. David, you have the vote.

David Brambila, Jr Past Commander Post 742 District 21 ([16:55](#)):

Thank you, commander. David Brambila, Jr. Past commander. District 21, post 742. As you can see, we have mail. This mail is our letters that were returned on a mailing that we did for American Income Life. It's a membership benefit that you guys should have all received it. And if you haven't returned it - Please

Department Commander, Janice Somers ([17:21](#)):

Look at me. Thank you,

David Brambila, Jr Past Commander Post 742 District 21 ([17:22](#)):

Sir. If you haven't returned it, please do so because the Department of California will get \$3.50 for every single return letter that comes back. Right now, we have 3,800 that have been returned to the department as of today. So we have \$13,300 coming to the department. This is a new benefit to our membership and it's a new revenue stream for the Department of California. But what you see here is between 500 to 600 letters that came back to the department because of bad addresses. We need to do a scrub on our list. This is where the buddy checks, our membership team is going to get involved to try to get this corrected. But district vice commanders, district commanders, we need to do the buddy checks. And part of the buddy checks is to confirm the addresses to have 600 of these come back to the department.

([18:16](#)):

This is unacceptable. We just need to do a better job of scrubbing this list.

Department Commander, Janice Somers ([18:20](#)):

Thank you, sir. Thank you. The question up here was, are they in districts? Do you know that we could give them to the districts to take them down to their post

David Brambila, Jr Past Commander Post 742 District 21 ([18:29](#)):

Commanders? No, commander. These are just bundled in batches, but the membership team will sort this out and we'll try to streamline it so that we can make it easier for the buddy checks on the confirmation of addresses. All

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Department Commander, Janice Somers ([18:44](#)):

Right. Thank you, sir. Okay. District commanders, please talk to your post commanders and your post adjutants to verify the addresses and also to verify that they might have passed to post everlasting or they might have gone into nursing homes. They might not be able to take care of their business or they have moved out of state. Thank you. Sir?

Phil Cazella, Post 237 District 10 ([19:13](#)):

Commander, thank you very much. Phil Cazella, post 237, District 10, Area Two, Vice Commander. I know we heard Good of the Legion, ma'am. I wanted to pass along a little bit of good news for the Good of the Legion here as we've ended our business. I hold in my hand a temporary charter for a new post. Sweet. Something that we have not seen in a while.

Department Commander, Janice Somers ([19:30](#)):

Wonderful. And what post is that, sir? And where is it?

Phil Cazella, Post 237 District 10 ([19:34](#)):

This is post 945 in Dublin, California. They were able to select a number. They used the first three digits of the zip code so that they won't forget it.

Department Commander, Janice Somers ([19:43](#)):

That's smart. Especially are age. That's a good one.

Phil Cazella, Post 237 District 10 ([19:46](#)):

Absolutely. It's been a lot of fun working with the team there. I want to thank the department adjutant Sam Flores for his diligence and following up. It was a bit challenging earlier this year getting things from national, but with his assistance, we are able to do that. I'd also like to thank our district commander, Don Reed, for his continued support in making this happen as well. The post was able to have its first official meeting and elect commander and vice commander and appointed officers. And we're looking forward to standing that up in that area and supporting the American Legion. So thank you very much for your support as well.

Department Commander, Janice Somers ([20:15](#)):

Thank you. And also Vice Commander Phil, he didn't hear me. Thank you for your helping with your resolution, sir. Okay. Oh, we have one announcement from our adjutant.

Department Adjutant, Sam Flores ([20:32](#)):

We are not quite ready with your travel checks and all that. So just give us a little bit after we close and I'll make an announcement in the social quarters when we're ready to start distributing. All right. Thank you all.

Department Commander, Janice Somers ([20:50](#)):

Okay. Okay. Thank you. He's first. Kennedy, he's first. Sir? Give me the mic.

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Raymond Hart, District 5 Commander ([21:05](#)):

Commander, District five, Raymond Hart. Post 603. First year as district commander. I see some stuff on my desk I don't think belongs to me. I'd like to get with some of the staff there to make sure I take home the right paperwork.

Department Commander, Janice Somers ([21:25](#)):

Okay. If you see the sergeant at arms, sir, and help take care of that. Commander Kennedy. Yes. And Commander Kennedy, I'm also going to have Judge Advocate Joseph help us. Yes.

Department Judge Advocate, Joseph Fenton ([21:46](#)):

Okay. Sorry everybody. I know you're all thinking about getting in your air conditioned cars and getting out of here, but there is a technical and procedural glitch, which is the war on cancer resolution that was brought at convention, even though it was voted on and approved at convention, was later technically revoked based upon a motion the next day. And so we got to very quickly, with a certain amount of deference, go through this and do one more resolution today, everybody.

Kennedy Cooper, District 1 Commander ([22:15](#)):

I'll make this very quick and only read resolved clause as I've read it before. Be it resolved, excuse me, Kennedy Cooper, district one, post 174, presenting this resolution 2026009 War on Cancer, be it resolved by the American Legion Department, California at the Department Executive Committee meeting in Merced, California on August one through two, 2026, that the Department of California, excuse me, that the American Legion promotes the idea of a war on cancer and be it further resolved that the American Legion will actively promote cancer awareness to the veteran community paired with advice to have regularly scheduled meetings via the VA. And be it further resolved that the American Legion promote support and lobby for research to prevent, treat and cure all toxic exposure ailments, including the more than 20 cancers that are now presumed to be service connected and be it finally resolved. That the American Legion leverages its influence to take advantages of the unique position that the VA has led to fight against toxic exposure ailments, including cancer for the overall health of veterans, which will also benefit from the greater population.

([23:23](#)):

I make a motion that we accept this resolution. I need a second.

Department Commander, Janice Somers ([23:36](#)):

I second that. Thank you, sir. Okay. We have a motion on the table and we have a second. Do we have further discussion? Commander

Kennedy Cooper, District 1 Commander ([23:45](#)):

Is maker of the motion. I just want to remind everybody that this resolution was already gaveled. This should be quick. Thank you.

Department Commander, Janice Somers ([23:53](#)):

Okay. The motion that's on the floor, it was read earlier and then it was rescinded. So now it's back because of, according to parliamentarian, we didn't realize that it did not get passed. So it's 2026-09. And it's the cancer war considering with Autrey James, Jere Romano, and it's to promote, actively

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promote having our veterans taking care. Also promote through the American Legion War on Cancer. And then also promote support and search and lobby throughout the American Legion promote that through the VA. Is that correct, sir?

Kennedy Cooper, District 1 Commander ([24:39](#)):

Yes, commander.

Department Commander, Janice Somers ([24:40](#)):

Thank you. Okay. Any other further discussion for this resolution? Hearing and seeing none. All in favor say aye. Aye. Opposed? No. Passed. Thank you.

Kennedy Cooper, District 1 Commander ([25:01](#)):

Commander?

Department Commander, Janice Somers ([25:02](#)):

Yes, sir.

Kennedy Cooper, District 1 Commander ([25:03](#)):

Kennedy Cooper, district one, post 174. Can we have the minutes reflect that it was passed unanimously?

Department Commander, Janice Somers ([25:09](#)):

Yes, sir. And it'll be moved up into the website that it did pass. Thank you everybody. Okay. So is there any further business for our DEC? Seeing and hearing none. Here we go. Please uncover chaplain. Dr. Cash, would you please pray us out?

Department Chaplain, Kathy Cash ([25:43](#)):

Shall we bow? Heavenly Father, how we thank you for this opportunity to conduct business of the American Legion Department of California. We ask for your continued grace and mercy upon our leadership. And we ask that as we continue to grow as an organization, that you continue to give each and every one of us the wisdom, the courage, the strength, the knowledge to do what it is that we've been appointed to do, that we've been elected to do, that we have been called to do. And then Lord, as we leave this place, we ask for traveling grace and mercy. Allow us to navigate the highways and byways and arrive at our next destination safely. As always, we remember those who are still on the battlefield and those whom yet to return home. We thank you for everything that has transpired, and we ask that you continue to keep us as we continue to keep one another.

([26:38](#)):

We thank you and we praise you in your mighty matchless name. Amen. Amen. Amen. Amen.

Department Commander, Janice Somers ([26:44](#)):

Thank you very much. Thank you. Please cover. Sergeant at arms, would you please remove the POW/MLA flag?

[\(27:31\)](#):

Thank you. Till we meet again, let us remember that our obligation to our country can be filled only by the faithfulness performance of all duties of citizenship. Let service to the community, state, and nation be ever a main objective of the American Legion and its members. Let us ever be watchful of the honor of our country, our organization, and ourselves, that nothing shall sway us from the path of justice, freedom, and democracy. And flags are in place. Hand salute. Two. I now declare the meeting of the DEC. Color guard. No, we're not. There were flags in place. You have to cover the cover. All right. I'm sorry. Sergeant Arms, please retire the colors. Retreat. Color. Oh, I'm sorry. I didn't know we had color guard.

Department Judge Advocate, Joseph Fenton [\(28:41\)](#):

Hold on. And who?

Eric Measles, NEC District 24 Post 283 [\(29:23\)](#):

To retreat. Retreat. Reassemble.

Department Commander, Janice Somers [\(29:49\)](#):

Hand salute, too.

[\(30:14\)](#):

Apologies, I did not see them. Well done, sir, ma'am. Thank you very much, color guard. Now I declare the meaning of our DEC of the American Legion Department of California adjourned. Thank you very much, many blessings. See you later.