

American Legion Post 519

General Membership Meeting - 5/12/26 Agenda

Opening Ceremony

PHONES OFF

HANDOUTS IN BACK INCLUDING PAST MINUTES AND PREAMBLE

Commander: **One rap of the gavel** ... The meeting is about to open

- The meeting is about to open.
- The officers will take their stations.

Sergeant-at-Arms, please clear the hall entrance and close the doors

- **Three raps of the gavel** ...
 - PLEASE stand and face our Nation's flag **Hand Salute !... 2 !**
- Un-cover ... from the opening prayer through the POW/MIA ceremony
- Chaplain, please offer an opening prayer.
- Sergeant-at-Arms only, re-cover
- Sergeant-at-Arms, prepare to place the POW/MIA cover on the Empty Chair
Resolution 288, adopted at the 67th National Convention, encourages all American Legion organizations to implement the Empty Chair Ceremony at all meetings. As a continual physical symbol of the POW/MIAs and the cause for which we stand, namely their return or full accounting.
- A POW/MIA Empty Chair is placed at all official meetings of The American Legion, as a physical symbol of the thousands of American POW/MIAs still unaccounted for from all wars and conflicts involving the United States of America. This is a reminder for all of us to spare no effort to secure the release of any American prisoners from captivity, the repatriation of the remains of those who died bravely in defense of liberty, and a full accounting of those missing. Let us rededicate ourselves for this vital endeavor!
- Sergeant-at-Arms, place the POW/MIA flag on the Empty Chair.
- Sergeant-at-Arms only, un-cover
- Please face the flag and join me in the 'Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag'.
I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America and to the Republic for which it stands, one Nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.
- Everyone re-cover

American Legion Post 519

General Membership Meeting - 5/12/26 Agenda

- Remain Standing
- Please join me in reciting the preamble of the Constitution of The American Legion, slowly and in unison.

For God and Country,
we associate ourselves together
for the following purposes:
to uphold and defend
the Constitution of the United States of America;
to maintain law and order;
to foster and perpetuate
a one hundred percent Americanism;
to preserve the memories and incidents
of our associations in all Wars
to inculcate a sense of individual obligation
to the community, state and nation;
to combat the autocracy
of both the classes and the masses;
to make right the master of might;
to promote peace and good will on earth;
to safeguard and transmit to posterity
the principles of Justice, Freedom and Democracy;
to consecrate and sanctify our comradeship
by our devotion to mutual helpfulness.

- One rap of the gavel ... Please be seated
- I now declare this meeting of American Legion Post 519, Department of California, General Membership Meeting convened

START RECORDER

AT THIS TIME WE WILL RECESS FOR MEMBERSHIP ELECTION AND RECONVENE AT 5PM

American Legion Post 519

General Membership Meeting - 5/12/26 Agenda

5PM REOPEN THE MEETING AND CONTINUE WITH THE REGULAR MEETING

Order of Business

Roll Call (Adjutant)

Announcements (Adjutant or Commander)

UPCOMING DISTRICT 21 MEETINGS

MAY 17- POST 742- CORONA (CHANGE OF LOCATION)

MEETING TIMES ARE AS FOLLOWS

SAL'S 0800

PCC 0900

TAL 1000

DEPARTMENT CONVENTION IN VISALIA JUNE 25-28

AS A REMINDER THE RITUAL WHEN A MEMBER IS REQUESTING TIME ON THE FLOOR, RAISE YOUR HAND AND PLEASE STAND AFTER BEING RECOGNIZED BY THE CHAIR (STATE NAME AND SALUTE THE CHAIR, IF REQUESTED TO COME TO PODIUM, YOU WILL BE ESCORTED BY SGT AT ARMS. PLEASE SALUTE FLAG BEFORE PASSING.

ALL SPEAKERS WILL BE LIMITED TO 3 MINUTES FROM THE FLOOR

Distinguished Guests (INTRODUCED BY SERGEANT AT ARMS)

JESSE SAUCEDO DISTRICT 21 COMMANDER

AL MENDOZA 1ST VICE COMMANDER DISTRICT 21

ANDREA KLINE- DISTRICT 21 E BOARD EAST

ALBERT MARTINEZ- PAST COMMANDER

AMADO SALINAS- DISTRICT 21 E BOARD AT LARGE

American Legion Post 519

General Membership Meeting - 5/12/26 Agenda

Guest speakers (INTRODUCED BY SERGEANT AT ARMS)
MAY HAVE 2 OR 3 GUEST SPEAKERS (SGT AT ARMS TO BRING UP)

1. AL MENDOZA DISTRICT 21 1ST VICE COMMANDER
- 2.
- 3.

MINUTES AVAILABLE ON WEBSITE (Adjutant if needed)
SEE HANDOUTS IN BACK

VOTE ON MINUTES FROM LAST MEETING (POSTED ON WEBSITE)
YAY OR NAY OR ABSTAIN

OFFICERS REPORTS: (3 MINUTE TIME LIMIT)

- | | |
|-------------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| • Post Commander-PICKEN | • Adjutant- ALAN LANE |
| • 1st Vice Commander- MEEKER | • 2nd Vice Commander-WILSON |
| • 3rd Vice Commander- KOCH | • Service Officer- LANE |
| • Finance Officer- GILPIN | • Judge Advocate- BURT |
| • Chaplain- CRAWFORD | • E-Board: 1- BERESH |
| • E-Board: 2- CRON | • E Board: 3- ANTHONY |
| • E Board: 3- WEBSTER | • Sergeant-at-Arms- COLE |
| • Historian- SNOW- | |

COMMITTEE REPORTS

1. HOUSE COMMITTEE- MEEKER
2. COMMUNICATIONS COMMITTEE- SNOW
3. FINANCE COMMITTEE-GARTH

American Legion Post 519

General Membership Meeting - 5/12/26 Agenda

4. MEMBERSHIP- MEEKER (READ OFF NAMES OF VETERANS APPLYING FOR MEMBERSHIP AND IF ANY OF THESE APPLICANTS ARE IN MEETING PLEASE STEP OUTSIDE FOR A VOTE ON APPLICANTS.)

Old Business

- NEW COOLER IN KITCHEN (OLD ONE GAVE UP THE GHOST)
- SON'S CINCO DE MAYO PARTY WAS A GREAT SUCCESS FOR THE PROGRAM AND THE CANTEEN
- MOTHERS DAY BRUNCH WAS WELL ATTENDED ROSES GIVEN TO ALL MOTHERS (ROSES DONATED BY A MEMBER IN MEMORY OF THEIR MOTHER WHO PASSED LATE LAST YEAR)
- OTHER OLD BUSINESS?

New Business (and correspondence)

- ELECTION RESULT (CONGRATULATIONS TO THOSE VOTED IN)
- UPCOMING EVENTS -KARAOKE ON SATURDAY, POPPY DAY EVENT ON MAY 22, AND MEMORIAL DAY BBQ AND MUSIC ON THE 25TH, GOLF TOURNAMENT ON JUNE 2,
- THE HOUSE COMMITTEE MEETING HAS BEEN CHANGED TO JUNE 1ST TO ACCOMMODATE GOLF
- JUNE 1ST WE HOPE TO START REVITALIZATION OF KITCHEN POSSIBLY BRING IN FOOD TRUCKS OR SEE IF WE CAN GET CATERING FOR OUR FRIDAY AND SUNDAY MEALS
- EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE VOTED TO MATCH THE ALA AND SONS DONATION TO VETERANS VILLAGE FOR 6 MONTHS \$100 PER MONTH
- GETTING BIDS FOR NEW FENCE AND GATES FOR BACK SIDE OF PARKING LOT AND BEHIND POST
- OTHER NEW BUSINESS?

American Legion Post 519

General Membership Meeting - 5/12/26 Agenda

For the good of The American Legion

(The membership shall be permitted to make suggestions of any kind, character or description, save of religion or partisan politics.)

DOES ANYONE HAVE ANYTHING FOR THE GOOD OF THE LEGION

(notes)

CLOSING CEREMONY

Commander:

- Is there any further business to come before the meeting?
- give three raps of the gavel ... stand at attention
- un-cover ... The Chaplain will offer prayer.
- Re-cover.
- Commander: "Sergeant-at-arms, recover the POW/MIA flag."
- Till we meet again let us remember our obligation to our country can be fulfilled only by the faithful 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 be ever watchful of the honor of our country, our organization and ourselves, that nothing shall swerve us from the path of Justice, Freedom and Democracy.
 - **PLEASE** face our Nation's flag **Hand Salute ! ... 2 !**
- I now declare this meeting of the American Legion Post 519, Department of California, General Membership Meeting adjourned.
- One rap of the gavel ... dismiss the members

General Membership meeting for 5/12/26

Meeting called to order at 11:02am. Opening Ceremony's.

11:05 Meeting called to recess for membership election and to reconvene at 5 pm.

5:04 pm meeting called back to order.

Acting Adjutant: Ernie Meeker took role call. We have a quorum.

John Picken: Upcoming district 21 meetings only. May 17, 742 Corona, Sons' meetings are 8:00. PCC is at 9:00, and TAL at 10:00.

Department convention in Visalia June 25-28. Please, if you're going to go, make sure you attend the caucuses and enjoy the meeting and the entertainment and the rooms with all the booze.

As a reminder of the ritual, when a member is requesting time on the floor, please raise your hand.

Please stand after being recognized by the chair, you will state your name and salute the chair. If requested to come to the podium, you will be escorted by the sergeant arms. Please salute the flag prior to passing again, all speakers are limited to three minutes on the floor. Sergeant arms, we have some distinguished guests.

Jeff Cole: We have department commander David Brambilla,
District 1st Vice Al Mendoza.

Post 79 first vice Joanna Vargas

Past post 519, Commander Albert Martinez

District 21 E Board East Andrea Klein,

Amado Salinas, District 21 E board at large, National Legislative Council, Chair of foreign relations and national security department California,

John Picken: Thank you, everybody for attending today. Our minutes are posted on the website. We don't have anything else to give out today, So we're going to go right into voting on the minutes which were posted on the website. So I need a motion to approve.

Ernie Meeker: I'll make the motion to approve the minutes.

Jeff Cole: Seconds the motion

John Picken: Any discussion? All in favor, any nays. Any Abstentions. Motion passes

John Picken: 1st Vice Commander, do you have anything to report?

Ernie Meeker: No Report.

John Picken: 2nd Vice is not here yet. 3rd Vice Commander, Kevin Koch,

Kevin Koch: Working on boys, girls state. We're on track, Everybody's done their Zoom meeting. We had two of our candidate delegates drop out for two different reasons, but we have alternates on the spot, and they're good to go. So, we have a total of six that should be going for middle school. We're being contacted back now by the middle schools as to the names of their top American history eighth graders. Each of Palm Springs unified five middle schools, the top two students, because usually there's two different classes, will get \$100 and a certificate for being the top American History student. And I've asked

that if we could be invited to if they have an honor ceremony during the day or evening, let us know we'd be happy to come with our covers on and present it. So we also sponsor Girl Scouts and American scouting, trying to see what used to be the Boy Scouts. Our PAC is pretty small and hasn't been active with us, so I'm trying to see with their district region if we can support a more vigorous group, and then not part of this, but also part of this. For those who aren't aware. 70's, 80's two individuals passed away. They left their whole estate to a dedicated trust to pay for college scholarships for Palm Springs Unified students. And that trust is quite a considerable sum, and this is the first time we're spending we just had our dinner last Friday. 10 candidates got a total of \$40,000 semester, as long as they're grades, they must report. But this is, I've never even heard of a 4.89, I don't know how from Rancho Mirage, they're going to UCLA and grade schools, but also we're sending one kid who's special ed, to CSU San Bernardino in that so we're proud of that and that program.

John Picken: I'm delaying the 2nd Vice Commanders report until he gets here. Finance Officer Garth Gilpin.

Garth Gilpin: Results with the first four months of the calendar year, we had \$99,000 this all on the web. I don't have a video copy machine. Get copies to everybody. Through the first four months, the bar area, canteen area, has produced a profit of \$4,186 that includes the TVs, all the electric insurance, everything we have one item, our SBA loan, accrued interest has been \$1,285 that loan has now been paid in full regard during covid to finance a post operation, donations and other income. The four months we had \$34,000 in donations. This month, we have received one donation for \$10,200 and a second donation of \$5,000 which has gone into the building on the cover request. This will supplement the major monies community outreach; we spent \$12,000 for the first four months. That includes boys, girls, state and the net income for the first four months with all sources, is \$13,866 the bank accounts. It's the first day of the month, we had \$130,000 in the bank accounts. \$24,000 in the bar membership. 36,000 that's a real important number, because that's money that we have recovered from covid, money we can now use for community efforts to finish our four pillars of the American Legion. The building fund has \$48,000 so it'll go up by another \$15,000 and Color Guard has \$4,600. Baseball has \$13,000 and the riders have \$3,200. Any questions because major J if you want. The second check is due in the middle of this month. I've got we spent a little over you received \$65,000 we spent \$73,000 securing equipment for the kitchen, and the kitchen is scheduled to shut down on June 1st. Contractors say four to six weeks. From experience of probably needs six to eight weeks. But supposedly all the equipment is ready. The contractors ready. The permit is in the city of Palm Springs, has been there for five weeks now. The second check will be \$63,900, and then we'll get two more checks. One three months after this, one six months after that. So, the kitchen will be first renovation. We're getting quotes on the air conditioning and we're getting quotes on the roof. So soon as those quotes com in, we'll be able to proceed with hopefully getting the air conditioning done when the roof is done after the air conditioning, because air conditioning will poke holes in the middle of the roof. And so that's the order that it transpires. Any questions?

Jesse Tejada: With all these monies we're getting right, the kitchen is not being run by us now. So why are we renovating it for someone that's going to come in and do the work for us where we can do the work for ourselves. Hire a chef that can come in and give us many and guide us to where we need to be to be more productive and financially set. Why are we renovating this kitchen that the money that we're getting all those money from, but we're going to outsource our cost? Why are we not keeping it in-house?

Garth Gilpin: I'm not privileged to answer that question. I don't have the answer to it.

John Picken: House Committee oversees the running of the kitchen, running the canteen. In the past, we've always had an outside kitchen person. It's a matter of being having employees taxed workers compensation. When we hire and outside source, they cover the insurance, they cover everything else. Again, Jesse, it's a House Committee issue. It was brought up briefly at the last house committee and will be brought up again what our eventual goal will be to be having another sparkling kitchen with a good cook, Chef, and we will move on with that, but we got to wait until we get the kitchen finished. Again, that is a House Committee issue. Thank you.

John Picken: Chaplain, do you have anything to report.

Macarvi Crawford: Nothing to report.

John Picken: E-board 1 Mike Beresh do you have anything to report?

Mike Beresh: Nothing to report.

John Picken: E-board 2, Doug Cron do you have anything to report?

Doug Cron: Nothing to report.

John Picken: E-board 3, Russan Anthony do you have anything to report? She is counting the ballots.

Yes sir, do you have a question?

Robert Gary: I have a question about donations, are they taxed? If so, if they are taxed, Is there any way we can get some kind of tax exemption?

John Picken: We're at 501, C 19, which is a veteran, tax free, non-profit tax items. So, money donated to the American Legion, 501, C 19 is not a tax. Thank you. Amado Salinas, do you have a question?

Amado Salinas: We do have. The Department of California has a 501, C3, so if they make the donations that way they can go ahead and get a donation letter, and then it'll trickle down. They don't take anything from us, but at least we can get the donations from corporations or individuals.

John Picken: Until the 2nd Vice gets here, we don't have any other committees or any other reports, so we'll go right into our committee reports. House Committee, Ernest Meeker.

Ernest Meeker: Commander, we had four event requests that was submitted and approved. The salad cooler that we had bought wasn't working properly, so the company took that one back, and we paid an additional \$500 to get this one upgraded to a brand new one. The kitchen will close on June 1st. We are looking into new vendors and vendors for when the kitchen is closed, as Garth said, approximately 6 to 8 weeks. The new vendor will have to sign a contract. The contract is being looked over by the House Committee, and that will be looked at the next house committee meeting. One PS, modernism tour,

Friday, October 16th, 2026 approved, Memorial Day barbecue lunch from 12 to 5 pm. Music is going to be from 2 to 5. On June 2nd the O'Donnell golf tournament will be held there. After the tournament, there will be food, pizza here at the Legion. The Committee had to change the date of the next House Committee to June 1st, due to the conflict with the golf tournament. So the next House Committee will be held on June 1st at 10 am. This change is only for the month of June. We talked about a volunteer appreciation dinner, We set a tentative date for the 23rd of September and depending on the committee, the date may change. More details will follow.

John Picken: Thank you, Anybody have any question on the House Committee? Thank you, we will move right into membership.

Ernest Meeker: New members: Robert Prenett, David Nyberg, Richard Reyng, Lawrence Capeloto, Brenda Rosenauer, Delbert McBride, Karl Saranthus, Cynthis Charbonneau, An expired member rejoining, Larry Tackett. Transfers are: William Hudson from Post NE 0001, Juan Alcantara from Post 1000.

John Picken: Are any of those named in the room right now? One is, Can we ask you to step outside briefly while we vote. Okay, so we have all these people that are on the potential new member list. I'd like to have a motion from somebody to accept. Leroy Sidman made the motion, Andrew 2nd the motion. Any discussion.

Jesse Tejada: I would say that we hold off on getting this team members in it till this voting is done, so that it is fair to all candidates, to yourself and to everybody else, because we have met these candidates, so we can't petition. So I would highly suggest that we wait till next month and bring them in if they're okay with that and their vote doesn't count in this. In this because we need to discuss they're not inducted, so we haven't approved them as members, so they're not members to our community.

John Picken: Thank you, Amado, you have something to say.

Amado Salinas: Sir, the benefit of having these members inducted now is that hopefully it reaches national in time to get us to that 100% mark. We're at 93%, we only need 13 more members to reach 100%, which is great. It looks good for the department. Looks good for our district, and looks good for the post itself. Those members that are voting tonight, they couldn't vote. So that vote is already done, but that least we can submit them and hopefully get international enough time that they're recorded. So it is to our benefit for us to go ahead and not say a word forward and approve these new members, like I said, the transfer, so they're already members of post, we only have one new member that's new, and I can speak on behalf of Carl, who is, by the way, was top security with the Navy encryption, did a lot of special operations. Had the opportunity to meet with him and talk with him. So that's mine, Sir.

John Picken: Thank you. Any other discussions? Mike Beresh

Mike Beresh: Jesse, just so you know people that

Jesse Tejada: Well, you're addressing him now,

Mike Beresh: But they don't have a vote anyway. The election ended at 5 pm. They don't have a vote. They didn't have a card. They can't vote till next year. Anyway,

Jesse Tejada: I hope you weren't addressing me up. You were addressing him. You're being specific the gentleman should wait and rise to my point. I'm going to rise. What he's addressing is specific to something that I'm trying to do or not trying to do, which I'm not trying to do anything. I'm just specifically telling everybody here, here at this post, that we need to be one team. We're not here for my growth, your growth or our growth. We're here for what it is to be a service member that served in the military and say, Hey, I want to come in here. Because you know what this post attracts me. What is it? What does it attract me about? Well, because they come here, and I'm fine, and I'm the except. And I can tell you honestly, I left California and I went to another post, and it's a VFW Post. I sit there on the porch on a rocking chair and smoke cigars, drink beer and tell lies. Why? Because that's what we do as soldiers, true or not true, and that's what we got to give back to and it's about being us to help us, because no one's going to help us but us. That is a fact. You know what? I will never go to a VFW or an American Legion. I want to be a member, because that's what it's going to take down. To be where I'm at. I don't want to be.

John Picken: Thank you Jesse, I'm going to ask that the 1st Vice take over for now, since we're in discussion mode. All our members have been approved, approved the same way we're doing this right now. We gave everybody, including the Speaker Just now, the same opportunities approved prior to and continued the way we've always done this. It would be a matter of changing our ritual and programs if we wanted to change something like that. Again, we offered everybody the same opportunities to come in here, get elected, excuse me, get voted on, then come in introduce themselves, as we're going to do with Carl passes, thank you. Any other discussion? We have a motion on the floor to approve the new members, all in favor. All opposed. One opposed Any abstentions, motion passes, please invite Carl back in. Please Carl, would you stand there? Please introduce yourself. Tell us a little bit about yourself.

Carl: I'm Carl. Sorry this first name is Carl Hines, but I know what Carl went through, all three Gulf Wars. Afghanistan goes to a Bosnian disabled veteran. I moved here about eight months ago. Didn't know anyone, and I met Joe and all these great people, and it's been really nice to get to know. So I'm really looking forward to working with you guys and helping veterans and everything that you're doing for veterans and just community I'm all in because, I mean, I can't work, so I don't have anything else to do, and I really want to help. Thank you.

John Picken: Members List Okay, gentlemen, come on in. You just got approved. Introduce yourselves. Please.

Gabriel: Hi. So my name is Gabriel, and I have no clue about American Legion. I got out of the army about seven years ago. I was a combat engineer and technician. And yeah, I got invited to this meeting, and I'm interested in joining more of the festivities. Contribute to this place.

John Picken: Yes, did you sign up to be a member here.

Harry Oppenheimer: my name is Harry Oppenheimer. I got a thing here that says I'm in post 0519, so I assume I did get and my active duty. I was in the Reserves for active duty 1957 to 1959 few years ago, served 15 months in Korea, and then the rest of it up at Fort Mason in San Francisco.

John Picken: Not sure exactly what happened, but welcome, because we didn't vote on April right away when I asked if we have a vote real quick, all in favor of accepting any opposed Any abstentions may have been welcome to the post that is Okay, gentlemen, ladies, I went out of order here, and I apologize. The election's thrown me for a tizzy. So right now we're going to have our district, excuse me, our department commander, come up here briefly.

David Brambila: Good evening. Post, 519, I just want to say I'm so proud of how far we have come last five years. For those that don't remember, I was your commander at some point temporarily, while we were straightening things out, getting you all compliant, getting an election guidebook going, and just so you'd be able to hear the report of these scholarships and the amount of funds that we have, the renovations that are happening, all the good that you are doing in your community is just amazing. I am so proud of everything, of how far you've come. So, round of applause to all of you. Really, that's all I wanted to say is, you know, I come here quite often, and it's just one of my favorite posts to come and visit the hospitality here. It's just amazing for the guys that just got here. You know, welcome. You are great posts. And you're going to, you're going to be able to be involved in your community. Make it your own be be as involved as you want, it as you want to be. Just remember that the American Legion is here for our veterans in our community. But no, no in all reality, the American Legion is the largest veteran service organization in the nation. We are there to protect our veterans. We are there to advocate for them. So welcome aboard and appreciate your time. Thank you.

John Picken: Another guest speaker, Al Mendoza, district 21 1st Vice Commander.

Al Mendoza: Hello post 519 I'm Alvin. I'm Al Mendoza. I'm your first vice commander for district 21 and have been your first vice for the last two years, and it's been a distinct honor serving in this position. Just to tell you why I'm here today, I'm asking for your support. I'm running for commander of district 21 just to tell you a little bit about myself. I spent four years in the Air Force during Vietnam. Once I was discharged, I started a 36-year career in law enforcement. I spent most of that time in Riverside County. During those 36 years, I got an associate's degree from Riverside City College. I got a bachelor's degree from Cal State San Bernardino, and I had an MBA from the University of residence that 36 years, 17 was spent neither supervision or management. Also in those 36 years, I served on what they call the Jenny commission. It's the State Bar, arm of the governor that reviewed judgeships. I did that for three years. Once I completed that assignment, the State Bar didn't want to let me go and assign me to be a probation monitor, referee for the bar for four more years. Once I left and retired from law enforcement, I devoted myself to the American Legion. I've been a member since 1987 I served in every position within the post, and last two years I've been the commander of post 574, some of the things that that I hope to accomplish, if I'm lucky enough to get elected is to continue the things that through the leadership of our

president, Commander Jesse Salcido, has started right now. Post our district 21 does not have any anyone on probation, or do we have anybody on suspension? And this is the first time in a long time, district 21 has had that status. District 21 and I'm sure that our department commander will back me on this. District 21 is the leader in the state of California. And why do I say that we started deported veterans resolution that's gone all the way to Washington, DC. It's gone through the chairs and to our lobbyists in Washington. What is the deported veteran's issue? All about? We've got 70,000 veterans that were deported after they finished their assignment. Some of those veterans committed felonies. It's going to be tough to get them back, but the vast majority committed misdemeanors, and we should be able to get them back to the United States. I've been involved with it for the last three or four years. The other one is transportation, the transportation issue in Riverside County is acute, especially here in the Coachella Valley. We can't get our veterans to Loma Linda. I've told our congressman, Ken Calvert, what are we? Chopped liver? We don't have any veteran's facilities for our veterans here, so we got to take them all the way to Loma Linda, and we don't provide them with transportation. So that's another big battle we're having, and we're going to win that battle. Your supervisor here in the Coachella Valley, Mr. Perez, is doing just a fabulous job, and he's working with us trying to get you here in the Coachella Valley, that transportation which you deserve. And if I'm elected commander, I'm going to continue that fight. The other issue, of course, is again, the issue of keeping you all the posts within compliance. There's only three responsibilities that the district really has, and most folks don't understand it, it's to provide training, provide mentorship, and provide you with the necessary facets to keep you in compliance. And I got to tell you, in the last two years, we've done that, and I hope to continue that, we've got a tremendous team at District 21 and I'm just a part of it. So, I want to continue this legacy, and I want to keep district 21 in the forefront. Commander Salcido just appointed me to the department budget committee. We need to keep within our budget. We can't keep coming back to the post and asking for for more money. I did the membership for my post at 574 in Moreno Valley. 2350 goes to the national \$20 goes to department that sure as heck doesn't leave you very much. So I want to make sure that the Department of California stays within its means. I'm also the chairman of the Department of California law and order committee. This year, they've granted me \$3,250 to be able to provide that in Riverside in Riverside County, district 21 this next year, will have a Law Order winner. And what, what I what I would like to push, what I like to do is what we did year before last. Have one here in the Coachella Valley, and have one in eastern or western part of Riverside County, so that the law enforcement officers don't have to travel to the other side of the county, then hopefully we can get a winner that we can send to department and win the department award. And so being the chairman of that committee, I can tell you they're going to get more than a look. So again, I want to continue the training. I want to strengthen communications with a post. I want to help membership. We've got to do something with membership. And you folks are doing a fabulous job, and I agree with with our department commander, this post has come a long way, a real long way. You're one of the leaders in the district, and I'd like to keep it that way. You folks are very impressive, and I salute you

for that. So again, retention, recruitment and engagement, and I want to, from the district perspective, want to assist you in that. I want to reinforce the strong, the strong post, because that's what the district is supposed to do, is assist you in performing the things, what we refer to as the four pillars, helping veterans, helping the youth, national defense and Americanism. That's what the American Legion is about. I spend my share of time in the bar. So I'm not going to tell you that I don't like the bar, but the bar has given us a terrible image as legionnaires, and I want to improve on that in Moreno Valley, I've done a presentation, and I've gone and lectured to give that presentation to any group in Moreno valley that will listen to me, and I got to tell you we've changed the attitude that the city has towards the American Legion. They weren't aware of all the things that we do and all the things, the kinds of things that you do in this community, to strengthen that American Legion image. And finally, I want to make sure that we stay very active in the commissions of the Department of California and represent you appropriately. Again, being honest with you, we need to support your kitchen facility and your bar. That's what gives us the ability to be philanthropists. That's where we get our money, to be able to help in the other four pillars of the American Legion. So, I don't want you to, I don't want you to think that I don't support the bars, because I do. And finally, we need engagement with the local officials. We've got; you've got Perez on your side. He covets the American Legion because we, I attended his town hall in Indio, and so, you know, he speaks very highly. He's planning on giving us two more VSOs. When me and the commander started on this issue, that was only four or five VSOs in Riverside County. We now have 14. And if it's up to Perez, he's going to be 16. You know, right now, Orange County has one VSO, one county VSO, the only other county that rivals us at this point in San Bernardino County. So that says a lot for the Inland Empire. So again, I'm here to ask for support. Your support for the Department, Department or district 21 commander, and thank you for your time.

John Picken: You have a question Carl.

Carl: When is the voting for district? District 21 voting this coming Sunday?

John Picken: Yes, sir. Amado Salinas.

Amado Salinas: I'm your National Legislative Council. In other words, I interface with our Congress and our Senate and as an advocate for you, the veterans on the benefits and laws that are currently in place. I'm also on the national legislative bylaw, constitution and bylaws committee. Any new bylaws that come down the chain need to be referenced nationally and voted upon. So I'm representative for the Department of California. In that capacity. I'm also your chair of foreign relations and national security for the Department of California. We focus on, again, Americanism, those four pillars. We go ahead and go up and down the states. I've walked the halls of Congress on your behalf, and I've walked the posts here in California on behalf of the veterans. One of the focus that I have been doing so is, of course, the youth. They're our future. Without the youth moving forward, we're going to go ahead and fall apart. We're dying as the seniors, we have a middle class that's currently out because they just got out of service. They really don't know what to do, but our youth are forgetting what the principle of America is. So, my job is on

Foreign Relations, national security is to go ahead and focus on those four pillars. Two weeks ago, we had over 2500 kids at the high school out here attending. We have from Kazakhstan, China, South Korea, Jamaica, Mexico, Canada, Spain, Turkey. And we had schools from all over the nation, New York, Florida, Idaho, Colorado. We had over 2500 kids participate. We flew in as part of the American Legion district one. I flew in Special Operations commander to motivate these kids. And they did. The school district superintendent was just jazzed about that. So one of the focus is again, our youth, our future. So I, of course, am honored some of you I have served with. I look forward to serving you for the others, but I am going for the district 21 commander. I'm not asking for your vote for simply a position. I'm asking for your vote to go ahead and support and move district 21 forward as we go into next year on that we didn't quite hit our goals. It's been two years now since they haven't hit the goals, they haven't hit the numbers, we're going to focus up. We're a business. We need to focus on how we can increase our membership, our legionnaires, our communities and our youth. Thank you very much.

John Picken: okay, any Yes, anybody have any comments or questions for either one of our excuse me, our candidates.

Heather: why is the legionnaire supporting this meeting?

John Picken: We're going to vote how to spread our delegates out which we have not gotten a final number on the amount of delegates we're going to have. We're waiting from, I think, department to assign that to us. sir.

Amado Salinas: As of this morning, we have 16 delegates. 16 delegates, it's broadcast.

John Picken: Okay? Got published. Heard. Thank you. So basically, we're going to vote because either support or not support these candidates. So currently, I need somebody to make a motion. Oh, Mr. Brambila.

David Brambila: Commander, I would encourage the candidates to leave the room to not Wait.

John Picken: Okay guys, thank you, Mr. Riccio, Vice President, Lee, no, sir, it's just the delegates for candidates for district 21 you thought we were talking about you, so I need a motion to you to designate X number of delegates per candidate, what we've done in the past, I'll briefly say this, because we have two we've split evenly the numbers, me, would be what we did. We did that at our district meeting last year, we find that in our district meetings, that's the fairest way to go for this post, because we have people that we know and care about running for those things, but it's going to take you guys to make that decision. Okay, so I need a motion to either designate or what am I looking for? What's the word I'm looking for to allocate our votes? Anybody motions?

Andrea Kline: I make motion that we allocate our delegates?

Tommy Riccio: Okay? I second,

John Pickn: and we're going to we need to verify this split. It eight and eight. Make it fair, because we have a lot of people over for one side and a lot of people the other side. And this will come up at our district meeting, also our delegates, whoever's our delegates, will be going to department or department

convention and doing the exact same thing on voting up there. So we have a motion on the floor, any discussion, any ratio, second, second, any discussion. Grace.

Not Sure: I'm curious when they when our delegates get to state, and let's say there's a number, I presume there might be a number of different votes taken, because there won't be a plurality, perhaps, or Whatever, are our delegates bound still to a particular candidate, or do they are they let go to decide?

John Picken: Simplify this a little bit. The delegates that we're or the candidates we're voting on here are strictly here when we go to our department meeting convention. Those delegates will get together with all of district 21 delegates and caucus on the motions that are coming up, the resolutions that you're going to vote on, changing whatever bylaws might be needed, things like that. So they no well, they're voting on the commander for national, I mean, for departments and a few other select spots. But that comes down to the district to make that decision. And again, we can vote half and half, which we've done before. Is that clear as mud. All right, any other Thank you.

Not sure: And question, why are we going half and half? Why can't we just take a vote?

John Picken: We can for each each and then more than that's you didn't make the motion to do that?

Andrea Kline: I make the motion that we already have a motion on the floor. Do you want to amend your send that motion? I'd like him. I'd like to make a motion that we vote for each candidate the delegate. So each person would raise their hand for that particular candidate, and then that becomes a delegate.

John Picken: Perfect. That'll work for me. Does it work for everybody? So we have a motion.

Maggie: Seconds.

John Pickens: any other discussion? Okay, so we're gonna vote. We'll raise our hands so we can count all those for a Amado Salinas, please raise your hand.

Jeff Cole: I got 16.

John Picken: Okay, all in favor of Al Mendoza, please raise your hands. 7. Okay. Amado Salinas gets that delegate vote. Am I correct everybody? It's okay with that. Bring it back. Okay, that's fine, perfect. Okay, we will make note of that when we go to district 21 meeting on we go district 21 meeting on Sunday, we will designate that all of our delegates are known for Amado Salinas. Thank you. Lee Wilson, you have a report for us.

Lee Wilson: I don't want to hold anybody up, but you know, we've got Memorial Day coming up. That'll be a big move. I'll be at the Air Museum. I do three default and Gold Star families and stuff, and it's all in here. But since I have a captive audience, we are on the local media recently, and we look pretty good on TV. This is Leslie the move, talking about our historic piano. Let me show you this just two minutes long, inside the American Legion Post in Palm Springs. And now there's a growing effort to restore a historic instrument and protect its legacy while inspiring future musicians right here in our desert, high Beach has the story. This Piano was one of a kind. It's 120 years old. It's been loved 20 years. Usage has power. And inside American Legion, post 519, the the echoes of Hollywood history still resonate through this Raider steinway grand piano I know everything from Billy Joel to Beethoven. Leslie gamut says its original ivory and ebony keys have been played by professionals for more than 120 years. Oscar, what Al Jolson, Jenny garland Bob, Hope everybody who was anybody in the 40s and 50s in the Hollywood industry has been at this piano. Now there's a push to restore this piano, preserving the historic keys that make it so special. Right now, the condition that it's in, most of its strings are pretty dead. I had a technician come in, and he took out all the really dead ones. And it's very soft sounding. You dare not play it too much. Donations are being accepted through the American Legion. That restoring this grand piano will inspire a new generation of positions, while also preserving its old Hollywood legacy here in our desert. beach with NBC, Leslie's been able to get us like we could restore it in LA for around 20, \$5,000 or something. But this piano to me, Steinway to me, only Steinway should touch it, and it would be about \$75,000 to ship it to Iowa. Now my goal is someday we started a separate fund just for the restoration of the piano. I believe somebody out there, once the word really gets out, won't have a problem that doesn't check. That's every \$5,000 you just got to find that person, put their name on a plaque, you know, restore it for our veterans, you know, by blah, blah, blah, and so I think only Steinway should touch his piano. Now, if the board and House committee and everybody else says, No, we're gonna do the la route, that's fine, but me piano is special. Deserves only Steinway and yeah, we have to pay for it. It'll be gone for about six, eight months in Iowa, lost being done. So that's my two cents on that. And then let me toot my own horn. They interviewed me about our radio room once connected the desert to Hollywood's biggest voices during

radio's Golden Age is getting more attention. It's called the radio room, and it's tucked inside American Legion Post 519, in downtown Palm Springs. Now there's a renewed push to bring it back to life, giving the public a chance to explore this forgotten chapter of our local history. Kai Beach has the story. It's inside American Legion, post 519 in downtown Palm Springs, the radio room offers a rare glimpse to the glamorous Hollywood history that helps shape our desert. There's been a rosy, hidden five shows from our stage, Libra, Jimmy Stewart Rosemary Clinton. Lee Wilson is the Legion spokesperson, and he recently gave NBC Palm Springs a behind the scenes look at the journalists, actors and entertainers who once used this space. You help me with that. If you don't mind, help you with the fundraising for that, please afterwards. Yeah, all right, we really need a beloved, benevolent, you know, millionaire out there. It's like, yeah straight, I'll do this. I believe he's out there. Just know where she doesn't know she is yet. Briefly, anything else you want to bring up? All good we're gonna have a hell of a fourth of July. Also, that's really it.

John Picken: Thank you for your report. Anybody else have any questions for Lee Wilson Garth, can you send that thing about the can of over an email so it can be forwarded to potential.

Garth Gilpin: Yes, I will do that, and I'll send it to you and John, I thought I texted you guys my texts and work on.

John Picken: Communication, yes, thank you. Going back to our committee reports now, we already had communications. Committee is not here finance. We already talked about that. So we're gonna move right into old business, old business. The new cooler, we already talked about that. The old one gave up the ghost. We brought in a used new one. I didn't work. We broke brand new one in there. The sun Cinco de Mayo party was a great success for the program and the canteen. This past Mother's Day brunch was well attended. Roses were given to all the mothers. Roses were donated by myself and my wife in memory of my mother in law, Carmel, so we don't have to write a check. She passed away at the end of last year. That's all the old business I have. Is there any other old business that I'm forgetting? Okay, moving right into new business. Jeff, would you find out how close they are concluding their count. Upcoming Events, the karaoke coming up this Saturday. Friday, we're doing the Coffee Day event starts a little earlier to get everything going on May 22 the Memorial Day barbecue and music on the 25th food provided to the post by McCarty for \$17 ribs, hot dogs. Okay, cool. And then we also have the golf tournament scheduled on June 2, at nine o'clock provided services by Garth Gilpin. You pay at the post. We've already got 48 people signed up, so whoever signs up next will be on a reserve list. Of course, some people won't show up, so we'll just help you to show up, and hopefully you get there, get on that's a lot of fun. Great course, the oldest golf course in Palm Springs. Oh, listen, Coachella Valley, as Ernest mentioned in his house committee, has changed to June 1 accommodate the golf Executive Committee voted to match the American Legion Auxiliary and the sun's donation to Veterans Village for six months. We're going to be giving \$100 per month. So with all the other two other organizations, they'll be getting \$300 a month. Garth is going to get with April O'Neill, hopefully today to finalize how we're going to make that payment. We're getting bids to replace the fence on the west, excuse me, the east side, which brick wall fell down a couple years ago, three years ago. Now, we're looking at different aspects of the fence. Lee Wilson provided company. All swings welding. We're supposed to get somebody from sorry, Ernest, still waiting on contact from that. I'm sure it's in the works. And that's pretty much all the new business, except for the election results. We can do. We can either do with this, we can go ahead and vote to continue with the meeting or going to recess, or we can make the announcement after the meeting is concluded. We need to have a motion though to do that. Okay, who wants to recess?

Andrew: I make a motion to for a 10 minute recess

Maggie: Maggie's making a second, yep, all in favor are 10 minutes.

John Picken: Meeting called back to order.

Joe O'connell: So we we finished the count very close. We tried to do a second recount, but we're pressing for time. Rather than keeping you guys for another hour or two, we have final numbers on all the major offices with with the minor office. The third executive board is within four votes, so that may be a recount. So these are the all the other offices are firm. Let me give you the finals. The final numbers are for the commander, John 66 Andrea 49 Thank you. First Vice, Joe Delia 40. Ernest 73 second vice commander Lee, overwhelming, so almost everybody. Third vice, Kevin unopposed, Chaplain mccarvey, overwhelming. Sergeant Mike rush, not, not that close, but it was over a for sure one, and on the

executive board that's the one that may have to be a recount, because it's within four, maybe he has 54 and Mark 50. Okay, so that one will be recount. Everything else is congratulations to the winners.

Ernie Meeker: Joe, can I get a copy of that for the record.

John Picken: congratulations to all of the candidates. Appreciate everybody sticking around for as long as they did bother you have something, sir?

Unsure: Yes, I do. I want to say thank you to all of our elected committee. Such a wonderful job. They've been here all day today.

John Picken: You beat me to it. But thank you again, again. Thank you to the election committee, especially the chair for running a good committee back there. Has anybody got anything else I need to talk about here, for the good of the American Legion, for the good of the American Legion, for the good Andrea.

Andrea Kline: I just want to say thank you for everybody that supports me. Thank you.

Gabriel: So we run a Trucking School here in Palm Desert, and we want to support veterans. The training program is free for veterans. It helps them obtain their class, a license or any other endorsements that they're looking to get, such as hazmat or double transit. So if you know anybody, especially in this economy, who's looking to get certified for a class, a license. It is free. Thank you.

John Picken: Would you get together with our newsletter? People Yes, Albert or April, excuse me, or Marion, pardon me. Maybe we can put an ad business card size or even bigger, into that newsletters to pass that word. If you have flyers of safe veterans are free, maybe we can bring some of those in. That'd be great. Yes, sir. Thank you very much. We appreciate that.

Tony Aguliar: Chairman Pickens, I was had a lot of differences with you, and I congratulate you on your election. I hope you've heard something about including the board in the future. Stop making decisions on your own. Include them, okay. Secondly, we have a kitchen that's really in trouble right now.

John Picken: As we told you before, here's the House Committee.

Tony Aguliar: Excuse me. Please put this behind you. Bring Juan back here. This kitchen is in trouble. Prices are too high. The project is terrible. He stands ready. So keep talking about the House committee that's made the damn thing. They do nothing. Okay, so next meeting, I'll bring it up to membership. They can make the decision. Thank you.

John Picken: Thank you for your input. Anybody else have any good American Legion.

Chip Atterbury: yeah. What's going on? Yeah, whatever. What's going on with the bar? Because we need to bring Randy back and make him the bar manager.

John Picken: I'm sorry say that again.

Chip Atterbury: Who manages the bar right now?

John Picken: The House committee is managing because our manager resigned, and we're waiting for after the election to figure out what we're going to do. House committee is looking at a number of people. The House Chair, I should say, and they were working on it, running bar well, and it's, there's, there's, our tickets are great.

Unsure: There's conflicting interests on that. I was conflicting. I'm still talking the bar needs to be run differently.

John Picken: Appreciate your input. Thank you. Anybody else any further. There's no other further business come before the meeting, Chaplin will offer a prayer.

MaCarvie: I'd like to start this prayer out with a prayer for Ron Webster. He's a member. He is a member at the post, and he had to be taken to the hospital today. Thank you God for allowing us to come together again as comrades during our voting process. Thank you for blessing all those participating in and aiding in the voting process. Thank you for going into Thank you, God, for allowing us to work together in all our endeavors, and thank you for our ongoing successes. Thank you, God, amen.

Closing ceremonies.

Meeting adjourned at 1830