

# American Legion Post 519

General Membership Meeting 06/09/26 Minutes

## PALM SPRINGS

### SUMMARY

The American Legion Post 519 meeting addressed several key issues. The POW/MIA ceremony was conducted, and a new budget was proposed. Concerns were raised about the validity of the last election, leading to a motion to invalidate it and hold a new election on June 23. The motion passed, with a second motion to exclude members not installed by April 15 from voting. Additionally, a motion to not serve alcohol until 5 PM on election day failed. The meeting concluded with a call for unity and cooperation among members. John Pickens emphasized the importance of fair elections and the post's financial contributions, totaling \$308,000 over the past year. The post will donate \$500 to Veterans Village, matching an ALR and Sons donation. The kitchen is closed, and meals are served on Fridays and Sundays. The flag day ceremony is uncertain due to lack of participation. The post also supports Veterans Village with donations and is seeking more community support for their needs. The meeting concluded with a prayer and the adjournment.

### Action Items

- Allen Lane - Serve as the primary point of contact for coordinating community support for Veterans Village, including organizing food, clothing, furniture, and employment assistance, and ensure any requests for help are directed to you as the service officer.
- Obtain paint cost estimates for repainting the post building (indoors and outdoors) using three similar color shades, including Crawford's offer of paint at roughly \$50 per five-gallon bucket, and compile the information needed to present a painting package to the Modernism Committee.
- Contact the painter whose card you received and obtain a bid for repainting the post building (indoors and outdoors) to compare against Crawford's paint pricing when preparing the Modernism Committee proposal.
- Prepare and submit the invoice required by Measure J funding so that the second \$63,000 check can be released tomorrow.
- Coordinate with the City Historic Preservation/Historic Resources staff to secure approval of the proposed wall-out construction project, using the quotes and materials list already gathered from Home Depot.
- Research and select a vending machine vendor for American Legion paraphernalia sales (T-shirts, hats, etc.), ensuring the machine requires payment before dispensing items, and report back to the post.

- During the week leading up to July 4, visit the post to film interviews and assemble a video package on the history and significance of the Palm Springs American Legion Post for NBC's planned stories.
- Investigate the discrepancy between the membership count and the number of members recorded as installed in the minutes, reconcile the numbers, and prepare a written report for the next general membership meeting.
- Confirm whether local city council members plan to attend the Flag Day ceremony and relay their attendance status to the post leadership so they can decide whether to proceed with the event.
- If confirmed council participation occurs, coordinate bringing the American Legion color guard to the Flag Day ceremony at the post.
- Forward Glenn's contact information to the service officer so he can follow up regarding Tom Ricchio's clothing donations to the Veterans Village pantry.

## **JOHN PICKEN**

One rap of the gavel ...

Opening Ceremony PHONES OFF

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.

## **CHAPLAIN**

We thank you, God, for blessing this post this evening. Thank you for bringing us here to take care of our veterans.

Thank you for protecting our soldiers that are in the Middle East. God bless us and all the things that we're trying to work for here at the American Legion and thank you for guiding us.

God bless us all. Amen.

## **JOHN PICKEN**

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'.

**EVERYONE**

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.

**JOHN PICKEN**

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

**EVERYONE**

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 ...

**John Picken**

Please be seated I now declare this meeting of American Legion Post 519, Department of California, General Membership Meeting convened> roll call. Adjutant . . .

**ALLEN LANE**

|                                   |         |
|-----------------------------------|---------|
| Commander – John Picken           | Present |
| Adjutant – Allen Lane {stand in}  | Present |
| Assistant Adjutant – Ernie Meeker | Present |
| 1st Vice Commander – Ernie Meeker | Present |
| 2nd Vice Commander – Lee Wilson   | Present |
| 3rd Vice Commander – Kevin KOCH   | Present |
| Finance Officer – Garth Gilpin    | Present |
| Chaplain – MCarvie Crawford       | Present |
| Service Officer – Allen Lane      | Present |
| Judge Advocate-- Skip Burt.       | Excused |
| Sergeant at Arms – Jeff Cole      | Present |
| Historian – James Snow            | Present |
| E-Board 1st Year – Mike Beresh    | Excused |

|                                    |         |
|------------------------------------|---------|
| E-Board 2nd Year – Doug Cron       | Excused |
| E-Board 3rd Year – Ron Webster     | Present |
| E-Board 3rd Year – Rusanne Anthony | Present |

Quorum Confirmed. Commander. . .

**John Picken**

Thank you. At this time, there are no listed District 21 meetings. I'm assuming that after the convention we'll get a listing. As a reminder, the Department Convention in Vesalia, June 25 and 28th. As a reminder to everyone, the ritual, when a member is requesting time on the floor, raise your hand and please stand after being recognized by the chair. You'll state your name, salute the chair if requested to come to the podium. You will be escorted by the Sergeant Arms. Please salute the flag before passing. All speakers will be limited to three minutes from the floor. Sorry, arms, we have any distinguished guests. I'll help you out today. We have Andrea Klein, just between one eboard east, Albert Martinez, path commander, I we have the Amado Salinas

**Gordon Countryman**

here, huh?

**John Picken**

Just to play at large, and a whole list of other things that I can't remember. We also have Tony Aguilar adjutant, did we miss anybody, forget anybody. Thank you. Okay, minutes were posted online, so I need a motion to accept the minutes that were posted. Aguilar makes the motion. Sid makes a second. Any discussion? Gordon

**Gordon Countryman**

seconding.

**John Picken**

Sid already got it, any discussion? All in favor of accepting the minutes from the last member. Any opposed? Amado opposed. Any abstentions? Motion passes at this time. We will do our offices' reports. I'll hold mine till the end. Adjutant, do you have anything for us, sir?

**Allen Lane**

Nothing at this time, sir.

**John Picken**

First Vice Meeker, do you have anything for us?

**Ernie Meeker**

you want me to do membership now?

**John Picken**

We'll do that on the committee.

**Ernie Meeker**

Right now, I have nothing to report.

**John Picken**

Thank you, Second Vice Commander Wilson.

**Lee Wilson**

That'll be very brief, sir. Allen wheels display banners are across the street. They finally kind of cleaned up the wall fence there, so I was able to hang the banners. They look really nice. I got us some new umbrellas for outside and

replaced our light bulbs to the main hall. Juneteenth, this is something we can be involved with. Wanted, there's an event on Friday, June 18, from five 8 o'clock It's over by the Maryland statute. In the past, we've had a tent out there, also the teachers association. However, this year I'm next week, I'm going to Chicago for a few days, so I won't be here. Terry Johnson is still available to man the tent at this time, but it's more than a one person job, it's more of a three person job. It's a good way to get our face out in the community, pass out flags to kids. They're going to have live music that Friday night on stage, and so if anybody like to help out, band the tent, see Terry. Otherwise, we won't have a tent there. Our next karaoke is a week, is next week Saturday, and we probably won't have another karaoke till August. I'm going on vacation in July, and yeah, the Freeland's don't want to do it without me. Hopefully, Kevin, are you here? Kevin Morrison, Kevin Morrison, got to get in touch with him, but we're hoping to install our new stage lights soon, maybe this week. Our Veterans Day application is done. I included, like, five vehicles, you know, truck and trailer and golf carts, and so we'll have plenty of participation. Anybody in this room is welcome to participate, march with us, and that's all ready to go. Our air museum Memorial Day thing was a hit. You didn't see me, us all over KESQ and KMIR for reading the names of the fallen, and something I've done over the years, and I'm very proud of it. Check out my wall out there on the way out, Fallen Heroes Wall, the banners across the street. Yeah,

#### **Lee Wilson**

Fourth of July, Saturday. I won't be here again, I won't be here, but we're going to have Music Woody in the retros. It's five to 8 o'clock and MCarvie is doing the food. I've got our entertainment planned out through August still, but while I'm on vacation, I plan on sitting in front of the ocean of Thailand, drinking my Thailand. Pina Coladas, and working on our September, October, December schedule, so that's what I'm going to do. It when I'm on vacation, and I made out.. I didn't give.. I got to dig it out, but I, for Bruce, Dan and Garth, I did a proposal for how much money we might need from entertainment, and roughly, you know, it sounds like a lot. \$16,000 a year is roughly what I'm requesting, just for our Friday night entertainment. But I'm also requesting, I'd like to make a motion: if we can up the pay we do to our Friday entertainment. Currently, we've been paying \$200 for Friday nights, that's been going on for about three years now, and you know, been doing this job for a few years. A lot of people kind of are doing us a favor, you know, only getting \$200 playing here. Some people don't want to come back because we only play paid \$200 I think just to show a sign of love, some of our people got to drive here from like Pomona and stuff to play for us, that's gas money for those guys too. So I'm proposing, I brought this up last week, Ponder, instead of paying \$200 a month for a Friday entertainment that we jack it to 50 a month, and we keep it there for, I don't know, until inflation kicks in a few years from now, but I think that's fair, and I think it shows respect to the people that dedicate their time for us too. So,

#### **Chip Atterbury**

\$250 a month?

#### **Lee Wilson**

sorry, \$250 a night. Yeah, Friday or Friday, sorry. So, yeah, and sometimes there's five times, and so that's why it's about 16,000 bucks with the \$250 increase, so I don't know, can I make that motion?

#### **John Pickens**

Then, well, we talked about that the last executive meeting, we said we'll wait till after the fiscal year.

#### **Lee Wilson**

Okay, that's right,

#### **Ernie Meeker**

I got my notes for the committee.

#### **John Picken**

Okay, yeah, all right. Thank you.

#### **Lee Wilson**

Believe my last thing is I think it's something we should do. And then we're set up for a Modern Disney Week event coming up in October, and I think if we got the time, we should try and think about getting this place painted. It's been about almost 10 years now since the last time we were painted. I was the guy who got us painted last time, and I know

it's a hassle, because we got to go through the modern people in City Hall, the modern committee. They all got to approve stuff. There's like a fee involved, it's like \$400 just to do the fee. We need to get this going right away. McCarvey, how much would it cost for all new paint if we got somebody to paint it on the cheap for us.

**Crawford**

I can get you paint at my cost, which is basically five gallons worth of paint for 50 bucks.

**Lee Wilson**

Can you get us an estimate? Three different color shades, basically the same colors we have now, because I'm going to need that information when I go to the city and present our package to them for approval. Sorry, indoors, outdoors, outdoors, outdoors, outdoors, indoors. We got some, yeah, the outside, outside, yeah. It's been about 10 years ago.

**Ernie Meeker**

I do have somebody that come to me and asked me about painting, so I do have their card, we can check with him also. He has done other posts in the area,

**Lee Wilson**

that's cool. Andy said he'd help out also. And, oh, speaking of Andy, I don't have this on here, but if you don't know our handyman that comes here every night, he's here more than anybody else, and you know he does the garbage for us. He does a lot of the really dirt jobs for us, right? Are we still paying him 100 bucks a week?

**John Picken**

I would go to the executive or house committee again.

**Lee Wilson**

Also, you know, I don't want to complain, but it's when I was out there the other day, our serving line, after like Sunday, nobody cleaned it up. It was pretty gross, and I'm wondering if we asked Andy to do that for us after every Sunday. Maybe we could sweeten the pot for him or something, because that's not in his job description. But if Andy cleaned the serving line for us every Sunday, is it worth another \$100 a month? I don't know what would be fair?

**Speaker**

Just a question, why are the people that are not serving cleaning up their mess?

**Gordon Countryman**

Yeah,

**Lee Wilson**

yeah, this place is really good at setting stuff up, and it's really bad about putting stuff away, tearing stuff down.

**Andrea Kline**

There's trash cans everywhere,

**Lee Wilson**

yeah, but it's, uh, if you, you don't want to look closely, so I don't know, is that worth it? I should leave that under a house committee. All right, so that's it. Thank you, sir.

**John Picken**

Vice Commander. Kevin. . .

**Kevin Koch**

sir. Under the four pillars, we have children and youth and Americanism, and kind of cover both. Been super busy this month. We have six students going in two weeks up to Sacramento for Boys State Bureau State. We ought to be proud of sponsoring six high-speed high school students, and Andrea Klein has General Asleep volunteered her time to be the escort on the bus, and then fly back a long bus trip up there. In the past, the models done it, and it's, it's a little bit of an ordeal, and we really need somebody to step up and do it. So, it's great they've done it. We were able to honor 9/8 grade

top American history students with a great certificate and a presentation, and \$100 each, and it was really appreciated. We got some great thank you letters from that, not under my direct bailiwick or our money, but under our post 519 if you're not aware, there might be a few out there. Back in the 70s, 80s, two people from the post passed away and started up a dedicated trust fund for college scholarships, and it's been doing well with the market recently, and we, as a post under that money can only be used for that. We were able to give away \$40,000 for 10 scholar college scholarships to military connected families in need, or people that have high merit military. So we went around all the high schools to the presentation. We were visible that a lot of kudos for what we do with the community. We still sponsor Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts, working with those ROTC program. Problem is, some of the things we could or should, we have dedicated American Legion medals for our junior ROTC and ROTC to give the thing is, you got to order them way in advance, they run out, and there are several difficulties in communication, but we want to set up a robust for next year in order, so in the new budget I'm proposing what we buy now, so we can do those metals, they're not going to break the bank, \$11 the certificate, but to be visible at the high schools and support the youth even more, so been working several of those things, been very busy, busy time of year, but all good right now, so far, sir.

### **John Picken**

Thank you very much. Finance Officer Gilbert. . .

### **Garth Gilpin**

sir. Good evening. Nice to see some new faces in here. Thanks for coming. The post, the information has been on the bulletin board since the first day of the month. James has posted it on the website. I don't have a big enough printer to give everybody a copy, but the bank balances the first month we had \$141,000 though the bar had \$23,000 for operating membership has \$34,000 and I've talked about this before. This membership money is for our four areas of spending, and at the executive meeting last week, we probed a new one, and Allen talked about the minutes, but we need to start spending some money on our programs, and we're setting up a budget. Part of the budget is, of course, Lee Wilson's entertainment, which has nothing to do with the membership money, but we haven't had any money since Covid, and we're not used to participating in the community, and so do we have any ideas of how we can enhance the American Legion in the community. Please let Miss Anne, myself, John know as we set up the budget for next year. We're going to be setting up areas to defend it. Boys, girls, state is an area the community has responded very well to us this year alone. We've had \$55,000 in donations, first five months, that equals what we had last year in total. In addition to that, we've had the Measure J program that started, that's a total of \$255,000 We received \$63,000 \$63,000 Saw the iPad out there, iPod out there. Excuse me, that's for storage and stuff for the next two months. While we redo the kitchen, right after that, the air conditioning will be reevaluated and then brought up to speed for the. The addition of the additional cooling requirements for the removal of a flat ceiling. We'll put a roof on this building. I'm in the middle of getting quotes on the wall out here. It's much more involved than I anticipated. I see why nothing's happened over the past three or four years.

They have to dig down like four feet to put in a cement base to hold the rebar that goes up eight feet, so it's said just today I went to the Home Depot with a complete list of products we need. How many need like 300 and some bricks? We need 700 and some feet of rebar. So, went to Home Depot, talked to the assistant manager about getting donated material. So, things are happening, and we need support of the community. Tell people what we're doing, and we need to get out there and spend some of this money and do some good things for it. Measure J funding, the lady called me today. They need an invoice to release a second 60 \$300,000 check, and that will happen tomorrow. The permit has been approved by the City Planning Department.

It's currently at Sarah Over Historic History, Historical, whatever it is there, committee. I'm not sure why she needs to look at it, but she, she will sign off on it, and soon as that's done, they can start actual physical work on the building account has \$63,000 first of the month, and that money will, some of that money will go towards building that wall out there. It's going to be in the 18 to \$20,000 range, except hopefully Home Depot will donate some, some equipment, so I've got three, three bids coming in on it, so I'll take a fourth, some of the other somebody that does it. Baseball Mac has \$12,000 has been raised strictly by baseball activities, he's currently got some baseball bats and balls for auctioning on, so they're in good shape. Riders just had an event, deposited 3000 more dollars into their account just last week for a fundraiser they had, so things are happening, and profit and loss statement for the first five months. The bar basically broke even. We made \$1,200 in five months. So we're operating right at, we're not, we're a nonprofit organization, so we again have to watch our costs. We raised of band fees, we might have to raise the booze fees, so we'll look at all this, but I agree with you, we need to raise it, so again, back to the other half of the thing, which is our donations increase, we, we had that number I talked about there a minute ago, but \$55,000 and we've currently this first five months spent \$14,000 on community outreach.

It's gone to Boys Girls State 6600 Palm Springs to 29 Palms, which is we pay for the busses for the service members at Christmas and during the holidays to ride down to the airport nonprofit, we support them in buying busses to get those guys back and forth. Other, we spent \$6,000 on basic programs, individual needs, fire victims, people, military have had fire problems, so we're starting to get active, and I really appreciate the support that the community has given us. So, any questions?

**John Picken**

Thank you, guys. Chaplain, do you have anything for us?

**Crawford**

Yes, Commander. Just real quick, I want to thank everybody who showed up at the last barbecue. We raised \$780 on that one day, so thank you again. I look forward to seeing everybody again on July 4.

**Speaker 2**

I'm sorry, MCarvie, would you mind repeating? Could you repeat that? I'm sorry.

**Crawford**

Okay, I just wanted to thank everybody who showed up on Memorial Day. It, we raised about 780 bucks in one day, and we would have done a lot better. It's just the first one I had to buy some material, so I look forward to July 4, and hope all you guys will show up. And thank you again for supporting

**John Picken**

E board three Roseanne,

**Rusanne Anthony**

the only thing I have is I've been trying to research ways of on the T shirts, Garth and I are both convinced that we're losing money on them, that they're being taken out of the T-shirt blocker, and not paid for, so I'm suggesting a vending machine, and get one for free, and they have to put their money in the vending machine, and the T-shirt drops down, that's it.

**John Picken**

If we can make room, we can do hats and other things too.

**Andrea Kline**

I'm sorry.

**John Picken**

Can do hats and other things also.

**Rusanne Anthony**

Yes, t-shirts. Yes.

**John Picken**

Okay.

**Rusanne Anthony**

Yeah. So, once I can point a vendor for that. That's all I have.

**Garth Gilpin**

Thank you. The question I'd like to add that currently we've only sold American Legion paraphernalia. The Suns and the American Legion writers have asked that we start selling their equipment also, and to control the cost of that, if they give us 20 t-shirts and two weeks later there's none, they're going to want their full money, and currently we're just not able to track the T-shirt, hat sale, coin sale thing, so we do need some, some type of vending machine.



**Allen Lane**

It's a great idea.

**John Picken**

Thank you very much. E-board three, Webster, do you have any for us?

**Speaker 1**

sir?

**John Picken**

Thank you, Sergeant at Arms. Cole, nothing? Thank you. And last but not least, Historian Snow.

**James Snow**

Good evening, sir. What I have can technical can kind of go with, as far as historian or communication stuff. Last week I mentioned I guess historian stuff. This puts a lot of history at this place. We were all talking about the history of the place, and so NBC. I spoke with NBC last week we had a meeting, so Ford has offered to sponsor three different stories, and those three stories are going to be either here, Palm Springs Air Museum, and then some other, I think, maybe the USO or something like that. Anyways, so last, so we got to come up with an idea. Obviously, we wanted this place to be restored, restore the ceiling, the roof, the lamellar roof in here, which would be great for us to do. So, the week up to July 4, they're going to run. We're going to do some stories. So I'm going to come here and probably film some interviews, put together a video package of the history of this place, why it's important to the city, why we should, the community should donate money to us to help facilitate, we renovated this place back to, like, like they did at the Plaza Theater. I have a good connection to the Plaza Theater.

I just picked them up as one of my clients, so I know there's storing over there too. So, him and I are going to start hashing things back and forth, as far as, because to restore this place, there's a lot of rules and regulations that's going to have to be put in place, you know. And that's the problems they had over there. It's like cost them once you restore it. I'm feeling that that's going to be same problem here, because it's class one historic site. So, we're going to start coming here soon. Sorry, I just got distracted. I'm going to come here eventually, probably set up a time to sit down with somebody. Someone probably, Lee would probably be great, because he's probably got the most knowledge of this place, as far as the history, even though I'm the historian, but I can't put myself on camera. Of course, I could, but I'd rather someone else do it, maybe you as well, Commander, and maybe a couple other people.

We can sit down and I can interview, and then you know we can present this, and it'll be on TV, and the community will see it, like what we're trying to do, and hopefully we'll get some more donations to the post, and that's all I have. As far as that, I do have one other thing. I brought my camera in today, because I can show you guys one of the things I've been working on is for us to be able to live stream any of our events, any events that people can see right on our website. The second vice, can we please go to our website? It's not connecting to my phone right now, so I'm trying to connect it to my phone. I bought this little antenna right here, and so what happens if we ever have an event, and if we want people to see it, they can go straight to our website. If you go to the events page, or go to events, and just scroll down, go to live broadcast, do.

*{Playing the recording on screen to membership in audience}*

**Speaker 3**

Post 519 in downtown Palm Springs.

**Speaker**

The radio room offers a rare glimpse to the glamorous Hollywood history that helps shape our desert.

**Speaker 4**

There's been Crosby. He did five shows from our stage, and he brought Judy Stewart, Rosemary Clooney. Lee Wilson is the Legion spokesperson, and he recently gave NBC Punk Springs behind the scenes look at the journalists, actors, and entertainers who once used this space.

**Speaker 4**

They started raising money during the war, building these places where they could come and perform for the troops. So they built this beautiful stage, and this was the control room where the sound engineers and the radio engineers would sit while all these famous Hollywood people perform on our stage

**Speaker 3**

between the late 1940s and early 1950s which is often called the twilight era of radio. Dozens of national broadcasts aired from the Palm Springs American Legion Post.

**Speaker 4**

Somebody was smart enough to say, "Hey, why don't we make sure we got a place for the local Hollywood guys that live in the neighborhood and the movie colony and such, where they could come and perform for the troops, and

**Speaker 3**

today efforts are underway to restore the radio room, expand its archives, and rediscover its original equipment. We have to think about future generations of veterans to come and give them a place in their families, like we have since 1934 Wilson says visitors are invited to stop by and experience this unique piece of Hollywood history right here in the Coachella Valley on Kai Beach with NBC Palm Springs.

*{End of recording playback}*

**John Picken**

Alrighty, thank you, brother. Right on, brother. More to come. Okay, we'll move into our committee reports, you house committee,

**Ernie Meeker**

the only thing that command, the only thing that the house committee has to report is there was an incident

**John Picken**

we can, that was a disciplinary thing that the whole membership,

**Ernie Meeker**

I'm just going to say there was an incident. The kitchen is closed, and we have no new event requests. We have Casey as an interim bar manager for the temporary for three months until the house committee can find a suitable applicant that is going to apply for bar manager, that's all.

**John Picken**

Thank you. Communication, well, you already did communication, so we're good there. Garth already did the finance. Did you have anything else further to put on there?

**Garth Gilpin**

Somebody asked questions.

**John Picken**

Anybody have any other questions for Garth on the finance? Okay, we should have a new budget starting first. Well, starting July 1, but our first meeting is seventh, I believe.

**Allen Lane**

I think so.

**John Picken**

Okay, Ernie, do you have a membership report?

**Ernie Meeker**

I do. We have one some new members: Jamie Moore, Carlos Hernandez, Guy Moore, Charles Justin, Jonathan Neal. All these people have been verified. The one that has not been verified yet is Catherine Bassett. She was the one that we were just talking about, returning member, a member that let his membership expire for a couple of years. He's come back, his Robert, his name is Robert Mole. We have several transfers: Lawrence D. Nelson, Keith Plager, Leslie Belsma, and John Thomas. All of them verified three of them have been from post 1001 from Post 739

**John Picken**

Are any of those members here? No. Okay, I need a motion to approve from new members. Aguilar had a name up first. Who seconded Joe O'Donnell O'Connell seconded? Any discussion I in favor? Any opposed? Abstentions?

Welcome to those new members.

**Ernie Meeker**

As far as our members go, this is from fiscal year January 1 or July 1, 2025 We've had 75 new members, of those of all of our members, we've got 87 that have been paid up for life, our regular members, there's 563 members that have paid up to this date out of the year. Year we've had 23 transfers, so our total for this year is 748 As of right now, we are one of three other posts that made 100% this year. All right.

**John Picken**

Thank you.

**Andrea Kline**

One question for Ernie. Ernie, there's like 40 people that haven't been installed this year with those numbers. When I go back in the minutes, that's what's our process to install, and how do we keep track of who's been installed, and by that I mean voted in.

**Ernie Meeker**

When, like, tonight I just read off the names of the new people, they have been entered into the system, they have not received a card, they will not receive a card until they've been voted in and cleared through our system, so everybody that is been transferred that is new, that is expired, and come back. They all go through the same process. They all get entered into the system. They all get logged into a sheet that I give the commander and the adjutant. They don't get their cards until we approve them in our meetings, and once they get approved, and once the membership has been approved through the system, I send it off, and it takes about two weeks for it to come back processed and in the system as active, so when I get that active, then they get a card. Only then they get a card. They do not get a card beforehand.

**Andrea Kline**

That's not my question. My question is, there's 40 people who have not been installed, and who are they, and when will they be?

**Ernie Meeker**

Where, where are the numbers?

**Andrea Kline**

So, you have your membership, and then you go through the minutes, and you look at everybody installed. There's 40 people missing from that.

**Speaker 1**

Excuse me, if you're bringing a number to the table, you should have a list prepared to then your. I don't have membership

**Speaker 3**

point of order.

**Andrea Kline**

There is 40 people. There are 40 people that are not installed. When you do the membership, and you look back at the minutes of all the people, there's 40 people. Those numbers don't jive, and I don't have access to the membership portal to know who those people are. Only Ernie and John do. And I'm also going to, I'm also going to add that on election day that was not the case. There were people that got cards that day, and they came in and they showed me their cards and they voted.

**Ernie Meeker**

So, okay, whole other separate issue right there. I'm going to, as far as I know, everybody that I've put into the system has been either approved here or they transferred in, which they should have been approved. If they didn't go through me, then somebody else put them into the system that should know, and as far as I know, and as far as John knows, every person he gets a printout every time I get new people. Here's my list of new people right here, they go into an envelope. They stay there until this meeting. Once this meeting is done, then I give them their cards when they clear the system.

**Andrea Kline**

Because the membership and then the minutes, they capture everyone that's been installed, they don't match. They do not match Andrea making up stuff, that is, that is fact. And if anyone wants to look it up, we'll look at the minutes, we'll look at the membership reports, they don't match.

**Ernie Meeker**

I need those names,

**John Picken**

Ernie. I will get together and talk about minutes.

**Tom Ricchio**

So

**John Picken**

hang on, you had your hand up first.

**Tony Aguilar**

The point is that the simpler everything, the member, any member, has to be approved by the membership, not by you, not by the chair, by the membership. And if that hasn't been done, they're not members. And what I think she's saying is there are 40 people who are not accounted for.

**Ernie Meeker**

I need their names. Bottom line, we're not going to discuss this anymore. Tony, we need their names.

**Tony Aguilar**

Don't tell me that, okay? You, you need to provide her a list, so she kept up with those numbers, those things.

**Ernie Meeker**

I cannot provide anybody a list, because I'm the.

**Amado Salinas**

Only one goes at a time if you would please remember, address the chair directly when he goes ahead and recognizes you right now. Tony has the floor, and I understand that.

**Chip Atterbury**

So, raising your voice doesn't solve the problem, so I think Amado made a good point, do some research, but raising your voice and flapping papers around doesn't, that doesn't solve the issue.

**John Picken**

Thank you, Chip.

**Rusanne Anthony**

Yes, at our executive committee meeting last week, Ernie reported 73 new members. Okay, what he just read off is not 73 names,

**John Picken**

it's 73 through the year,

**Rusanne Anthony**

okay. But he should have stated that he each month he reports a number new members, and he's always done that. So when he reported for the month of June, and he said 73 members going with what is recorded each month. I took that as we had 73 new members in June.

**Ernie Meeker**

I'm good, but I'm not that good.

**John Picken**

I understand your point.

**John Picken**

It was semantics on the words he did start that for the year he said from July 2025 till now he said we have 78 new members, so that's that. We will investigate the difference in the numbers. Ernie has done a really, really good job in providing names that go to get come to this meeting, we all approve them. If there's a discrepancy, we'll have to research that and figure it out. But as far as I know, every name that he has presented has been agreed upon by the membership. Anybody else? Thank you, Ernie, for your report.

**Speaker 2**

Do we have a timeline on when this could be looked at?

**John Picken**

We will try and get it before the next general membership meeting and give you a report, to be fair. I mean, that's the way this works. We got to do the investigation, we got to look at it, figure out the numbers, and we can bring it to the next general membership meeting. You'll write that down; we'll make a point of going through all the numbers.

**Speaker 1**

Good

**John Picken**

meeting, Tony?

**Tony Aguilar**

Chairman, I think this is far too important an issue to just say, just wait till next month. There are allegations you're cheating, as I see it.

**John Picken**

You're out of order, sir. Wow, because you're accusing us of cheating.

**Tony Aguilar**

I said there are allegations that I'm hearing. An allegation is an accusation. Okay, allegation. Let me finish, please. I'm the title of that. That is serious stuff. If there are allegations that could be proven or disproven, that needs to happen before the installation period.

**John Picken**

Okay, I will tell you right now, ladies and gentlemen. District 21 has advised me that there is no claim, valid claim to the cheating, misrepresentation, or anything like that, and District 21 has assured me that we are not going to address that here. If you have a problem, it goes to the committee, the executive committee, and if you have a problem with that, it goes to the district executive committee. I was told that last night by the commander of the department and the district 21 commander.

**Tony Aguilar**

Excuse me, I spoke to the district, the district commander, Judge Associates, that I've known for years. That's not what he told me. Said there's any proof at all that you have about an allegation, send it to me. And I'm just suggesting anybody who has any proof, send it to him. I'm hearing back and forth, some allegations, some questions. I'm concerned about our post chairman. Okay, our post has serious issues. We need to get this thing straightened out before the installation

**John Picken**

again. The district has told me, 'Hang on. District 21 said the installation will continue. There is no valid reason for not having the installation. If you have a problem with that, you call District 20-One. Yes, sir.

**Speaker 5**

I just have a couple questions, because from what I understood, Andrea presented a list of different things showing exactly what she just wanted. You guys, to explain, she did it by the laws and regulations of the American Legion, you and the rest of the people that she, she was wanting you guys to come back and say this is what you, what I see you did, you guys had amount of time to come back and rebuke that, you didn't do that, you did not refute it, you didn't come back and say, well, we can prove this, you have didn't do any of that.

**Chip Atterbury**

I'm Just talking,

**Speaker 5**

my voice is very loud, and I'm sorry, I just want.. I don't understand how we come to a meeting like this, and she's done everything right. She presented her case, you guys had the option to repeat it, and you didn't. So, because of that, I think that where we got to go with this. Wait till next month, it's not well, it's not enough.

**Andrea Kline**

But excuse me, but I did. Although I presented my case to the election committee, and within, I met with them the following day, and then I gave them a written complaint the next day. So that's not fair for you to say, John, because I did that, and that in that report. If anyone wants a copy of it, I'm glad to share it.

**John Picken**

As I said, District 21 is on the same page as I am, which you didn't send out, whether you met or not, 24 hours or 48 hours . . .

**Andrea Kline**

you received it within the week. There is a timeline. You guys got the email, and district got it as well. It's not true,

**Chip Atterbury**

right?

**John Picken**

Okay. Stand by, Joe.

**Joe OConnell**

Point of order: you are directly involved in this issue, and I don't think it's appropriate for you to be the chair when you are the subject of the discussion.

**Joe OConnell**

that's my point.

**John Picken**

Okay, Amado, you had a point of order.

**Amado Salinas**

I just had an issue. Any issue that the post has is a post issue. It resolved at the post. District 21 does not have a voice or a vote in our membership decisions. Period. So that statement you early state, I will let you know right now that his faults, we individuals have been contacted, the department said it's a post issue, you need to resolve it in the post. My understanding, sir, is that you were contacted by the election board committee and advised you of the complaint and offered you the opportunity, offered the individuals the opportunities to go ahead and either confirm or deny the foundation, but at least respond in a time they gave you more time than it's normally added. The timeline states that the individual did contact the election board, did notify them, and also did present a formal written in a timely manner, so per our rules and guidelines of the election board, and which the election board was nominated and voted by the membership, they have the authority to go ahead and rule on that, and they did. My understanding is they gave you every opportunity, and there was no response. I believe the chair would say what the decision was by the executive.

**John Picken**

We're out of order. We're not talking about this district 21 minutes.

**John Picken**

District 21 has advised me that we do not discuss

**Amado Salinas**

your out of order on that point again. I will hear.

**John Picken**

Okay, we're going to argue about this. Then hold on, hold on. I have a right to speak.

**Ernie Meeker**

There's the things I'm done.

**Chip Atterbury**

This is your. . .

**Ernie Meeker**

The Lying people should never ever be in this room. They know who they are.

**John Picken**  
that's enough.

**Ernie Meeker**  
I'm done.

**John Picken**  
That again, I have been told, and I'm going by what they told me. Hang on, no, Sam. As far as district's concerned, as far as department is concerned, the paperwork wasn't filed in time, I got notified 96 hours after the event. Rosanne's email said she'd been contacted, never gave a time or date. By law, or Sunni, the election rules are very clear. 48 hours after. After the election is posted, that didn't happen. Therefore, District 20-One is saying that it's not true. Well, that is what they told me, and that's what we're going by. If you have a problem, take it up with District

**Andrea Kline**  
I have evidence and the following day.

**Rusanne Anthony**  
I received a letter from District 21. on this issue, because I am the chair of the election committee, and we did receive her appeal within the 48 hours designated in our election rules. Okay, so I misses waters that are uncharted, didn't really know how to proceed, so I went to district, and I also went to department. I heard that from both adjutants. Sam Flores of the adjutant department said that this is a local issue to be handled at local post level. The letter I received non verbally an actual letter, which you got a copy of too, says the same thing dealt with at a local level.

**Rusanne Anthony**  
Okay, the election committee got together, we reviewed all peers. I have printed out her appeal, along with her chronology of events afterwards, for everybody here to read, but the election committee did find that there was violations of our election rules, and we got together and we invalidated the results for Post Commander, first, and Sergeant Marks.

**Garth Gilpin**  
Yes.

**John Picken**  
well, here's the problem.

**Rusanne Anthony**  
Now it's up to the membership to accept our recommendations to invalidate those.

**John Picken**  
The election committee does not have the authority to invalidate. You have to take it to the executive board to let them make the decision,

**Rusanne Anthony**  
and you did not respond.

**John Picken**  
You did not say you were invalidating. You sent us a letter. I was told by district not to respond to that, because they felt it was invalid. Therefore, we're staying with that period. We will move on with the agenda.

**Tony Aguilar**  
Excuse me, excuse me. I got my end up there. This is relevant, Mr. Chairman. This is not personal to me. I've been a member of this post for 40 years. I do not like what's going on. I'm a member of the election committee. We decided that, and within our rights, by the way, my road recycling, not was he as by rules, and he's wrong. The district and the area can get involved anytime there's a problem. What's that?



**John Picken**

I'm sorry, Andrea, can you sit down, please?

**Andrea Kline**

I'm passing out the evidence for you, can look at

**John Picken**

You can wait until you're given you the floor. . .

**Andrea Kline**

make your own opinion.

**John Picken**

That's Sergeant at Arms position. You don't hand out flyers

**Tony Aguilar**

anytime there's any, anytime there's any kind of infraction against moral turpitude. The department and the district absolutely can get involved, and there is no 48 time limit there, that's a fact. Okay, now Tony, I take this up at District Two Eight. I talked to the district commander, I was sent him a copy of our findings, in which we said we want to invalidate the election, not just for the commander, not just for the first vice, or for Barry, for the entire election period, have a new election within two weeks, and that's what we want to do. We should put that for a vote. It's a motion.

**John Picken**

can't make the motion, Tony. It's invalid, it's invalid.

**Speaker**

You're wrong.

**John Picken**

Well, brother, let me take it up to the district. I'm going with what they tell me. Okay, so we're gonna move on with the agenda now. As Ernie said before he left, the kitchen is closed for renovations. We are still having meals on Friday and Sunday using the steam table. Please sit down. I'm not recognizing we have at the Pod Memorial Day was a great

**Amado Salinas**

chairman as a personal interest at this time, and should you remove himself from that position and appoint another officer to go ahead at this time act as chair? Correct, correct emotion to the membership that be doing that for Robert's rules, sir. Motion is there a second offer?

**Andrea Kline**

for a vote, call for a vote.

**Rusanne Anthony**

All in favor?

**Joe OConnell**

John. That's why you cannot be the chair

**John Picken**

until I move from here. We can't do a vote.

**Joe OConnell**

You're wrong. Don't you appoint somebody else to chair?

**John Picken**

I want to tell you, Lee Wilson, get up here,

**Lee Wilson**

oh. Commander. . .has the floor

**John Picken**

again. I have my elementary skills are not that good, so that's why I went to District 21 I went to the Judge Advocate of District 21 Mia tells me this is not the way we do it. We are the election committee stopped their stuff after 48 hours, they do not have the authority to invalidate. They have to take it to the executive board. If they did that, I would probably recuse myself, or he would recuse himself, and let the rest of the people vote. That's an executive committee position, so everything we're talking about here right now is invalid.

**Lee Wilson**

Commander

**Tony Aguilar**

Chairman Dickin, I spoke to the same people you did. Here's the difference: you did not share with them this information, they have the information, would they have it now when we first received it? He has the floor now. I'm addressing the chair. There's a motion on the floor to vote to have a new election. We need to vote on that, and there's a second, so the member city produced the vote on it. I don't care what the chairman says, he's not the deciding vote that the membership is. We need to have a new election period.

**Andrea Kline**

and before we do that, I want to read the rule. Okay, this is in our election rules that John Pickens handed out in the meeting, and Rusanne sent him out to all the candidates. This is what the rule said. This was what I was following when I did my complaint. The results of the election may be appealed in writing by a nominee within 48 hours of posting the preliminary election. I did that. The appeal shall be submitted to the election board for review and ruling. The election board shall file a written ruling to the nominee and the executive committee no later than one week after the election. They did that. They did that. This says nowhere in here about the department, it says should the nominee disagree with the ruling of the election board, a written complaint shall be filed with the executive committee. A decision of the executive committee is final and shall be handed down prior to May 31 Okay, the timeline was handed out, you know. We met the guidelines to this. I'm sorry, this was this was what was given to us, and we followed it.

**John Picken**

Amado?

**Amado Salinas**

the membership voted to have an election board to oversee the entire election process. And so what happened, I was on the guidelines that took the place of the election of the executive committee. They acted as the election board and the committee, so they had the rule and control of the entire election process to the point where there was an appeal. Since there was an appeal, their duties continue until that appeal is finalized. I understand that the election board and committee did, in fact, find that it was invalidated, and therefore that is their finding. They have some, and she has a timeline. They asked me to review it. I confirmed that the timeline was in fact replaced and in a timely manner. So, therefore, there's a current motion. There is a second to go and have a new election, and also I'd like to amend that motion that District 20-One would not go ahead and install until at such time that election has been ruled.

**Tony Aguilar**

Let me modify my motion to add what the mountain did, and also to ask for an election within two weeks from today, a completely new election, you slate above the candidates altogether, from commander all the way down, and it'd be done within two weeks, especially that the district was. Come here to install the new board this Friday. That has to not happen. It's going to get the contrary decisions of the election board and the membership. There's a, there's a motion that we did vote on. Okay. Period. Please ask for the vote.

**Lee Wilson**  
Commander?

**John Picken**

District 20-One is insisting that they do the installation on Friday, if we have, if we would do an election in two weeks, that's right in the middle of our convention, so that's going to be an impossibility. Again, I'm going to say that this whole discussion is invalid because the district has said there is no validity to the complaint.

**Andrea Kline**

This is written in our rules, and they were put in place when you first

**Lee Wilson**

am I allowed to call for the vote on whether we should, what's the motion for? Oh, Garth,

**Amado Salinas**

Point of order? When the motion of call for the order is done, that's the end of discussion. For you called Robert,

**John Picken**

you called, you had his hand.

**Amado Salinas**

It was not addressed by the..

**Lee Wilson**

I had a question. I didn't call for anything yet.

**Andrew Stevens**

We call for the voter on that Amado had made a motion, it was seconded, but then Courtney Aguilar made a motion, but there was no second on that motion, he amended, he amended it right, but there was no second on the amendment,

**Lee Wilson**

before we proceed with the vote, I'd like to hear what Garth has to say first.

**Garth Gilpin**

The motion said that we would go to all officers. Yes, I like that. Yes, we have to nominate, and we have to inform the post members that the election would be held again, and nominations will be until next general meeting. You have to follow the rules.

**Tony Aguilar**

That's fine.

**Amado Salinas**

No, it's all called a special election in the 10 day notice. It's sufficient notice per the bylaws, so it's called the special election, and it's a 10 day ruling that gets sent out to all the membership to advise them of it.

**Tony Aguilar**

good to be here, Garth. I appreciate your input. Here's the point: we've been having elections years for four years, I've been here. We have never had board in 134 votes cast when we send those notices to everybody, so that's not going to change. My feelings will have the same number of votes for the election two weeks. We need to call for the vote, please, Chairman.

**Lee Wilson**

So, is somebody making a motion for two weeks, 10 days after

**Lee Wilson**

10 days? So, what's 10 days from today?

**Allen Lane**

What's the date?

**Speaker 1**

okay? Night, I'll be out of time. That's okay.

**Tony Aguilar**

So the election will be held on Friday the 19th. That means I amend my motion. I'm in my motion to invalidate the president election, have a new election for all candidates, entire board on the 19th of this month, on which is on a Friday, starting at 10 o'clock in the morning, ending at 5 o'clock to be vote to be counted after the meetings, and have a special meeting of the board.

**Chip Atterbury**

I'll second that motion. Second, yeah.

**Andrea Kline**

I want to make a motion that the 40 people

**Mike Arnold**

We have to finish this first.

**Andrea Kline**

Okay. Sorry, just a quick question. Sir,

**Allen Lane**

state your name.

**Lee Wilson**

Oh, state your name, sir. Your name,

**Mike Arnold**

Mike Arnold.

**Andrea Kline**

Some people have some people have disabilities.

**Mike Arnold**

I'm just curious. 10 days is a short time to mobilize the post to do anything, for that matter, to go to brunch. Is it possible to allow people like yourself, who are not going to be here, or for some reason can't, to get a ballot? To return the ballot by that day with a copy of their membership card, copy, photocopy of it, and have that as their vote. I don't know if it's possible.

**Rusanne Anthony**

It's not feasible, because

**Chip Atterbury**

can we

**Tony Aguilar**

probably raise

**Rusanne Anthony**  
I did raise my hand.

**Lee Wilson**  
Let me hear Rusanne first. Rusanne, you want to finish.

**Rusanne Anthony**  
It's just we can't do mail in because of the chance of ballot stuffing. We have to keep, we have to keep control of the ballots, because there's been problems in the past, so that's why we don't do mail in, or all

**Lee Wilson**  
right. So, what's the motion again?

**Tony Aguilar**  
The motion is that the election currently selection be invalidated, a new election be held two weeks from today, that's a Tuesday from 10 o'clock until 5 o'clock after which a meeting of the board would be held to count the votes and announce them to the membership.

**Allen Lane**  
I thought it was 10 days.

**Chip Atterbury**  
It was 10 days.

**Allen Lane**  
No, now you just changed it. You said two weeks.

**Tony Aguilar**  
two weeks, two weeks from today, Tuesday, the 23rd

**Allen Lane**  
Let's, let's state the date that you're asking for in the motion.  
Somebody, somebody, help us with the count.

**Lee Wilson**  
so there is alleged fraud from our last election, and because of that, we are going

**Joe OConnell**  
Point of order

**Lee Wilson**  
Sir?

**Joe OConnell**  
you said alleged fraud, that is, that we are on the committee. We have never considered whether there was fraud or people who were not members did vote, but we don't know whether it was a mistake or fraudulent, and we were very careful not to say anybody did anything intentionally in cheating. We were very careful.

**Lee Wilson**  
So, what's wrong with the last election? There is a member here in our room, and I'm not going to call him out, but he focused. We know, because I focus voting. I said, 'Oh, we have a new member. He voted, he had a card, he had never been installed. He was installed that evening.

**John Picken**

Okay, let me.. okay, let me verify what happened, and already couldn't verify it.

**Speaker**

Discussion..

**John Picken**

Gabriel was voted in in September. . .

**Amado Salinas**

He has the floor. No motion or even vote on it?

**John Picken**

April has cars in September, that's what we're talking about. He ended in September, he got voted in in August. Okay, that's in our stuff. When he came in, he goes, 'Oh, I didn't know anything about that, because he didn't know he was installed, because he, he never came to another meeting until that meeting for the election. So, we made a mistake, we said, 'You're installed, but he was already installed back in September. Okay, Chairman question way in the back,

**Andrea Kline**

sir. There's no record at church.

**Gordon Countryman**

It seems that these people need to get their act together. We've got what, three, four motions on the floor have been seconded for the same time, figure out a date that they want to do it on, and not like we're doing better.

**Tony Aguilar**

Motions contribute

**Lee Wilson**

I just want to make sure I know we're voting on Tuesday the 23rd Now, yes, sir. The back state's name

**Speaker 6**

was out of state. We're going to this motion to do this for months. Is this infighting ever going to stop in this launch? All we do is infight, that's all I'm doing. What's wrong with this lodge and the infighting? Why can't people come to an agreement? I mean, why is it every month something comes up, the other side did this, the other side did that. Can we ever have a meeting that we get through a meeting for the good of the lot? Amen. I mean, what is wrong with this lot? Call for the vote, we. Any other

**Lee Wilson**

comments out there before I, the chair, wants calls for a vote, sir? Garth,

**Garth Gilpin**

the executive name we banded about the idea of the one of our major problems at the last election day was alcohol, and was brought up that the alcohol should not be served at the post from 10 o'clock until 5o'clock on the day of the election period,

**Speaker 2**

irrelevant,

**Garth Gilpin**

and I suggest that he considered separate motion, but I suggest it be considered, because it has been a big problem here, and I've been through seven or eight commanders and alcohol has been involved every election day and distorts the picture and causes untold embarrassment to this post.

**Lee Wilson**

You want to make a motion on that?

**John Picken**

all right. The adjutant has to count the votes.

**Lee Wilson**

First motion, Garth's motion, not to serve alcohol until 5 o'clock on election day. First call for the vote. You didn't call for that one.

**Lee Wilson**

All right, I am reluctant in doing this. I hate doing this. I don't really see the necessary need for doing this. This takes all the fun out of what I do for this order, but now that I'm done pontificating, so the motion is on the floor to invalidate the last election and redo it on Tuesday, June 23 from 10 o'clock to 5 o'clock Do I have that correct? Is there a second?

**Speaker 6**

Second, there is a second.

**Lee Wilson**

There's

**Amado Salinas**

no second. you're just clarifying the motion,

**Lee Wilson**

like I just want to make sure we're voting. All right, all those in favor say aye. Keep your hands up, please. Put your

**Allen Lane**

hand up,

**James Snow**

one, I alright. By planned to put your hand up: 11234, 20. You're 456-789-1011, 1213, 1415, 1617, 1819, 2021, 20 234,

**Andrea Kline**

You have people up here voting too. So, whether he had his hand up, and 25

**Lee Wilson**

for all those against, say aye.

**John Picken**

I cannot vote

**Lee Wilson**

I can't vote again.

**James Snow**

Can you all right here? 12345, Wait, 1-234-567-8910, 1112, 13.

**Tony Aguilar**

Motion to carry.

**Lee Wilson**

so the motion 25 to 13. The motion carries,

**Amado Salinas**

excuse me, he's got a vote on the second with the amendment.

**John Picken**

I can do that.

**Amado Salinas**

It seems we're already set aside, sir.

**Lee Wilson**

The second motion was about restate what it's about.

**Amado Salinas**

Please, I'll have the adjutant rephrase it.

**Allen Lane**

The motion is to revote on Tuesday, the 23rd

**Amado Salinas**

No, no, my, my motion that I did after that was initial 21 not do the installation on this.

**Allen Lane**

Oh, okay, all right.

**Lee Wilson**

District 21 council

**Allen Lane**

installation all Okay,

**Lee Wilson**

all right. Motion on the floor to not do the installation this Friday. All those in favor, say aye. Keep your hands up for James.

**Allen Lane**

James count that one, please. I'm picking on you. I know, I know, I know, I know, 1-234-567-8911, 1213, 1415, 1617,

**Andrea Kline**

1819, did you have your hand up 26 Did Riccio vote no? No,

**Allen Lane**

that's 26

**Lee Wilson**

For all right. All those opposed, say aye. Are you counting, James? Oh, you count.

**Allen Lane**

Chip, can you help me, please? Can you count 234-567-1011,

**Lee Wilson**

Motion passes 27 to 11. Then Garth motion: no booze until 5o'clock on election day.

**Joe OConnell**

What's a second? And I'll second. Good idea.



**Lee Wilson**

All right, so

**Amado Salinas**

Discussion?

**Lee Wilson**

Discussion?

**Chip Atterbury**

yeah. Absolutely not. There should be booze.

**Tom Ricchio**

It's our culture.

**Chip Atterbury**

We're all adults here? If you can't drink and make a responsible decision, that's on you. That's right. The bar should be over. That's my book.

**James Snow**

Point of order, I guess. I get it. This is very bad. Have a question. If we're all going to be doing this point of order stuff, we should be addressing everyone, and not to pick on you, Tony. I know you've been commander for a while, but when he's talking, no one addresses him. Point of order, how about addressing the commander? Everyone else is getting picked on, saying, "Hey, point of order, address the commander. You should be addressing commander as well. Yeah, I'm talking, Yeah.

**Chip Atterbury**

no, I'm not wrong. Listen, guys, everybody, and I love it as well. I can turn my back and talk to them as well.

**James Snow**

You have to do it the program where, like, everyone else is supposed to be. Listen, everybody, we're all veterans, right? We served our country, right? We love our country, right? We all love our country. We served our country. This isn't.. it's not nonsense. I get it. We have to follow laws and rules. I understand that. Okay, but we're veterans. We served our country. We're supposed to be working as a team, not in a room battling each other, fighting with each other with invisible gloves. If there's an issue, let me give it my time, please. Let's get along with each other. Let's stop it, because the community is going to see this. Trust me, I work with NBC. Everybody, all right. I'm not, I'm just saying I want to help this post out and get renovated, get fixed, but if this continues, I'm not going to do that. All right, please. The community is going to sense the tension in this legion. It needs to stop, like seriously. All right, let's fix it as adults and stop fighting like kids. I love everybody.

**Tom Ricchio**

so we're like Congress, so if we want to get down and fight, that's American. I love it.

I'm all for it. And let's do it like Congress. Those little bitches can't go home, so we should stay here and not go home and do it now with us, all right.

**Tony Aguilar**

it takes one minute to fill out that ballot. Both of us come in here, and then we come in, we thought the ballot, then we go on, maybe a cocktail or two. I respect you, Garth, for that. I don't think liquor is going to influence the majority. It's not going to affect them at all this motion. Very good.

**Lee Wilson**

There's a motion on the floor to not serve alcohol on voting day, the 23rd until 5 o'clock Does anybody second it? It's been seconded. Okay, all those in favor of not serving booze till 5 o'clock on election day, say aye. Okay. six. All those opposed, keep your hands up: 1-234-567-8910, 11, 1214, 1516, 1718, 1718, 1920, 2122 2324 I see 2425

**Speaker 1**

culture.

**Lee Wilson**

All right, motion fails. Bar open on election day.

**Andrea Kline**

Make a motion. I want to make a motion that the 40 people who have not been. Installed are not able to vote in this upcoming election because they are not full members. You have to be installed and voted in by the membership, and right now we don't have accountability for that. You go through the minutes and you go through the membership. This is simple math, it doesn't add up. Put it in a spreadsheet, that's what I did. There's a discrepancy of 40 members.

**Allen Lane**

I have a question. Do you have a list of those 40 people

**Andrea Kline**

that would be for the membership. I don't have access to the membership. I can tell you the numbers that come out from department, and I can tell you everyone installed from the meeting minutes, and they do not match. There's 40 people follow up, not installed.

**Allen Lane**

Do you know how to get to that number?

**Andrea Kline**

That would be somebody who has access to the membership to be able to pull and match it up to the notes, and then they would be able to identify those 40 people and the meeting minutes. I put it in a spreadsheet, so you know you're glad to have, I'm glad to share my spreadsheet, but I don't have access to the membership.

**Allen Lane**

My only question is, if Ernie is gone now, how do we get to that 40?

**Andrea Kline**

department?

**Lee Wilson**

She's got the floor. Hold on, she's got the floor.

**Allen Lane**

Go ahead.

**Amado Salinas**

You made a motion.

**Andrea Kline**

I made a motion.

**Amado Salinas**

So someone needs to second that motion before we go to do discussion.

**Lee Wilson**

Can you restate the motion when it's again, please?

**Andrea Kline**

The 40 people who have not been installed should not be able to vote in this upcoming election.

**Amado Salinas**

If I can make an amendment to that motion, that we use the membership list dated in April, because that is what the ballot list, per our bylaw, states that that April membership list is the one that's used for the election period. That list was supposed to be supplied to the boarding. They have that list of active members at the time that are eligible for voting. So my addendum is that we use the membership list dated in April.

**Andrea Kline**

but include the 40 members who are not installed, that means

**Lee Wilson**

so the motion is. . .

**Speaker 2**

joined in January, and they've not been installed, they should not be able to vote, and the minutes of the meetings show who's been installed. That's right.

**Lee Wilson**

So, only people who have been installed are allowed to vote as of April. Is that correct?

**Andrea Kline**

That's correct.

**Amado Salinas**

That's correct.

**Lee Wilson**

All right. Motion on the floor. New election. Anybody before April or after April?

**Amado Salinas**

No, April before April.

**Lee Wilson**

April two. April 15 is ineligible to vote if they came in April. After April 15, do I have that right?

**Amado Salinas**

Using the membership list,

**Lee Wilson**

using the membership list from April,

**Chip Atterbury**

correctly installed,

**Lee Wilson**

and they must be installed.

**Allen Lane**

Now you are saying you have that list?

**Andrea Kline**

but the list of those not installed, the 40 people that list does not exist, that's what I'm trying to get you.

**Allen Lane**

Who are "those people"?

**Lee Wilson**

Recognize Commander,

**John Picken**

the list that I provided, Andrea, is that the one that you're using? One I provided Andrew is the one I used. Okay, I have proof of that. I even gave her eight or nine extra names that came in after the fact. Okay, I use the same names. I handwritten out because I've already sent them to my printer, I have proof of the date I sent those. I don't know how

**Rusanne Anthony**

I can compare to whatever you have.

**John Picken**

Well, that's just 160 I just need to take, I gave earlier list on, I believe, the 16th, 15th of

**Andrea Kline**

April. I

**John Picken**

use that same list on the 16th of April, but sent to my printer, and I have email verification of that.

**Rusanne Anthony**

I worked up the official membership list, and it was provided to me by a model. It's official, and everybody that came to the election,

**John Picken**

what date was on?

**Rusanne Anthony**

I did have an election card was on that list.

**John Picken**

What date was that?

**Rusanne Anthony**

I do not have what you have. Okay, I have what I know is the official membership list for this post. That is what was used, we had no discrepancies with the members, the family, and voters.

**John Picken**

That's why I wanted to find out if somebody had a card of that list in April, that means they were installed,

**Andrea Kline**

and there's no proof in the minutes that people were installed. So I have 13 people that were installed in February, March, and April that were not on my membership list.

**Tony Aguilar**

This is already moved.

**Andrea Kline**

I understand, but I'm telling you, there were 13 people not on my membership list.

**Rusanne Anthony**

Just use the list.

**Lee Wilson**

okay? Commander, let's, uh, yeah, let's get this over to Tony, sir. We got to still vote on this one. I guess I thought you had comments. All right, so the motion is April 15, cut off in order to vote. All those in favor..

**Andrea Kline**

it's not that. Is not the motion. It's April 15. Cut off, and the 40 members who have not been installed do not, are not allowed to vote.

**Lee Wilson**

And the 40 members that came after April 15,

**Andrea Kline**

those 40 members are not installed throughout the whole year.

**Allen Lane**

How do we get that list?

**Andrea Kline**

you take the membership from that's been installed from all the membership meetings, and you compare it with the membership roster, and those people that are not on there have not been installed.

**Lee Wilson**

so anybody who has not been installed cannot vote for disaster. That makes sense. All right, let me show I got this straight. april 15, the cut off date, and the 40 people who have not received their cards have not been installed cannot vote. Do I have that right? Yes. Okay. All those in favor, say aye. Keep your hands up, please. All right, 1-234-567-8910, 1112, 1314, 1516, 1718, 1919, 2020, 20. All those opposed say aye. Aye. All right. 123456, Motion passed. All right.

**John Picken**

Yes, sir, I want to list it on the record, officially, on the record that I believe from what I've been told that all this rhetoric is inaccurate. Again, I fall back on to what I was advised by District 21 by department completely invalid. We will elect. I would like to continue on with the meeting,

**Lee Wilson**

Commander.

**John Picken**

Yes, I am not in here, you're not Tony. Yeah, there's no rent. I've been a past commander three times. Anyway, they begged by motion as commander.

**Tony Aguilar**

My motion, and I did this honest guy with a ... I've thought about this a lot. Okay, we have three people that are involved in the reason why the election has been rescheduled in the basis where it is cheating, not fraud. We agree on that, the committee, but cheating. There's proof of that because of that. Those three people have broken a basic code that we honor the military. I'm a 22 year veteran serves in Vietnam, Saigon, in the train.

**Lee Wilson**

I was interviewed. Okay.

**Tony Aguilar**

Well, I know I'm not even here. Here's a point: honor counts, and when people don't have honor, they don't belong in positions of leadership. Accordingly, I make a motion that Bearish and the guy who just walked out here like a new tantrum be disqualified from running for office.

**Speaker 3**

It's . . .

**Tony Aguilar**

a motion

**Allen Lane**

you can make the motion, but. . .

**Lee Wilson**

so there's a motion on the floor to deny three board members from running. The colonel seconds, is that legal?

**Andrea Kline**

They need to have due diligence, which means, I mean, you have to file charges.

**Kevin Koch**

That was legal. We could do this every year, forever.

**John Picken**

Discussion, please. Discussion. Yeah, I was done. So ask for discussion, Lee.

**Lee Wilson**

Discussion, please, that to ban three board members from running again.

**Amado Salinas**

Sorry, that is up to the election board committee to go ahead and decide if the electioneering that happened on that day is sufficient enough evidence to go ahead and disqualify them right now. Guess it is legal, but again, I'm all for a fair vote and a fair count.

**Chip Atterbury**

Sure,

**Speaker 2**

I agree.

**Tony Aguilar**

I'm on the election committee.

**Lee Wilson**

I'm sorry,

**Tony Aguilar**

or what? I'm on the election committee. I wasn't.

**Rusanne Anthony**

Yes, ma'am, I am the chair of the election committee, and that was never discussed within the scope of the election committee to disqualify these three.

**Lee Wilson**

Yeah, I don't think that's right.

**Rusanne Anthony**

It was never discussed, was never voted on.

**Lee Wilson**

Commander?

**John Picken**

as for the election committee member, they should be recusing themselves from making motions in regards to the election. That seems fair.

**Amado Salinas**

Actually, partners, too, as a committee and members, they have a right to go ahead and make the motions.

**Gordon Countryman**

All right,

**Amado Salinas**

they're not the chair, they represent the membership. Call for the vote, all right.

**Lee Wilson**

Calling for a vote to deny the commander, Ernie, and who else? Mike Barish, really, really, to not allow them to run on the next election. All those in favor say aye, 1233, All those opposed say aye, 1-234-567-8911, 1213, 1415, 1619, 2021, 22 2220 320-425-2627, That's two thirds. All right, can I leave now? Motion failed. Motion failed. All right, getting it back to the commander. All yours. . .

**John Picken**

moving right along to all business. As everybody knows, the kitchen's closed. We're having meals on Friday and Sunday using the steam table, as Garth mentioned. We have the pod delivered for storage. Amado?

**Amado Salinas**

everything that happens in here, stays in here. Do not talk to media, do not talk to any other artist. This is us. Amen. It stays healed.

**Tom Ricchio**

Thank you, sir. And no hard feelings.

**John Picken**

Memorial Day was a great event with the ALR leading the charge for the ceremony. Color guard attended a number of ceremonies, including ours. Golf at O'Donnell was very well attended, thanks to all that participated. The executive committee voted to match the LA ALA and Sons donation to Veterans Village, \$100 a month for six months.

**Amado Salinas**

Is. . .

**John Picken**

Is there any other old business that I'm forgetting? Moving right along to new business. Well, I had installation of officers, obviously that's not going to happen. The ALA is going to donate \$500 to veteran family at Veterans Village, they're asking us to match the ALR and Sons \$500 I need a motion to do that. Richie, oh, makes a motion to second. Joe O'Connell makes a second. Any discussion? All in favor, any opposed, any abstentions? Motion passes. Garth, would you get with, with no, no, no, no, no, with Danielle. June 16 is Veterans Appreciation Night at the Power Baseball Field.

Our tent will be set up for providing tickets to the vets. There's. Um, as it stands right now, I'm supposed to be throwing out the first pitch. It's subject to change.

**Amado Salinas**

No

**John Picken**

flag date ceremony is up in the air at this time, as we haven't heard from the scouts. We haven't heard, I've heard from the color guard. If we don't get participate, we probably have to cancel flag day. It is going to be one of the hotter days out there. We'll figure out as we go.

**Tony Aguilar**

What did you say about the color guard from Flag Day?

**John Picken**

Flag Day

**Tony Aguilar**

will be here.

**John Picken**

I know I said the color guards. Yeah, I just don't know if we're going to have any other participants, so it may just be the color guard and myself and whoever else wants to attend here doing that particular event. If I don't hear from the scouts, we may decide to cancel the flag day, call. Can

**Tom Ricchio**

we have a vote to have Crawford do the painting, so that he's a veteran and he's part of our team. And then we get him to work.

**John Picken**

I'd like to table that until after.

**Tom Ricchio**

I would certainly.. I'd like to average vote on it, that we take properly to take care of the painting job outside, and whatever got you inside here.

**John Picken**

Well, we have to take bids.

**Amado Salinas**

okay, sir.

**John Picken**

Okay, to do that.

**Crawford**

Thank you. Thank you, Tom. I don't have the time, I can supervise it, and I'll be out here watching them, but to say I could come out here and paint it, I can't do that, but I'm willing to get paint materials, whatever you guys need, and take it from there.

**John Picken**

Any other new business?



**Lee Wilson**

Commander, really? If we do flag thing I know several city council people want to be there, so let me know. We know for sure, so I can let them.

**John Picken**

Well, if you can get confirmation of them, I will have the color guard show up, and we'll do the flag day. All right, but I need to have the definite last year. Nobody showed up. We had one fire department unit show up. We had two scouts, and we have four color guards.

**Lee Wilson**

On Flag Day.

**John Picken**

We do it at 10 o'clock

**Chip Atterbury**

when our house opens.

**John Picken**

and no politics.

**Chip Atterbury**

That's Sunday.

**John Picken**

He's just saying politicians are coming, but I need to know ASAP.

**Gordon Countryman**

Yes, I'll get on that tomorrow.

**John Picken**

Is there anything, No? Yes, Andrea?

**Andrea Kline**

New business. So, with Veterans Village, they have been reaching out to many of us in Monroe, myself, the auxiliary, and they have tons of need there. They're in need of food, they're in need of clothing, they're in need of furniture. We had some people donate a bunch of furniture recently. There was a gentleman who needed a ride to get to Riverside. Allen and Garth and John helped. So, what I have tried to do with Veterans Village is have them come directly to you, Allen, because right now they're like hitting 1015, of us, and we're getting texts, and some of us are working on the same issue.

**Allen Lane**

I'm trying to help them. Can I respond? I don't know if it's the right course of action. I'm just saying, I love that idea. What's happened? Please direct anybody that needs help to the service officer, which I hold right now, and in regard to that, Garth and I spoke, and we had motion in the election committee to give me some money, and we did get Keith to his appointment. I hired someone that needed a job. Some of the things, if I could just take a moment, some of the things after speaking with the... oh, go ahead.

**John Picken**

Executive committee, not election committee. . .

**Allen Lane**

I'm sorry, executive committee. Some of the things that I found in need. . .the food pantry, we've got it going on. I want to give kudos to the people in this room and in this legion, the Sons, the Auxiliary that help the Veterans Village, they all need help. Some of the big things that I found is employment. Unfortunately, most of these people, I'll say it out loud, are not employable. They don't have resumes, they don't have skills. So, what I'd like is, if anybody has any need for someone, a handyman, somebody, please reach out to me, because I'm going through and talking with people. It's slow, because I just had surgery and still recovering, but I have the ability to talk with them and get their resumes going if they can't do that, and assist sending out. Or employment, other options, other things they have is a need for other vendors to reach out to. They have the Salvation Army, which is right next to them. If anyone knows anyone else that could help us with the Veterans Village, I think this is a big pillar for the American Legion.

I think reaching out to our community, to our veterans, and helping them is a high point. Yes, we have several, but this is a very high point. I'm going to make it my goal this new season to reach out to them, find furniture. I found that they, you know, socks, underwear, t-shirts, these are basic things, clothes, these are things that we take for granted that they don't have. As a realtor, I clean out condos occasionally, and I call them and say, what can we do, and get stuff to them. Andrea and other groups have reached out and given them furniture. It's amazing that things that we think are junk are vital to these people, and if anything, back to the point, If anyone needs something, have them call me as the service officer at the post. I find it highly my responsibility to be the one to reach out and help them, and I'm doing that, but I need your help as well. Thank you so much.

**Garth Gilpin**

How many veterans are there at the village?

**Allen Lane**

I don't have a number yet.

**John Picken**

but believe there's 62 over there.

**Allen Lane**

Yeah, there's quite a few, quite a few families that need stuff. It's amazing the stuff they need.

**Tom Ricchio**

Tomorrow, I've been bringing clothes over there for three years. There's a guy named Glen note that's over there, and he stopped me from bringing the clothes over there, and you need to do something about that, because I've been shut down for a year, and I got four different organizations, like at the senior center, that are giving me clothes, and I can't take it no more, and I've been stopped by a guy named Glenn, who's in charge of the pantry. Do you know that he shut me down? Yes. Okay. okay. I got a complaint about Glen.

**John Picken**

Okay, was the problem I'm just spit balling here. They want newer clothing. I don't want used clothing; they want new clothing.

**Tom Ricchio**

Oh, well, I can't do that. If you could forward me his number,.

**Allen Lane**

Tom Yeah, if you could forward me his number, that would be great. Thank you. Because I understand Brandee is working with the pantries.

**John Picken**

Just to reiterate, at the Executive Committee last month we voted to match these sons in the early donation of \$100 a month, so they're getting \$300 a month from our organizations to supply stuff. I don't know what all that stuff is going to include, but I believe it's clothing and food to the pantry.

**Amado Salinas**

Okay? Any other? Yes. Motto tomorrow at the Allen Hotel, they are a son is writing a story about his father, who was the first steward on Air Force One. He's an Air Force course veteran, so they're he's having and telling his dad's story. That's a veteran we might want to support. You have to RSVP, but it's at the Avalon Hotel tomorrow from six to seven.

**John Picken**

Thank you. One last, anybody else have anything? Okay. Just as a side note, for the good of the American Legion, I asked Garth to do a little research for me, 2024 24 we had donations of 21,000 plus dollars. 2025 we jumped up to 55 815 which he's already mentioned. And then just for this last five months, 52,422 if you include the measure J, that amount of money adds up to 308,000 and some change. Okay, this post is bringing in donations and grants to support us and our community. Okay, I've just got. I'm overwhelmed right now. There's a lot of, as James said, there's a lot of contrition in this post, a lot of dissension, and unfortunately some of that dissension is brought on because of personal vendettas. You know what, I'm in the wrong spot for this. We're at first, I'm just going to finish my, okay, my speech here, my soapbox. . .

**Gordon Countryman**

yeah,

**John Picken**

with everybody that's coming in here. And creating all this ascension and all this personal vendetta because they get upset because they can't get their weight. This is unacceptable for this post. Last year we had issues. I volunteered at this post to the executive board to step down. They voted not to allow me to step down. Okay, I'm not going to step down at this time. We will continue doing business. I am very proud of this post for what we have done in the community, and for this post, and I believe wholeheartedly that my heart is in the right spot, and whether I'm accused of cheating, I didn't cheat. Period. There were no election issues, as far as I saw. Okay, we had District 20-One here monitoring the situation. He backs up that nothing happened. That's my end of my discussion. You guys have already voted on us. It really doesn't matter, and obviously some of the people who had such strong feelings have left the room. Okay, closing ceremony. If there's no other further business to come before the meeting, please stand up. Uncover, Chaplain, will you offer a close of prayer?

**Crawford**

Thank you, God. We're all blessed.

**John Picken**

Thank you, God, for wrapping your arms around us right now and always. Amen. Recover our arms, please recover the POW MIA flag till we meet again. Let us remember our obligation to our country and be fulfilled only by the faithful performance of all duties of citizenship. Let service the community, state, and nation be ever a main objective of the American Legion. 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, democracy. Face our nation's flag and salute. I now declare this meeting of the American Legion Post 519 Department of California General Membership Meeting adjourned.

Minutes by ALLEN LANE