

American Legion Post 519 Palm Springs

Minutes for House Committee Meeting

Tue, October 06, 2026

Meeting called to order at 10:00 am on Oct 6, 2026.

Attending - John Picken, Andrea Kline, Garth Gilpin,
Gordon Countryman, Allen Lane, Maggie Raible

The House Committee discussed upcoming event approvals, facility maintenance updates, and organizational policies regarding political activities held at the post.

Event Approvals

- John Picken presented several requests for approval:
- A celebration of life for a veteran on Friday the 9th from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. in the back bar (requested by Jacob Borrego).
- A SONS event scheduled for February 20, 2027, from 3 p.m. to 6 p.m.
- An early Sons Luau on April 3, 2027, from 3 p.m. to 6 p.m. Garth noted that the Sons will provide financial information to be added to the bank statement at PNC.
- Veterans Day entertainment featuring Roger and the Roadhouse Rebels (3 p.m.–6 p.m.) and food via McCarvie, District 21 Baseball, Dad's Burgers. An ABC license is required.
- An ALA martini party on January 30, 2027, from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m.; members discussed purchasing more martini glasses for the event managed by Marion Martinez.
- A baby shower on November 28 from 2 p.m. to 8 p.m. for Jeremy Flores and Evelina Tabato.
- The committee discussed a potential partnership with the Wounded Warrior organization led by member Carlos to bring younger veterans into the post through low-cost community events like hiking or golfing; however, no specific date has been set and kitchen availability remains uncertain due to ongoing renovations.

Facility Management

- Kitchen Remodel: The renovation has stalled but is expected to resume around the 15th of this month; members were cautioned against entering the area due to liability risks from holes in the floor and construction dust; Andrea requested plastic barriers be installed for air quality reasons; there is a long-term goal of installing a split AC system or venting current AC into the space via a drop ceiling.
- Maintenance: A collapsed table is being repaired, though some tables remain bent and difficult to lock; additionally, the city is surveying property ownership regarding a wall that requires repairs estimated at \$20,000 per quote; discussed adding an extended fence or wire top for security once finished.

Policy Matters

In terms of politics, several members voted to deny a town hall meeting request from Leila Namvar, citing a need for nonpartisanship after past experiences with political stump speeches during events and past celebrations.

Action Items

- [] Allen Lane - Conduct a welfare check on Ruben Andrade after his wife's death and concerns that he is not responding or attending meetings. {He is doing alright, living in harmony with his dogs.}
- [] To Receive the Sons' financial information package and add the relevant information to the bank statement records and update records.
- [] Obtain the ABC license for the Veterans Day entertainment event.
- [] Check the price of a case of martini glasses for the martini party.
- [] Confirm with Marion whether the martini party requires a special vodka purchase.
- [] Ask the kitchen remodel contractor to install a plastic barrier to contain construction dust and protect adjacent work areas.
- [] Contact Indio to determine whether a color guard is available for the Veterans Day parade.
- [] Promote the Matt Schumann event at the Rotary meeting and to its business-leader network.
- [] Update the Matt Schumann event promotion to clarify that 100% of donated money goes directly to Matt Schumann.
- [] Call the invited dignitaries to confirm that they received their invitations and verify their attendance at the Matt Schumann event.
- [] Determine whether Matt Schumann is a 501(c)(3) organization or an individual for tax-reporting and payment purposes.
- [] Discuss alternative Friday dinner menus with Danny Riccio, including a non-pasta option, while maintaining an affordable price.
- [] Coordinate with the police chief about the post's buddy-check list to avoid duplicate welfare calls to members to improve our lists and files.
- [] Obtain exact dates and logistics for the Civil Air Patrol Cyber Patriot competitions and email the information to the committee.

Outline

Upcoming Event Approvals

- John Picken presented a request for a veteran's celebration of life this Friday, the 9th, from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. in the back bar.
- The board approved the celebration of life event requested by Jacob Borrego.
- A Mardi Gras event scheduled for February 20, 2027, from 3 p.m. to 6 p.m., was motioned and approved by Andrea Kline and Gordon Countryman.
- The board also approved an early Luau event requested by the Sons for April 3, 2027, from 3 p.m. to 6 p.m.
- Garth Gilpin confirmed that the Sons agreed to turn over all financial information to the post to be added to their bank statements at PNC.

Veterans Day and Martini Party Plans

- Lee Wilson requested entertainment for Veterans Day featuring Roger and the Roadhouse Rebels from 3 p.m. to 6 p.m., which was approved with food options including McCarvie or Dads burgers.
- The ALA requested approval for a "Martini Party" on January 30, 2027, from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m., which was motioned by Raible and seconded by Andrea.
- John Picken will investigate purchasing martini glasses and extra vodka for the themed event organized by Marion Martinez.

Facility Updates and Safety Concerns

- John Picken reported that Sunday potlucks continue to generate revenue between \$37 and \$120 per session despite minimal costs beyond heating expenses.
- The kitchen remodel has stalled but is expected to resume around the 15th of this month; members are warned not to enter the construction area due to floor holes and liability risks.
- Andrea Kline raised concerns regarding construction dust affecting those with lung problems, leading John Picken to suggest contacting contractors about installing plastic barriers in the office areas.

Parades and Military Observances

- The upcoming Pride Parade is scheduled for Sunday the 8th, followed by a Veterans Day parade on Wednesday the 11th.
- Garth Gilpin confirmed he has two cars lined up for both parades but noted they need a third car for a commander or additional veterans as needed transport is coordinated for veterans like Bill and Gale as well as Dorothy Riccio.
- John Picken proposed organizing a Marine Corps birthday cake-cutting ceremony involving the oldest and youngest Marines present.

END OF MEETING

Allen Lane
Adjutant
Post 519
Palm Springs