American Legion

Palm Springs Post 519 MINUTES
Executive Committee Meeting 11/03/26 November

Outline

Meeting Opening and Roll Call

• Post Commander John Picken opened meeting with opening prayer and the POW/MIA empty chair ceremony.
• The American Legion Post 519 Department of California Executive Committee conducted roll call of officers.
• A quorum was established to proceed with official business.

Upcoming District Meetings

• John Picken announced upcoming District 21 meetings on November 15th at Riverside Post 79, January 17th, 2027, at Indio Post, March 21st in Corona, and May 16th in Norco.
• The committee reviewed and approved the minutes from the previous executive committee meeting.

Officer and Committee Reports

• First Vice Commander Andrea Kline discussed the Matt Schuman VIP event and the buddy check program.
• Service Officer Allen Lane reported a surge in calls for assistance regarding rent, bills, and transportation.
• Rusanne Anthony suggested the National Temporary Financial Assistance program to help members in need.
• Finance Officer Garth Gilpin reported bank accounts totaling $147,000 and noted a $21,000 loss in the canteen area due to higher electricity and liquor costs.

Facility Management and Renovations

• The committee discussed potential cost savings and moving operations to the back bar during summer months.
• Discussion occurred regarding energy efficiency, including insulation and radiant heat blocks to reduce high air conditioning costs.
• Garth Gilpin provided updates on the Measure J kitchen renovation project, including vent hood installation and mini-split air conditioners.
• The committee is currently reviewing bids for significant roof repairs to address leaks caused by recent rain.

Post Rules and Technology Updates

• Andrew Stevens proposed an amendment to the no-politics rule to prohibit cable news on post televisions, except during national emergencies.
• The motion to amend the house rules regarding television news was passed by the committee.
• Andrew Stevens reported issues with spotty Wi-Fi affecting point-of-sale systems and proposed a budget of under $400 to expand coverage. Motion Passed.

Community Events and Outreach

• Spoke of upcoming participation in the Pride Parade, Veterans Day parade, and Field of Honor events.
• Plans were discussed for a Thanksgiving dinner featuring turkey and sides provided by John Picken's wife.
• James Snow presented plans for telethon, including live cut-ins on NBC and various donation categories.
• Committee discussed using QR codes on new banners to facilitate easier donations during parades and events.

Membership and Financial Business

• First Vice Commander Andrea Kline reported that membership is at approximately 54% with 245 new members processed recently.
• Committee approved a $250 donation to Daughters of the American Revolution for wreath-laying ceremony.
• Gilpin suggested upgrading the insurance umbrella policy to $2 million to better cover liability/DUI risks.

JOHN PICKEN
Meeting is about to open. All officers will take their stations, sergeant at arms.
Please clear the hall entrance and close the doors.
Stand at attention. Salute. 2.
Uncover for the opening prayer through the pow mia ceremony.

I will lead this in leu of Crawford being away.
Thank you, God, for blessing us once again and bringing us here safely. Thank you for your leadership. Thank you for your guidance. Thank you for always being present in our lives. AMEN

JOHN PICKEN
Sergeant at arms only, recover. 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 Mia's and the cause for which we stand, namely the return of full accounting. A pow mia empty chair is placed at all official meetings of the American Legion as a physical symbol of the 1000s of American pow Mia still unaccounted for from all wars and conflicts involving 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 the defense of liberty and a full accounting of those missing. Let us rededicate ourselves to this vital endeavor. Sergeant at arms place the pow Mia flag on chair, Sergeant at arms only uncover. Okay, please join us in the Pledge of Allegiance to the flag.
Sir, would you lead us in the Pledge. . .

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
Everyone recovers. 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, Constitution of the United States of America
to maintain law and order, to foster and perpetuate 100% Americanism, to preserve the memories,
to inculcate the sentence of individual obligation to the community, state and nation.
Faculties are both classes and masses; to make a right and master might
promote on earth, to safeguard and transition to posterity the principles of justice,
freedom and democracy, to concentrate and sanctify our conference
by our devotion to mutual helpfulness.

JOHN PICKEN
Be seated. I now declare this meeting of the American Legion Post 519 Department of California,
Executive committee in order. roll call, adjutant. . .

Allen Lane
commander - present.
first vice commander, Andrea Kline – Go army.
Adjutant – Go Army.
second vice commander, Lee Wilson - running late.
Third vice commander, Kevin – Go army
finance officer – here
E board Stevens – go marines
chaplain Crawford - excused

service officer Allen Lane – Go army
Judge Advocate Thomas – Go air force
Sergeant at Arms Beresh – here
Magi Raible - here
historian James Snow - Ura Marine Corps.
E, board third year Ron - here
E, board third year Rusanne – Go navy.

Allen Lane
We do have quorum.

John Pickens
Great. Thank you.
All right. We'll go ahead and get started. Everybody, please make sure your phones return to silent. This meeting is about to open. All officers will take their stations. Sergeant Arms, please clear the hall entrance.

John Picken
Who is the effort going to support on the Army Navy game. Good question. They're descendants of the Army. There we go. Army Air Corps. Oh, there it is. Only with the Marine Corps' help.

Allen Lane
It takes a village.

John Picken
Moving right along. We have a quorum, so real briefly, upcoming District 21 meetings. Next one is November 15th, which is going to be the end of a heck of a busy two weeks for us. Please, though, if you can make it to the Riverside Post 79, that'll be really cool. Again, last membership meeting or district meeting we had, we had I think I said 13 people from our district from our post at that meeting, which was really cool. January 17th will be of 2027 is that Indio Post, which is going to be new. They haven't done that. In March 21, Corona; may 16, in Norco at that's post 328. So, as usual, meeting times are as follows: the Suns are at 8o'clock, the American Legion's at 10 o'clock. We were supposed to have somebody come in from the city. They may still show up with Lee Wilson when he gets here, but we'll move right along. Okay, we need to have a vote on our minutes that were posted from the last executive committee meeting. They are on the website, so I need a motion to approve those minutes. Garth's making the motion. How about a second? Second. Mike Perez second. Any discussion on the minutes from last month's executive committee? Hearing none. All in favor of accepting those minutes?

Everyone
Aye. Aye.

John Picken
Any opposed? Abstentions. Thank you. Okay, officers' reports will go right left to right on our agenda. So I'm going to hold off till I do the House committee on mine. Adjutant Allen Lane. . .

Allen Lane
nothing to report at the moment.

John Picken
Okay, thank you. First Vice Commander Andrew Klein.

Andrea Kline
My main my main report is about the Matt Human event, so that's coming up next Friday. So if you haven't if you have not bought tickets for Greg's event, the VIP event, they are for sale at the bar. Please, you know, please consider going. That's going to be a really nice, intimate event with Matt. You'll be able to ask him questions, engage with him, and then after that event, he's going to come here from three to four.

Will be the town hall, and I expect the house to be packed. He'll take questions there, but it'll be a little harder to get conversation going with him. The other thing that's happening is we have a buddy check program that's going on. Matt found out about it, so he's coming in and he's going to be filming the buddy check program in the morning, and the guys are all set up, so we're making calls in the morning.
And Matt is going to help us make calls. So some of our members may be talking to Matt Shewn. So that's great.
I think that's all I have. Thank you.

John Picken
Second vice is not here yet, so we'll go to third vice. . .

Kevin Koch
Still working things with getting ready for Boys State next year and the scouts, really nothing new to report at this time.

John Picken
Thank you. We're going to be moving right along. Service officer Lane.

Allen Lane
The only thing I have to report is I've gotten quite a few calls. A lot of people are desperate. I'm looking for suggestions. A lot of people just don't have money to pay their rent. Their bills are due and piling up, or they've got two kids. It's just a tough time right now. Everybody is suffering, but I am still getting a lot of calls. I got another one that was going to meet me here at the hall, but he couldn't make it. His ride fell apart. So we're going to meet next week. But I'm working hard to connect the American Legion reach out to our community. That's it.

John Picken
Thank you, sir. Appreciate it. Again, times are tough for a lot of these people. Unfortunately, we don't have the resources to be able to provide money for everybody out there. So we'll do what we can when we can. But effort's a benefit as well.

Allen Lane
My job, I find, is as a resource center. I am not a bank, but I can help you get to assistance. Like I just found, I just had a call before the meeting requesting transportation to Loma Linda. That's a big one that I get a lot of calls on. They don't have any drivers right now, but when they do, that'll be a nice connection. And then the community food bank as well. There's a number you can call, and you go down and make a reservation. I get that pride stops a lot of people, but they're passing out boxes of food, you know, and it's tough. It's really hard. . .

Garth Gilpin
Palm Springs to 29 provide drivers, or I mean, they do have volunteer drivers to drive back and forth that way.

Allen Lane
Who's that?

Garth Gilpin
29 Palm Springs at the airport.

John Picken
PS 29.

Garth Gilpin
Yeah.

Allen Lane
Oh, PS 29. All right. Thank you. I'll take a look at that.

Kevin Koch
I forgot to bring with me the weekly magazine that's in every CVS and every store with the tidbits and stuff.
In the back of the last one, there was an ad from Amvets, and I believe they meet at our post.

James Snow
Right.

Kevin Koch
That they give rides.

Allen Lane
That's the same group. Yep.

Kevin Koch
Okay, you're aware of that, of course. Okay.

Allen Lane
I mean, I saw it today. I was googling it to find out what and when, he just called me back before the meeting started and said that they don't have any drivers right now. I wonder IF we could connect the Veterans Village with jobs as drivers for the Loma Linda transport service?

Kevin Koch
They're doing some trips there. It is set up for transportation.

Allen Lane
Yeah, and all you need is an appointment at Loma Linda. You don't need this whole hoopla.
Otherwise, you must get a doctor's note in order to get that going.

John Picken
Proceed.

Rusanne Anthony
There's a thing called TFA. It's a fund assistance that just recently came out, and that's why you're probably seeing a surge of calls because it's assistance up to $2,500, but you're the one that helps them fill out the forms. The post doesn't pay them. The money actually comes from National. Okay. But if you go to National website, there's thing on TFA. It is an assistance. They come out. They got to fill out a form. They get assessed if the need is real.

Allen Lane
Will take a look at that. Thank you.

John Picken
Who does the assessing?

Rusanne Anthony
There's a group of people that do the assessing. The out here, I know it's a gal that's named Roxanne.
She's out of San Diego. That she's like one of the assessors.

Allen Lane
So we don't do that; they do it.

Rusanne Anthony
But yeah, they do it. But you're the one that coordinates.

Allen Lane
Oh, absolutely.

John Picken
That's a national American Legion program.

Rusanne Anthony
It just came out.

James Snow
Temporary financial assistance.

Allen Lane
Okay.

Rusanne Anthony
There's a surge of calls. I'm not surprised. I mean, when I was working at Sanger, every call was need. That's why you get a call. So that's why I know about it because I was like, "Hey, this this person needs help," and so. But anyway, yeah, I'm not surprised you're getting a surge of calls.

John Picken
It's interesting that we haven't received that information at this level. I should say I should back that up. I'm not surprised that we haven't got that information, but that's a good resource. Thank you very much for bringing that up. I appreciate that.

Allen Lane
I have a small list of help. You know, There's a support that you can call that helps if you're behind on rent, if you're behind on utilities, the Catholic services, you know, charities. You don't have to be Catholic to get help. I've actually helped clients who have gotten, you know, they write a check for the rent, you know, and not every case will do that. But at least there's services.

John Picken
We need to make sure that you keep good records of these people you contact. Absolutely, because at the end of the year, when we report to National of how many people we contacted and the reason we contacted, that will be a feather in our cap to so that we talk to 100 people, 200 people, even 40 people, whatever the case may be. It's a good thing.

Raible
Absolutely, thank you, Allen. Also, if you come across Gay women that need financial support for health, rent, car repairs, whatever. The All Fund is now part of the center, and so definitely reach out to them. They've got a nice amount of money there to help gay women.

Allen Lane
That helps. Yeah. Thank you all. Group effort to our community.

John Picken
Thank you very much. Moving right along to the finance officer.

Garth Gilpin
Why don't you give these two guys, then pass it over? Mike, I got these two guys. The first one is the bank accounts sitting with 147,000. No major change. Bar accounts getting a little low, so we need to hopefully season picks up. We'll be picking back up.

John Picken
Spend money in the bar. That's what he's trying to say.

Garth Gilpin
in the bar. Measure J. We've got 36,000 there. I'll be applying for another 66,000. Hopefully next week. The money to the Matt Schuman account hasn't been transferred, so that accounts a little while. It'll come out of the bar account, but don't see any real problem with those. I would like to change my normal reporting status on the profit and loss statement, I'd like to title this presentation as a thought process for 2027. First 10 months of this year, we lost $21,000 in the canteen area.
Two major problems. One was the electricity. The other is the amount of liquor we purchased. The liquor I have not done an inventory yet, so we purchased $10,300 more liquor this year than we did last year. Sales, if you look up, are up about 3%.
On the electricity, the Measure J situation, we get through with the kitchen. We move into the office area, which will be a minor area, and from there we move into the back bar area. We'll make the back bar area upgraded, where it is a service bar available for daily use, and we need to start thinking about using that bar next summer in some fashion, because you come in here during the summer when there's a lot of people here. I come in in the mornings. There's the same three or four people sitting here drinking coffee from 10 until two, three in the afternoon. Full air conditioning, and it's very expensive, so we need to set our sights on some changes in how we operate. The savings just to the liquor control electricity could generate savings up to $20,000, which would. Next year would make us on a break even.
We get to break even. We don't need to raise prices. We just need to be smarter in our management techniques. The last two areas, general donations, they're up $16,000 this year. That's just general donations. It doesn't include the $17,000 our chaplain left last year. We just we've got we've got a good thing going. We've got telethons. We've got just the general public is supporting us. The bottom on the community outreach work have given out $11,800 more this year than we did last year. That helps us raise more general donations. So it's a one benefits the other. So I will not present this report next week at the general meeting. I'll have just regular commentary about we've lost money. In some ways, we I don't start rumors about we're going to close the bar. All this is just this this is an executive meeting, and I respect everybody to keep they’re in mind. And please be aware that this this is executive material.
Any questions? Yes, sir.

John Picken
Under modernism event in your Liberace house, you have 22,800.

Garth Gilpin
Right.

Garth Gilpin
That money went to pay the loan from COVID.

John Picken
Oh right. . .

Garth Gilpin
Yeah . . .

John Picken
gotcha. I was wondering. Yeah, we have small business loan that we have. Small business, right, right, right. Okay, okay. Thank you very much. Andrew. Andrew.

Andrew Stevens
for the back bar, is that on the same AC circuit as the main hall, or is that its own separate? Separate.

Because I believe that if the summer is just a couple people, then maybe we should move operations, with the exception of major events like karaoke or Friday night performances. It should just operate in the back.

John Picken
Well, that's the whole thing. We tried that last year, but we must renovate our drink system back there, the caterers, and we need a cooler that works. The big cooler back there does not work, so we have to replace that so we can keep beer and wine products in there, versus having the bartenders run back and forth all the time.

Andrew Stevens
Yes, the question is: Would that replacing the coolers and that stuff amount to about $10,000? Well, we're

John Picken
spending 5000, $7,000 a month on AEC, which is where much of that money is coming from, that that's losing.

Andrew Stevens
Right, but like, would that could that be something we could get while you know in our busy month we can get that, and then that way when it's by the time summer rolls around, it's all set and ready to go.

John Picken
that's kind of the plan, but kind of return on investment.

Raible
That's kind of the overall plan.

John Picken
Is to when we when we're done with the kitchen and the office, we may either do the back bar or the bathrooms, or maybe simultaneously do all that. If we do that, we're going to have to get portable bathrooms for that. So you got to think about you know where all this stuff's going to go. The other thing that we were going to talk about, and I might as well talk about now, was we got some major roof issues that we're working on, and I'll talk about that during the House committee.
But our goal, more guard's goal than mine, because I just have been too busy. But during the summers, and we we've tried this before by either closing down one day a month or just opening up late a couple days a week, or we move everybody to the back bar. Which again, during the summer months, we have you know at the max 20 people in at a time, which the back bar can handle completely, you know, we've got two huge fire or huge fire extinguishers, huge air conditioners on the roof that we keep this place cool with, and we're going to have to definitely cut costs somewhere. Right.

Andrea Kline
So, so quick question about efficiency, and I know this building is old, but you know there's new strategies around, you know what you can do in your attic, and then also there's mylar that you can put on the you know on the ceiling to block the radiant heat, and I know we're talking about. Renovations and all of that, but is there any consideration for insulation, which then can you know can keep the air conditioning you know and the air here, and then also the ductwork? You know how old is the ductwork? You know what is that like? Because you can lose efficiency, you know, by not having any insulation, and I know this building was built in the 40s, so it probably doesn't have any. But you know, is that something we should consider?

John Picken
What we're going to have to probably do, and Garth will probably back me up on this, is that we need to get a professional consultant to come out and look at that sort of stuff. I know that we want to go back to the old arched ceiling that we have in there, the lanella ceiling. But how energy efficient is that going to be?

They put that drop ceiling in the main hall for that reason because the air conditioning costs were exorbitant or even non-existent at that time, and what's up behind there? I'm too old to get up there and look. We'll send some young kids up there. Although that will probably prevent me from being, depending on what's up there.

Andrea Kline
You know, you can you can hire you know someone to come in. There are companies that will come in and actually do that assessment. At least give us kind of an idea.

John Picken
The problem is we don't want to open up that rat's nest either. If there's something major that we must look at, we're already scratching the bottom of the barrel for money. You know, we're lucky enough that with Garth and Ed Vondra and Lee Wilson getting us the Measure J money from their promoting with the Measure J committee. I don't know that there's any more monies out there currently to you know continue with renovations. I'm hoping that we will come across, and I still must get an appointment with the tribes, see if we can get some sort of assistance from them. It's just one of those many things that are going to be on the list.

Andrea Kline
Well, in the grand scheme of things, the insulation and the mylar is not that expensive.

John Picken
I understand that, but the original concept was to go back to the original beautiful ceiling that we had back in the day. If that changes, I mean, again, we're a historic building, so we have to look at the renovations that we do. Would be

Garth Gilpin
on the outside on the canteen room, but there's no way you could densulate with the lane of ceiling. It would have to be on the roof. Have to be on the roof on the outside. And we're looking at roofing stuff going on right now, which I'll talk about in a little while.

Andrea Kline
Yeah, the mylar is actually just a it's a radiant heat block, and it's not that expensive, and that blocks the radiant heat coming into the space, it can drop, you know, by 20 degrees temperature between that roof, exterior roof, to down below. Andrew,

Andrew Stevens
I definitely think that if, if worst case scenario, we should probably be closed during the slower parts of the slower parts of the week. The you know Tuesday, Tuesday, Wednesday timeframes. Just we, I mean, it's either that or we burn a whole bunch of money for nothing, for $10 a beer sales or something. I mean . . .

Garth Gilpin
the older generation just absolutely refused to use the back bar, and I go. That's 810 years ago, and they're pretty much gone now. Yeah. And it's just. I mean, we just have to say, hey, we cannot afford to have you sitting here drinking coffee for four hours because you don't want to turn the air. Not paying for even paying for the coffee either.

Andrew Stevens
It's much better than what happens in my house in my dad's town, where half of it's a sushi bar now because there's not enough traffic to justify the expenses.

John Picken
I like that idea. Sushi bar, I love I love sushi.

Andrew Stevens
I don't think we have the foot traffic to justify a restaurant for the public.

John Picken
No, Garth, have you

Raible
talked to my air conditioning guy? I have people telling me it's you can't fix it. It's not worth it. Whatever, wanted me to buy a $15,000 air conditioner for $400 last year. It's my electricity bill in the summer has gone way down. He's an older guy who owns his own business, and his name's Shabu. I don't know if you've talked to him.

Garth Gilpin
I have not. I just I had time.

Raible
Right, I get it. I get it. But you know, I think he would be willing to come out and take a look. Talk before we even get a consultant guy. He's really good. He's been my guy for several years.

John Picken
We had to. We've had two AC people on the roofing last couple weeks, and we've had three roofing company up there, maybe four. So we're working. It's a work in progress. We're trying to get it controlled.

Raible
He just doesn't have the overhead that Timos or some of those other guys have. Yeah. So anyway.

John Picken
Thank you very much, Maggie. Garth, do you have anything else, sir? Want me to do Measure J, or let's do that under Finance Committee. Okay. Judge Advocate Thomas, you got anything to do, sir?

Thomas
Nothing reports here.

John Picken
Okay, perfect. Thank you. Chaplain is not here. E-board one, Andrew Stevens.

Andrea Kline
Thank you.

Andrew Stevens
I have just a couple things that I have noticed when I've come into the Legion. There has been cable news on the TV sometimes with the volume up, so you can hear the anchor. I, I'm not sure if this is more of a general membership or an executive meeting, but I do want to try maybe amend our no politics rules to include cable TV, with the exception of obviously like national tragedy, like national like tragedies, natural disasters, something where information is needed, just mainly because when I've changed the channel, like because like nobody's not watching it, I've had people at the bar. Thank you know. No, no, I agree with you.

John Picken
I agree with you. I hate Fox News. I turn it off every time I come in.

Andrew Stevens
Yeah. So I think because I have talked to the Randy and sometimes it's like, well, somebody wants to puts it on, and it's like, you know, maybe it's something. There was something that they could fall back on to be like, oh, it's you know, oh well, I can, you know, it's the executive committee or something.

John Picken
Okay, we can still do that at the executive board meeting, but because most of our house committee is here, except for one or two, I should say, I would suggest making a motion to cover what you want to cover.

Andrew Stevens
So I would like to I would like to make a motion that to amend the no politics rules to include that to include following cable news channels that are not to be played on the TVs in the post. The only exceptions are during active reporting on an issue of national importance, such as natural disasters or tragedies or major events. The prohibition will not apply to local news or news focused primarily on sports.

John Picken
We have a motion on the floor.

Raible
second it. Raise your hand.

Allen Lane
Everybody, raise your hand.

John Picken
Magi Raible seconds it. Open for discussion.

Allen Lane
I tend to agree with you. I think that any news brings the blood pressure higher because it's all bad. It's all edited. It's all scripted. It's all you know. Never mind. But I agree with you. I think sports, local news. Yeah, sure. But no. . .

John Picken
we can't have NBC at all.

Allen Lane
No way. But I agree with you absolutely. Okay.

Andrew Stevens
I like I said. I just I the big thing is like the anchors are there to drive you drive you mad and then sell you stuff in the commercial break. So that's mainly the reason. And you know it's like you come here to drink and talk with each other. If the news comes on, definitely change the console.

Allen Lane
It kills the mood in the legion hall.

John Picken
I don't have a horse in this race. The question I would have is like, okay, tonight is election night. Would we want to have results on television?

Allen Lane
I think that falls under your exception rule. I mean, it would be like a national importance. . .

Andrew Stevens
but I guess that would also be you know who's it who's you know it's something obviously people start fighting because one candidate one over another then that's more of a personal issue that we should address as a personal issue of like, why can't you guys behave? So I, you know, I mean, elections are important, but the campaigning stuff, the stuff around it, the throwing names at each other kind of thing, that should not be.

John Picken
So I'm going to ask that Our judge advocate weigh in on this. Can we, if you can do some research, find out whether we can actually curtail our television watching operations? Okay.

Allen Lane
If we make it. Rule and the bar has to follow that. That would be awesome if that's possible.

John Picken
We would have to amend our house committee rules, our house rules, and by doing that, we'd have to have a general membership approval, according to past judge advocates. Don't get me wrong. I am fully in agreement. Okay, fully in agreement with what you want to do. And I again, the selection of certain television channels is it's a it's another hot potato.

Allen Lane
Absolutely, someone's going to say, "I pay it to be here."

John Picken
We have a motion on the floor. We have a second. We've discussed. Any other discussion? All in favor of having no news, no cable news on the post televisions during regular business hours. Does that sound about right?

Kevin Koch
Yes.

John Picken
All in favor of that? Aye. Any opposed? We have one opposed. Any abstentions? Passes.

Andrew Stevens
Awesome. So by and the second thing I have noticed, you actually addressed the roof thing, so I'm not even going to touch. Won't touch that. But on Sunday when I was here, we have a lot of the patrons noticed that the Wi-Fi was being a little spotty, and at one point the point of sale systems went down, or the Wi-Fi disconnected. When I went to check the Wi-Fi network, it's kind of a mess with things kind of hanging. So I I do want to go through that and kind of check things out. I do have cable. I do have Ethernet cable to kind of rewire things, but I do think that we also should have some sort, maybe change or either add additional hotspots to this side of the building so that, for instance, in the meeting room here, that we have a better connection in case anybody wants to, you know, display it. We, you know, show changes to the website, but I'm still kind of getting a price on what that would cost. And so far, it looks like it could. I could get it under $400 to just expand. You know, and that would be a one-time cost. It wouldn't be like, oh, we have to pay extra because our internet speeds are great. It's just that that one Wi-Fi is just sitting there, kind of hanging half over in that corner there. So

John Picken
we actually have two Wi-Fi boxes. One is in the office that feeds that one to give the post its due Sunday. There was a Coachella Valley breakdown of Wi-Fi through Spectrum. I was watching football at home. I lost my football games.

Andrew Stevens
It was just. It was more of like it was weird because the entire connection, like the POS systems, just lost complete connection to the Wi-Fi in general. Which is even when the internet goes down, General doesn't lose Wi-Fi connection. So I'm like, that's a little, that's something that, and it seems to happen to everybody's phone. Like it all kicked them all off the Wi-Fi now.

John Picken
Right. Okay. Well, if you want to continue researching that, quick question on that: we would take that out of building fund probably for repairing the the Wi-Fi. If you want to continue marching on that, that'd be great. I did fix the TV, by the way. I just rebooted a whole system. Somebody had unplugged it.

Andrew Stevens
I had unplugged it because it was stuck in.

John Picken
I plugged it back in. I messed with it this morning, and we got it back on. Does have to be on HDMI too to make the connection to the direct or to the box. Again, we've had issues with that particular TV and the middle TV because they are older. We may eventually take a TV out of here and maybe put it up there or out of the back bar. We have so many TVs in the back bar. I don't think we need all those back there, and we can maybe lose a couple of Direct TV boxes. I don't think we need that many. Anything else, Andrew? That is it. Thank you, sir. I appreciate it. Thank you very much. Did anybody else have any questions for Andrew on that? I'm sorry. Okay. Eboard two, welcome back, Miss Anthony. Okay. Eboard two, Webster. Have anything for us, sir? Thank you. Eboard three, Magi. Rival, rival, rival, rival. Thank you. Sergeant at Arms, welcome back. Anything to report. No? Moving right along. Well, before I get to historian, second vice Wilson, sir. What do you got for us besides a novel? Never came by. Okay. I'm assuming you didn't see it when you came in.

Lee Wilson
I noticed. Karaoke. yeah, it's getting it's always a decent crowd. It's younger vibe. Come check it out sometimes. Oh boy, I have the Halloween party over there still. Fields of Honor, Cathedral City. I'm going to be setting up. I'm taking Friday off so I can help set up displays there. I'm also going to bring two of our tents, or at least the teacher tent and the spare region tent. Get those pre-positioned the day before their ceremony starts at 10 in the morning on Saturday, and it goes to about 11:30. A lot of guest speakers and stuff like that. Pride weekend, it's a pretty busy time. Terry Johnson will be holding or setting up our tent around 9o'clock near Lulu's. I've still got to find the number for him, but it's in here somewhere. I thought I gave it to him, but I didn't. While Terry is setting up there, that's when I'm going to be doing the field of honor thing. If anybody in this room would like to help Terry set up like 9o'clock in the morning in front of Lulu's, or help man the tents, I won't be able to be there until about 3o'clock, and then I'll man the tent until 3o'clock until eight, and turn it down for the night. Five parade starts at 10 o'clock.
We're number four. Everybody in this room is welcome to show up and help. I'm going to have a ton of flags since we don't have a real color guard. I am technically the color guard, so we'll have a black American flag, California flag, POW flag, bride flag. Anybody wants to carry flags, banners. I got a new banner saying "Veterans" across it that we'll be able to put up front in lieu of having a Palm Springs American Legion Color Guard banner. I'm going to be taking these magnets and everything with me. Did we find out if they did they deliver the magnets yet? Did they contact us?

John Picken
I haven't seen them. I mean, I made the payment, but I haven't received them.

Lee Wilson
I talked to somebody the other day. They said they had them done, and I said they thought they had them done, and the dude was going to get back to me. But I tried to call today, and I was too late. They closed, but I'll find out first thing in the morning tomorrow. And so I'll get the new magnets and New banner I'm picking up. Let's see. So we need help with man the tent, carry stuff. We're all good with the pride people. They're a little bit more, I don't know, dot the eyes and cross the T's and stuff like that than the Veterans Day parade people. But we've checked all the boxes. We're good to go, and we'll have two convertibles. So, Commander, you can ride in one of them, and I have Colonel Chip Atterbury riding in the second convertible for our VIPs.

John Picken
We have is that Pride or Veteran? Pride. Okay.

Lee Wilson
Yeah, Pride Parade. Veterans Day parade is on Wednesday next week. Our number is 39. The teachers' association is 38, so I'll be right next door to each other this year. I see people coming up to me all the time saying, "Hey, do you need an extra car? You need an extra convertible?" I've got a couple people I can call, but I think we're all set with the three that that yeah that Garth's providing. So one for the World War II vet, the other one for the World War II vet, one for you, and I think Greg Morgan is doing his own thing.

Garth Gilpin
He's got. I provided his card from Jessup.

Lee Wilson
Oh, he's okay. So he's got one also.

Garth Gilpin
There's four. Okay, we got four

Andrea Kline
then. Okay,

Garth Gilpin
Jessup car, and I had three convertibles.

John Picken
right, very good, sir.

Garth Gilpin
The World War II is in the third, and currently we're planning to have a MIA POW car with nobody in it.

Lee Wilson
Oh, great, very cool.

Garth Gilpin
We've got ordered signs to the side say P O W M I.A.

James Snow
Very cool.

Garth Gilpin
All right. I'll try to get a like a stadium seating seat set up on the back, so it'll be there at seat be there at the empty. Okay.

Lee Wilson
I invited Gold Star families to come here after the parade. I told them we'd feed them. Nobody. Usually shows up. Maybe five will show up if they do. Does McCarty have enough help serving food?

John Picken
Well, he's supposed to contact you because we don't know.
We didn't know this morning how many people were serving.

Lee Wilson
At least Crystal Lane said 100. She told me yesterday 100, roughly 100.
So we planned around that, and they're going to be providing money for that.

Lee Wilson
Yeah, we'll probably get reimbursed later.

Lee Wilson
Oh yeah, well, yeah, they probably could pay us before, but it'll probably be after. Okay. Let's see what else, what else, what else, what else, what else, what else. What's our Thanksgiving plans?

John Picken
The flyers out there.

Andrea Kline
Oh, okay.

John Picken
We're doing $35 dinner, 12 to three. My wife and I are providing the food, which is going to be turkey, mashed potatoes, gravy, stuffing, cranberry, veggies, dinner roll.

Lee Wilson
very cool. Parade of lights doing our open house that day. I blasted every social media thing I could for like the Pride Parade. You know, veterans in town. I've been posted on the city Facebook pages, K Gay Radio, Gay Man of Palm Springs. I joined every one of those groups, and I got a lot of likes. I got a lot of likes putting that out. How many people will show up, though? Who knows? But I'll have a ton of flags to carry also for the Pride Parade, and but I plan on doing the same thing for the Parade of Lights, like the week or so before, just you know, flood social media, the press. I contacted KDSQ, KMIR, Desert Sun, Coachella Valley Weekly, everybody and their cousin, and nobody really got back to me. But lots of got posted on social media. I've noticed. Rock the Park starts December 2. It's a Bowie tribute. We'll have our tent out there. It's a good time. It's a good time. I get a couple minutes on stage. Give a shout out to vets, and then New Year's again. DJ Eddie, and you guys are still working on food. So that's my report. Any questions?

John Picken
Yes, of course. Go ahead.

Garth Gilpin
Halloween event on Saturday we had a good turnout. Friday night, Saturday night we paid $600 for a band. Veterans Day we're going to pay $600 for a band. I understand the Legion, but I think in the future if we have a Halloween party, any special event where we have a $600 van that we should have to consider charging admission $5 or something, we just we lost money on Halloween, and we just can't we can't be providing $600 vans. Just I mean.

Lee Wilson
I mean, reached out to try and touch Caltech other bands that would be interested, and when they hear 600 bucks, nobody wants it. We, it's really hard to get a band that'll pay for play for any more than six.

John Picken
Here's the problem we have, Lee, is that the bar did not make enough money to pay for the band, so we had to rob from Peter to pay Paul.

Lee Wilson
Okay, well that happens once in a while.

John Picken
Well, this happens more often than not, unfortunately for us. Okay, let's stop doing bands. Okay, I'm not saying that. We just need to try and be a little more diligent on trying to get. 600

Lee Wilson
bucks is a good deal. Trust me. And if we have a bad night, happens once in a while. I'm not saying

Garth Gilpin
you either get $600 or you got to raise your bar prices,

Rusanne Anthony
or do a cover.

Allen Lane
I think a $5 cover wouldn't be out of control.

John Picken
We'll have to do a little research on doing a cover because of the ABC. I'm not sure how this would work, but we can definitely do that. I mean, if we have a cover of $20, that that only raises prices on the drinks for parties. You know, or the House Mini has to raise a drink price. We haven't raised them in three years, so there's a possibility we might have to raise our prices again. We are very competitive with the dive bars in town, but if you want to go get a martini at sun rise sunsets, it's going to cost you 15 bucks, and we don't charge $15 for a martini. Andrew,

Andrew Stevens
I think part of it might just be the fact that we didn't have we don't have food like we have in the past.

John Picken
It's possible

Andrew Stevens
the because yeah the I you know I appreciate that Jeff wants to do the stuff for donations, but those sloppy Joes were kind of sad. It was very it was very much Walmart quality with not much added to. So it kind of was like $15 for this didn't really you know even if it is going to most of it is going to a good cause it just kind of felt like this is not you know this is not really a fun thing the only reason that we didn't really go anywhere else is because it was raining.

Garth Gilpin
So. . .

John Picken
well that was the other thing it did rain that night and who knows that stopped a lot of people from coming down, especially from Desert Hot Springs. I don't know.

Andrew Stevens
Arenas was definitely a lot lighter than it was last year.

John Picken
We had a huge party, though.

Andrew Stevens
IT's a huge party, but there was a lot less people last year.

John Picken
Okay, just came up about Pride parade. Apparently, the Suns have now volunteered to do the cooking on that day. I don't know if you noticed Facebook. I posted a Facebook saying that we canceled our potluck for Sunday because the Suns are now going to serve pulled pork

Andrea Kline
chicken and pulled pork sandwiches. Yeah. All right.

John Picken
So we're working on that. Appreciate everything you do. I just think we need to try and figure out maybe more DJs if we can't until we get our kitchen up and running. And that's as Andrew said, we don't have the food that we used to have. Did you have anything else for us, Lee?

Lee Wilson
I mean, we always got the Trainer Brothers. They'll play for like 400.

John Picken
Again, the Trainer Brothers have had some internal problems.

Lee Wilson
Yeah, but they still go by the name. That's all I have.

John Picken
Actually, they changed the name to the El Martinez something or other band.

Andrea Kline
Really? Right.

John Picken
Yeah. Anything else? That's all. There was something else I had for you, but I'll talk to you later about that. Okay, moving right along. That's all of the office reports. So we'll go to the House Committee. Committee reports. This morning we had our House Committee. One sad case that happened over the last month. One of our Friday lunch regulars, his name is Carl Alvis. He had a medical incident and was taken to the hospital. It was on Friday. He's been ailing for a while, and he passed away after leaving here at the hospital Sunday morning. He was one of our regular Friday lunch crowd. I contacted his good friend Elliot, and we've been talking back and forth. At this time, there's nothing that he wants to post to do except keep Carl's family in in our thoughts. He's got a distant cousin in in Arizona. Really, is the only family member missing. We have been doing the potluck, but the last two this week and last week we're not going to have it. The kitchen renovation is well underway. They've been doing a lot of stuff in there. We've had to call a plumber out for a couple of leaking issues. We had an ice machine that had a blocked filter and gave up making ice during our Friday evening, as usual. Stuff happens during our big events. A temporary repair was made to the holes in the ceiling from the rain incursion. We're waiting on one more bid to repair the roof, and after we repair the roof, we'll get the ceiling better looking. It still leaks after the rain on Saturday, or yeah, during Halloween, water came in. We've already talked about a pride parade, Veterans Day. We have a wounded warrior event coming up on December 5.

Andrea Kline
Okay.

John Picken
All right. Tell us on and over and 12, which I'm sure we'll be here hearing about in just a minute.
Again, I forgot you, didn't I?

Andrew Stevens
I'm so sorry.

John Picken
I checked you off, but I forgot.

Kevin Koch
Okay.

John Picken
Okay. So let's go to the historian and communications.

James Snow
All right. Well, as far as historian stuff, I don't have too much other than as far as capturing like pictures and videos and posts and stuff like that, and the communications committee. I'm trying to get more people we can have as far as like photographers and videographers, anyone that knows has a camera. We all have phones. I can't be at every event because I do own a business, I do work a lot, do a lot of things. So be nice. We have more people that can volunteer as far as that to cover our historical stuffs that's going on, like kitchen and the post being renovated and everything else that's going on, I try to be there every event I possibly can, but I can't be. Film parades, okay, that's good. Okay, so communications. Yesterday we had a telethon meeting. Yesterday. We covered a few things, and we're going to have a communications meeting again on this Thursday at 5o'clock. Talk about some of the websites, some social media stuff that needs to be addressed, and we're working on all that. And so, at the top of the website, I mentioned it last time, the media request form, and so we can start utilizing that.

That comes directly to me, and I take that form to communications committee, and we can take it and we can table it, figure out how we're gonna, you know, whatever the request, and we can we can take care of that. Okay, so that's all I got for that. As far as that, so the telethon, I David Reese, the news director, was been on vacation, so I just got an email back from him today. I'm going to get with him. I still haven't had a meeting with him, so I work with NBC tonight. I got to go cover some election stuff tonight after we're done with this, and then Friday. So I have a meeting with them on Friday to kind of hone in as far as the production for the telethon. He said to give him to after election was over because you know they have a lot of things going on other than that. So I'll get with him on Friday as far as that, so last year we had four cut-ins. I'm gonna try to keep this as fast as possible. Last year, when I say cut-ins, like during the middle of the day, the day of the telethon, we have people. You probably remember last year we went live like in like one. The first cut-in is like 1:29 in the afternoon, and it's hey, we're here live at NB or telethon or the American Legion. You know, tonight at the telethon, so it's live. So we're going to have probably four cut-ins at one minute each and 30 seconds. And so we all came together. These are some of the ideas as far as who we can have on camera for that, and also the interviews later on in the evening during the actual telethon. This is up for suggestions if you guys have suggestions, and ladies, if you have suggestions as far as how we do these cut-ins, this is what we talked about during the telethon meeting and in Q12. Yeah, so it's four cut-ins, one a minute each, or four or per minute each, and then 230 seconds. And so we're thinking as far as having Andrew do a one-minute cut-in and him kind of talk about LGBT stuff like that, veterans, you know, kind of get the word out there as far as you know the post. You know, you know, there's probably a lot of veterans that are out there that we're in that community that don't know about coming to the post. So you know, that's an idea is having him talk about it. And where's it at? Lee, we thought about oh, Andrea. Have Andrea on camera, possibly to talk about the Matt Schuman event that's going to happen the next day, so she can kind of advertise that. You know, this is going to plug everyone for that later that night. You know, help donate as well.

Lee and Allen, I was thinking about having Allen. If you got time, we can maybe get you on camera for like a minute. You can talk and pour your heart out to the community as far as what you're doing as VSO and our veterans and helping out, and then you as well, Commander and Lee. Lee to talk about you know preservation, restoration of the post. We can have them here live, or we can do a pre. We can do pre-records or lives. I'd much rather do the lives because if we pre-record, then I got to try to get an anchor to come out here and wherever they look. Maybe we go to the Veteran Village and pre-pre record yours, but we have to make it look like it's live, like it's happening at that time. But I'll have more of this on Friday, as far as from David Rees to figure out, because if they say they want to be all live, we're gonna do all live. So if you wanted to pre-record, we might not have to, you know. So we'll see what he says on Friday, as far as that. But you to kind of just advertise the post because you're the commander. As far as 30 seconds for you, 30 seconds for. I was thinking about Garth as well too. As far as one of the cut-ins live, because reason for that he can kind of be in the kitchen, kind of tell the the local people, the audience that hey, we're working on this, but our post is is is falling apart. You know, so I think one of the things that kind of leads into what the donation categories that we came up with. I think that we should advertise out for the tele doc. People calling for this stuff. Oh yeah, so so Garth Garth to talk about that, and that'll go to Lee. Leo have like a one minute live cut in talking about the pose. You know the the how the Hollywood history of the pose.

I know I'm the historian, but I'm going to be behind the camera, so I can't be in front and do that same time. Lee likes to be on camera anyway, so he does a great job at it. So he's a great face for our post, in my opinion. All right, so moving on, I'm moving quickly here. So yesterday came here, got some shots of Dad's burger, since he's gonna be serving burgers here during telethon, so I got some little cinematic shots of the burgers close up, so I can make a little video. We can, you know, maybe that'll be something that can help. Hey, oh, that looks great! Amazing burgers. I'm going to burgers. Sorry, burgers. I'm going to the freaking Meet American Legion and get a burger. Maybe that brings some people in to help donate. So the the telethon donation categories, we talk about you know veteran homeless, veteran suicide, veteran homelessness. You know, be the one category, and the renovation of the post. You know, people can call in and see that we did have someone came out here from the preservation committee or someone. A while ago, there's a link that has all that stuff on there when he came out here to hopefully you know hit the post back where it is or bring it back to to its luster. Youth programs. I was thinking about having Mari talk about that on cameras during the telethon.

We can have him interview for you and then you as well. If you can be here the night for the telethon, do you plan on being here? If you are, you can be on camera that night, and you know we can talk about what you're doing is trying to help out. We have we did talk about Jeff Coles. I brought it up. I don't know what our opinions is as far as his nonprofit, but he's got a nonprofit to start. I thought maybe we can have him on camera that night, and he can talk about that because he's trying to raise money to help out what you're trying to do, which kind of makes sense to me to have him on camera talk about it. That's just a thought, you know. I see some head shaking, but that's okay. It's just a suggestion. It's open for discussion. I'd like to have something installed. What we're going to be presenting tonight at the telethon, why people are calling in to donate, also the Matt Schuman thing. People can call in and donate to that as well.
Obviously, that funds would go to him, you know, not to us. That's an option as far as that. And the general fund, people like last year, just call in. You just use the funds wherever you need it to post, and then they can call in for that. Expenses, and I'm moving on. I did get the banners. Here's the flyer. I'm sure everyone saw the flyer. So the QR code will take you to the donation or the telethon page that we're working on. It's still in the works. It's up right now, but it's we're going to tweak it around, make it a little bit better than what it is. Because I actually pulled it from AI, and this this was not AI. I made this in Photoshop. This is our flyer, our banner. This is our banner. It's going to be on two sides.
So this will be. We'll march this in the both the parade, the Pride Parade, and the Veteran Day parade. And it's going to be a two-sided banner. So when it's coming down, it's not going to go down the world this way. It's going to go down this way. So as people are maybe they'll scan the QR code, and then and when they go to the telethon page, you'll still have the ability to donate on that there as well too. And then they'll see everything on there as far as what they're donating, what the causes are for.

Lee Wilson
That's cool. Who's going to carry it?

James Snow
And so for the Veterans Day parade, I can carry. I just need one other volunteer to carry this banner for the for the Veterans Day parade. But for the Pride Parade, I need two people to do that because I just I just got found out I'm going to be working the Pride Parade with NBC, so I'll be on the side filming you guys as you go by. So I need two people to volunteer to hear this Pride Parade. I'm picking it up on Wednesday, and so the price for the two banners. There's this banner, and then there's this banner right here that I have made. I made these. This is going to be a standing banner. It's a 31 by 88, and so this is something we can use every year. This is blank because instead of repaying every year for a new banner, we just replace today with white letters. And they're printing those out for us too. After we're done, we just peel them off. Next year we put the new ones on there, so we're not spending this much money again for that.

Lee Wilson
I need this thing by Friday since we're going to be using the Pride Parade first. I will need it for the Pride, and we can even put it out there in our tent. Yeah, that'd be great.

James Snow
Yeah, yeah. This too. So this, yeah,

Lee Wilson
need that.

James Snow
So I picked this up on Wednesday. He said late Wednesday. I can pick it up. And so the price for these two is $445.16. So we got approved for a $1,500 budget. We they've only spent and I spent 100 bucks out of my own pocket. I'm hoping get reimbursed for that for the flyers that I had made. We put them in the newsletters and then oh here's a. a new teller. This is going to be the donation form.

We're still working on this. Make some changes. So last year we had small ones. People call in. There's options on there for people to, if they want more information as far as membership on the phone, we're going to ask them. That could possibly lead to more members as well. All right, almost done. Pride Parade, Matt Schuman. Actually, I think that's. Oh, that's not it. I think that's it, really.
Buddy check. Oh, no, you already mentioned the buddy check thing. He already mentioned the internet stuff. We were talking about that yesterday. I think that's pretty much it for right now. I do have all your bunch of volunteers already. That's going to be on the phones. So telethon is going to. I think not. I think the telethon is going to be a good. It's going to be a good telethon this year, I believe. And I think that's all I really have. Besides this, I need. Oh, I will need a check cut for this for to pay for the banners. This is from Canon Print.

John Picken
That's the receipt, and so talk to Garth.

James Snow
And that's it. Yeah.

John Picken
Andrew.

Andrew Stevens
So one thing that was missed was that. He made it. James made a connection with someone dial guy from at the animal shelter. They're willing. His name's Keith. He's willing to do the do the phone support for free this year. So we're so we will not be paying any expenses related to the phones. He and this phone system, if it works out well, could potentially be something we use here at the post to also allow better communication, redirect to like veterans resources in addition to other stuff. So that will be that's a later discussion. But the fact that it is free is awesome, and he's willing to also provide on-site support for that.

John Picken
Okay, sounds good. Anybody who wants to volunteer for carrying the banners, please talk to James. The QR code flyer that you have is that going to be is that on our TV maybe in the in the lobby or no?

James Snow
is this banner right here. This is going to be a standing banner. This once this is done, this is just going to be in a hall until the day of the television. Okay. Okay. We have it outside by the door or somewhere. It's a big one. You can't. You're not going to miss it. Put the QR codes on there. The flyer. The QR codes on the flyer. I put a QR code on here for Dad's Burgers as well too. So people click on this, scan it. It'll open up his menu on their phone, so they can just see it right on their phone. And so, and anyways, we got Chris Malke again this year. I don't think you guys know he's in the new Marshalls, the new TV show Marshalls, which is a spinoff of Yellowstone. Oh, sure. There's gonna be someone else that's come with them too. Some other female that's in the show. I don't know who she is yet, but apparently she's in Marshalls as well too.

John Picken
Nice

Allen Lane
sticker in front.

James Snow
Yeah, I mean, as far as the donation stuff, I would really like the suggestions on that. Does everyone think, as far as who they can donate to, you know, the different events, suicide, veteran homelessness, so you're saying on the telethon?

John Picken
What you're saying is, if I may, on the telethon, you're saying that they can ask to donate to certain events.

James Snow
So they donate. Like, what am I donating to?

John Picken
So I would say that, and this is just an opinion again. We don't expand it too much. Maybe three donation fields. You know, the post, Matt Schuman, Veterans Village, or whatever the case may be. I don't think we want to go. Who do you want? And then we got 20 different. Right, right. It's just going to get two. I get

James Snow
that right. But the thing, I do get that. But at the same time, if we don't throw those out there, we might be missing opportunities, well, too. Because oh, I didn't think about that. You know, maybe I will donate.
So it's kind of a double-edged sword, I think, in my opinion.

Rusanne Anthony
you can't do that.

James Snow
No.

Rusanne Anthony
No. And the money comes in; it belongs to the membership. The membership decides how it gets spent. You cannot predetermine donations how this comes in, and this is through our regular bylaws. Okay, it's the membership who has the final say on everything, and we need to stick with that. But the money comes in; it goes into our operating account. We say we made $10,000. I propose we direct a portion of this to applause, the membership has the final say on that. We put that to a vote to membership.

James Snow
You know what? I read that in the bylaws. She's right. Okay. All right. This is why we're having this discussion. This is good. I think this is great

Allen Lane
because we can say, this is where we go with the monies. These are things we do.

Kevin Koch
We do this for the

Allen Lane
donate here, and this will happen. All of these things rather than giving them a choice. This is what we do. And that keeps it simple.

James Snow
We've got to have a discussion on this because you know I mean it's great. I mean the money's got to go somewhere. You know so

John Picken
thank you so our so the suggestion for everyone is just we just have just hey you want to donate?
You know, and well, there's got to be some veteran cause. I mean, there's got to be well.
Everything we do is going to be related to veterans. So, if we put in there, the money goes to our veteran causes, and if they want to know what the veterans' causes are, we can say this, this, and this.
Doesn't mean we have to allocate that money.

Andrea Kline
This sounds like a script to me, where you know, I mean, maybe you maybe you do have four different things that's on the script, you know, to entice them, but they're donating into one bucket.

Kevin Koch
Correct. Okay. We can say in the past year we've supported youth soccer, blah blah blah, boys and girls, boys and girls veterans village, veteran services to that. I mean, just laundry list. These are all the things we do. It's like wow.

James Snow
Yeah. All right. And so that's something that we can put on the Telegram page as far as if people click it again. See you know what's going through. All right, so as far as on camera interviews during the telethon, we got to have somebody on camera talking about stuff, something you know.

John Picken
Well, we can talk about the four pillars. We can talk about the post, the history of this post, you know how it started, who Owen Kaufman is, who Raoul Perreto is, who the main hall is named after, those are all World War II heroes. Those can be bullet points on whoever is doing the talking. We can also talk about our community service to our community of veterans and their families, which is what Allen does a lot of right now. You know, we're going to be open to suggestions. But I would say, if you have a suggestion, we're down to nitty gritty on both the Schuman and the Telethon things. So we need to wrap all this into one tight little bow. But again, everything you're doing is wonderful. Appreciate everything. We can talk about the online or online the live interviews next week or so.

James Snow
Okay, perfect. We're having a communication meeting on Thursday. That's what we came up with every Thursday after every Thursday after the executive board meeting is our communications committee, so my goal is by that day we have something solid. That way, when I when I go to NBC on Friday, you know I have something to take to the table. Then it might be things might be picked and choose at that time as well too. But I'd rather come to the table with more than less. That way, NBC can you know figure out how we're going to work that into the production, and so we are going to be going from four to seven. And I did talk to David. Did say that we're going to be cutting into Fred Rogan's show this year. Last year we did, and so we're getting part of his show as well. So so we got longer time this year. So that's cool. Oh, one more thing. I did talk to two radio stations. I talked to Tommy with Big 106.1. I don't know if you know Tommy. He's one of the radio DJs in the morning. He's him and I know him. I know the guy from the Eagle. I talked to him. Tommy said we can probably get some radio advertisements on him, but we would have to go through there. It probably would cost some money, so might pass on that. But I think that's all I got. Any questions?

John Picken
Anybody got anything else for James? One thing I want to bring up is that I don't think we need to accentuate the fact that our building is falling apart.

James Snow
Yeah. Okay.

John Picken
We don't want that. We're an old building, but we don't want to say that we're we're it's run down or anything like that. So we must throw a positive spin on everything we talk about. Even though we're looking for money, but it's for our veterans' programs. It's not for you know renovation of this building or anything like that. As much as I wish it could be.

James Snow
those are the ideas.

Andrew Stevens
Andrew, you have something. And I do think if you were to talk about if we do talk about the restoration, it should be more spun of this is how this is how we are paying as an appreciation to the city of Palm Springs for Measure J. Like this is what we're doing with the money you have graciously given us. Right.

John Picken
I think it's good to accentuate the Measure J program because who knows if we may need to go back into that that well again in the future.

James Snow
That's why I thought Garth would have been Garth would be good for that.

James Snow
Great for that as well. Yeah.

John Picken
You okay with that?

Garth Gilpin
On the 12th.

John Picken
So the telephone. Okay. Anything else for James?

James Snow
I did have a question about as far as Garth VIP event because I'm going to be covering that. Obviously, we're going to get some coverage for that as well too for Matt Schuman. As far as cameras at your at your residence, I mean, what's your are you? I mean, you're as far as it being okay. I mean, I don't want to put anything on TV. If we do any NBC coverage there, I don't want to, you know, without your permission. Okay. All right. Very well. That's it.

John Picken
Okay. Thank you, historian and communications.

Garth Gilpin
We've already. Did you want to go ahead and hit the measure J stuff now? Okay. on the finance for Measure J. Measure J is going to start again in the morning. It would stop for a couple three days. The kitchen is then walled in, ready to go. The next major thing, which I can hopefully get started tomorrow, is putting up the vent hood for the stove. They have to have a on the roof. There's a fan that exhausts the foot, and they have to replace that as well as put the hood up. The contractor's been selected. He's been here. He's ready to go. The. The kitchen. The decision has been made to put in mini split air conditioners. There will be two of them in

there. I think it'll be a good improvement. Very hot in there in the summertime, so that'll happen. The roof. We've gotten one, two, maybe a third, third on the way. Yeah, on the way. There, the low one was for Castro Roofing to just revamp it, $14,000. The high bid to completely replace the roof was 53,000. So we're waiting for the other two before any decision comes in. The equipment, as I stated before, has been purchased.
As soon as the hood is up, they'll start bringing in equipment. The we've utilized the first 260 $6,000 payments. We have $12,000 of that money left. It'll go out this week, and as soon as it does, and I can present the Measure J committee with a list of expenses and copies of the checks and the statements that the checks were cashed, and they will post the check for a third check for $66,000. It's going good. It's slower than anticipated. Gosh, I'd like to say December, but it's you never know. So we have bids for air conditioning.
The three air conditioning units on this building are were all installed eight years ago. So we will not be replacing them. They probably got another seven to 10 years life left in them. The three swamp coolers. One of them is brand new, five probably five years old. The other two are quite old. They're smaller.
We will replace some swamp coolers. So this this building will be should be good. We'll get the roof done on it. We'll get the air conditioning, swamp coolers fixed. We will move into the back bar and use the balance of the money to get the back bar where it's functional, got ready to go, and then we'll proceed. Any questions on Measure J?

John Picken
Okay, thank you, guys. Appreciate it. Next will be membership. First Vice Kline.

Andrea Kline
For the membership, I have Mike. You want to pass out the membership? This report comes out every week from department, and I will say it's a little bit. It takes like once I submit someone in the system who's paid or a new member, it can take four to five days or so. I think I just did 17 renewals yesterday or the day before, and today I did about nine renewals, and so I think we're doing good in terms of the overall membership. We are, let's see, we are currently at almost 54%. We do have, as of as of, we currently have 245 new members. This has been in the past week and a half or something like that. So I'm processing these new members now. One was a transfer in, and I'll give this to you next week. I'll give this report once I have next week's. There was a gentleman that was a transfer from Post 1000, and he filled out his form like a year ago from Ernie, and then he sent it to Department. And Department, you know, called me, and I was like, well, that's weird. And he was supposed to send it here. He sent it to department, anyway. So I did do. I did actually send out letters to about 75 people who are currently sitting in post 1000, and I invited them to join our posts. So those were pushed out last week. So we'll see how many we get from that response, in terms of other things that the membership committee has done, we have about I think we have our goal with the buddy check program was to call everybody over the age of 80. We're down to probably somewhere around 75. That we have yet to call, and today we made calls. Three of us made calls. We did tell people if they are by themselves for Thanksgiving to consider coming into the post, and there was a number of people who said they were interested in coming in for Thanksgiving because they they're by themselves. In terms of in terms of the we had last night we hosted the first ever new membership welcoming party we called we called last week we called every member who was a brand new member in 2026 and 2027 and we invited them to come and we said they had to RSVP so that way we could communicate with Dad's burgers to let them know.
We had I think six people who RSVPed. A couple didn't show, and then there was a couple that were additional. So some total there was five that we had that were brand new members. They did bring their family members, so they brought their spouse, their children. I think we picked up a son's membership and an auxiliary membership last night. Dad's burgers, I believe, sold 38 burgers. They sold out. Gordon and Susan had to go to the grocery store to get more beef, and Dad said he's never made that many hamburgers. So I got the last hamburger at like 7:45. I think is it was not fast, but I will say everybody was having a good time, you know. And so for those five members, I'll give you guys receipts. You know, we bought them one drink and we gave them a hamburger, and they were more than willing to wait and meet with folks.

So the way we handled it was we took the membership committee. We mixed and mingled with the new members, and we introduced them. And even on, I posted on Facebook, and one of the members actually commented and said, "What a great event!" And then I've had some other people on that Facebook post, say, I want to come in and join your post, and so, you know, so I think, I mean, Jaime said it's the busiest Monday he's had in like forever, so I think it was a success. I mean, we only paid for five people's burgers and drinks, so, you know, we're under the $100 that we have per month, so I think it was a good it was a good event.
So, and any questions at all from anyone?

Garth Gilpin
Where should I reimburse? Who should I reimburse for that?

Andrea Kline
I paid for all of it, so I'll just give you my receipts.
Okay, I'll put them out there for you.

Garth Gilpin
Okay,

Andrea Kline
I just paid the bill, so I paid dad, and then I paid the bar bill. So can take care of my bar bill.

John Picken
Thank you, Andrew. Appreciate it. First of all, doing a great job on membership. Okay, there are no other committee reports. I don't. I think I've got everybody. We'll move into old business, and we've already discussed most of it. The kitchen measure J project. We already talked about that. My pet thing is going to be coming up here soon, as soon as I pick a date. We'll hope be holding a fundraiser for Law and Order Dinner. So what that's going to be is we'll do a dinner to provide a dinner. We're going to maybe do a spaghetti dinner to bring money in to pay for a first responders dinner in a few months. So what that entails is that we're going to be contacting all the local police department, fire departments, and other first responders as to who their candidate might be for officer of the year, whatever the case may be, whoever's done exemplary work in their department. We did it two years ago. It was a really good event. We need to try and raise 2000 to $2,500 here at this post. The west side of the district is having one meal for them at a certain date, and then we're going to do one on the east side. I'm not used to saying east and west because I lived in LA, this is wet as you can get. We talked about the telethon, the Matt Schuman event. Last month we approved.

Andrea Kline
Do we have a count on Matt Schuman tickets sold? Matt Schuman, I believe there's 16 tickets out there, and I believe we have five online at this point. So we're about 21 tickets at this point. Now, I have had people say they're going to buy tickets. Vic Martin, I've had a number of people, and I just.

Garth Gilpin
I chatted with PNC Bank. I'm going over there tomorrow.
They said they can get me a handheld charge card thing,
like seeing a restaurant when you go in.

Allen Lane
Like Square.

Garth Gilpin
If we can get that, we'll tie it directly into the bank account. I don't if I can get it by the event, but I imagine we're going to have people showing up at the door saying,

"Here's my check or here's my credit card."

Andrea Kline
This is what's going to happen. Like I'm sure Vic Martin, I got to chase him. You know, he's already told me he's coming. You know, I tried to get money from him at the area five, and then he didn't have cash. We didn't have a card reader, so.

Garth Gilpin
So anyway, I'll know more on that tomorrow.

John Picken
Moving right along. Last month we approved funding for a Christmas party at 29 Palms. That funding was picked up by the Marine's mother. Extremely grateful. She's invited me up there for that date, but we actually have something else going on that day. Oktoberfest last month was well attended, and then the Halloween party was fairly well attended, even though we had rain. We already talked about Pride Parade, Veterans Day. Is there any other old business I need to talk about? Any other old business? Okay, I guess under new business, I still have Pride Parade and Veterans Day, so we already got the cars lined up, so we're good there. Is there any other new business, Clark?

Garth Gilpin
Last year, the Daughters of the American Revolution have a wreath-laying day at every cemetery in the United States. They put a flag out and they have a wreath, and they did it over here by the O'Donnell Golf Club, the cemetery, and the other cemeteries. I would like to make a. It was well covered by local desert coast. We were we were mentioned in it. Had pictures. I had a shirt on the cap and was looking at a grave. They caught the picture, but they're doing it nationwide. I don't know if it's European fronts or not, but I'd like to say suggest we have a $250 donation to the DAR to support this refilling program for veterans. It goes back all the way to the American Revolution, and so you're making a motion. Yes, we have a motion for $250 to support the daughters of the American Revolution in their wreath laying ceremony.

Andrea Kline
Correct. I'll second that.

John Picken
Mike had his hand up. Mike, you're seconding. Okay. Any discussion? This money would come out of community. All in favor?

Kevin Koch
Aye.

Garth Gilpin
Any opposed? Thank you. Motion passes. Thank you. Insurance. I've been for the last six months approached that our insurance program may not be adequate for if we have a serious DUI situation. I've reviewed the posts. Our current liability is $500,000 with a $500,000 limit. We have a $1 million umbrella, and I could not find out if it's. I've got to call them tomorrow, find out if the $1 million applies to the DUI condition. The umbrella costs $500 a year. If it does cost cover the DUI, the taking the umbrella out to $2 million a year would cost $507 more, and I would suggest that if that be the case, that the executive committee give me the authorization. The policy comes up in February to extend the by the $1,000 umbrella policy, which is $2 million, rather than the current 1 million we have. And I don't know if it covers. Are you making a motion there, or are you just bringing it up? I'm just bringing it up.
Think about it. I say we have until February to renew the policy, but just for information, yes.

Rusanne Anthony
I used to be a staff accountant for a commercial insurance firm, and I really think the limit on the bar is extremely low because our biggest exposure is the bar. That's our view. The biggest liability, $500,000 limit is extremely low. That should really at least be a minimum, but possibly 2 million aggregate, and then with a 2 million umbrella. But you got to make sure the umbrella

Garth Gilpin
covers the DUI. Yeah, I'll know that by yeah.

Rusanne Anthony
But you can also shop this with several insurance brokers. You don't have to just go to this one. You could call other insurance brokers and say, "Hey, look, we're shopping our insurance." They'll put out. You know, everybody has different markets.

James Snow
Right.

Rusanne Anthony
So I would suggest, and I can help you with this, going to other insurance brokers and saying that you renew, and I would do it now because they have to do it 60 days before the renewal.

Garth Gilpin
Right. The current policy we had two years ago was $25,000 a year. We now are with Lockton Affinity Insurance out of Indianapolis, and all they insure is BFWs, American Legions, Eagle type situations, fraternal organizations, basically, and our current policy was $11,000.

Rusanne Anthony
this policy out of Indianapolis, or is it here in the state of California?

Garth Gilpin
It's out of Indianapolis. . .

Rusanne Anthony
which means it's a secondary market. It's not covered by the insurance state insurance

Garth Gilpin
The company we were with in California was the $25,000. So there are all kinds factors with insurance.

Garth Gilpin
Anyway, I'll check for our next meeting.

John Picken
my question here is, from what I understood, $1,007 will cover a $2 million. To me, that's a no-brainer.

Garth Gilpin
500 now. No brainer. Really, even if it doesn't cover.

John Picken
Yeah, I mean, we're looking at $90 a month.

Andrea Kline
Yeah, it's not that much money. And all it takes is one person to slip and fall. I mean, Mariella fell out there and didn't recover. But I mean, she spent six months, you know, trying to recover. You know. cover E and O insurance also.

John Picken
It does.

Garth Gilpin
Yeah,

John Picken
P and O

Garth Gilpin
directors and officers' insurance.

John Picken
Okay, I'd like to make them. Well, I can't really do it.

Kevin Koch
can get more information. I'll make the motion that we go with your $507 upgrade.

Garth Gilpin
Regardless,

John Picken
yes. Regardless, we can still shop around.

Rusanne Anthony
I think we should shop it.

John Picken
Okay, shop around if we can. That may be the lowest. Who knows? But let's do shopping around for a month, and then we still have two months before. I mean, if we do it in December, that would be the two months prior. Not to, you know. . .

Garth Gilpin
we can make the decision the next time.

John Picken
Yeah, yeah. Andrew, you have something?

Andrew Stevens
I just was. I wasn't going to agree because $500,000. That is a single DUI accident with an expensive car and injuries.

Garth Gilpin
It's not adequate. The insurance I got was purchased back when COVID existed, we're lucky to be able to pay for that policy.

Andrew Stevens
one of those ones, and there have been a few people where it's like, are you sure you're okay to drive? That's another discussion. You got to think about it.

Rusanne Anthony
It's alcohol, the age group that we serve here.

John Picken
Hey, hey, hey! We're not that old.

Rusanne Anthony
Absolutely.

John Picken
Pretty soon we'll be getting that phone call from the membership committee going up. You're 80. Buddy checks. They've already called me. Ha Ha. Okay. Thank you. We'll take that under advisement.

Allen Lane
That would be great. I am next.

John Picken
Any other discussion on this?

Allen Lane
I agree.

Rusanne Anthony
Yeah.

John Picken
Does anybody have anything for the good of the Legion? Going once, going twice. Done.
We'll go move into our closing ceremony. If there's no other further business to come before the meeting, please stand at attention. Uncover.
In lieu of the chaplain being here, I will go ahead and make a little prayer. Oh, heavenly Father, please support our comrades as we move along in our daily business. We appreciate everybody and everything they do here at the American Legion and in their community. Please look over our troops and everybody that supports the American Legion and all of our veterans. Amen. Amen.
Sergeant at Arms, please recover the POWMIA flag. Till we meet again, let us remember our obligation to our country can be fulfilled only by the faithful performance of all duties of citizenship.
Let service to the community, state, and nation be ever a main objective of the American Legion and its members. Let us be ever faithful, excuse me, ever watchful of the honor of our country, our organization, and ourselves, that nothing shall swerve us from the path of justice, freedom, and democracy.
Please recover. Face our nation's flag. Hands salute. Two.

I now declare this meeting of the American Legion Post 519 Department of California Executive Committee meeting adjourned.

Minutes by
Adjutant Allen Lane November 2026
Executive Meeting American Legion post 519 Palm Springs