

American Legion Post 519 MINUTES

Executive Committee Meeting - 08/01/26 September 2026

John Picken

All officers will take the stations. Sergeant at arms, please clear the hall entrance. Close the doors. Hold those are in place. Please face our nation's flag. Present. Two. Uncover for the opening prayer from the chaplain, all the way through the POW MIA ceremony.

Crawford

Thank you, God, for blessing our comrades in combat. Guide our leadership with your wisdom, and bless all of us that came to support Post 519. Amen. Amen.

AMEN

Overview

The American Legion Post 519 Executive Board met to discuss community partnerships, financial status, and upcoming organizational events.

Financial Status

Garth presented the financial report covering the first eight months of the year:

- Total sales reached \$182,000 with a net income of \$72,000.
- The canteen operation saw a loss of \$2,800, largely attributed to extreme heat and electricity bills exceeding \$5,000 monthly.
- The post holds \$188,000 in bank accounts, including \$53,000 in the building fund.
- Measure J funding is progressing with two remaining checks of \$66,000 expected.

Operational Expenses High utility costs were a major topic of discussion. Garth noted that Edison increased rates during critical hours (4:00 PM to 8:00 PM). Allen questioned if there was any way to negotiate these rates with Edison. Additionally, Garth reported that kitchen renovations are back on track despite previous contractor and insurance issues.

Community Engagement

Veteran Support Jeff Cole introduced his nonprofit, Veteran Front, which focuses on PTSD awareness and suicide prevention. He proposed three ways for the post to participate: sponsorship, direct donation, or selling flag bearers for \$100 each. The board approved a motion by Garth, seconded by Mike, to allocate \$500 from membership money to Veteran Front.

SPEAKERS

Ron Webster, Lee Wilson, Jeff Cole, Allen Lane, James Snow, Crawford, Raible, Kevin Koch, John Picken, Andrew Stevens, everyone, Garth Gilpin

JOHN PICKEN

Thank you. Sergeant at Arms only, recover.

Resolution 288 adopted at the 67th National Convention, encourages all American regional organizations to implement the empty chair Soma ceremony at all meetings as a continual physical symbol of the pow Mia's and the cause from which we stand, namely, their return or full accounting, the 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 is 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 prisons 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 dedicate ourselves for this vital endeavor.

Sergeant at arms, place the pow Mia flag on the chair you.

Would you hand those out for me?

Mike has the copy of the preamble.

Sergeant at arms only, uncover.

Please face the flag and join me in the Pledge of Allegiance to the flag.

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 recover. 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 mass, 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. Convened; roll call, please adjutant. . .

Allen Lane

commander - present.

Adjutant – present.

second vice commander, Lee Wilson, here.

Third vice commander, Kevin, here,

finance officer, Garth - here,

chaplain - here,

service officer - here

Judge Advocate - excused

Sergeant at Arms - here

Historian, James Snow - here

E Board, first year Mike - - present

E, board third year Ron Webster - here

E board 2 year Rusanne Anthony - excused

First Vice Commander Andrew Klein – excused

E Board 3 Raible - Here

E Board 1 Andrew Stevens – Here

Let us all, Welcome Andrew to the table.

Allen Lane

We have a quorum.

John Pickens

Thank you.

John Picken

Please be seated. I now declare this meeting for the American Legion Post by 19 Department of California Executive Board Distribution Committee convened. Going into our order of business . . .

John Picken

All right. Before we get started. I'd like to welcome Andrew Stevens, our newest board members. Welcome aboard. We'll have lots of stuff to do. So the upcoming District 21 meetings next or this month, September 20th, the Palm Springs Post will be hosting District 21. The Suns will be doing their meeting starting at 8 o'clock in this room. They're doing some specialized training, so it might take a while longer. The regular American Legion District 21 meeting will be in the main hall. We will have our back bar open. We're not going to be doing potluck that day, so it'll be a free for all for whatever happens. The next meeting after that is November 15, Riverside Post 79. January 17, Indio Post 739. March 21st, the Corona Post 742, and May 16th will be Norco Post 328. I encourage everybody, especially this level, to attend those District 21 meetings. A, it's very informative, and B, it shows that we're supporting our own post by having delegates there. Okay, and in the past District 21 meetings, I've had no less than five for every meeting. Now, admittedly, we've had other District 21 board members from our posts there, but we've also had guests in the audience, and it's really appreciative that I can be able to say we have 6789, delegates joining us, and they have a vote as in certain things.

Okay, so you're more than welcome to come to these District 21 meetings. You learn a lot. Certain arms, we have any guests? We have Jeff Cole, past Sergeant Arms, and how do we on ALR? Jeff, you want to come around and talk to the board?

Jeff Cole

I passed out a piece of paper. Already went around a flyer. Just a little insight, so you know what this means to me. January 1 of 2021. January 2 of 2021. I received two phone calls that two of my brothers that served in Afghanistan both hung themselves. So Roger's wife was struggling, so I did the first event that year to help raise money directly to help them save their home. Since then, it's just kind of a success. I did it one year with Fever City, and it just kept going. Since then, we donated the money out to Mission 22, taps, other things, but I've always done it through the VFW or through the ALR for six years. I think it's time for me to step out and do it on my own.

So Jan, December of last year, I got my own nonprofit, Veteran Front, registered nonprofit, and its main focus. You guys, the mission statement that's going around is to bring PTSD awareness to suicide prevention. I want to keep the Legion intact with this is just one of the pillars, you know, patriotism and Americanism.

So there's several ways to involve. I know we have the auxiliary, our color guard, and the ALR all decide to be \$500 sponsors. With that \$500 sponsorship, you get recognition on all media platforms. Your logo goes on the banner at the actual day of the event. You also get a flag. Remember, we did the flag bearers. There'll be a flag with Luisa. All the flags will be on display at the event as well. Everything else is written in the sponsorship package, or you can donate.

Donations are greatly taken as well. The third option of participation allows the post itself to make money as well. If you go to the back page or one of the pages right here, it's 122 flag bearer form. You can go out and you can sell flags. The flags will be on display at the at the day of the event. You can sell them for people that want to be remembered in remembrance of somebody that they lost, a veteran or a first responder that's currently serving, or just somebody that supports the mission statement or their business.

You sell that flag and you fill out the form. It's \$100 for the flag. 50% of that each flag that the post sells comes back to you guys after the event. So let's say you sell 22 flags in for the symbolic meaning of the 22 that kill themselves, the post gets \$1,100. So it's another way to get out there and fundraise with us to make money for your cause as well. So that's basically it. So I'm just here basically to ask if you guys want to be a part of it, to sponsor or donate or. Want to do the selling of the flag bearers as well . . .

Raible

and the funds that you raise go to. . .?

Jeff Cole

We donate the money out to mission. We've always donated a portion to Mission 22. I don't know if you've heard of Mission 22. It's a national organization. It's like Wounded Warrior Project, but they are special. It's just federal suicide. And then there's a new one that I've reached out to is called TAPS. It's another organization they do directly with the veteran.

But my vision now is also I want to have funding aside mental health and stress is to the point where if a veteran needs help with electric bill, we can help limit that stress that may push him over the edge and commit suicide because he's not providing for his family. Right.

So we want to have funding that will be directly for that. So a veteran comes to us. We go to Edison. We pay the bill. We don't have to directly give money, of course. Right. But that's what we want to do. We want to have.

Raible

It's a great model, actually. Yeah.

Jeff Cole

So I'm just asking. Right.

Raible

The littlest things can just push us over the edge. Yes.

Jeff Cole

Yes. And there's organizations like Lighthouse that goes out there and helps veterans get into places, but it takes a while. Where if we get the word out to where we can even have a legion apart a veteran front, they contact you, you contact me, we have the funds or you have the funds. We pay an electric bill. That could save a veteran's life.

Crawford

You know, it's something that simple. What's the website?

Jeff Cole

I don't have a website as yet. I just literally just you know as some of you guys know, I wasn't sitting. I do have a Facebook page now. I have the EIN number. If you guys do want to participate, I can give a tax receipt as well for you guys. But and then, like I said, we have three of the entities of the post already involved. I'm waiting on response for the Sons too. The Rancho Mirage Chamber of Commerce has been very productive with me. We'll be on the air for the 22nd for Eye of the Desert, so that'd be another way to put the Legion's name out there if you guys do participate with it as a sponsor. And then the event itself will be held out at Dylan's Burger. I hope that it grows, and then maybe next year we could do it out of here, you know.

But what we'll do is we'll meet at Dads Burger at 9o'clock registration?

John Picken

It's \$30 a participant, but that also includes your lunch when we return. We'll leave. We're on a ride, and then cars and trucks can follow.

Jeff Cole

We'll go out to Bombay Beach American Legion, hang out for an hour, come back. When we come back, everybody eats lunch, and then we'll do some raffles. We'll always have Congressman Ruiz's office there. We'll do some awards, a little ceremony, and toast, and then call it a day.

Allen Lane

Sounds great.

James Snow

If you create a website, eventually, if we get the website, I mean, I'd be okay with putting it on the website on the resources. Everyone's okay with that.

Allen Lane

I think it's a great idea, and I was going to suggest start with the Facebook page.

Jeff Cole

Yeah, I have a Facebook now. The next one I've looked at. It's free. I love that, and that's one thing. We already take a portion of some of the funds for this, and it's like 300 bucks to go just a basic GoDaddy page. I'm sure you've seen it, and just so you can have an actual .com out there, .org, and then actually an information page.

Andrew Stevens

Yeah, that works because last meeting I know that was a big contention was like we had we were starting to get veterans coming in asking for financial help. So that would be fantastic.

Lee Wilson

Yeah. Right.

James Snow

In fact, I know someone right now struggling. You know, that's behind in rent. You know. . .

Jeff Cole

well, October 17, if they need it, please. I mean, that's what the events are for. And I want to do four events. You already have the other team coordinated. If you guys want to participate in the one in January, I want to do a veterans and family members. And I'm saying veterans and families to stack a team because I want to play the Ponds Police in the softball game, and they have their own softball league, so those guys are healthy and in shape. But we already got a couple studs that are in college that are family extended family members. We're going to stack the team with some college baseball hitters. So, and if you want to come play, and then we'll do that out of Poncho's power. And then next fall, we're going to do a bowling tournament, veterans versus high school team, a track team to help fundraise for the DHS high school, as well as for us, these are all things that are in the works. You know, now that when they get closer, I'll bring them up.

John Picken

Anybody else have anything?

Allen Lane

It sounds great.

Jeff Cole

So you're looking for a sponsorship, a donation, and then also if you guys 500 in sponsorship, yes.

John Picken

And then if you want to do this. I need to have a motion from the floor. Garth,

Garth Gilpin

I will make a motion. We allocate \$500 of our membership money for community outreach to veteran front.

John Picken

I need a second. Mike had his hand up. Mike Beresh, Sergeant at Arms, seconds. Any other discussion?

Allen Lane

Just that I think it's a wonderful idea. Kudos to you.

John Picken

It is, too. All in favor?

Everyone

Aye.

John Picken

Any opposed?

Jeff Cole

I appreciate everybody. Thank you. Okay. Okay. Okay. Thank you.

John Picken

Thank you, Jeff, for coming in. Appreciate it. We'll have the finance officer cut you a check. Okay. To Veterans Front. Yes. Okay. Veterans Front. Okay. I'll email you my address. Okay. Thank you.

I love the logo. Absolutely love it. All right. I believe our minutes were distributed by email for the last executive board. Does anybody want to make a motion to accept?

Raible

I didn't receive.

John Picken

You didn't go around to the website?

Allen Lane

It's on our website. You don't get them.

Raible

How do you know when to go to the website to get it?

John Picken

That's a good point, James. Well, from now on, we'll send out a notice to everybody when he posts the minutes.

James Snow

email part of the email, but I do. You probably got my email saying it's been posted to the website.

Allen Lane

What we can do is; it'll be available the Monday before the meeting next.

If it's before, that's fabulous,
but it'll be available the Monday before the next meeting.

Raible

Okay.

Allen Lane

That way you'll know it's there.

John Picken

Probably earlier than that. . .

Allen Lane

much earlier than that, but at least you know.

James Snow

So, but the e-board ones from last month is on the website the Monday before the next meeting.

Allen Lane

And I went on vacation this month, but I got it done. Got back, and got an email from James. That was the one for the general meeting. That's the one I'm talking about. Yeah. I thought I'd done it.

John Picken

Was there anybody? We had a first. We have a second. Any other discussion? All in favor. Aye. Abstentions. Maggie. Moving right along. See if we can get out of here at a reasonable amount of time. Okay. Going into officers' reports. Second vice?

Lee Wilson

here. where I'm jotting down my last notes right now. Hi guys, everybody. Yeah, I'm not 100% organized, but good enough for tonight, December 11th. You guys know the ALR is doing a thing here. It's on Tuesday, and their dinner is sold out now. RSC events on Friday. Friday, and my one question was because Fleet Easton is playing at six. ALR thing starts at four. Their food is sold out. What if people show up for Fleet Easton and want to eat? There's no food.

John Picken

That was the issue that came up with me. Okay, food gets sold. I'll be making an announcement on both Facebook and at the dinner on Friday night prior, basically saying the food was sold out. The bar will be open for our members, the high tops, and the back bar will be open. But they should have seen the signs on the on the table saying that they're selling the tickets, and Jeff had the tickets. And I agree with you, Lee. It was an issue that came up. We're just going to have to punt.

Lee Wilson

All right. I'd like your last words, anyways. Feel free to bring pizza in.

John Picken

Oh yeah. Well, anyway, I was just wondering.

Ron Webster

Bring your own tacos or something.

John Picken

Again, I don't want. As I said to the House committee, I don't want to have competing foods. People have already bought their food from Jeff and the ALR. He sold 60 tickets plus he's given away 24 to the police and fire department people. Again, I don't know how else to handle it except just to say sorry, folks.

Lee Wilson

There you go.

John Picken

It's one of those little hiccups, and Jeff and I have already discussed it. As I told the House committee, we've gotten into quite a discussion, and we'll work it out one way or another.

Lee Wilson

Pretty good. Taste of Paul Springs. I signed us up for that. It's on Wednesday, September 16 at 5o'clock. It's \$200. I already went and paid the \$200. I'm hoping I can somebody make a motion to reimburse me for \$200. Is there anybody that wants to?

Raible

So what? What is this for?

John Picken

The taste of Palm Springs. It's a yearly thing that.

Allen Lane

It's an event that they have. We

John Picken

We have representatives at the last three years, along with Terry Johnson. We set up a booth, and we just had fun doing it.

Lee Wilson

Yeah, we have a booth.

John Picken

Yeah,

Lee Wilson

they have a contest that should do for the best decorated booth. I don't know what we could do, but we got a contest for that.

Allen Lane

Tough competition though, has to be WOW.

Lee Wilson

Anyways, 200 bucks. When is it? On Wednesday, September 16, 5o'clock.

Allen Lane

Is that next Wednesday already?

Kevin Koch

No.

John Picken

Two weeks. Two weeks. Two weeks from now.

John Picken

I make a motion. We sponsor Taste of Palm Springs for \$200. Second? Garth makes the motion. Kevin Koch seconds the motion. Any other discussion?

John Picken

So the motion on the floor right now is to reimburse Lee Wilson \$200 for entering us into the Taste of Palm Springs for a booth. Any other discussion? All in favor? Aye. Any opposed? I believe this will probably come out of community.

Lee Wilson

Yay! Rock the park. We paid 1000 bucks to the Chamber of Commerce for that. The very first one will be Wednesday, December 2. It's going to be a David Bowie tribute band. Starts at seven, and again, it's really good PR for us. We get stage time. We get to set up our tent right behind the stage. Anybody taking a photo gets our tent in it. It's just really good for us.

John Picken

Anyway, so when is that?

Lee Wilson

The first one will be. Wednesday, December 2.

John Picken

December.

Lee Wilson

December.

Allen Lane

Oh, December 2. I was thinking tomorrow.

John Picken

It kind of sounds like September.

Lee Wilson

And I think it's really cool. We got to get the word out because I'm here for you. Go there, party, come back.

John Picken

Let's put that on Facebook. Say that we have a booth at the concerts in the park, and come by and visit. Bring a chair, and when it's really packed, Do they allow alcohol?

Lee Wilson

Sorry.

John Picken

Do they allow alcohol?

Lee Wilson

Yes and no. If you're going to walk around, go, ooh, cop, but try to stop me. But no, everybody has. Red Solo cups.

John Picken
Red Solo cups.

Raible
Right.

John Picken
Okay.

Lee Wilson
All right. It's cool. Halloween. It's going to be Saturday, October 31st. We have the refills playing. The ALR is going to be doing food, and the auxiliary is sponsoring a costume contest. That's a lot of fun. Halloween Oktoberfest is by the auxiliary. That's going to be Saturday, October 17, 3 o'clock. We're selling tickets for 20 bucks. Allen, the Trainer Brothers is playing. Our next karaoke is Saturday, September 19th. Chris and Nancy, not sure if we're going to get karaoke for October. We only have two October days open, the 10th and the 24th, I think. And Chris and Nancy weren't sure if they were going to be in town for those days or not. So standing by if we're going to be able to do it in October or not. Let's see. How's our Sunday potluck going? Is that going to be a ritual for us now?

John Picken
I believe it will be. It's except for an occasional day where we're going to say no. What was the backup? You had something

Lee Wilson
October Saturday's karaoke.

John Picken
10th and 24th.

Lee Wilson
I thought those were the only two of them. Yeah. Okay.

John Picken
Just want to make sure because I've had people put in event requests. Yes?

Lee Wilson
So yeah, that was my question.

John Picken
the potluck, except for right now, except for the district 21 meeting, which is on the 20th. We're not going to do potluck that day. The back bar will be open to our members, as I said before, you got here. So we're not going to do potluck because we're going to have our general membership meet or district 21 meeting in the main hall. Right. So that takes up the room of the potluck.

Lee Wilson
I get most of that stuff set up after karaoke.

John Picken
Pardon?

Lee Wilson

I get that stuff set up after karaoke. Most of it.

John Picken

What's that? The

Lee Wilson

district meeting. Oh, if

John Picken

you're volunteering, you're in.

Lee Wilson

Volunteering!

John Picken

Saves me having to come in here at 6 o'clock in the morning.

Lee Wilson

Hey, Dad's burgers on Mondays. Is that a ritual? Also, is that going to be regular?

John Picken

Danny is committed to doing most everything. He lets me know when he can't make it, but we already have Monday night football set up, so I think that's going to be a benefit for us. He's doing both Monday nights and Friday lunches. I

Lee Wilson

want to make a flyer up, so I want to make be clear. Yeah, I want that. It's going to congruent with Monday night football, Dad's burgers on Mondays. Now they have Thursday night football.

John Picken

We don't get the Thursday night football unless we have Prime.

Lee Wilson

Oh, get everybody. If you want to come

John Picken

in and put your stick in there,

Lee Wilson

yeah.

Raible

Somebody's got Prime.

Andrew Stevens

I trust the membership, we all buy a bunch of things. Right.

Raible

good point.

Lee Wilson

Monday night football, I suggest we do some sort of drink special. I don't know, dollar off draft, dollar off bottles, domestic.

John Picken

Send an email to the House committee, and they will discuss doing that.

Lee Wilson

All right. The Suns are doing a Luau event on Saturday, October 3. Al's bands playing again. \$20 for food. I'm glad that the Suns seem to be doing a lot of stuff, and that's cool with me. I don't know. It's bringing in business, but I didn't make the last one. They did on Friday or Saturday. Did anybody go the one on Saturday?

Andrew Stevens

I did go the one on Saturday.

Lee Wilson

And that wasn't.

Andrew Stevens

It was. It was built for the first half and then kind of just vacated afterwards.

Lee Wilson

So it's kind of our Fridays have been too. Modernism week. I got to get in touch with that guy. What's his name? Scheffler. Tim. Tim Scheffler

Garth Gilpin

yeah he's been in the hospital

Lee Wilson

so oh no okay but I guess we're on a Friday or Thursday what day are we doing on?

Garth Gilpin

I don't remember.

Lee Wilson

okay do we need to make any I was thinking again bring in our pianist Leslie maybe she played piano during the time, and I guess we're even though they're renting the place, they got are we covered ABC and all that kind of stuff.

John Picken

for modernism?

John Picken

Yeah, nobody's discussed that yet.

Lee Wilson

All right, how did we do it last year?

John Picken

We didn't do it. We just allowed them to come in as guests. No alcohol was served.

Lee Wilson

Okay, all right, all right. We just want to do that again this time, or would it be worth buying a ABC license to encourage these guys to stick around and drink?

John Picken

Well, they. Excuse me. From what I understand, they they're on a tour. They come here and then they go someplace else. Right. We only when you offered it last year, they only had two or three people show up because they were all doing their Palm Springs stuff. Right. So I don't think it's really worth spending \$102.99 for an ABC license. We can't really technically sign them in because they're not friends of ours or guests of our house or anything like that. So I'm not sure that that's going to be a viable option.

Lee Wilson

I would do it like last year.

John Picken

Yeah, right. I mean, I know you had good intentions by asking people to come back, and you'd say we'll take care of you. But I just don't. I don't think the good outweighs the cost. Now, if there's any veterans in there, more than welcome to come on in. Bring your friends.

Lee Wilson

Have we done our open house yet this year?

John Picken

We have not done an open house yet.

Lee Wilson

I suggest Modern Days a week.

Allen Lane

How about the one in February?

Andrew Stevens

Well, that's a different.

John Picken

That's a new year.

Lee Wilson

Yeah. Oh, sorry, sorry. I suggest Lanterns Week. It's a Thursday, Friday, Saturday. What's the dates on those? October 15, Thursday through the 15th, October through Sunday, October 18.

John Picken

I must talk to the House committee about that. We're running. I wish we thought about this a month ago. Well, somebody was on vacation in Tahiti or something.

Raible

Yes, something like that.

Lee Wilson

Do it on the Friday, the day before. Something like that. I think it'd be perfect for

John Picken

us. We already have events on Friday. Let me send you an email. Remind me about that, and I'll send out a generalized email to our House Committee, just saying it's short notice. We can't vote by email, but maybe we can get some input. Send me an email.

Lee Wilson

Very good. All right. My last thing is the Chamber of Commerce. Our membership expires in November. It's \$400 a year, and we've already given the Chamber of Commerce 1000 bucks for being at the Rock the Park, 200 bucks for being part of the Chase and Paul Springs. This is just the general membership, \$400, and I told Nona Watson, the lady, that we'd get back to her.

John Picken

When does that expire? November. So we have a couple months.

Lee Wilson

That's 400 bucks. Should so I make a motion now that we go ahead and do it?

John Picken

That is your call, Lee. You.

Lee Wilson

I'd like to **make a motion** to rejoin the Chamber of Commerce, and we can cut a check now in advance. It's \$400, and that'll get us through November of next year, 2027.

John Picken

We have a motion. Is there a second?

Allen Lane

I second it.

John Picken

McCarvie, second. Any discussion? Mike,

Mike

how does that matter for those people?

Lee Wilson

Well, just the networking, nothing else, nothing else. The networking, and I don't know. They've been helpful in the past with I don't know what did they do for us last time? Didn't they do something for our windows? Chamber of Commerce. We did something.

John Picken

Not wrapping here. I will tell you that we did sponsor a month of luncheons, which wasn't very well attended. However, I will tell you this: it's always been recommended to me as a past leader that we stay involved one way or another with the Chamber of Commerce.

If nothing else, we can put it in our newsletter. Member of Chamber of Commerce, the benefits may not outweigh the bad, but we're getting more well known in the city, so we become part of the chamber of commerce or stay with the chamber of commerce. And as I was telling somebody the other day, my goal is to this is discussion, by the way.

Lee Wilson

but I won't have his truck and trailer this year for either the Pride Parade or Veterans Day Parade. Plan B. Does anybody know anybody with a good truck and a trailer?

John Picken

Let's let's back up. We have a motion on the floor. Right.

Lee Wilson

Okay. Okay.

John Picken

We have a motion on the floor. Any other discussion, Maggie?

Raible

Yes. I mean, I don't know if we get all the benefits in the world for being part of the chamber, but I think if we aren't part of the chamber, we're isolating ourselves, and I think that could be. It would not be a good look for us. I think we really have to stay with it. That's my opinion.

Allen Lane

I agree. I think it's a good connection.

John Picken

Go ahead.

Andrew Stevens

The only thing is, we just kind keep an eye on it because if like it's all it is, is just them going, oh yeah, we're networking, but we're not actually providing any real connection to anything. It kind of feels like we're giving them a lot of money throughout the year without actually a tangent, some sort of tangible benefit.

John Picken

That's the thing we have to wait.

Andrew Stevens

Yeah. Thank you.

John Picken

that was Andrew, by the way. I think, next Lee. . .

Lee Wilson

call someday. You know, we're going to need to pick up the phone, call those guys for help. I think somebody might need that.

John Picken

We have any other discussion before we take the vote, James?

James Snow

Something I want to say real quick. I mean, it's basically just a way for us to build community relations. You know, kind of reiterating what everyone else is saying. That's all.

John Picken

And Garth,

James Snow

we don't have those connections yet. We have to have those connections. It's all as board members to take the initiative, go out and make those connections. You know, so we're just sitting here coming to meetings every first Tuesday of the month, but we're not really going out and planning ourselves as official board members because we're official board members of the post.

So we have to take upon ourselves to take the initiative to actually do that and meet Nona. I met Nona. Nona's a great woman, but there's other people down here. But I. great connection that we need to keep within the post because we are getting seen in the community a lot more. They love us for a great mark.

Lee Wilson

That's for sure.

James Snow

So that's all I have.

John Picken

Thank you, James. Any other discussion? Okay. Oh, I have a question. Did that come out of community funds also? Okay. All in favor? Aye. Any opposed? \$400 to Chamber of Commerce.

Raible

With with that being said, and what James was saying, I mean, can we assign different board members to go to chamber meetings or make sure we start inserting ourselves? Volunteering, yes,

Allen Lane

awesome!

Kevin Koch

You volunteered. I thought I wrote it down.

Allen Lane

I wrote her name down already. Twice.

Lee Wilson

Joy Meredith Brown. She runs the Crystal Fantasy. She runs the downtown business community.

And years ago, I used to go to their meetings even before school, but then they changed school hours and whatever. But twice a month, I think it's like the second and fourth Wednesday or Tuesday. I'll get back with you.

Raible

Yeah, you can get back with me.

Lee Wilson

Everybody in Palm Springs, the richest people in Palm Springs are there. The hotel owners are there. The chamber of commerce is there. The fire department will be there. The police department will be there. The city council will be there. Everybody that we need to rub elbows with is there, and you get like three minutes to talk. Okay. Really, that's what we're doing at the Legion. Hello.

Raible

Yep.

Lee Wilson

Stand by to stand by that.

Raible

Yes, stand by to stand by it, and let me know, and then I will be seeking volunteers.

John Picken

Thank you, folks. You got anything else?

Lee Wilson

One more thing. Yeah, Veterans Day or Pride Parade. I don't have a truck and a trailer anymore. Does anybody know? Trailers. Should I go on Facebook, kind of advertise it? Anybody need help? At least I need help.

John Picken

You might try Ken Ford.

Lee Wilson

Who? Oh, Ken. Yeah, you know he's not returning calls anyway. I got house calls or house questions. But okay, Ken. Who else? Anybody?

Allen Lane

I think it's a great idea to put it on Facebook.

Lee Wilson

All right, so that's all I have, sir.

John Picken

Thank you, sir. Appreciate it. I'm trying to think of a trailer. I know some people. Well, they're dump trailers. I don't know if that's going to work or not. I'll look into that too. Okay, our glorious second vice, third vice. Kevin, you got anything for us?

Kevin Koch

us, sir? Sir, spent a lot of money on National Legion website to get some examples of some of their certificates and medals, just to get an idea of what's out there, what we can do. I'm going to work with Andrea. Hopefully, there's certificates for Legion membership that you perhaps seen 510, 1520, We maybe should decide not do them all, but decide some of the benchmarks that we try to hit our members with certificates as incentive to reup

John Picken

years of membership.

Kevin Koch

Yeah, and they're just a real formal certificate, but it's a buck from the national and recruiting ribbons for membership, something like that. But my main interests are the school programs and the medals and for ROTC, and so I'm getting information, and I will get back with a recommendation.

John Picken

I know that Nashville does send me certificates at the. 50-year mark.

Kevin Koch

They have them for every five, and they're formal certificates.

John Picken

Well, that's something we can look at. So yeah,

Kevin Koch

just some things to look at that help recruiting, and it's like, hey, what's the Legion known for me? Well, there you go. All right, thank you, sir. Thank you,

John Picken

Adjutant Lane. Do you have anything for us?

Allen Lane

Nothing to report as adjutant, but as the service officer, I would like to ask again: Does anybody have the day off tomorrow that could tote around a veteran to two appointments, 9:30 and 1:15?

Raible

No responses on Facebook.

John Picken

What I've already told him: We don't get any volunteers. We will Uber this gentleman. It is a gentleman.?

Allen Lane

It is a guy. Marine.

John Picken

his appointments beyond the department or department. I wish it was a department. So I already authorized that to happen. If anybody has a problem with that, they can talk to me. But I think again, we don't want to keep on extending our open arms for these events. But when they do come up, we have to take them as a case by case deal, and it's like somebody at the last.

Oh no, Andrea wanted us to take care of a vet that was staying at her house. ask us to repair his car. she didn't know what happened at the last general membership meeting when we discussed this and said no to another person, so we just have to. I think just have to take these individually, case by case. And as Allen is a service officer, I'm going to make him the chair in charge of helping people like this if he can with our help. Okay, so Veterans Service Committee. Welcome to the Veterans Service Committee. Thank you, sir. Andrew?

Andrew Stevens

I was informed by some another Legion member who's helping me with a with a very tricky claim, but she had dropped this that the national has grants for people who are, who have been in the legion a continuous of about three years, so that could be something to look into as well.

John Picken

Don't think this gentleman's part of the American Legion.

Andrew Stevens

Yeah,

Allen Lane

probably not as of yet.

Andrew Stevens

No. Again, these people don't have the money to join.

Allen Lane

That is part of the issue with the Veterans Village is you have to qualify to get in, and stay qualified to keep those rent prices. So it's a very difficult position. You can't get a full-time job because then your numbers will go up and you won't be able to qualify to stay there. But I do have people asking me, you know, I can't pay my rent. My electric bill is about to be shut off, and I come to the general membership, and people have called on me for this, but you know, the first time, we had a request for a ride, you know, we need to step up. I'm not trying to put out money to, be the Bank of American Legion, but I am trying to help people in a crisis, and I think there's a middle ground that we can find, and I believe I'm at the right table for that. So I appreciate all your help, Kevin.

Kevin Koch

Could I just ask? How many people are at Veterans Village, and are there families? I really know very little about it. I'm a little curious.

Allen Lane

I think there are about 60 veterans there. I think there are, and these numbers are not accurate. This is off the top of my head. I believe there's like 12 children. I do have this - the ladies' auxiliary is setting up a Christmas party, and she's got a list of requests that she's asking for. April said she knows the sizes, the ages, the number of kids.

They're asking for money for gifts. They're asking for money for food, and she said she swears that by next meeting she'll have the actual request that she wants. I would like to connect our committee with the Ladies Auxiliary and work with them, not just at the Veterans Village, but at other events. It just happens they have this Christmas party for the Veterans Village set up, and I think it's a wonderful idea. Thank you. Why reinvent the wheel? It's already going.

John Picken

Along those lines, if I do remember correctly, before you continue, we did authorize \$100 a month for three months. Six months. Six months. Thank you, Garth. So we're still involved. We're still in the middle of that six-month period of giving them \$100 for food.

Allen Lane

I believe that's food for the village in general. This is for that particular party.

John Picken

Oh, for the party.

Allen Lane

There's an actual party they're arranging. I believe it's on December 19, two to 6p.m. They're just trying. You know, there's children involved, and you know, we discussed this at the morning House Committee meeting. You know, could we ask the general membership, "Hey, next month, could you bring in a small gift or something? Just random stuff that children would like. By next meeting, next Tuesday, I will have an idea of the age range, so that we can, you know, rather than just giving them money, we can bring in gifts. So it's set up.

Raible

Gender, age.

Allen Lane

I would like to ask. You talk about is it Riccios that helps us on Fridays?

John Picken

Friday nights.

Allen Lane

What kind of number are we looking at for setting up Riccio's to do that on Fridays?

John Picken

What do you mean? What kind of number? How much? Well, our cost is \$12 per person,

Allen Lane

and so it ends up about 300 or \$500.

John Picken

\$300s is about what we pay for the food, and then we charge \$15, so we're making three bucks per plate.

Allen Lane

Just spit balling again. What if instead of buying these things, we offer to have Riccio's as an example come in and have the party food? Cater it? Because if we buy them food, somebody has to make that food. Somebody has to bring the food. You know, there's lots of things, and tasks, more steps to go. If we have someone like Riccio's or what is it? Dad's burgers, or a taco truck.

John Picken

Dad's burgers is great, but I don't think he has the ability to turn over a lot of people at one time.

Allen Lane

But you know, someone like that. You know, what do you think? Any suggestions? Any thoughts?

John Picken

In and out truck.

Allen Lane

You know, something like that. I think would be great. You know, simple.

John Picken

Do we have In and Out connections?

Allen Lane

That would be awesome. They make a good burger.

John Picken

I like the idea. We still have a couple of months before we have.

Allen Lane

We do. I just want to start the ball rolling, and I think the headline is, I'm trying to make a connection to our board working with the auxiliary and then the Riders and the Sons. You know, reaching out to everybody and connecting and working together as a team. That's it.

Kevin Koch

Thank you.

John Picken

You got anything else for us?

Allen Lane

No, that's it.

John Picken

I do have something in regards to our service officer. Allen volunteered to be at the Veterans Village last Thursday.

Allen Lane

Thursday,

John Picken

He contacted 25 veterans over there during the EXPO. Wow! Talked to them, give them ways of getting through the VA red tape. Talking about the American Legion itself, and I was over there for about 45 minutes just to start things off. Allen did a great, great job.

That's why I put that picture on Facebook. Really wanted to give him a little bit of a hand. Along those lines, we want to try and continue that outreach. And I do need. I don't know if anybody knows this. How does a veteran get into Veterans Village if they have less than honorable discharge?

Allen Lane

I'll have to talk with Brandee about that, but there are qualifications. I'm not sure if that's possible. I think you do need a DD 214 because I asked her about that. If everybody had one. . .

John Picken

well, I had two people come up to me There in my time there, says they have a less vulnerable discharge.

Kevin Koch

That's a good point. I did hear that they're not eligible to be American Legion members, not all of them.

John Picken

We're, you know, they either have to get it upgraded to a, a general or an honorable, to get in.

Allen Lane

And actually, to continue on that, the number I gave you are people that I've counseled this year 53 veterans so far this year, and the event on Thursday, a lot of people are reaching out to me because we put an article in the newsletter every year, every month, and people are getting that number now. And I'm getting; not as much of a crisis call, as a you know, so it's wonderful to have the outreach. The newsletter seems to be working, and it's not just from the vets village. I have people, other veterans around the valley, that have called out to me, and I've helped them get connections. Ron Heath at the DAV does a wonderful job. I could not even imagine myself with the years of training being efficient as as he is. It is so great that he knows this stuff? So I direct them to that. I try to be the source, not the answer. I am the connection, and it seems to be working, and I'm very happy with it.

John Picken

Again, thank you so much. Appreciate it. Okay, moving on.

Garth Gilpin

Long register. I'll drop some off.

John Picken

Finance Officer Gilpin.

Garth Gilpin

Two page report. Yeah. Two pages sent out. I'm trying to save paper so the two page P and L is front half on the back half. Year to date, had sales \$182,000. The operation, the total expenditures, \$78,000. That's after Fortran's comp insurance. Our big sale right now is this electricity. The last two months, it's been over \$5,000 a month. Just we need to. I talking to Commander next summer. If this heat continues, we we need to look at the hours of operation. I don't have any specifics, but it's a couple days a week. We heat it for three or four, or cool it for three or four days.

Allen Lane

I know I'm reaching here, but is there any way we can talk to Edison and say hey, as a you know.

Garth Gilpin

They just sent us a letter saying because we use it at critical hours, which is 4o'clock to 8o'clock. Our rates just went up.

Crawford

I love that response.

Allen Lane

That's a great response. Yeah.

Garth Gilpin

Anyway, we did pretty well for the first eight months. We our gross profit for the canteen operation we lost 2800 bucks, and I attribute that to the extreme heat we've had. These electric bills are just awful. The net operating income we lost 4900. That's due to the interest and professional fees that we don't count against the canteen operation on the back, which is the good news. Our other income we have \$64,000 for the first eight months. General donations is \$33,000, which is that's just people saying here. Here's money, use it.

The total at the bottom net income is \$72,000 for the first eight months, and of that, did I say without other income, we'd be hurting, but anyway, our community outreach baseball was \$1,000. Boys Girls State 7600, others 9300. Palm Springs to 29 Palms 2500, and then Village Fest \$438.

So. page two is our bank accounts. We have \$188,000 in the bank this morning. Bar about \$15,000, which we'll have one more electric bill, which will be up there. So we should make it through on our bar lotto without having to subsidize it. Membership is 37,000, and that's money we use for community outreach, boys, girls, state stuff we allocate here. That that should hopefully go up because our membership now has started for the 2027 year. Measure J funding, we had 58,000 in the bank. They restarted that Monday. Excuse me, last Friday. Plumber's been in big holes in the kitchen, doing real, real professional plumber. I'm real happy with him. That money will be. Spent, and as soon as it's spent, we'll get another. We'll get four checks for \$66,000. We have received two of them. The this proceeding, I cannot give you a date of completion. The equipment was purchased, so that should not be a holdback. It's a matter of hoping the guy performs as he says he will. So I'll know more next week after seeing what what happens at the end of 10 days of construction. So our building fund we have \$53,000. The that that money will go for stuff that we need here that's not covered by Measure J. I asked Measure J if we could use if we had any excess money if we could use that money to rebuild the wall. The lady at Measure J was very perceptive. She said, "No, you can't do that without going through channels. But she forwarded the information I gained on. I have gotten three quotes, all of them in the \$20,000 range. She forwarded them to the Rick Monaire, who's in the building area, and he forwarded them to the planning commission. And I got a letter back from Rick saying that they have decided that the wall is owned by the city.

Lee Wilson

Oh, good.

Garth Gilpin

And they say they've repaired it in the past, and they anyway. So if we don't hear anything from the Planning Commission, I will proceed to the City Manager, who's a member of the post, and to Rhonda Hart, who's a member of our Council Council District Three representative, and he's a member of the Post also, and I'll get them involved in getting that wall fix before somebody gets hurt. Color guard has \$4,000. Baseball has 13,000, which Max can use him for his tee ball startup. The riders have \$5,100, and I didn't want to say anything when he was talking about the riders gave \$1,000 last month to the veteran front program. So, any question on the financial?

Raible

I have a question about janitorial 18,000

Lee Wilson

About?

Garth Gilpin

it runs about \$500 a week. She's here three hours a day, every day. Her sisters are here seven days a week, and then she charges \$20 an hour. And four or five days a week, they mop the entire facility an extra hour for that.

John Picken

Sure.

Garth Gilpin

So, we shopped it a couple of years ago and couldn't come close to it.

Raible

Right. I won't do it for 25.

John Picken

Oh, I thought you were volunteering again.

Allen Lane

She's got her hand up all day long, constantly smiling.

Raible

and on the janitorial supplies part of non-bar supplies are at negative 800. I mean, it's a yeah. Yes, right. It's an expense.

John Picken

I will make this comment on the janitorial supplies. My wonderful wife shops like you wouldn't believe to get the best prices for everything that we get for this post. Janitorial supplies, the dry goods that we use in the bar. She shops all of the Sam's, Costco, Smart Final, and Amazon. And you know, we may spend \$10 saving 20, but we go to Sam's three times a week, or we have it delivered. And then Amazon seems to be a continuous drop-off at our door for supplies that we get here. So, and I'm not bragging, but I'm pretty sure that my wife Lori has probably saved this post \$10,000 in the last four years by shopping the bargain shops.

Allen Lane

Yeah, and having someone do that, you know, bother with it, rather than just buying a bunch of stuff at Walgreens. Kudos to her, and not even, you know, it's amazing how much love and attention is in the post. So, I really love it.

Garth Gilpin

Anything else? That's it. Any other questions on Measure J or the wall back here?

Allen Lane

We do the work, and then they pay you for the measure J. Is that how that works?

Garth Gilpin

No, they pay us, and then we do the work.

Allen Lane

And we have two more checks coming. That's fabulous. Good work on that. That's great.

Garth Gilpin

Well, as far as the additional money can go for air conditioning, roof on this half of the building, I asked them if we could use the wall if we had any excess money, and they said you can. You got to go back to measure J. They have to look at it, approve it, and it goes to city council. And since it's their wall, oh, the other thing we did, we were trying to determine who actually owns the wall. So I got two. So asked City Hall Planning Department for who does surveying. They said, "Well, we don't get involved in that. I contacted two firms. One I never heard back from. One gave me a very descriptive quote that the parking lot back here was owned by the Legion at one point in time and was sold to the city, so that's a city parking lot, and it was done long enough ago that actual records don't exist as to where the point of ownership ceases. So it was \$12,000 to get a survey team in here, and that's when I decided. Well, before we spend \$12,000 to determine if we owned it or if they owned it, I got hold of this WIC guy, and he said, "Well, let's don't spend 12,000. Let's figure it out. So, anyways, hopefully the city will step up.

John Picken

Thank you, Garth. How about Chaplin? That's the true report. Thank you, Chaplain. E-board one, Stevens. You got anything for us, sir?

Kevin Koch

Nothing to report this time.

John Picken

Okay. E-board two. Anthony is not here. E-board two. Webster. Maggie?

Raible

Yes.

Ron Webster

About the these people that need transportation. Now I remember years ago I used to go back and forth to the Bumble Linda Hospital, and there was a band that we used to meet at Cathedral City Hall on the back, and they would stop at two other places before we get out on the Interstate 10, and we had to be there at 630 in the morning. That was a requirement, and we couldn't make our appointments after noon time. And what happened to that van that they used to have all the time?

Allen Lane

Who's they?

Ron Webster

The veterans.

Allen Lane

The village itself.

Ron Webster

No, the the VA guy. The VA. Yeah. VA represented that.

Allen Lane

Well, I'll have to look into that.

Andrew Stevens

VA isn't in kind of slashed to hell. Cut.

Ron Webster

because they would be looking for volunteers all the time to drive the bus.

John Picken

you'd have to have a commercial license.

Ron Webster

Yeah, chauffeur's license or something like that. Right?

Allen Lane

right.

Ron Webster

They would look for volunteers and they give you free lunch and stuff like that. I haven't I haven't used that for many years, but at one time we used to have that for the veterans.

John Picken

I think when they slashed the VA budget and they opened up the Palm Desert one, that ride disappeared. But I don't know for sure. But we'll look into it Ron.

Allen Lane

Absolutely.

John Picken

Do you have anything else for us?

Ron Webster

No, that'd be all. Okay, thank you, sir.

John Picken

E board three, Maggie.

Raible

No, I don't have anything.

John Picken

Thanks, Carter. Sargeant at arms. You got anything for me, sir?

Speaker 1

Nothing emphasized.

John Picken

Thank you. Thank you. Your turn, historian Snow. Okay, we're done.

James Snow

All right. I'll try to be too long. So, historian, I do have some communication committee stuff, and I do have a little bit of historian stuff, not too much.

First off, over the past couple years, I've gathered a lot of pictures and photos, a lot of events, and so I'm going to continue to keep doing that. Just have a lot of them stashed away. We don't have any binders and stuff like that. It gets kind of old school, but we should have kind of some backup old school stuff. I think so. I think what I'll do is I'm still working on trying to figure out how to do all that because you know, as far as acquiring the history of this of this post, and there's a lot of history that's happened over the past couple years. You know, since I've been, I think I've been this post for three, almost three years now. I think something like that.

James Snow

A lot of things happen. A lot of people have passed away, which is unfortunate. And you know, unfortunately, Chuck Potter passed away recently. Him and I were pretty close. But I'm going to keep continuing to do best I can to maintain that we gather information as far as the history of the post, and as far as the Measure J stuff, that is stuff that's history that we need to capture. So the days that they come in and start doing that, I like to. If I can get notified the days that they're coming, that'd be great because then I can come in and get some shots of that happening and capture that. Because I do have plans, some other digital plans as far as the stuff I've been capturing for later on down the road.

John Picken

Let me stop you right there because they're going to be here every day.

James Snow

Every day.

John Picken

but they start early in the morning, so you can come in taking photos or videos or whatever you want to do.

James Snow

Okay, cool. All right, I do have a lot more time that's open up because I'm not working with NBC like every single day like I was past few months. But let's see, that's good. That's good. Interviews. One thing I want to add is, or this is tied to the communication, communicate, communicate, communications committee. I want to start doing something.

We can maybe start getting our veterans. Maybe set something up like one day or something, or maybe start. I'm going to bring this up next week as well too, where veterans can come in if they're here, if they want to do like maybe a two-minute video or something, maybe we set up in the radio room. They could be there privately, and they can just tell their story. We capture their story, and then we put it on like when we create with their permission. I create another page on the website. This is pertaining to history of the posts. If veterans want to tell their story, they have somewhere to live even after they pass.

You know, so one thing I'm going to try to do, I interviewed Chuck for my documentary, and so I have this entire story, crazy story, amazing story, and I want to, with notice of permission, I want to take some of his footage and maybe use his as like the initial veteran story that people go to and hear about. He's his story. We all know his stories, and you know. So rest in peace, Chuck. So okay, so I want to get big.

This is communication stuff, but I'll talk about it now. As far as getting all the pictures, I need to get pictures of everyone that that's part of the board now. Let's see, please. Oh, and anything that's anything that's coming up at all events. I mean, I wrote down a bunch of notes as far as the district 20 oh the district 21 meeting.

I'll be here for that. Captured footage of that as well, pictures, videos, whatever. And then the other stuff is communication stuff, and that's all I got for historian stuff. That's it for the story. Go ahead, jump right into it. You have a question?

Allen Lane

I do. I love your idea about sitting down and interviewing veterans, because much like other groups, these people are not going to have the same story, pretty soon. You know, we won't have people from the Korean War. We won't have people from the Vietnam War, you know. And so it's important to capture those and honor the people that you know will eventually have fallen. And I think it's a wonderful idea.

James Snow

Yeah. So we're bringing that up next next week as well too. So something I'm working on. So if I can go right into communications stuff, that'd be great. All right, so website. So I'm just going to go right here real quick. I don't know if you've all noticed or not, but I've made a lot of change on the website. Something that would help out veteran resource officers as well too. So if you can't see, sorry. But I'm not going to go over everything real quick. Take it upon yourself to check it out. But on the top, has anyone checked out the website recently at all?

Allen Lane

I haven't seen the new updates.

James Snow

Okay, so up here on the top, if you look up, I've been working on trying to integrate AI as far as into the website. Where people, if you have a question as far as how do I get my DD 214 or how do I increase my my my my percentage with the VA and stuff like that, AI's kind of trying to work AI into in the website, so people can go on here and ask a question. And if you go down here on the bottom, this is kind of a template almost, but it works. There's a smart chat on the bottom of the website. You see that right there?

Lee Wilson

I do.

James Snow

You just put a message. You know, like if you want, just put a you know question here. How like my DD 214? It'll give you some little bit of resource to figure out how you can do that. Same thing with the top thing here. So this one right here is another page I created, Veteran Resource Center. Click on right here, takes you to this page. You can ask a question. Example: How do I do my DD-214? You scroll down the bottom. It's other things: VA benefits, VA disability, healthcare, DD 214 education, housing, home loans, all kinds of different stuff. That's all resources that I added to the page. I did. I'm going to change up the way the website looks because I think the way I created it first was kind of it was good, but it's like a the website's like a fighting hole. You constantly have to constantly have to be improved by it. So, and that's what I'm doing with this. So if you go here. Did update the history page, so if you go and check it out, this is all new now. Talks about the history of the post. Allen coffins got the timeline on here, so I encourage everyone to go go check it out later.

Lee Wilson

Where is it at? Under about.

James Snow

Yeah, go to about our mission. I've changed that up. It's talking about our mission. This is all changed up now. Looks pretty cool. A lot of information there. Now the officers page I changed, and so I kind of would like. I would like to have at least us got like a little a piece of biography about herself. You know, just maybe something that'd be cool. You want to? That's an idea. You know, has to be done. Doesn't have to be done. You go to officers' page, commander. You're you're right up top, nice and big.

John Picken

Who is that dude? Oh man!

James Snow

And so I got you guys in there. I got to get you and you and you on there as well. So I'll take your picture in front of the green screen, and then we'll get you on the on the website. So that's another one that I updated. Governing docs. That's all updated now for all the meeting minutes. Not the minute minutes, but if you want to go and print out the bylaws. All that stuff's all updated now. So, and so go check it out. There's other things under that I've really looked really good. Some of the documents that I put on, so people go and like and sign up as far as a membership, I have to put those documents back on. And I did have it set up where you can sign up online. I took that off right now because I notice people sign up for \$65, and you know Wix takes a little bit of that. So technically, we're paying a little bit for that membership. So we had one person sign up over the website. So I did take that down for now. I'm kind of working that out, so we don't.

John Picken

Did I get that information?

James Snow

You did. Yeah, that was three or four months.

James Snow

Cynthia or whatever, Salceda or something. Catherine Salceda. Catherine.

John Picken

Yeah. Yes, I talked to her. Yes.

James Snow

Right. Right. Yeah.

John Picken

It took a while because she was a transfer.

James Snow

Right. Okay, I didn't know that. All right. Oh,

John Picken

she, she, we don't have a transfer page.

James Snow

Ah. Okay. Well, that's something. Okay. That's a note I got to make. All right. So that being said, all right. Next up. That's that on that. Continue from the website. Get on that. Well, I'm just moving through this volunteer page. I do want to add a volunteer page to the website. That's in my notes. It's something I want to do. So anything that we have that's volunteer, that people can. What kind of volunteers does the American Legion? We need. We need people to volunteer. You know, Village Fest. You know, we're having issues with that. Any any kind of volunteer thing we talked about in the meeting, I'll try to get better at this volunteer event that comes up. I can put it on the website, and so we just got to get better at helping people to direct them to the website because it's going to get better. Trust me, it's going to get way better, and it's a lot better than what it was when I first came to the post. Not tooting my own horn, but you know,

Allen Lane

it's very good.

James Snow

Thank you, Committee, all right. Continue. Okay, so for the communications committee, we do have a few people. Myself, or Zan, Chris Freeman, which the karaoke guys, but he hasn't really. I have got. I need to follow back up with him again because sorry I'm being a little long. I just have a lot to catch up on here. Chris Freeman, I need. I got to follow up with him. See if he still wants to be part of the communications committee. Yeah, he wants to help with building a website, but you know he hasn't really. I just got to follow up. Andrew wants to help out, so we're going to see if we get him on the communications committee. Andrea, and then and that's it. So I want to try to get more people to kind of help out with that as well, because there's things I've been thinking over the past few months as far as how I can integrate and delegate down to other people within the community or committee to help make the communications committee run more fluidly or fluently or whatever, more fluid. Any okay, so any events that are coming up that actually let me move on past that. Okay, that's done. Okay, so I became really proficient with AI over the past six months, and so if anyone has anything or any ideas that you think we can use for AI for the post to help our jobs easier, let me know because I can probably figure something out that's a tool that you can use, whether it's meeting minutes or whether it's rosters or membership, whatever it is. I can probably figure it out. Just let me know, and if it make your job easier and it makes your volunteer time to post a lot less time, I mean, not saying you don't want that time to post, but we want to have our free time and our personal time as well too. So if there's something I can do to help you out, let me know what AI. So sorry, like I'm like I'm taking the over here. Andrew,

Andrew Stevens

I just want to say it's like just be very mindful of of regulations because of that the type of data that that we collect. You don't want to. We don't want to be like, oh yeah, we're doing this great thing, and then next thing you know, a state regulator comes out and be like, "So we found this."

James Snow

I understand. I'm already on that one. All right. Thank you. All right. So next up, veteran assistance. Okay. So. The last thing is, I'm kind of combining the two together. MBC the telethon.

So next week I'm going to ask to us together a committee for the telethon again for the next at the general meeting because we got to start getting on that.

So I don't know if you guys are aware at all, but I was on the Price Is Right yesterday. It was just yesterday.

Allen Lane

Oh wow, I saw that you were on social media mentioning the game show.

James Snow

I went, but it's for the Veterans Day event, so I can't tell you about it because it hasn't aired yet. But I'm going to say, please watch it. You probably see me on there. That's all I'm going to say.

Allen Lane

Good job.

James Snow

All right, so there was a bunch of veterans there. I was the only one there in my dress blues. That's why my face is shaved, and so I shaved my beard off. So with that being said, I'm the only Marine there in dress blues. I mean, you kind of kind of. I can't say anything else.

Andrew Stevens

Yeah, I can't tell you.

James Snow

I can't tell you the details or anything.

John Picken

How disappointed, you were wearing your dress whites?

James Snow

Oh, oh, because summertime, right? Trousers. Okay. So next thing, the two things that I have as far as what I'm going to go to NBC with is trying to get news coverage with is the September 11th event because I think we have Steve Santos will be here as well too, and Andy Mills I think will be. Andy Mills will not be here.

John Picken

We got the acting chief. Well, he's a new chief now. He's a new chief. Yes, exactly. So he's coming in. In theory, he told Jeff he would be here, along with council person.

James Snow

Councilperson. Okay. So I will. I'm going to present that to NBC and see if we can get that coverage for the 11th and for the bake sale. I think they want me to they want me to bring that to NBC as far as the bake sale, but that goes during the daytime. Is that a weekend or a weekday?

John Picken

It's a week. It's a Saturday Sunday.

James Snow

Okay, that's not going to work. Because I had an idea is maybe we can have a reporter here. We can go live. You know, we can be live on TV while the big sale is going on, but if it's on the weekend, that's probably not going to happen. So I'm going to take that to NBC and see if we can maybe advertise that, get some more coverage on that. You know, someone maybe April or somebody can do an interview for NBC and not not you this time. You know, I know how much you love being on camera. All right. So, anyways, next up is I'm almost done. Bear with me. I talked about Chuck Potter.

I'll talk to Nona about that. Oh, I'm trying to do. I'm trying to see if I get a story on NBC News about Chuck. And is there anything else that anyone wants as far as advertising on DV NBC, they can pitch to them.

John Picken

Toys for tots.

James Snow

Toys for tots. Okay.

John Picken

That would be my preference. It's always been my pet project here at the post.

James Snow

Will we start collecting donations for that?

John Picken

We're surprised. I'll make the connections actually by the end of this month, to get a listing of who's going to get the donation boxes. Last year, I had 10 boxes out there, different stores, and plus our location here. And as I told people at the house committee, we had two box trucks full.

James Snow

That was a lot.

Kevin Koch

That's great.

James Snow

I add that to the list. I'll talk about that as well too. Anything else? Anything as far as nothing?

John Picken

Nothing for that. You can get a copy of our transfer form at the front door in the files there to add to your web page. When were when were you thinking about tell us on what dates?

John Picken

Last year we did November, right? We did.

James Snow

It was like the day or two right after Veterans Day. Right

John Picken

after Veterans

Andrew Stevens

Day. So we knew was like 11 grand or something. Yeah. The system's already still in place. It just needs to be paid for. Yeah.

John Picken

And what was the cost on that?

Andrew Stevens

They only charged for one license, so it was like 30 bucks. But I don't know. I tried to be like honest about it, like hey, just to make sure. You know, we did have like 15 people using this, and they're like, no, that's fine, 30 bucks. It worked well

John Picken

we're going to need a telethon chair. We did, you were last year, so if we get the same, try and get some of the same group together,

Andrew Stevens

and then we start putting out the call for volunteers.

Crawford

Yep,

James Snow

absolutely.

Andrew Stevens

Okay, we can still get the computers. We'll see if we can shoot for a higher number this year.

James Snow

This year. NBC is already on board with it. So one other thing, when I was at the Price Is Right yesterday, I talked to Drew Carey, and I was trying to see if I can get another

John Picken

A Marine.

James Snow

We're all Marines. And so we connected as soon as I talked to him. It was pretty cool. He, I asked, I told him about the telethon. You know, and you know my documentary, obviously that too. But I'll see if I can get him to be here as a guest host. That'll be great. Well, CBS, NBC, you know, like contract. They won't have that. American Legion.

John Picken

I know that, but you know . . .

James Snow

he loves the Hollywood posts. I told him I had some great posts too. So, but I do have an idea. Not him. I mentioned Gary Snees. I'm still trying to work on that. I already have an email. I already tried working up to try to generate to his manager to see if I can get Gary Snees here to be our guest host for the Telethon. If not, maybe Rob Wiggles, which is another Marine. I'm trying to work on last thing. I'm trying to work on seeing if we get some sponsors this year for Telethon. So like Walter Clark, I can probably talk to him see if he might want to sponsor for the telethon. You know, telethon. I mean, I freaking even telethon sponsored by Walter Clark, or maybe we can get Ford involved in on there or something.

Might want to you know sponsor and donate some sponsor money to the government.

John Picken

speaking of Ford, what happened with the promotion we were trying to do?

James Snow

that's that was already ran. That was ran like a couple days before Fourth of July, whether we got anything out of it, maybe or maybe not. So that that was that was sponsored saying they want their pay in MVC. They just need the content. So part of their their content was us, and so whether that generated donations for our post, I don't know if it did or not. I don't think it did.

Allen Lane

Maybe just recognition. Allen, you had a question. I did. The sponsor. Can you give more information on that? How much is it? What Are you looking for?

James Snow

Is it just a money? Just an idea. Like honestly, that yesterday it was an idea that popped up. I could. I haven't worked out all the details on it yet, but but absolutely.

John Picken

Might want to be able to talk to you, Toyota and Honda of the desert, since they helped us out for our turkey giveaway last November, I got to call Anthony back and see if he wants to get involved again.

James Snow

He's tied in NBC pretty, you know, pretty pretty pretty well too. So, all right, so so yeah. I think that's it. Other than that, I think they have everything covered. One second. All right, that's it. That's all I got.

John Picken

Thank you, sir. Okay, moving on to committee reports. I have a House committee report. This morning, the House committee met. We had two event requests that we voted on. One is a celebration of life. The other one is a baby shower. Again, we talked about District 21 meeting coming in. Garth has already mentioned the kitchen redo was stalled due to contractor issues and insurance. Back on track, hopefully for now. We restarted on Friday, as Garth said, we have big holes in the kitchen floor. Ron, a question for you: When did ABS start getting used for plumbing? The black. When did it start being used for plumbing? ABS. The black tubing.

Ron Webster

Oh, great! Years ago.

John Picken

For years. They were using ABS. Okay, because we have old ABS on the kitchen floor. No, just trying ABS, the black. Jesus, yeah, I thought it'd be cast iron. I did too. Most there's a there's a couple pipes that are maybe it's been replaced. Maybe I don't know. Okay, I was just a question. It was just a question. Okay, we put up the signs on the entries to both the kitchen doors. No admittance to anybody. Stay out. There's debris, nails. We don't want people stepping, falling in holes, or anything like that. Friday's dinners are still being provided by Riccio's. This Friday we've got Nick Del Audio. I can't even pronounce his name. He's playing. We're going to be supplying the food from Riccios for that. The following week is 911, so that'll be taken care of by the ALR. Signage question came up because I've had a couple of complaints I brought up to the House committee. We just kind of think about this. There are so many flyers and signs about the sun's events that kind of overloading the other events. So it was kind of recommended that we only allow them to have one sign per table, not two signs and not multi signs on one table that's got a big sign and a little sign. I call them signs or flyers or whatever. So I just want to bring it up to you, and I'm going to talk to the sun's commander about that and see if we can bring the signage down just a hair because it does overpower our events and the auxiliary events because they put out 40 signs. The dinners are breaking even on the.

The money, for the most part, this past Friday wasn't as good as other Fridays, but we have people donating. That kind of makes up the difference. 9/11 dinner sold out, and this is the issue we were talking about earlier. We're just going to punt and try and make it work. I will be there to apologize for people who get aced out of food because they didn't buy a ticket in time. Signage was up, signage for flyers two months ago, and it was put on Facebook. Even though some people ask why it was being put out so early, again Jeff sold out all 60 of the meals that he's doing, plus the 24 for the police and fire, and last thing on the House committee.

Thank you to Mike Beresh for changing out the lock on the kitchen exterior door, but we do need to think about replacing that whole door during this construction period. That's the House Committee membership.

I'll be mentioning the one person who's brand new next week, but his name is Eric Rath. He's verified with the DG14. The membership numbers as of today. Well, first of all, our goal is 755 members. They jacked us up from 735 to 755, so we need to increase our membership by 20. Right now, we have a total members of 338 paid members for 2027, which includes 78 puffles paid up for lives. I'm one of those. Are you a Puffle? No. Anybody else a Puffle in here? Garthas. Okay. For the year, we've had 12 new members and five transfers, and that's from January to now. Even though the national goes from fiscally from July 1st, any questions on membership? Hopefully next month we will have Andrea taking over membership, which will be a weight off of my shoulders. We already had the communications. We already did the finance. Old business. We already talked about the kitchen. God's handling of that. Is there any other old business before we go further? Have I forgotten anything? No. Mike, could you do me a huge favor? I printed something out in the printer in the back bar. Would you grab it for me, sir? Okay. New business. 9/11. We talked about it. It's coming up. It's all good. You mentioned the pride parade. What date's the pride parade? Right before Veterans Day parade, like the 10th or something like that.

Raible

Pride's after.

Lee Wilson

After it. After?

Raible

first weekend of November.

John Picken

What's that, James? The district 21 meeting here. On the 20th. 20.

Lee Wilson

Parade, Sunday, November 8.

Allen Lane

The week, the weekend before Veterans Day.

John Picken

Sunday, November 8, for Pride. and then Veterans Day is going to be obviously

Allen Lane

on the 11th, which is a Wednesday. Are they doing the parade on a Wednesday?

John Picken

Okay. Okay, we'll figure this out as we go. Also, we have the New Year's Eve party that we're planning. I don't know what we're going to do about food yet. I'm hoping the kitchen will be done, and we'll have a contractor in there. We'll see what happens. We maybe end up just catering it again. We'll see what happens. The only other thing I have is I got this forwarded to me by a member. Apparently, he's on the California American Legion email for some reason to interested parties from the California American Legion.

The California American Legion is sharing the following community notice on behalf of Mrs. Sandra, who is seeking a suitable new home for her late Father's 2020 Grand Piano. The family reports of the piano has been consistently maintained and remains in good working condition. They are offering their instrument at no cost and hope to find an individual or organization that can provide an appropriate environment along with the care and maintenance the piano requires. I'm just bringing this up because he brought it to me and says we missed out on an opportunity like this before. The piano is worth minimum 30,000, maybe as much as \$60,000.

There is a picture of the piano, which is a Yamaha, along with everything else. Now I see two options here. We can bring this in and use it while we get our other piano restored, which is going to be an exorbitant amount of money, or we just go and have this in place of it. The third option would be to get this and sell it, bring money into the post. We had a piano sale the other last year. Whatever happened, there wasn't a big reception for that, was there? Again, the grand piano is a big piece of furniture. So I'm just bringing it to everybody's attention. If anybody wants to follow up on it, that's great. We can do that. I had a little bit of a heartache on it because we don't have the room for another grand piano. We don't have a place to store this stuff. It's a beautiful looking piano, no doubt about that. They don't even know where it is. They don't say it's you know where.

Allen Lane

It'd be great, but once you put it there, then it takes up a lot of space. Right,

John Picken

that's yours. Well, moving it, and then you once you move it, you got to retune it. Tune it. So yeah. Anyways, I just I told him I bring it up. No motions or anything like that. I'm good. Okay, moving along. Anything for the good of the American Legion? Anything for the good of the American Legion? One last time. Everybody wants to go home. I know. Anything good for the American Legion? Okay. Closing ceremony. If there's no other further business, we come before the meeting. Please stand at attention. Uncover, chaplain. Offer a closing prayer, please.

Crawford

Thank you, God, for allowing us to work together in all our endeavors, and thank you for our ongoing successes, Amen.

Everyone

Amen.

John Picken

Sergeant at Arms, recover the POWMIA flag. Till we meet again, let us remember our obligation to our American country, to our country, can be fulfilled only by the faithful performance of all duties of citizenship, let service to the community, state, and nation be ever a main objective of the American Legion and its members.

Let us be ever watchful of the honor of our country, our organization, and ourselves, that nothing shall swerve us from the path of justice, freedom, and democracy. Recover. Face our nation's flag and salute. Two.

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

Minutes by Allen Lane
Adjutant for Post 519
Palm Springs
September 2026
Executive Meeting Minutes