

# American Legion      Palm Springs Post 519

House Committee Meeting - September 1<sup>st</sup> 2026

## Overview

The board met to approve event requests, review kitchen renovation progress, and discuss facility maintenance. John Picken, Maggie Raible, Ron Webster, Allen Lane, Garth and Mike Beresh were present at the meeting.

## Event Approvals

**John Picken** presented two upcoming event requests for approval.

- A bridal shower in the back bar on 9/13 from 2 p.m. to 5 p.m. = Approved.
- A celebration of life for **Jerry Davidson** on Friday, September 18, from 12 p.m. to 3 p.m., Approved; **John** will follow up regarding **ABC** requirements for this event.
- The **District 21** meeting is scheduled for the 20th, with **Rusanne** providing refreshments.

## Construction Updates

The **Kitchen Redo** project has restarted after delays regarding contractor insurance coverage. **Garth** reported that the general contractor is currently performing concrete cutting for new drainage but must provide workers' comp documentation before further work continues on the \$31,000 contract.

- To avoid a \$12,000 window replacement cost and historical commission delays, the team decided to build a one-foot wall up to the ceiling in the kitchen area instead of replacing the glass.
- New electrical will be installed behind this wall, and a drop ceiling will be added six inches down to finish the look.
- The projected end date for the project is summer 2027; however, members are instructed to stay out of construction zones for safety.

## Facility Maintenance

Several maintenance issues were addressed by **John**, **Garth**, and **Ron**.

- **Electrical:** To prevent further damage from power surges that previously blew a fuse, a surge protection installation costing approximately \$1,200 was approved via the budget. An estimate for chemically cleaning the AC unit is expected from **Nickel** on Thursday.

- **Fire Safety:** A bid from **Corp Tech** to replace fire extinguishers and redo hood systems was deemed too expensive at nearly \$3,000; **John** will seek a competing bid from **Desert Fire**.
- **Infrastructure:** The perimeter wall remains a safety concern as it belongs to the city; **Garth** is awaiting responses from city officials regarding three bids totaling approximately \$20,000 to replace it or raise its height to six feet on our side and eight feet on the city side.

## Community Outreach

**Allen** discussed working with the Ladies Auxiliary coordinating a Christmas party at the **Veterans Village**. The request includes food assistance and asking roughly \$1,500 worth of gifts/certificates for the children; will discuss at the general meeting asking members to donate gifts for the children at the Vets Village.

## Action Items

- Allen Lane - Coordinate with Danielle and April on the Veterans Village Christmas party and confirm the requested food, gift certificates, children's gifts, and funding needs by next Tuesday General Meeting.
- Allen Lane - Provide or coordinate the two requested rides tomorrow: one to Date Palm Country Club/Cathedral City at 9:30 a.m. and one to Indian Canyon at 1:15 p.m.
- Allen Lane - Ask Danielle if the Veterans Village Christmas party needs Christmas lights or decorations.
- Contact Ken Fort after approval to confirm whether an ABC license is needed for Jerry Davidson's celebration of life on September 18.
- Raise the Legion holiday party plans at the executive board meeting.
- Announce on Friday that the 9/11 dinner is sold out, apologize to members who could not get tickets, and explain that the high-top tables and back bar will remain available.
- Contact Desert Fire for a competing bid on fire-extinguisher servicing and confirm the requirements for purchasing and certifying commercial fire extinguishers.
- If the city has not responded by midweek next week, escalate the collapsed-wall repair by contacting the city manager and District 3 council representative and sending them the three bids.
- Send Raible the contact information for the recommended air-conditioning contractor.

## Outline

### Event Request Approvals

- John Picken called the meeting to order at 10:07 with Maggie, Ron, Allen, Garth, Mike, and himself present.
- The board approved a request for a bridal shower in the back bar on September 13 from 2 p.m. to 5 p.m.
- A request for a celebration of life for Jerry Davidson on Friday, Sept 18, from 12 p.m. to 3 p.m. was approved.
- Upcoming meetings include the District 21 meeting on the 20th and an auxiliary district meeting on the 13th starting at 9 a.m.

### **Kitchen Renovation Update**

- The kitchen renovation project has restarted after being stalled due to contractor insurance issues.
- Garth Gilpin reported that the general contractor is currently performing concrete cutting for new drainage.
- To save \$12,000 on historical window replacement, the team decided to build a wall up to the ceiling instead.
- The project is expected to be completed by the summer of 2027,  
though members are warned to stay out of construction areas for safety concerns.

### **Food and Event Logistics**

- John Picken confirmed that Riccio will continue providing Friday dinner food during the construction period.
- The 9/11 dinner event has officially sold out, with Jeff cooking approximately 60 meals plus additional portions for police and fire personnel.
- To accommodate members during the sold-out 9/11 event, the back bar and high tops will remain open for service.
- There was a discussion regarding limiting excessive signage placed on tables by groups like the Suns to prevent overwhelming other events.

### **Building Maintenance and Safety**

- The board discussed replacing the external kitchen door and installing an air curtain to address bug issues and health codes.
- John Picken is seeking estimates for air conditioning cleaning and potential installation of an AC split unit.
- A surge protection system for the electrical system was approved to protect the air conditioning from future power surges.
- Garth Gilpin is working with the city to resolve a safety issue involving a falling wall that requires significant repairs.

### **Community Outreach and Support**

- Allen Lane is coordinating a Christmas party at Veterans Village and requested support for food, gifts, and gift certificates.
- Members were encouraged to donate gifts or business cards to assist with the upcoming holiday festivities for children.
- A request was made via email to find local members available to provide transportation services for residents tomorrow.

### **Meeting Conclusion and Future Planning**

- The board discussed a possibility of moving executive board meetings to 5:30 p.m.
- John Picken noted that several members would be absent from the upcoming evening Executive meeting.

Meeting at the American Legion Hall = September 1<sup>st</sup>, 2026