

## Summary

The meeting covered a range of topics including the post's financial status, soldier transportation, maintenance issues, and updates on the House committee. Key decisions were made to re-key all locks and purchase a new computer for post business. The meeting also discussed license plate display, youth programs, and inviting guests to the post. It was decided to only allow active duty military, veterans, and their families as guests. Two disrespectful guests were suspended indefinitely. Mr. Franks was also suspended for six months, and a \$15,000 sponsorship request for drone soccer was rejected. The meeting addressed transportation issues, the scholarship committee, and the American Legion Writers Group controversy. The details of the New Year's Eve party were discussed, with decisions made on ticket prices, decorations, and purchasing new tablecloths. The meeting also covered burn pits, upcoming events, and volunteering opportunities at the VA Chapel. The meeting concluded with a prayer for veterans and the recovery of the POW Mi flag.

Meeting Convened @ 5:05 pm

## Outline

Adjutant - Roll Call and Attendance •

Commander, First Vice Commander, Second Vice Commander, Third Vice Commander (absent), Service Officer, Chaplain, Judge Advocate, Sergeant at Arms (absent), Historian (not present)

2. Motion To Accept Minutes and Meeting Materials

All meeting minutes and handouts were available for review

Transcript service had technical issues but new service is working well

Motion to accept the minutes as read was made and seconded (Motion Passed) 3.

Announcements and Ritual •

Reminder of the ritual for requesting time on the floor

No announcements at the moment

4. Finance Report • Garth Gilpin

Minimal profit of \$385 for the bar from July to October

Decrease in donations compared to last year

Membership sign-ups and financial contributions needed

Current bank balance of \$85,000

Designated funds for community outreach, building repairs, and new license sheet

5.Cmdr, - Ice Machine and Stickers •

Ice machine funds at \$1,350

Received two \$500 checks for the ice machine

Stickers available for purchase at \$5 each

6.2nd Vice Lee Veterans Day Parade •

Video presentation of the post's participation in the parade

New magnets for cars and appreciation for convertible donations

7. Soldier transportation report •

Jerry's niece was the one who transported the soldier in the truck.

The soldier's mother and Speaker 2's mom were driving.

8. Fixing the preamble •

Claudette - volunteered to take on the project.

The preamble is considered a historical piece that needs to be preserved.

Suggestions were made to keep it in the back bar with a sign indicating its historical significance.

9. Reupholstering the bar •

Claudette - wants to continue reupholstering the bar.

Two sections still need to be done.

Coordination with the bar liaison or Speaker 1 is needed to schedule the work.

Supplies are already available.

10. Stage lighting purchase offer •

Claudette - The S A L previously offered to purchase stage lighting.

It was suggested to check if the offer is still valid and pursue it.

The importance of stage lighting for the organization was emphasized.

Lee - Maintenance issues •

The light outside the door needs to be fixed.

The back gate to the south parking lot is damaged.

Adj, offered to help with repairs.

The gate issue is not only caused by homeless people but also by people from the kitchen.

Alternative parking options were discussed.

Cmdr, - House committee updates •

The committee discussed getting a new kitchen contract.

An updated rental agreement for the hall, back bar, and parking lot is being worked on.

Membership, banking, and other administrative matters were addressed.

Adj, - Minutes of House committee meeting •

All discussion points from the House committee meeting are available in the minutes on the table.

Names of speakers were not recorded in the minutes.

14. Hall rental procedures •

A form needs to be filled out when renting the hall.

The form should be turned in to the bar staff.

The commander should be given at least 30 days notice for hall rentals.

Adj, - Re keying of locks •

All locks except one have been re keyed.

The remaining lock will be re keyed tomorrow morning.

New locks and keys have been obtained.

Bartenders will have a key to the lock on the stage door.

The door to the electrical room must remain open during business hours as per fire department regulations.

Cmdr, Lock box installation •

A Lock box is needed for the entire building.

A Lock box is a universal key that fire departments use to access buildings in case of emergencies.

Volunteers are needed to assist with the installation.

New computer for post business •

A new computer has been purchased for the post board to use for post business.

The first vice can use the computer for membership-related tasks.

The computer is located in the outer office and can be accessed by the e-board members.

Disbanding of radio station •

The radio station is being disbanded.

The decision was made due to adverse activity by the District 21 Ad hoc Committee.

The radio station has terminated all activity with Post 519.

The FCC has been notified to terminate the amateur radio license.

The radio equipment has been removed from the post.

Claudette - License plates in main hall • License plates from other posts are being displayed in the main hall, which some members find undesirable.

Monty - A motion was made to remove the license plates and place them in the back hall.

The motion was seconded and( passed), with all in favor.

20. Youth programs •

The Legion sponsors a Boy Scout troop, a Cub Scout troop, and is considering sponsoring a new drill Scout troop.

The Legion also sponsors high school students to attend Boys State and Girls State.

There was confusion last year regarding two different Girl State programs, but it was resolved.

The Legion gave out a middle school History Award to increase visibility in the community.

Cmdr, Drone program •

A new drone program was proposed, but no decision has been made due to the significant cost.

The Legion is exploring options for funding the program, including seeking support from local businesses.

Drone soccer is becoming popular in middle and high schools.

22. Approval of new members •

A motion was made to accept the new members, and it was seconded and passed.

The verification process for the new members was conducted according to national bylaws.

Claudette - Objections to board members •

Discussion on what would happen if a member objected to a board member.

Speaker 1 offered to read all objections if requested.

Cmdr, - Donation request from the Sons •

The Sons requested a \$300 donation for a Veterans Day evening meal.

Up To \$300,00 After Discussion With Ken Fort S A L Cmdr,

The meal fed at least 40 army band members.

Speaker 1 suggested motion to support the Sons with up to \$300.

25. Issues with food service at events •

Halloween party and Pride events were not as well attended as hoped.

Door monitors had issues with people bypassing them.

ABC officers visited and warned about violations.

Consideration of implementing a key card or camera system for entry.

26. Volunteers for door greeting •

Request for volunteers to assist with greeting guests at the front door on busy nights.

Volunteers needed for Friday nights and Sunday brunch.

House committee to discuss the suggestion of having check-ins outside the door.

27. Inviting guests to the post •

Speaker 5 expressed concern about the current policy, stating that inviting guests is a recruiting tool.

Cmdr, explained that guests should be people you would invite into your living room, and that the current policy is in line with the bylaws.

Speaker 2 emphasized that the organization is for veterans and opposed inviting just anyone as guests.

Speaker 5 argued that guests who have family members in the military or auxiliary should be allowed to join.

Cmdr, agreed with this point and stated that true family members are fine as guests.

Cmdr, clarified that the issue is with non-members who are just looking for cheap drinks.

mentioned that there have been instances of non-members misusing the facilities, and the post is under scrutiny.

Speaker 5 acknowledged the need to comply with the rules but still wanted to invite qualified guests.

Cmdr, - agreed that qualified guests are welcome, but the concern is with inviting random people.

Cmdr, - suggested that the post rules should be made clear in all publicity materials.

28. Suspension of disrespectful guests •

Cmdr, - informed the attendees about the suspension of two guests, Troy Franks and Steve Hermosa, who had been disrespectful to bartenders and members.

Cmdr, - mentioned that one of the guests threw a bottle of water at the memorial wall.

Cmdr, - recommended a six-month suspension for Mr. Franks and sought board approval.

Adj, - suggested following the proper procedure of giving verbal and written warnings to members, but Speaker 1 explained that the incidents with Mr. Franks had been ongoing.

Speaker 1 clarified that Mr. Hermosa was not a member and had not renewed his membership.

Speaker 1 emphasized that abusive behavior towards bartenders will not be tolerated.

#### 29. Suspension of Mr. Franks •

Mr. Franks will be suspended for six months.

His residence in Idaho complicates the decision on what to do with him.

#### 30. Sponsorship request for drone soccer •

The \$15,000 sponsorship request for drone soccer was deemed too expensive.

Suggestions were made to ask local businesses for funding instead.

#### 31. Allocation of funds for baseball •

\$4,000 was authorized for transportation and rooms for the baseball team, but it has not been spent.

Additional funds were requested by Amado, but were not approved.

Budgeting for these expenses will be discussed in future meetings.

#### Guest Speaker - Shuttles (4) Soldiers - Transportation options for veterans •

Discussion on finding transportation options for veterans to Loma Linda.

Previous options such as the veterans transport service and DAV 78 were mentioned.

Further investigation is needed to determine the availability and feasibility of these options.

### 33. Alternative funding sources for drone soccer •

Exploring the possibility of funding drone soccer through the general fund or membership funds.

The idea of acquiring a donated vehicle for transportation was also discussed.

### 34. Discussion on existing transportation services •

The availability of transportation services for veterans to VA appointments was discussed.

CalVets and AMVETS were mentioned as potential options.

Further research is needed to determine the current status and reliability of these services.

### 35. Insurance and licensing requirements for transporting veterans • 01:02:09

Special licensing and insurance are required to transport veterans to the hospital.

Transporting veterans without proper authorization can lead to legal complications.

### 36. Future budget planning •

The need to set a budget for future expenses was mentioned.

Budget planning will be addressed in upcoming board or committee meetings.

### 37. Betterment of the community •

The funding for baseball and drone soccer was discussed in the context of bettering the community.

The allocation of funds for community programs such as Boys State and Girls State was mentioned.

### 38. Vehicle donation for transportation •

The idea of acquiring a donated vehicle for transportation was discussed.

The VFW in Desert Hot Springs was mentioned as an example of a successful vehicle donation.



39. Responsibility for contacting transportation services • The VSO Skip was suggested as the person responsible for contacting transportation services.

Members were encouraged to reach out to existing services and report back on their availability.

40. Insurance and licensing requirements for transporting veterans •

Special licensing and insurance are required to transport veterans to the hospital.

Transporting veterans without proper authorization can lead to legal complications.

41. Transportation Issues •

American Legion and the driver may face lawsuits.

Insurance cost for American Legion is around \$4000 per year.

DAV transportation is facing challenges in pooling resources and finding drivers.

Proposed solution involves a DAV van in Loma Linda and a DAV person traveling there on their own expense.

Cmdr, - . Scholarship Committee Updates •

Scholarship committee has significant funds and supports seven students currently.

They offer a nursing program and provide financial support based on academic performance.

Meetings are held on the first Wednesday of every month.

43. Documentation of Large Funds •

There is a need for periodic documentation and financial tracking of the large funds.

The scholarship committee is a separate organization with its own trustees.

Future boards should be made aware of the existence of these funds.

44. Controversy with American Legion Riders Group •

There are conflicts within the American Legion Riders Group.

The A L R will not be accepted into the post until they resolve their internal issues.

The area five director agrees with this decision.

45. New Year's Eve Party • Thanksgiving dinner will be open seating and cost \$25.

New Year's Eve party details were not discussed.

46. New Year's Eve Party Details • 01:15:41

Proposed To Print tickets price of \$50 per ticket for members

(Motion Passed)

Reservations only with a 09:00 drop the ball event

Discussion and approval of including dinner, dancing, a band, and a champagne toast

Cmdr, - Decorations •

Allocation of \$250 for Christmas and New Year's decorations

To Auxiliary (Motion Passed)

Purchase of 24 new white tablecloths at \$7.99 each

D A V Commander - Ron Heath - Service Officer Updates •

Assistance for dishonorably discharged or honorably discharged LBGQT veterans

Free healthcare for World War II veterans

Information on filing for benefits related to Agent Orange, asbestos exposure, and burn pits

49. Burn Pits • 01:24:03

Speaker 7 mentioned different locations of burn pits and offered assistance to anyone who needs help.

Speaker 0 requested a copy of the information about burn pits.

50. Upcoming Events • 01:24:39

The poker run will take place in February with 519 as one of the stops.

Discussion about Thanksgiving, Christmas, Light parade, chili soup, cornbread, and Christmas party.

The band for the Christmas party will be Trainer Brothers.

New Year's Eve party will cost \$50.

No further items were mentioned for the good of the post.

51. Volunteering at VA Chapel • 01:26:09

Speaker 7 informed about an event at the VA Chapel where volunteers are needed to assist with a pre-Thanksgiving Veterans Day function.

Adj, - shared a positive experience of volunteering at the VA and encouraged others to participate.

The event is tomorrow and anyone interested can go and help.

There will also be an event at D A V Chapter twelve in San Bernardino for handling benefits claims.

R J Chaplain - Closing Prayer and Flag Recovery •

Meeting Adjourned @ 6:33 pm

- The meeting concluded with a prayer for the well-being of veterans and the recovery of the POW Mi flag.