

American Legion Post 519

General Membership Meeting 3/10/26 time 5:00 pm

Part 1. (part 2 is going over by laws)

PALM SPRINGS

NOTES

Nominees in this meeting

Commander

Doug Cron for John Picken accepted

Tony Aguilar for Andrea Kline accepted

Mike Beresh for Ed Vondra accepted

Ed Vondra for Mike Beresh accepted

1st Vice Commander

Andrea Kline for Joe D'elia accepted

Doug Cron for Ernie Meeker accepted

Tony Aguilar for Tom Ricchio accepted

2nd Vice Commander

Doug Cron for Lee Wilson accepted

3rd Vice Commander

Tony Aguilar for Kevin Koch accepted

Chaplain

Tom Ricchio for Albert Martinez declined

Doug Cron for Mearvie Crawford accepted

Sergeant at Arms

Tom Ricchio for Mike Hardy cannot accept

Doug Cron for Jeff Cole declined

Tony Aguilar for Robert Gary accepted

Jeff Cole for Mike Beresh accepted

3rd Year Executive Board Member

Andrea Kline for Magi Raible accepted

Represent Post in June Convention

Andrea Kline for Rusanne Anthony accepted

Kevin Koch for Amado Salinas accepted

Doug Cron for John Picken accepted

Amado Salinas for Andrea Kline accepted

Delegates

Doug Cron for Ernie Meeker accepted

Andrea Kline for Magi Raible accepted

Andrea Kline for Andrew Stevens decline

JOHN PICKEN

Opening Ceremony PHONES OFF

One rap of the gavel ...

The meeting is about to open.

The officers will take their stations.

Sergeant-at-Arms, please clear the hall entrance and close the doors

· Three raps of the gavel ...

PLEASE stand and face our Nation's flag Hand Salute! ... 2!

Un-cover ... from the opening prayer through the POW/MIA ceremony

Chaplain, please offer an opening prayer.

CHAPLAIN

Our heavenly Father, once again, we meet as the American Legion veterans of our nation's great wars, our organization goes back over 100 years. During that time, we have stood for God and country. We have worked to promote Americanism and programs for veterans. We have been concerned for our local communities and for the youth of our nation. God is God in our deliberations this evening, keep us alert to our opportunities and responsibilities as citizens. Make us deserve. Make us deserving of our freedom handed down to our generation by those who sacrificed so much in the past. God bless us all. Amen.

JOHN PICKEN

Sergeant-at-Arms only, re-cover. Sergeant-at-Arms, prepare to place the POW/MIA cover on the Empty Chair Resolution 288, adopted at the 67th National Convention, encourages all American Legion organizations to implement the Empty Chair Ceremony at all meetings. As a continual physical symbol of the POW/MIAs and the cause for which we stand, namely their return or full accounting.

A POW/MIA Empty Chair is placed at all official meetings of The American Legion, as a physical symbol of the thousands of American POW/MIAs 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 prisoners 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 rededicate ourselves for this vital endeavor!

Sergeant-at-Arms, place the POW/MIA flag on the Empty Chair.

Sergeant-at-Arms only, un-cover

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

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

re-cover, 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

for the following purposes:

to uphold and defend

the Constitution of the United States of America;

to maintain law and order;

to foster and perpetuate

a one hundred percent Americanism;

to preserve the memories and incidents

of our associations in all Wars

to inculcate a sense of individual obligation

to the community, state and nation;

to combat the autocracy

of both the classes and the masses;

to make right the master of might;

to promote peace and good will on earth;

to safeguard and transmit to posterity

the principles of Justice, Freedom and Democracy;

to consecrate and sanctify our comradeship

by our devotion to mutual helpfulness.

One rap of the gavel ...

John Picken - Please be seated I now declare this meeting of American Legion Post 519, Department of California, General Membership Meeting convened> roll call. Adjutant . . .

ALLEN LANE

Commander – John Picken	Present
Adjutant – Allen Lane {stand in}	Present
Assistant Adjutant – Ernie Meeker	Present
1st Vice Commander – Ernie Meeker	Present
2nd Vice Commander – Lee Wilson	Running late
3rd Vice Commander – Kevin KOCH	Present
Finance Officer – Garth Gilpin	Present
Chaplain – MCarvie Crawford	Present
Service Officer – Allen Lane	Present
Judge Advocate-- Skip Burt.	Excused
Sergeant at Arms – Jeff Cole	Present
Historian – James Snow	Excused
E-Board 1st Year – Mike Beresh	Present
E-Board 2nd Year – Doug Cron	Present
E-Board 3rd Year – Ron Webster	Present
E-Board 3rd Year – Rusanne Anthony	Present

Quorum Confirmed. Commander. . .

John Picken

Thank you. Okay. Upcoming district 21 meetings. There's been a change in the dates. March 22 will now be the next district 21 meeting of post 53 in Hemet. Again, this is a change. And one after in May will be May 17, at post 852 Temecula, as usual. Meeting times are Sal's at eight o'clock, PCs at nine o'clock, and the American Legion at 10 o'clock. There is a department convention coming up in Visalia, June 25 through the 28th hopefully some of you guys can make it. As a reminder the ritual when a member is requesting time on the floor, raise your hand. Please stand after being recognized by the chair. You'll state your name and salute the chair. If requested to come to the podium, you will be escorted by the Sergeant at Arms. Please salute the flag before passing. All speakers will be limited to three minutes from the floor. Sergeant at arms. Would you introduce our guests?

Jeff Cole

Andrea Klein, district, 21 East. past Advent five, past area five, Advent Tony, hang on, past commander, foot post 519, Alva Martinez and National Legislative Council Chair, foreign relation and national security department, California, past judge department, of gas, district 21 at large.

John Picken

Welcome gentlemen, ladies, okay. Minutes from the last general membership meeting should have been posted on the website. I think James was actually working on them a little more, but we'll see what happens. So till I get confirmation that we'd like to hold off on approving the minutes till the next meeting, I need a motion for that please, motion to hold off on the minutes until next meeting. Have a second. Sid, you just state your name for Sid guy that against it, name Leroy Siddon. Thank you. Any discussion? All in favor? Any nays, Any abstentions? I detentions. Thank you. Okay, moving right along. Officers reports. I'll go ahead and start with Mine. I got a couple of letters here. First one is going to be from Girl Scouts, dear American Legion. Thank you so much for your \$100 donation to the troop 226, at James workman Middle School. We appreciate your support very much, and plan to use the funds to help purchase and uniforms for our girls this year. We have one girl moving up to high school next year, and this will cover the complete cost of a new uniform for her and all her badges. We appreciate your generosity and support very much sincerely. Jennifer Dean, co leader, troop, 2226 San Gonio Council, the second letter we have is from the Palm Springs disposal units concerning state bill 1383, state mandated waste audit. American Legion, post 519, great job. You're a valid customer. This letter has to inform you that a state mandated waste audit was conducted at your property to insert proper sorting of waste materials. We want to say congratulations on a great job in your efforts to separate waste in the correct manner, our audit found that you were sorting waste materials into the appropriate containers, and we would like to thank you for doing your part in meeting state recycling environmental goals. Your individual efforts are noticed and applauded, and it just talks about what is going on there, and that's signed by August Martinez, recycling Ambassador Paul springs disposal.

The third one I have, this one's a little tougher for me to talk about. Recently, I received a number of negative reports regarding the political conversations in our canteen, at least one of our members is now refusing to come into the canteen due to other members making comments regarding the current USA administration. Any discussions concerning politics will not be tolerated in the post canteen. This is an American Legion national policy and is included. In our own bylaws, Article Three, Section two, this post shall be absolutely non political and shall not be used for dissemination of partisan principles nor the promotion of the candidacy of any person seeking public office or preferment. Violators of this policy will be asked to leave. That is my report. Adjective. Do you have anything for us?

Allen Lane

Sir, The only thing I have to report is that the minutes for the meetings are on the website. If anybody has any questions, please see me. And James Snow is the one handling that which he's not here today, but they are on the website. That's all I have to report.

John Picken

Thank you. First place commander, second place is not here yet. Third place commander, cope...

Kevin Koch

we're tracking we paid district for our five candidates. We're getting them situated online, but we're making sure, and still haven't nailed down which of the exact five will be going. I'll let you know when I have that, but we're under the deadline. Information's flowing. We're good to go this year. Thank you for the donation of the five bags. We'll get patches on those. We approved last time for middle schools to be visible. I'll be asking for volunteers once I have the dates to present the \$100 to the top history students. And we sponsor this year. Last year, the auxiliary gave \$1,000 to the Girl Scouts. We gave a little bit this year just to say we're supporting. We gave 100 to the one group and 100 to the Boy Scouts. But we're tracking on everything I'm talking to DHS, high school, junior ROTC, the Marines, their flags are in bad shape, and they don't have a

Space Force flagpole, so I'm seeing if they need some assistance from us to make things happen. That's all I have for you right now, sir.

John Picken

Thank you very much. And Maggie, thank you for the bags. Those of you weren't here last month, Maggie volunteered to donate some bags for boys and girls state. We appreciate that donation very much. Thank you. Service Officer Lane,

Allen Lane

Nothing to report, sir.

John Picken

Thank you very much. Finance Officer, Gilpin?

Garth Gilpin

Sir, I'll cut to the chase. What everybody's really involved in is the money. End of the month, we had \$165,000 in the bank. 21,000 in the bar membership, 36,000 which we try to allocate for community involvement programs. This coming year, j we have, we received our \$63,000 first check. Take out our expenses. We have a balance of \$38,000 and we already spend another 21,000 of that this month. Basically, our kitchen equipment is secured be ready for installation we're shooting for probably June, soon as the heat sets in, the next action that will happen with measure J money is the air conditioning will be looked at service, hopefully a new, complete New system involved. After that, we'll look at the roof. The hope to have that all done completed by the end of summer, so when we come back into full session next year, we'll be able to support the facility. Building department. Building has \$48,000 the Executive Committee has approved using some of that money for measure J, which would be because the measure J money comes in in four installments, \$63,000 and the second one is three months behind that, which is May 12. The third one comes three months after that, and the fourth one three months after that.

So to be sure, we're fully functional with the air conditioning, roof, in the kitchen, we will use some of that money as advanced. We repay it after the money from major J comes in, the color guards got 5000 baseball 11,000 and riders, 3000 the first two months of the year, we lost a little bit of money in the canteen. We had things such as our insurance comes in first of the year, the. Several other the QuickBooks comes in first of the year. Expenses have kind of hit us, but we're down seven grand first two months. The big news is the donations last year was this time was \$2,800 this year, counting measure J, baseball events, the modernism event, we had \$59,000 in donations. So thank thanks everybody for getting the Legion's name out there and in good standing. And the support of the community is starting to come in.

John Picken

So any questions regarding. . Kevin?

Kevin Koch

Sir, I just want to personally Thank Garth for opening up this house for modernism and getting our loan paid off, which we appreciate. APLAUSE.

John Picken

Appreciate it. The Finance Report is also posted on our website and in the hallway and in the hallway, correct? Okay. Chaplain?

Chaplain

Sir, nothing to report.

John Picken

Thank you sir. Eboard one, Beresh?

Beresh

Nothing to report.

John Picken

Eboard two, Cron?

Doug Cron

nothing to report, sir.

John Picken

Eboard three, Anthony? (Head nod, no and salute) we're just moving right along here. Eboard three, Webster, (Head nod no and salute) thank you sir. Sergeant at Arms (head nod no and salute) okay, that takes care of the officers reports. We'll go into committee reports. House committee speaker?

Ernie Meeker

we just have a few things. There was a national Poppy Day that got approved for May 9, from four to nine. I'm sorry, I believe that's an incorrect date. Okay, that's the end of May, right? The 22nd the 22nd I'm sorry, the sorry, the vintage people are going to be here for St Patrick's Day event. There's a karaoke night March 28 there's a 80th birthday party on September 12, high school graduation party, and April 4, we're having celebration of life, and then the ALR is doing their monthly meeting or dinner At the end of the month, with repair was needed. We replaced the fan lights in the back bar. There was a leak in the men's bathroom. Emergency leak. We called out on and something from the suns. They'd like to have a monthly breakfast with still in the planning stages. And then the only other thing that we talked about was the toolbox for the post. We're kind of thinking maybe donations to so the post has people or tools to work with whenever they need a little extra thing done. So we're looking for donations. That's it.

Allen Lane

Could you explain how if somebody wanted a celebration of life here, how would they go about that?

John Picken

I can answer that for you. We person who wants to have the celebration life fills out an event request form. Event request form goes to the House Committee which either approves or disapproves. 99% of them get approved, depending on the dates they get calendar, and then they fill out a lease agreement, and then, like I said, we schedule it. And then if they are renting a big hole, the back hall is open for our members or vice verbs, they rent a small hole the big homeless big hall is still open for our members. We're always open to our members unless it's a completely special event, which we'd have to get approval by executive committee on first it's on first come first serve. Yes, also first come first serve. All right, thank you. Did you want to go ahead and go into your membership while we're on committees?

Ernie Meeker

We have 1 2 3 4, new members and six transfers. The first new member is Horatio. I can't say C, E, L, a y a Paul Gunther, Billy mcjunks and D Hatfield. The transfers are John Bryan, Jonathan Addington, Philip posh, Eric Barker and Jonathan Addington. There, that four are from post 1000 and transferring in,

John Picken

any of those people mentioned in here right now. Okay, that's fine. We'd like to make actually, what's his name?

Speaker

He's out there. He's out there at the table. I can't really hear him.

John Picken

Yeah, okay, before you go get him, Jeff, let's go ahead and have the vote, and then we'll get him. Okay, so all in favor of admitting these new members? Any opposed? All in favor. Start over again. All right. Well, welcome the new member in when he comes in. And welcome to all, all the other new members. If anybody sees them, or knows of them, thank them for joining up the numbers. Wait for wait for him to come in, get that out of the way. My card, yeah, Hey, Mike, we were thought when you were talking about somebody else, you're more than willing to stay here if you want. We've had a problem transfer getting your stuff going. It is in process. You're more than welcome to stay as a guest of mine. Okay, have a seat. Thank you. All right, so we've approved everybody who's on the list. Ernie has some numbers for us. . .

Ernie Meeker 22:23

As of right now we have, since the year started, we have 53 new members, 87 paid up for lives, 524 members that have already paid, and we're still waiting on the rest of the members, 10 transfers and a total number of members that have paid is 674, they are wanting us to be at 736, and We right now are 91.58% to the 100% and I'm working on more transfers from post 1000 because there's apparently a bunch of people that get transferred in. So I'm working on those, sending them letters and getting things to come back out,

John Picken

And a hand of applause for Ernie for doing such a good job. You. I think we can hit that 100% Thank you. Any other committee reports out there that I need to approach? Andrea? bylaw committee report. . .

Andrea Kline 23:35

we have done two readings, and the bylaws essentially are done tonight. I think we'll just do a quick look through everything has been changed and updated based on the membership, and when we get to that point, I do have some copies,

John Picken

so I need to make a correction there, if I may. The first month we did a partial reading. The second month we finished it, we still have to do a complete reading and discuss whatever other changes might be needed by our membership. And then we will approve the final document. Speaking of the bylaws, we will continue the reading of the bylaws after nominations, as this is a lengthy process, no business now, as already mentioned, that roof needs to be repaired, but we have numerous leaks. The company that put up the existing roof, Castro, did it in 2018 the warranty on the roof was only a five year warranty. We're waiting on estimates from different roofers right now. I had this down. Air Conditioners need to be assessed prior to roof repairs. I did a little research and found out we're going to have a significant heat wave for the next two weeks. We went ahead and got the air conditioners cranked back up. They had to do some work to the phases, first phase, well,

one, single phase and three phase. On the power that's working, you'll go into the main lobby. And last week in here, this thing was a sauna. We got everything working right now. Again, modernism event was held at the Liberace house sponsored by Garth again. Thank you to Garth for doing that. And then we had the Black History Month parade last month. Again, thanks to Garth for providing cars for the parade. You okay, we have the upcoming election. Positions open, Commander, first vice, second vice, third vice, Chaplain, start at arms and third year executive member. We will start nominations at the end of new business, please a reminder. Amado sir,

Amado Salinas

Amado Salinas, member of the post. We also have to have nominations for the individuals that will act as delegates.

John Picken

Got it. Thank you coming up reminder, if a member signs in a guest, that guest must leave when the member leaves, we had a couple of times where guests were left unattended thanks to Mike bares and Lee Wilson for installing the big screen TV in the main hall. And as Ernie mentioned earlier, we would like to ask that members donate tools to the post for making everyday repairs on the post facilities. I'd like to get a toolbox stored someplace with all the necessary tools to make minor repairs when we replace the fans and fan lights in there. We had to bring our own tools into to install those parking lot lights need repair or replacement. Lee Wilson is an electrician who's looking at that. Kevin, if you are interested in taking a look at our lights out there, please feel free. Saint Patty's Day event with the band on the 14th. Again, karaoke is on the 28th and Sun's Italian night is on the 21st tickets, I believe, are still for sale for \$20 we will now open the floor for nominations for the upcoming election. Adjutant, would you please take over?

Allen Lane 27:59

We will open the floor now for nominations for commander nominees, they must be present at the meeting to accept or decline state your name.

John Picken

Doug Cron, yes.

Doug Cron

Okay, sorry, I would like to nominate commander. John Picken,

John Picken

for which position

Doug Cron

commander.

John Picken

thank you. I accept anybody else. Have nomination. Tony, you have a nomination.

Tony Aguilar

Have a nomination for commander, Andrea Picken? Andrea Kline.

John Picken

I'm already taken. Okay. Tony Aguilar nominating Andrea Kline for position of Commander.

Andrea Kline

I accept

John Picken

She accepts, any other nominations for commander. Mike Beresh?

Mike Beresh

I would like to nominate Ed Vondra,

John Picken

Ed Vondra, nominated by Mike Beresh. Any other nominations?

Ed Vondra

I would like to nominate Mike Beresh For commander.

John Picken

Mike Beresh for commander. Are there any other nominations

Amado Salinas

point of order, Ed Vondra hasn't accepted or has not declined, so he needs to

John Picken

thank you. Appreciate that. Thank you very much.

Ed Vondra

Thank you, yes. Thank you. Never shake that.

Allen Lane

Thank you repeat the name. Ed Vondra, you accept?,

John Picken

he accepts.

Allen Lane 29:40

And Mike Beresh,

Mike Beresh

I accept.

Allen Lane

oh, sorry, Are there any more nominations for commander? All right, that is closed. We will open the floor for nominations for first vice commander...

John Picken

Andrea?

Andrea Kline

Joe D' Elia Delilah

John Picken

Joe D'Elia, first vice nominee. Joe Delilah,

Joe D'Elia

thank you, accept.

John Picken

Doug Cron

Doug Cron

I nominate Ernest Meeker for first vice commander.

John Picken

Doug Crowe nominates Ernest Meeker first vice Tony Aguilar,

Allen Lane

hang on.

Ernie Meeker

I accept. Thank you.

Tony Aguilar

Thank you. I nominate Tom Ricchio

Allen Lane 30:29

First Place, state your name, who's speaking?

Tony Aguilar

Tony Aguilar, for Tom Ricchio.

John Picken

first vice, can you spell your name for us? Sir? Tom, sir, you accept.

Tom Ricchio

I accept. Thank you.

Ed Vondra

yes, sir, you asked three times to obey for more nominations. That's the way it's written.

Allen Lane

I apologize. I apologize.

John Picken

Thank you. Can I repeat what we have? Yes, go ahead.

Allen Lane

Okay, so I have Andrea Klein for Joe Delia accepted Doug Cron for Ernie Meeker accepted Tony Aguilar for Tom Riccio accepts anyone else? Are there any more nominations for first vice commander. Any more nominations for first vice commander? Last call. Any more nominations for first vice commander that is now closed. Keep going. We will open the floor now for nominations for second vice commander.

Doug Cron

Doug Cron, I would like to nominate Lee Wilson Jr for second vice commander.

Allen Lane

Is that Lee Wilson?

John Picken

Lee Wilson Jr, Jr. Lee, you accept.

Lee Wilson

I accept, sir.

Allen Lane

You, anyone else? Are there any more nominations for first vice commanders? Okay, are there any more nominations for second vice commander? Restating that one more time. Any more nominations for second vice commander, we are now closed. We open the floor now for nominations for third vice commander.

John Picken

Tony Aguilar?

Tony Aguilar

I nominate Kevin.

John Picken

Nominate Kevin Koch.

Andrea?

Andrea Kline

I nominate kevin.

John Picken

same thing

Allen Lane

was that Andrea

John Picken

no Tony Aguilar for Kevin, Kevin, she was going to do the same thing, but he's already nominated

Allen Lane

so anyone else?

John Picken

Tommy? we've already done okay.

Allen Lane

We got, okay, that's, that's three. Are there any more nominations for third vice commander? Any more nominations? For third vice commander, any more nominations for third vice commander? That's now nominations are now closed. We'll open the floor now for nominations for Chaplain

John Picken

Tom Ricchio.

Tom Ricchio

I nominate Martinez.

John Picken

Who

Tom Ricchio

Albert? Albert Martinez,

John Picken

well, you need to say the whole name. Thank you, Albert.

Albert Martinez

I decline at this time. Thank you.

Doug Cron

I would like to name Chaplain Garvey as chaplain

John Picken

MCarvey Crawford as chaplain nominated by Doug cone.

Mcarvie

Thank you, sir. Thank you.

Allen Lane 34:36

Are there any other nominations for chaplain? Any other nominations for chaplain at this time, any more nominations for Chaplain that is now closed? Moving on, we will open the floor for the nominations for Sergeant at Arms?

Speaker

I nominate Sergeant at Arms Mike Hardy.

John Picken

Unfortunately, we can't accept Mike Hardy until he's approved as a member. Yes sir.

Doug Cron

I would like to nominate Jeff Cole. Jeff Cole,

John Picken

Thank you, Tony.

Tony Aguilar

I'd like to nominate Robert Gary.

John Picken

Robert Jerry

Tony Aguilar

Gary

John Picken

He accepts. Can you spell your last name for the record

Gary

G, A R Y, G, A R Y,

Allen Lane

and that was Tony Aguilar,

John Picken

yes. Any more.

Jeff Cole

I Nominate Mike Beresh.

John Picken

Mike baresh, nominated by Jeff Cole, thank you. Okay,

Allen Lane

I'm going to read these out. Tom Ricchio for Mike Hardy, who cannot accept at this point. Doug cron for Jeff Cole declined. Tony Aguilar for Robert Gary accepts, and Jeff Cole for Mike beresh accepts. Are there any other nominations for Sergeant at Arms? Any more? Any more nominations for Sergeant in arms? Final call nominations for Sergeant in arms, we are now closed. We'll open the floor now for nominations for third Year Executive Board Member . . .

John Picken

Andrea?

Andrea Kline 36:40

I nominate Maggie Ray. I nominate Maggie Rayville,

Allen Lane

spell that for me,

Maggie

R, A, I, B, L, E, I I accept. Thank you.

John Picken

It's actually Margaret.

Maggie

Correct it is Margaret, yes. Margaret. Mary Catherine.

Allen Lane 37:12

At the end of the meeting, if everyone who was nominated would please see me so I can spell their name correctly, that'd be great. Thank you. Are there any other nominations for third Year Executive Board member? Any more nominations for third Year Executive Board member and final nominations for third Year Executive Board member? we are now closed. keep going? At this time we need delegates and alternates to represent the post at the department convention in June. Now nominations are now open.

Andrea Kline 37:56

I nominate Rusanne Anthony

John Picken

delegate number one. Kevin?

Kevin Koch 38:05

I'd like to nominate Amado Salinas.

Amado Salinas

well, sir, I'll accept

John Pickens 38:09

question for you, though. Are you going as a district 21 also?

Amado Salinas

I'm going as post 519, right now.

John Picken

Okay.

Doug Cron

Doug, I would like to nominate Commander John.

John Picken

I accept

Allen Lane 38:29

any other nominations.

John Picken

Amado?

Amado

I Nominate Andrea Kline,

Allen Lane 38:40

almost there. Andrea Kline,

Andrea Kline

I accept

Allen Lane

are there any other nominations to represent us at the convention in June?

Doug Cron

I would like to nominate Ernest Meeker,

John Pickens 39:01

Andrea hold on , Ernie,

Ernie Meeker

Yes, I accept

Andrea Kline

I nominate Elizabeth Catherine.

Maggie 39:16

I accept.

Allen Lane

Elizabeth Catherine accepts. (giggles from crowd) it's hard To write when I'm laughing, please slow down. Are there any other nominations for to represent us at the convention in June? 2 More times, are there any more nominations to represent us in the convention?

Speaker

I nominate Andrew Stevens.

Andrew Stevens 39:46

I have to respectfully decline.

John Picken

Thank you. Andrew Stevens,

Allen Lane 39:58

all right, any more nominations? Nominations to represent us in June. Any more nominations for us to represent in June? Final, any more nominations to represent us in June at the convention we are now closed.

Doug Cron 40:21

Are we going to charter a bus? Or a small van?

John Picken

I guess. Okay, so we're going to go back. We have nominations. They're all closed for now. We'll reopen again in the next general membership meeting. Again Candidate's you cannot start campaigning until after your second nomination. So no flyers on tables, no mailings or anything like that. Until after your second nomination, there may be more nominations in the in the second set. So just to keep that in mind, those who do not, those already have been nominated for position for and there's only one of them. If they're only the single person at the next meeting, they will automatically be put into that spot. Anybody have any questions on that? Amado. . .

Amado Salinas 41:20

the Adjutant at the time will cast one vote for that individual during the actual voting period. Thank you.

John Picken

Anybody else have any comments before we move on?

Andrea Kline

Just a question on the on the three on the executive board, is it a three year term?

John Picken

It's a three year term? Thank you. Three goes to two. Two goes to one, up to line. I've always gotten that confused, but I think I finally got it corrected in my head this year, and what I'd like to suggest now, before we go into the bylaws, everybody take a quick bathroom break, five minute break, and we'll come back in. We have a motion to do that, please. All in favor five minute break. Alright, break...

Part 1 of 2. BY LAWS review are Part 2 of 2

MINUTES BY. Allen Lane

American Legion Post 519

General Membership Meeting 3/10/26 time 5:00 pm

Part 2 (part 2 is going over by laws)

PALM SPRINGS

John Picken

If everybody's okay with this, we'll do it like we did last month. I'll just read the proposed changes, and then we'll vote on each paragraph, each change as we go along.

Andrea Kline

Commander, we already voted on these paragraphs. And you can see, and I'll hand this document out, but you'll see it's highlighted in green if there was a change, and then, and then, at the bottom of the paragraph I wrote, you know, voted, so there's only one bear draft where we needed to deal with the language differences. So I only have, I only have, like, eight copies.

John Picken

Let me just clarify something. I just clarify this again. The first reading we did was only half of the bylaws, and we read the second half at the last meeting. Okay, we still have to read the complete bylaw changes to approve the second time before it is an approved document. So we still have to go through each one of those changes get approved by the membership a second time.

Andrea Kline

But in light of speed, we already voted on each of the paragraphs,

John Picken

again, that's for the first reading. We have to do a second reading. Members can still make changes. I understand that if we have to go another month, we will the membership has the opportunity to change the language if they feel it's necessary. I appreciate all the hard work you've done, but that's the way the process works, Joe, welcome back.

Joe

I'm sorry I would like to make a motion under Robert's Rules of orders to waive the reading. We've already read it once at the last prior two meetings, and so we got to hoard all of this for another two or three hours to reread what we already read. We already have it. So I would just make a motion to waive the reading.

Speaker

I'll second that emotional.

John Picken

Second any discussion? Okay, motion made by Joe. Who second? Who seconded? Joe McConnell, Tony Aguilar seconds, it discussion members here that were not here last time. They may have input, but we did not hear last time I feel they should be given a voice. Is there a regulatory reason that we should be that we would

be skipping something? I know that sometimes with these Robert while Roberts Rules might have it, but is there a state rule that that may know something I want to give everybody an opportunity to be know the bylaws or read them. I think it's unfortunate we're trying to bypass certain things here, because some of these changes have not been heard by every member. Now comes to the meeting, we have members here who are not here at the last meeting, but we have 650, members. I understand that every time the opportunity is here for these two meetings, everybody knows we have two meetings to approve the bylaws. I'm not Salinas, you have something?

Amado Salinas

sir, the membership voted two meetings ago to go ahead and go and abide by Roberts rule section 28 which meant that each one approved the agree of the of that paragraph and amendment at that time, and voted and approved it. There's a motion on the floor that goes ahead and says that we can go ahead and accept it as a whole. I call for the vote.

John Picken

We're still in discussion.

Speaker

I call for the vote.

John Picken

he's called for the vote. I can't say anything else. No, no other comments are allowed. Sorry.

Speaker

Just gonna second his vote.

John Picken

That's all called for the vote. Okay? All in favor, All opposed? 123456, can we all approve? Please get just a hands. 1,2,3.4.5,6,7,8,9,10, okay, by laws are approved. I don't agree with it. I have to do some research. I might have to talk to department, but I'm do not fully agree with it, I'll go with what's being said right now.

Chaplain

Question, commander, so down the line we can change it. It's not like once we vote on this, it's stuck. If we decide to take a certain whatever and change it, that's going to be possible.

John Picken

It would have to reorganize the bylaws committee to approach an amendment to the bylaws and go through the whole process on an amendment to the bylaws.

Joe

Joe, yes, may I clarify you're exactly right. However, to answer those, question is, my motion was only to waive the reading, not to do anything else. Okay, that's the motion that was passed. So therefore that's the only issue. At any point, if they are adopted or voted down, it doesn't matter. At any point, any member can make a motion to amend the bylaws, any bylaws they want, any section, any word, any comma, they have to do it in writing that's in the bylaws. They must make the motion to amend the bylaws in writing, present it in writing to the executive committee of the you and then it goes through the process. So it's very easy to amend the

bylaws, but you have to go through the process. You cannot do it from the floor like we're doing now. Conrad, how'd you look? Chairman?

Tony Aguilar

Pick and the voters have been taken, approved.

John Picken

Okay, hang on Tony. What they voted on was his motion to waive the reading. Yeah, okay, we haven't voted on bylaws.

Tony Aguilar

right? Okay,

John Picken 6:19

exactly. Salinas?

Amado Salinas

Salinas post 509, I make a motion that we go ahead and vote on the bylaws as written and presented.

John Picken

Tony Aguilar seconded it. Sorry Jessie. any discussion. I'm going to relinquish temporarily, if I may. These bylaws have been a pain in the derrier for everybody. I understand that there are certain parts of these bylaws that were written that basically curtails the power of the commander to be able to appoint people such as the Adjutant, such as the finance officer, such as a judge advocate, without the approval of the whole executive board, even Department says it shouldn't be that way. It's the commander's prerogative to appoint the people he thinks can help him do his job. So in improving these bylaws, there's a paragraph in there that makes the commander's decisions has to be approved by the executive board. That's all I'm saying. Is there any further discussion on this podium?

Tony Aguilar

Chairman, if they are in conflict with national or department national and the department prevail. So if they say that you can appoint the adjutant, the chaplain, or anybody else that stands, period, down and sign up. Okay, so the bylaws are meaningless. That has that information...

John Picken

if I may, go a little further, if you, Thank you, Tony. I appreciate it. Here's what's happened, okay, during this whole bylaw process, I had a question about the bylaws, particularly that particular paragraph, along with some other appointed problems that we had with an appointee, okay? Department says their bylaws are specific only to the Department Executive Committee. Whatever is in our bylaws is our bylaws. Okay? Whatever's in District bylaws is in district area. The same thing. So department bylaws concerning appointees are part I should have stepped away. I apologize. I'm going to continue though. So what I'm saying is that, again, that particular paragraph basically ties whatever commander is here next, whether it be myself Andrea Mike Perez or Ed Vondra, they will not be able to get a easily, get a board that is going to help the post that's by saying, Is there any other further discussion?

Speaker

The article that he is referring to is Article Five, section 1c we just want it to go back to the same wording it was before. That's the only change that we want. Is

John Picken 9:48

there any other discussion? Tony?

Tony Aguilar

now that you've made that statement, it is by suggestion my motion that i... I agree with this.

John Picken

Are you making a suggestion or a motion? Sir,

Tony Aguilar

a motion. Thank you. To go ahead and reschedule the reading of the bylaws and provide make sure everybody gets a copy of the bylaws prior to the next meeting. It's a whole month. Yes, it is. And at this point in time, I would suggest that we delay approval, suspend this motion until next, next month. Okay?

John Picken

I believe, thank you. Appreciate that. I believe we still had a motion on the floor. Did we not, okay? We were in discussion on that. So unfortunately, I have to go back to that original motion, which was to approve the bylaws, correct as what was about motion?

Allen Lane

I don't think we. I believe we still have a motion presented.

John Picken

I'm sorry, amado, can you speak up please?

Amado Salinas

It's as read as presented, regarding the first vices mentioned regarding the change of that, they had every opportunity at that time to go ahead and address it. The membership at that time voted for it, for the amendment, as is, and it was accepted, all for the vote.

Speaker

Can I say one thing?

John Picken

well, I can't do anything else, can I?

Allen Lane

Can I just restate that? Just to be clear, we're voting to approve the reading or skipping the reading.

Speaker

No, we already did that.

Allen Lane

We did that. Okay?

John Picken

So that that was making a motion that we, or excuse me, vote on the passing of the bylaws as read,

Allen Lane

understood. All right. Thank you.

John Picken

He's called for the vote. Before I call, before I make the vote, I'm going to put on record that I don't agree with what's going on.

Amado

Point of Order, That's a personal opinion.

John Picken

We all have personal opinions.

Amado Salinas

As chair . . .

John Picken

call for the vote, all in favor of approving the minutes without reading them

Amado

negative.

John Picken

I'm sorry. Vote is for approve the bylaws with no reading, no second reading, any other discussion, and we already did that. All in favor. Recount these. Please. 12345678, 12345678910, 11, is that correct? Jeff, 12. Sorry, all against. Raise your hands. 123456789, bylaws have passed.

Allen Lane

I was going to abstain.

John Picken

Okay? Do? It. Mike Beresh, you have something to say? Yeah, we can ask.

Mike

Remember, last year the election, the votes came down. How are we doing this majority rule. Or how is it both going to count?

John Picken

for the for the bylaws or membership, hopefully, elections commanders a two thirds majority. The rest is a simple majority. I remember correctly, Bylaws Committee, is that what it says?

Andrea

No, it's, it's the majority vote plus one,

John Picken

majority vote plus one for all positions.

Andrea

Yes

John Picken

there you go. Majority vote plus one. That's it. Jesse?

Jesse

first and foremost, I want to stand up here in front of you guys, the members, ladies and gents, to apologize my behavior in the last meeting we had. (applause). I just want to say that I'm going through some stuff. But I can always count on coming to the post and knowing that I have a safety.

John Picken

Jess, you want to apologize, Tommy? Tommy, sit down. Please, please.

Jesse

So I just want to see the. Heartfelt that I offended anybody. Please accept my call.

John Picken

Sergeant. Would you escort Jesse up to me? Please? You? Jesse, on behalf of the folks, I thank You for Your apology, and I accept it. Thank you. Okay. Thank you again. (applause as he returns to his seat) Okay, moving right along for the good of the American Legion. Does anyone have anything for the good of the Legion again? Lee, I am so sorry I forgot to get to the second Vice's report. Would you do a quick synopsis please?

Lee Wilson

On paper, we're on track. We're looking well, I just want to show something off. Since we got our new television, had to do some rearranging. May have noticed the tables and T shirt stand has been moved. I moved that, uh, the old piano poster. It was so big, but, you know, you can't trash it. But if you didn't know this old plaque that we had. The plaque was really hard to read. And my friend Millie farielli, she went over it a couple of times with gold paint, and now it kind of stands out. We're looking really nice out there. Looking really nice. Yeah, we need to talk to our electrician about fixing the lights on the stage. Kevin, right.

John Picken

Thank you. Lee, thank you. Anything else real quickly? Okay, thank you.

Lee Wilson

Saturday potluck and the vintage people this Saturday, and I'm doing a thing at the Patton museum. I forgot on our local fallen heroes. You see the wall out there? I'll be telling stories about everything I've learned. Jeff Cole, the writers are going to be doing an escort for at least two Gold Star families that are going out there too. It's \$15 for veterans. But if you haven't been to the Pat Museum, it's pretty damn cool. They got a Foster's freeze there too. Location to rock with, summit the Patton museum towards Phoenix. It's about a 45 minute drive from here, sorry, on i 10. Yeah, and yeah, you know World War Two history was in our backyard. It was a huge, giant desert training center. Went all the way to Arizona border and stuff. So it's pretty cool. Worth your time. Thanks. Time o'clock, thank you. 10am

John Picken

brief side note to that, the patent museum got the VFW tank from Desert offspring. Funny story behind that. The driver dropped that tank off many years ago, thinking he was dropping it off at the patent center. So it stayed up there for how many years? Jeff, 25 years, and they finally figured out what we lost, the thing. All right. Moving right along, if there's nothing else, for the good of the Legion, oh, take your name.

Andrew Stevens

Andrew Stevens, I wanted to inform everyone that College of the Desert, starting in fall 2026 is starting a program for free tuition for veterans, regardless of your GI Bill status, so you can take any college to contact for that. No, I was just, I was just informed that it's just the, it's part of the pledge program to try and roll it out for free. 2027.

Allen Lane

Andrew, Andrew, Andrew, could you email me that information, please? I'll give you a card. All right. Thank you,

Tony Aguilar

It was responsibility the House committee. We have not had a bar manager for months. They have not acted on it for four months. So I'd like to call for the vote.

John Picken

Four months, we have had a we have had a bar manager. Up until a week ago, she's been gone for four months. She's been working from home. She's been, been working from home. What was your second thing you want to bring up?

Tony Aguilar

That's incorrect, sir. I'd like to call for the vote.

John Picken

You haven't got a second. I second that we have a second, any discussion? Joe?

Joe 20:58

As a former attorney, retired attorney, this has to go to legal because I'm not sure that these, the bartenders, or any of them, are legal employees. That is a serious matter to make an employee. And we have workers comp issues with tax issues, and I think it's got to go to somebody who looks at this issue very carefully before we vote to make somebody an employee of the post exposes us to vast liability.

Tony Aguilar

They're not employees, they're volunteers, so there is no liability.

Rusanne

Okay, that's wrong. Your motion is wrong. That is absolutely wrong.

Tony Aguilar 21:37

They're not employees, they're not employed.

John Picken

We're going to table this. We'll talk about it the next house committee. What's your second motion?

Tony Aguilar

Second motion has to do with our chef. Everybody here knows Juan, who was here for a long, long time, beloved, great person. He loves working here, and at some point we need to really address the needs of this post. With respect to the kitchen, there's a lot of commentary about the fact that they're not satisfied with the service or the quality of the food. So at some point I'm going to ask that we vote to bring him back again.

John Picken

That's a House committee. Yeah? Again, it's House committee. Yeah, okay, yeah, yes.

Rusanne

I you know you're circumventing the chain of command here. These two issues should be submitted to the House Committee. Let them talk about it. Let them propose to the executive committee. That's how these should be handled.

Tony Aguilar

This is why I'm bringing it up.

Rusanne

Well, no, you're circumventing the chain of command. You're using the post...

Tony Aguilar

This has been brought up.

John Picken

You may sit down here. Thank you guys. Okay, moving right along.

Garth

Go back to the bylaws, Article eight, amendments, section one, a star, existing bylaws. Proposed bylaws or amendments therefore, should be submitted in writing regular meeting of the post and read there at at that next regular meeting or at postponing the subsequent meeting. The proposed bylaws or amendments shall be adopted by a two thirds affirmative vote of those present and voting. We do not have two thirds vote, so the vote does not count by our present bylaws.

John Picken

We're not talking about that. We're back to bylaws. We're back to the bylaws.

Garth

So unless we had two thirds vote, that vote was new. Thank you.

Allen Lane

Just to restate Garth, you're referring to the approval. Approved without reading motion?

Garth

approval of the bylaws by the committee. It was not a two thirds vote, and therefore it was not accepted. The vote failed. Okay?

John Picken 27:39

Vote failed. I didn't realize the two thirds majority. I apologize for that. Thank you Garth for bringing that up. The question there is, do we have to go back?

Andrea

Where is that in the bylaw?

Garth

It's on Article XVIII. That's 18 amendments. Page 10

Andrea Kline 28:21

Don't Believe that this is an amendment, though. This is a complete overhaul of the by laws, believe that this is an amendment, though. This is a complete overhaul of the bylaws.

John Picken

Joe?

Joe

so I believe, and it's a good legal question, but my first objection to that is it should have been brought up before our vote. We just voted to approve, and now you have an objection to it. It's a little bit too late. I think however, to address the actual issue, I think we did this in accordance with California directives of how to, every three years, do our bylaws and then read it twice done, majority votes to approve or not approve. I think we follow the rules now if you want to file a motion to undo it, I think you should, because it's a very good question, but it's a little bit late, so we should follow up on that part, and follow up if it works with all the rules, because we spent what, countless hours doing it, and for somebody to come in at the last minute. Not nothing personal, a great point. But if you come in as last minute, after we spent all these gazillions of hours and say, oops, you guys screwed up, and I didn't say anything until you screwed up. No, you can't do that. That's not procedurally Correct. I wish the amado were here, because he knows the Robert's Rules upside down backwards. But once something is approved, how do you undo it? It's been voted to improve, so I don't know.

John Picken 29:43

Well, I will tell you this. I will tell you this, according to Robert's Rules, if parliamentary procedure wasn't done properly, it is null and void, because I had that issue with everything else. So with Robert's Rules, supersedes

our bylaws. If it's not mentioned there. Are, which kind of is, but if it comes to a question, then we go back to Robert's Rules. So we need to have somebody research Robert's Rules, which I would say would be the bylaw committee to ascertain and let's not jump the gun and send these bylaws off until we have a definitive answer to comrade. Giltens?

Joe

I concur.

John Picken

I will ask this. Do I need to make a motion to do that? Or can I just go ahead and table that until we get I think I can just table it until we get a definitive answer. Kevin Koch, last thing to resolve this.

Kevin

I don't know procedurally, but we want what's best for the post in our all our interests elections are, what two months away, we'll have a high turnout for that. I think maybe there's two valid points to look at this problem that both sides should explain in writing, why they favor that, and we put it to the membership that comes to vote that day. To vote, do we accept? We'll get two thirds or not, and they'll understand what's being voted on, and we'll have good representation if there is a question.

John Picken

Excellent. Thank you. Just a tone, just to clarify, we will table until the bylaws committee can come up with a definitive answer to that section concerning our bylaws record.

Joe

I'm going to work with Garth and our committee carefully, because if that's true, we're going to get back right, right back.

John Picken

Be easy on him. He's got a lot on his plate with measure J ,All right, anything else for the good of the American Legion chaplain?

Chaplain

Thank you. First of all, I want to thank Jesse for coming and saying what he said. If you weren't here, obviously Jesse and I had to go around. Jesse and I sat down before this meeting, and we talked. We were good with that. I would suggest to the rest of us, gotta quit all this other stuff that's going on and sit down and talk stuff out. Just can't show up and just take over the meeting. Okay? Jesse apologized. He apologized to me. He apologized to the post. And this isn't about Jesse. This is about us, this ongoing argument, and raising our voices and getting pissed off and cutting each other off. Okay, we gotta stop. I'm no angel, I'm the chaplain, but we got to stop this, because it's just too much for me, and as you can tell, it's too much for Jesse. We both got trouble. The rest of us need to stop it. Me and Jesse can sit down and work it out. Everybody else can. We got to quit this ongoing battling with the executive board

John Picken

if there's nothing else church. . .

Speaker 33:15

I don't say much deep feeding, but in here, a lot of medical problems, but I can tell you one thing you post is supposed to mean for veterans or families, work we do, we can't make this a political thing entirely. From these meetings, we've spent so much time on all the bylaws we got all that straight, how many we're going to use every day? Why don't we just note this lives get members, everybody the old praise. Why don't we try to evolve? What more is this life? Right? That's all I got to say.

John Picken

Thank you, church. Okay, moving right along. Last time, does anyone have anything for the Legion, okay, we'll go into our closing ceremony.

Please stand at attention, uncover. Chaplain will offer prayer . . .

Chaplain

as we depart, one from the other. May God bless us and keep us into His gracious protection we commit ourselves, may he be near to us, to defend us with us, to refresh us around us, to preserve us before us, to guide us behind us, to justify, justify us and above us, to bless us and keep us from all evil. Amen,

Everyone

amen,

John Picken

recover Sergeant arms, please recover the pow Mia flag Till we meet again. Let us remember our obligation to our country may be fulfilled only by the faithful performance of all duties of citizenship. That service to the community, state and nation be ever a main objective of the American Legion and its members to. Let us be ever watchful of the honor of our country, our organization and ourselves that nothing shall serve us from the path of justice, freedom and democracy.

Please face our nation's flag and salute; two.

I now declare this meeting of the American Legion, post 519, Department of California, general membership meeting adjourned. Membership Meeting adjourned. Please pick up any glasses or trash.

Part 2 of 2. BY LAWS review are Part 2 of 2

MINUTES BY. Allen Lane