

American Legion Post 519

PALM SPRINGS

Upcoming events -

District 21 meeting May 17, post 742 this is a change. It's in Corona, not in Temecula.

We also have a Department Convention coming up in Visalia, California, June, 25 through the 28th

General Membership Meeting – 04/14/26. APRIL

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.

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.

John Picken

One rap of the gavel ... 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 = Present
Assistant Adjutant - Ernie Meeker = Present
1st Vice Commander – Ernie Meeker = Present
2nd Vice Commander – Lee Wilson = Running late
3rd Vice Commander – Kevin KOCH = Excused
Finance Officer – Garth Gilpin = Excused
Chaplain – McCarvie Crawford = Present
Service Officer – Allen Lane = Present
Judge Advocate-- Skip Burt = Excused
Sergeant at Arms – Jeff Cole = Present
Historian – James Snow = Absent
E-Board 1st Year – Mike Beresh = HERE
E-Board 2nd Year – Doug Cron =HERE
E-Board 3rd Year – Ron Webster = here
E-Board 3rd Year – Rusanne Anthony = Present

Quorum Confirmed. Commander. . .

John Picken

Okay, folks again, there's some handouts in the back for those who are interested, along with the laminated version of the preamble. Make sure your phones are turned off or on silent. Please.

Andrea Kline

I want to make a motion to suspend the rules so that we can do a vote on the bylaws, two thirds vote.

John Picken

That's first thing on my old business. Can we get through the rest of this at the beginning the meeting.

Andrea Kline

Last time people left and did not have two thirds.

Amado Salinas

Motion has been made. It's been said. Any discussion.

Andrea Kline

I'd like to, I'd like to get it done. So if people leave, we have the two thirds vote.

John Picken

Who is the second, All in favor? Okay? All in Favor. Great, anybody opposed? One opposed? Okay, we've already read the bylaws twice. I think everybody's aware they have been read twice. All we need to do is get them passed. We need two thirds vote. Okay, so my adjutant will count hands as to whether we pass or fail the motion to approve the minutes, excuse me, bylaws. Thank you. Got me out of step here. Okay, so the motion on the floor is to approve the bylaws, as read at the last two meetings, all in favor? Please, put your hand up and be counted. Keep your hands up, please.

Allen Lane

Sorry, going to have to go into the crowd.

Amado Salinas

You go around

John Picken

and salute the flag. Sorry. Lower your hands for now as we get back around, give me a moment. All in favor. Raise your hands please. And total is 28, any opposed, motion passes. Andrea, if you would get me a copy that I can sign along with the adjutant. Do you already have it? Pristine? That is Pristine? Okay, we will sign it and get it sent off. Since we're on a brief break, I will say thank you to the Bylaws Committee for all their hard work and obviously for rallying the vote today to get it passed that way, we don't have to worry about it during our election meeting, perfect.

Okay, there's no other bylaw business. We'll proceed with the agenda. Okay? We have an upcoming district 21 meeting at May 17, post 742 this is a change. It's in Corona, not in Temecula. Mark it down Corona. The Sals are eight o'clock. PCC is at nine o'clock, and the American Legion meeting is at 10 o'clock. We also have a department convention coming up in Visalia, California, June, 25 through the 28th moving right along.

As a reminder the ritual, when a member is requesting time on the floor, you raise your hand and please stand after being recognized by the chair, you state your name, salute the chair. If you requested to come to the podium, you may will be escorted by the sergeant at arms, and you will salute the flag before passing. All speakers will be limited to three minutes from the floor. Sergeant at arms, would you introduce our distinguished guests? Please.

Jeff Cole

Representing District 21 Andrea Kline; Past Commander Albert Martinez; past department, Tony Aguilar; Judge Advocate, district 21 at large, Amado Salinas.

John Picken

Thank you for coming. We don't have any guest speakers at this time. The minutes were posted on our last from our last meeting on the website. Hopefully everybody got a chance to read those. We'd like to entertain a motion to approve those minutes from the last meeting. Tom Ricchio makes a motion. second. Joe makes a second. Any discussion? All in favor, any opposed, Any abstentions, motion passes.

So, officers reports, I'm going to do a summation of our district 21 meeting that we had. Part of the meeting was a discussion of the Riverside veteran's court. The mission of the Riverside county veterans court is to provide an interagency, collaborative treatment strategy for veterans in a criminal justice system who suffer from PTSD, TBI, psychological issues, sexual trauma, mental health or substance abuse problems as a result of having served in the armed forces, the eligibility requirements United States military service veterans who, one, have a criminal case and two, qualify for admission under California Penal Code, 11 70.9 PC, in the case of any person convicted of a criminal offense who would otherwise be sentenced to a county jail or state prison or alleges that he or she committed an offense that was a result of sexual trauma, choosing the sexual trauma, traumatic brain injury, post-traumatic stress disorder, substance abuse or mental health problems stemming From the service in the United States military. The court shall, prior to sentencing, make a determination as to whether the defendant was, or currently is, a member of the United States military, and whether the defendant may be suffering from the things I listed as a result of that service. Basically, Riverside County is trying to help out our veterans who are, for some reason, into the criminal justice system. I did not know about this until recently. I think it's a great deal. The other thing that happened was the introduction of Chris Yates, who was running for the National Executive Committee. Also, we were introduced by our department commander of Vic Martin, who's running for area five. Then we had a discussion of the state bill 694, veterans' benefits Protection Act, which was signed into law by Governor Gavin Newsom on February 10 of this year, authored by Senator Bob Archuleta and is co-sponsored by Attorney General Rob Bonta. This law aims to protect veterans from claim sharks or unaccredited companies that charge excessive fees for assistance with Veterans Affairs disability claims. After that discussion, they went into nominations for district 21 officers held were the following, nominated for commander Al Mendoza. First Vice nominated was Andrea Kline, our own, Andrea Kline and and Jennifer Turpin, also nominated for second vice was Andrea Kline for district 21 executive board at large Amado Salinas and Ernest Meeker. The district 21 executive board myself was nominated. And the only other couple things was that ALR at post 852, is holding a baked potato bar on May 1, and the city of Perris is holding a rods and rails event at the Southern California Railroad Museum on June 13. That is on their website.

Andrea Kline

The only other thing, district 21 is hosting a leadership post, leadership training this Saturday. A number of you have already signed up. It. Will be from 10 o'clock until one o'clock at the Indio post, and there will be some food and drinks afterwards. And this is really just to try to help folks understand, you know, post operations, post leadership, with the new election happening. So if you want to go, let me know, because I have to have handouts and Rusanne is bringing food. So reach out to me and let me know if you want to go.

John Picken

Thank you. Okay, going down the line here, Adjutant, you have anything for us.

Allen Lane

Nothing to report, sir.

John Picken

First Vice

Ernie Meeker

nothing to report at this time, sir.

John Picken

Second Vice is not here yet. service Officer lane, do you have anything for us?

Allen Lane

Nothing at this time,

John Picken

Finance Officer, excused, chaplain, you have anything for us? Thank you. No. Moving right along. E, board one, Beresh, sir. E, board two,

Beresh

nothing at this time, sir.

John Picken

E, board three, Anthony, thank you. E, board three. Webster, thank you, sir. Seargent At arms, post historian is not here, Okay, moving right along. Committee reports, House committee member, speaker,

Ernest Meeker

sir, we had a meeting on April 7. There were four events that we had for approval. All of them got approved. Repair the parking lot wall, if you don't know that somebody ran into it, it's been prepared, and it's paid by the person that busted it. Parking lights have been replayed. The parking lot, lights have been replaced. ACs are back in working order, and we no longer need any tools for the toolbox. A member has graciously donated a full toolbox, and that is it

John Picken

might as well do membership

Ernest Meeker

Sure, our new members, all of them have been verified by DD 214, and the ones that have been from post 848, and 170, I have personally called the post them myself. The first new member is Linda little, Fred Wade, Jeff Bast, Joel Butler, Dennis morani, Damien Sabo, Michael Dell James Moe, Edward Tango worry, Chris Rios, Peter Palmer growth and William Olivia, Oliver, Olivia over Olivia and the transfers. These are all from post 1000 Philip Chevron, Andrew marching, Robert Lucas, Roger waddle, Victor Mendoza, Robert Williams, Marshall de Young, Vincent Price Clark, James Harry Oppenheimer, Daniel shim Edward Lister and From post 840 MICHAEL HARDY and post 170, Rudy Galeano, Galleon Allen, verified,

John Picken

are any of those new members here in this room right now? Hardy, anybody else? Mike, would you step out one second, please? Thanks, Mike.

I'd like to entertain a motion to approve all these members. Tony makes motion. Seconds? Ricchio seconds, you got Tony first? any discussion? All in favor, any opposed? Please ask Mike to come back in all. These. Mr. Hardy, would you come up here a little bit and just introduce yourself to everybody, please, over eight years in the Army, district office, the Legion and the state side for both son and Allegiant.

John Picken

So just want to make a little comment that Mike's acceptance here was a little difficult because we weren't getting a response from his original post when we asked about his being a member in good standing. And then we learned something totally new yesterday, that we don't have to put all our transfers through national. We can go straight to department. In the past, we've followed what it says on the bottom of our transfer form, which says mail to national so anyways, again, welcome Mike. Appreciate you. Have some numbers for us. Yes, I have new numbers.

Ernest Meeker

We have 64 new members, 87 of them are paid up for lives. There's 534 members, total members that have paid we have 17 transfers and set a total of 702 members. Our goal is 736, and we are at 95.38% I want to thank the people that brought in new people for signing them up. I appreciate all the help I can get, and I just did nine or 12 in the computer, so that's going to bring our number down, or even up by 12 or 13.

John Picken

Thank you, sir. Appreciate it. Amado, you had a question or comment?

Amado Salinas

so, yes, I was also reviewing the numbers, and I wanted to thank Ernie for the outstanding job he's doing you guys.

John Picken

So goal for everybody out here is to bring us a new member. Go visit some people, bring them in. I just signed up. Well, halfway signed up. Gentlemen, today you've got to give me a copy of this. DJ to 14. We'll be all set with that. I think between us, we can reach that magic number, maybe even above 100% , Andrea?

Andrea Kline

Ernie, is there any, are there any members that haven't paid? Because I'll sit on the phone, I was gonna

Ernest Meeker

I've just now remembered that. Okay, so I need to, I need to. . .

Andrea Kline

do a list. I'll dial for dollars.

Amado Salinas

yeah, we need a correction on the flag. I just realized we have the wrong flag posted.

John Picken

Oh, my goodness. Time out. We'll take care of that. You approve, looking for, pick up on that. Just stickler for everything, all right, that's the only other thing. Is the Finance Report, which Garth is not here. It is posted outside. We did approve his finance report at the executive level. If anybody has any questions, I can give a brief synopsis. Anybody want me to do that? No rich show has spoken All right. Moving right along then. Well, I had first order of all business was to re vote on the bylaws. That's done. Okay. Second order of business is the second round of nominations. Adjutant. . .

Allen Lane

We will open the floor now for the second round of nominations. Nominees must be present to accept or decline nomination. When a member raises his hand to nominate someone, the commander will recognize them, and they will make their nomination and state their name. We currently have the following nominees for commander. Nominee one is John Picken. Nominee two is. Andrea Kline. Nominee three is Ed Vondra. Nominee four is Mike Beresh. Are there any other Are there any more nominations for commander at this time? Any more nominations for the commander at this time? Are there any more nominations for commander? Okay, keep moving on. Nominations are closed. We will open the floor now for nominations for first vice commander. We currently have the following nominees for first vice commander. First nominee is Ernest Meeker. Second nominee is Joe Delia. Third nominee is Tom Ricchio. Are there any more nominations for first vice commander? Any more nominations for first vice commander,

Tom Ricchio

I like to switch like to switch out for first vice please.

John Picken

What do you mean? Switch out? You want to remove yourself? Please, say it one more time.

Allen Lane

One more time. Are there any more nominations for first vice commander. . .nominations are closed. We'll open the floor now for nominations for second vice commander. We currently have the following nominee for second vice commander. Nominee one is Lee Wilson. Is he here yet? He's on his way. Okay. Are there any more nominations for second vice commander. . .Andrea?

Andrea Kline

I'd like to nominate Tom Ricchio for second vice, Okay.

Tom Ricchio

I accept the nomination.

Allen Lane

Are there any more nominations for second vice commander?

John Picken

Thank you, second vice, appreciate that.

Allen Lane

Almost there, are there any more nominations for second vice commander? All right, nominations are closed. We will open the floor now for nominations for third vice commander. We currently have the following nominee for third vice commander. Nominee one is Kevin Koch, who's not here. Are there any more nominations for third vice commander? Any more nominations for third vice commander? And a final Are there any more nominations for third vice commander? Nominations are closed. We will open the floor now for nominations for chaplain. We currently have the following nominee for chaplain. Nominee one, McCarthy Crawford. Are there any more nominations for chaplain?

Tony Aguilar

Tony, I would like to nominate Ricchio, Tommy.

John Picken

Do you accept that nomination?

Tommy Ricchio

I accept that commander. Thank you.

Allen Lane

Are there any more nominations for chaplain and a final Are there any more nominations for chaplain? Nominations are closed.

We will open the floor now for nominations for Sergeant at Arms. We currently have the following nominees for Sergeant at Arms. Nominee one, Robert Gary, nominee two, Mike Beresh, are there any more nominations for Sergeant at Arms? Any more nominations for Sergeant at Arms? Final, oh, Andrea?

Andrea Kline

I nominate Tom Ricchio

John Picken

Okay, Tom, do you accept that nomination?

Tom Ricchio

I accept that nomination, Commander.

John Picken

Okay.

Allen Lane

Any more nominations for Sergeant at Arms? I'll do a final. Any more nominations for Sergeant at Arms, nominations are closed.

Third year. Oh, here we are. We will open the floor now for nominations for third Year Executive Board. We currently have the following nominee for third Year Executive Board Maggie Raible. Are there any more nominations for third Year Executive Board, Tony?

John Picken

Mark? Mark's right there, you accept the nomination?

Allen Lane

Mark. State your name. One more time, Mark, B, U, T, O Y, thank you.

Are there any more nominations for third Year Executive Board one more time. Are there any more nominations for third Year Executive Board, nominations are closed.

At this time, we will confirm the delegates and alternates to represent the post at the department convention in June. We currently have the following nominees for delegates. Delegate one, Roseanne. Delegate two, Amato. Delegate three, John Picken. Delegate four, Andrea Cline. Delegate five, Ernest Meeker and delegate six, Maggie, we'll rebel. Are there any more nominations for delegates?

Ernest Meeker

Nominate Douglas Cron.

Doug Cron

I accept the nomination.

John Picken

Thank you, Andrea?

Andrea Kline

I'd like to nominate Andrew Stevens.

John Picken

Andrew, are you going to accept?

Andrew Stevens

yes.

Andrea Kline

And I also want to nominate Kevin Morrison,

Allen Lane

Andrew, you said you accept?

Andrew Stevens

Yes, I did.

John Picken

And the second person is Kevin Morrison, Morrison, electrician extraordinaire.

Allen Lane

And Kevin, do you accept? Is that a yes?

Kevin Morrison

Yes.

Jeff Cole

supposedly somebody has a white toyota and motorcycle outside? Is there anybody that has a white toyota? I was briefed. I was just told it is in the parking lot on the side of the building. White Toyota. Plug in hybrid.

John Picken

Hybrid Toyota, no white Toyota. Is it on this side or that side? Was in the parking lot?

Amado Salinas

sir, I'd like to nominate Tony Aguilar.

Tony Aguilar

I accept Thank you.

Allen Lane

Accepts? all right, are there any more nominations for the convention in June? Andrea?

Andrea Kline

I'd like to nominate Joel O'Connell.

Allen Lane

Joel O'Connell, you accept?

Joe OConnell

I accept.

John Picken

Joe accepts.

Allen Lane

Any more nominations?

John Picken

How many? How many how many openings we should have, like 13, 16?

Allen Lane

there's plenty of room for everyone.

John Picken

we might take a van depending on our numbers. They give they give us two or three automatic and then we have one per 50 member, 50 people who are members, right? So we have 100 year two. So that's where it works. So we had how many last years 16. So we might be 16 or 17. So that's where we're going to be. I think we've probably got right now six.

John Picken

Probably room for three or four more. We have room in case somebody bails out.

Allen Lane

Are there any more nominations for the delegates? Any more nominations for the delegates? I'll ask one more time, are there any more nominations for delegates?

Amado Salinas

I nominate you, You to go with us.

Allen Lane

I have to decline. I will be gone.

John Picken

Thank you for that nomination.

Jeff Cole

All right. Claire free is white bicycle, number 6y, y, w3, 05, you hit the bike as well.

John Picken

Two cars hit the bike?

Ron

No, the vehicle hit the bike. I got a picture right here. How close it was?

John Picken

Maybe we should just get a bus. Yeah, so nominations are closed again. The rules for the election are in the back there, copies for everything as of right now, you can start campaigning.

Amado Salinas

Sir, for the rules, we need to go ahead and actually have a committee formed for that.

John Picken

I'm getting there. Thank you. Okay, getting there. Mr. Beresh, running for commander. Okay, thank you. Okay, Mr. Ed Vondra?

John Picken

thank you, sir. Ed Vondra and Mike Beresh are declining previous nominations. Got it. Where was I? Okay, yeah, rules for the election, right there. Now we need to get a committee. Election Committee who would like to volunteer to be on that committee? We have chip Atterbury. We have Russ and Russ and you cannot, you're being nominated. I'm sorry, I apologize. You're correct. Okay, so we have Rusanne and your name, sir Kurt, and Tony Aguilar. Mike Hardy, anybody else?

Allen Lane

would those people stay after, I want to spell their names correctly.

John Picken

Ed Vondra was going to be on Election Committee. Okay? Contact the adjutant after the meeting, please. How many people is that all together? Six?

Rusanne Anthony

It really should be an odd number for quorum reasons.

Allen Lane

I have chip. I have Rosanne, Tony, Mike and Ed; One, two. Did Joe just run out?

Amado Salinas

I'll go ahead and fill the seventh position.

John Picken

We've got our committee, Joe's taken care of.

Allen Lane

Should we put his name down?

John Picken

Joe? An even number again? So, yeah.

Allen Lane

no, that makes seven. I have chip, Rusanne, I have Joe, I have Tony, I have Mike, I have Ed and Amado. Oh, that's? Sorry. You got Hardy. I got Hardy. Kirk, What's your last name? Thank you. I've got chip. I've got Joe, Tony, Mike, Ed and Kirk, 1234567.

John Picken

please see the adjutant at the end of the meeting. Make sure he's got your name spelled correctly, and you guys will have to choose a chair between you. Albert, you need something, because it's going to print probably tomorrow.

Ron

You're talking about the campaign statement. Yes, thank you.

Allen Lane

That's the campaign statements, not the list.

John Picken

As in the past, we've used the scholarship board out there for you guys to put your flyer up there. We'll use a round table by the door to put your handouts, please keep them to eight and a half by 11, Max, so we don't have a bunch of space taken up, there a lot of people running so Albert, I will get you mine. I just got to push a button. Ready to go? Yes Sir?

Amado Salinas

Sir, Albert, did you have a minimum or maximum as far as wording for that? Otherwise, we're going to have a huge newsletter.

John Picken

He's asking if you have a minimum or maximum amount of letters or words per campaign statement?

Albert Martinez

two paragraphs, three would be good.

John Picken

Okay, how about we say 300 words? Is that too many less one page? I'm asking Albert. Okay, got it, three paragraphs? Anybody else got anything on that? That's should be the end of the election stuff for right now, Yes, ma'am.

Rusanne Anthony

I have a question.

So last year, the there was an issue trying to get addresses to the people who are running so that we could mail our campaign material, because we're a month away. So when will we get those addresses, and there's all kinds of new people that have just joined. When will that happen? Because it takes a while to do all of it, and I know point of order, but still, I don't want to wait to order the model.

Amado Salinas

That is set by the election committee to go ahead and distribute the list so they better get on meeting, because it takes a while to do 700 mailings.

John Picken

Yes, last year, I printed off and gave to the other nominees through Tony an excel program that I took off of the Nationals listing. Unfortunately, we won't have all of the new people on there, but maybe our membership person can give us a copy of the paperwork on the transmittal, or something like that, that has the addresses so we can add those in.

Rusanne Anthony

And my request is not a hard copy, because that cost a lot of money to do 700 labels, and I only had a hard copy. Would have been better to have digital, that's what we will give you, okay? Because I didn't get that last year.

John Picken

Tony?

Tony Aguilar

in light of the fact that you don't

John Picken

have to stand up, okay, thank you.

Tony Aguilar

In light of the fact that time is of the essence, I would request that the election committee have a meeting react to this meeting while we can act on this.

John Picken

That's up to the adjutant to schedule it. All right, he's going to have him come up here anyway. I will tell you this. I can get you that digital copy of up to this past Friday's people, the new people, we will have to ask Ernie to give us a handwritten or something to take care of that. Is that acceptable?

Rusanne Anthony

Yep, last year I was, you know, I was scrambling. It cost me a lot of money.

John Picken

Oh, absolutely. You guys, you're on the committee. So you can do that. You can request it.

Allen Lane

Could we have the committee meet right after with me?

John Picken

Right after it will make that decision, and you can arrange it. I will, I will send it to you, and you can send it to the committee chair, Absolutely, because I already know the ones right now we can get on to that and do the label section on that. Anything else before we move on? Okay? Whole business continuing, we've had one roof replacement bid from care roofing of little over \$47,000 which includes a \$12,000 upgrade. We're still working on getting a couple more bids. I have that twice in here. I apologize, as Arnie said, the air conditioners are back in service. We did get a repair bid from Castro roofing to just do the basic repairs on the roof, fill up the holes that have been created by birds and people have taken pipes out. Not repair them so it gets holes. And that's 4665 the House Committee and the executive committee are working on that together, trying to get that taken care of upcoming all elections. While we did that, we got the election committee going. Is there any other old business that I'm missing here? Anything else, Tony?

Tony Aguilar

at the last meeting, Mr. Chairman, I brought the issue of I made a motion that we appoint Randy as the prime manager. I was told to go to the House Committee. I didn't hear me. Chris, anything about that. Where does that stand?

Ernest Meeker

Nobody showed up the House Committee. Nobody told me that I had to put that on so I'm sorry it didn't get on there.

Tony Aguilar

Let's do it now

John Picken

It is a House committee issue, as we said last meeting, we need somebody to bring it up at the house committee.

Ernest Meeker

I was hoping that you would come in and bring it up.

Tony Aguilar

Okay, I will do that. When's the next meeting?

John Picken

Next meeting will be the first Tuesday in May. Yeah, 10 o'clock. Okay, any other old business? Okay? Already getting my report on district 21 I'm searching for a 50 year member named Walter Paul. I've got a couple fielders out trying to find him. He's got a 50 year certificate from the American Legion that we're trying to deliver to him. If anybody knows Mr. Walter Paul, please contact me. We talked about the lights, talked about, okay, at the executive meeting, we had a thank you. Thank you. Here we go. That takes care of that. Okay, second vice, I guess you got I'll break here for the second Vice's report. Yes, you're up Lee, Wilson?

Lee Wilson

evening, everybody, I think Wilson Jr, your second vice commander, village fest. We're on all the police until the fall. Too much to call on two people that do it all by themselves. We really need get more, bigger participation. But I had bad Thursday, and my partner, Carrie, had a bad Thursday, so it's just I can't push it anymore, so at least I've hold for a while. However, since started in January, collected \$1,053 we owe the city \$649 so when Garth gets back, we need to make a check out for the city. Least we're ahead. Rock the park series. The next one is on Wednesday, May 6. Come and check it out. Bring your chairs, do your pre game or post game. Here. It's a lot of fun to park down the street by the Maryland statue. We got two. Karaoke is coming up this Saturday, and then in May 28 kitchen is open. Chris and Nancy are fantastic at this come and check out our karaoke. It kicks ass. We do better than anybody else. We really, really do. Why? Because I'm in charge. I checked into it.

I need to speak to Kevin the electrician about getting new stage lights, they're kind of the Fritz right now, but we could get a decent system for about 200 bucks. So anyways, heads up to that couple weeks ago, a month ago, I spoke at the patent museum about our local fallen heroes. It's a great honor, and I want to put a shout out to Jeff Cole and the ALR, because they did an escort of the Gold Star families. It was really elegant, really cool. So thank you to ALR, Jeff, make sure they

know that we did the one neighborhood picnic a couple weeks ago at Ruth Hardy Park. Smooths, the mayor, city council. It's a great way to get our face out there. I received the application for Veterans Day Parade. It's going to be on a Wednesday, November 11. I haven't filled it out yet, but heads up, couple times in the past, people come up to me and said, hey, I can get you a big army truck, or I can get you a Humvee or something. Is there anybody in this group that has access to like an army truck or a Humvee? Something we could add otherwise, I'll just put in for our usual, you know, several convertibles, truck and trailer and a big truck and trailer and stuff like that. But in the past, anybody knows anybody that'd be kind of cool, same thing with pride parade. I have not received the application for that, but we're always on point for Pride Parade, and everybody in this room is welcome to be a part of that. Do. It's really cool. It's a good we're on point. That's a really great honor for us. You know, 100,000 people in the parade route. We're out front. Yeah, we need to have more military guys to do that for the Pride Parade. That's on Sunday, November 8, Memorial Day coming up, Roger and Road House rebels. If you haven't been Memorial Day here at the Legion, you're missing out. We do it better than any other. Legion baseball has taken over. The barbecuing will be ribs, burgers, dogs, beans, like \$17 so that's quite a deal. I think supporting Legion baseball see our Memorial Day Roger and Rose rebels. I won't be here for our ceremony, which will start at one o'clock. So the commander first advice you guys got to, I don't know we're going to have, like, a prayer. Are you going to do? How are we going to do the ceremony, Color Guard, all that kind of stuff. So, I won't be here for that. I'll be at the Air Museum. It's another quite big honor to be the guy who reads the names and fallen heroes and introduce the Gold Star families. I'll probably be there until like four o'clock, so I'll miss all our stuff here.

John Picken

Hold on one second, sir, Jeff, you have something?

Jeff Cole

especially last month that ALR was going to do ceremonies for doing that Memorial Day right in the morning.

Lee Wilson

Okay, remind me again that afterwards. Oh, that part of the Air Museum ceremony?

John Picken

No, no, they're just doing a ride.

Lee Wilson

Our auxiliary is doing a food drive this month, and come check it out. I forgot to put on here. Also, our son's doing a Cinco de Mayo. When is that Al Martinez Cinco de Mayo party, Ron Felix will be the entertainer. I forgot to put that on here. I'm still trying to book the refills for Fourth of July. I spent the last couple weeks planning out our Friday entertainment we're playing through August. And then, speaking of which, I'm starting to get Carmen feedback, and we don't have to decide tonight, but some of our entertainers are starting to complain about, you know, we chart, we pay \$200 on a Friday. Now, I always give a sales pitch. You're doing this for veterans and their families.

And we've had some people, big name people, in the past, that have cut us a break, but I've had other people starting to complain, and I've had at least two people tell me, I don't want to do it anymore because we don't pay enough. I think it might be in our best interest in the near future, maybe after the elections or whatever, to increase our Friday from 200 to 250 so people, these guys, got to drive here and stuff like that. I think that'd be fair, just discussion anyway,

John Picken

in the same house committee slash executive committee, decision shouldn't be a big deal.

Lee Wilson

And the same thing with bands. If one thing is hard getting a band for the Fourth of July is you got to make it worth their while, otherwise they want to spend time with their families and all that kind of stuff. And typically, we're only paying \$400 for like Memorial Day and Veterans Day, Fourth of July. If you want to get some decent bands, you might want to consider up, and it's maybe 600 if we get three sets out of it, that's only 150 bucks still per position. So that's still a pretty good deal. But I think we should also consider increasing what we pay our fans for special occasions. Just a thought, just a thought, yeah, my electrician, Steve is kind of flailed on me, but So Kevin, maybe I can talk to you again after getting our line lights redundant fluorescent lights, and put a dimmer on the one that we hung out across the bar. I don't know, maybe

pick your brain with that one. Swap. Coolers are still out there. I don't know if you really need them, though. Right now. Maybe we these black bar stools some you guys are sitting on, they've been breaking. They're only like a year old. The sun's bought them for us, our handy man's been going in and putting in really strong bolts. Go check them out while you're walking around the bar. But they're really solid now with these bolts the bar stools. Last week, Leslie the booth and I did an interview local kmir. It's supposed to be on TV tonight, but probably won't make it me tomorrow, but I spoke about our radio room. Leslie spoke about our piano and our hopes of getting it restored the near future. Heads Up again, we are pianos of 1907 Steinway. Is there an older Steinway in the Coachella Valley than 1907 No, I don't know. That's an interesting question. If anybody is older Steinway than we do, and considering the Hollywood background we have on this, it's my opinion they know we. Might have to vote on it later, but you have it fully restored by Steinway. It's in Iowa. It's going to take six to eight months. It's going to be around 70 to 80,000 bucks. Right now, people come up to me, Lee, I know about LA, I know these guys do this in LA, we can get it for 30,000 I can get it done for 20,000 Yes, we can. But this is a Steinway. It's a 1907 Steinway. It has all this Hollywood history on it. And for me, it would be worth I personally selfish, but yeah, I think we should have Allen Steinway touch our Steinway. Yeah, that's my opinion question.

John Picken

Sir, state your name, please. Mike, I was just wondering,

Mike Hardy

since it does have a lot of history behind it, and it's not the regular run of the mill, Steinway, could we possibly get the Steinway corporation to cut us some slack and bring down that.

Lee Wilson

It was about three years ago when I last spoke with those guys. That was a guy named Mike out of New York City. We still are. I gave him a whole Facebook tour, but he I don't think I brought up military discount or anything like that. So basically, we started this from Year Zero, if you will. Let's have a think about our piano restoration. Alibi club used to be next door. Couple other managers, Melanie, approached me just like there's this underground, you know, karaoke people, all these karaoke geeks, hang out together. They go to the same karaokes at the casinos, whatever.

They all know each other. And that's how we get all these people on our Saturdays, because all these guys bring them in. Well, there's a swing music underground too. And these guys drive from like LA River, Orange County, San Diego County. There's like a swim event somewhere in LA all these guys will drive from San Diego. They're, like, really addicted to this stuff. And Melanie and I believe to be kind of a cool idea, we'd handle it like we did my brother's fundraiser here. We put tickets out on Eventbrite.

We'd sell them for like 20 bucks, according to Melanie, we'd sell 200 tickets easily take out all the tables because we need dance room and stuff like that. Don't serve food or anything. Just keep it like a bar, and we'd split whatever our ticket sales are. So if we sell 200 tickets, \$20 \$4,000 we get at least \$2,000 in ticket sales, not to mention what the bar is going to be.

So anyways, working with her, we're trying to get something done, maybe for September, and our back wall fence got knocked down. I know Palm springs welding came here. What did they say about doing back fences

John Pickens

for us? They were supposed to contact you with the bid.

Lee Wilson

All right, I'll get on that one tomorrow or something. That's my report.

John Pickens

What about raising the drinks?

That would be something that the House committee would have to approach. And we just raised our drinks a year ago, a year and a half ago now, by \$1 and while we want to be below everybody else is in town, just food, food for thought. I understand it, but one thing we don't want to do is, is have 50 cents, because then we end up with all this change. And our finance people would not want to deal with quarters. Rusanne?

Rusanne Anthony

to add on to this, what I'm going to do is, I'm going to get into the finances and compare the nights of entertainment to what actual bar sales are. And, you know, look at do a comparison, because that way we can say, hey, we can increase what we pay for entertainment based on what our sales are compared to nights where there are no entertainment. So that's the way it should be approached.

John Picken

One of the things, if I may, on the entertainment. We all come to the entertainment, we listen to the music, and they have a tip yard out there. I've seen a lot of people putting their tips in there for them. Again, we can talk about raising our payments to them. But also we need to encourage people to, if you're going to be out there dancing, throw, you know, five, \$10 into zero ratio.

Tom Ricchio

I know a good idea, but it's kind of like rude, but you take the can all the way around and just like, get everybody hack.

John Picken

Understandably, but it worked. And Tom, do me a favor when you salute, would you use the correct hand? Thank you.

Andrew Stevens

on the new stage lights. Is it, I mean, I is it possible we can get one that's idiot proof that. So, because Leslie was here where, for some reason, it was set to strobe when music was playing, so she wouldn't so when she would be playing, and start strobing in her face. So I couldn't figure out what any of those things were. So if it can't be any approved, at least something where we could, I can try to help make a guide that bar could work.

Lee Wilson

Take a look at what I was looking at on Amazon. But the control board is still trying to, you know, after something, you have to learn, but it'll be better than the one we got up there.

John Picken

That's for sure. Along the term that little control panel has a short in it. You have to keep on pushing on and off, on and off, and finally kick it in and yeah, one of the lights is out. If it's only \$200 I can swing that. Yeah, okay,

Lee Wilson

all right, let me show it up.

John Picken

Anybody else have any questions for Lee? Moving right along. Thank you, Lee. Going back to our new business, I got an email along with probably a million other people from the USO emergency response. Basically, I'll just give a quick read our uso center in Saudi Arabia was destroyed many supplies that service members in the region rely on are also gone, but we are not the USO is still there, supporting our service members in real time as this conflict continues intensified, basically what they asked for was a rush, a matched emergency donation to them. Garth and I got together at the executive committee level. The Executive Committee approved \$1,000 to be sent to them. It was sent online. Garth took care of it, so they should have had \$2,000 from the Palm Springs, American Legion, post 519, that should be on there, and that was that national department. This is kind of interesting,

Amado Salinas

sir, I know that we have discretionary funds for the command to go ahead and use what is the limit that the executive committee came to do without the membership's approval? \$2,500? Thank you.

John Picken

which is why I just told Lee we can swing 200 out of discretionary funds. This is an interesting deal. Kevin Koch is our scouting person, along with the JROTC and boys and girls state. Apparently, Kevin told the people at the Desert Hot Springs High School that he would help them out with getting awards for their people. Apparently, the person in charge

over there went to international and asked for the same thing which came down to the department, which came back to us. So at that meeting, the executive meeting, we approved 252, \$50 I believe it was \$50 to assist in purchasing the brochure, the flyers, portfolios, along with the metals and the the actual certificate. However, one of the certificates is back on back order, so we're waiting on that you a reminder, if a member signs in a guest, that guest must leave, when the member leaves, they don't have carte blanche. Son's Italian night was a pretty good success for the program and the canteen. We appreciate all the people that joined in on that. And then lastly, not least, is there any other new business Tony?

Tony Aguilar

I mentioned that our former chef, who was very well like popular, had asked to come back after the election, and I'd like to make a motion that that be approved. A comment or two. He left here and he quit because he had differences with you, and that's too bad. One was a fantastic. The chef. Everybody loved him. His prices were great. The present caterer was a caterer. Understood prices are high and the food is already good. Had a lot of complaints about that. It was my understanding, and that of many others, when local charge came here. They're supposed to be a caterer. They're using our kitchen. I'm not sure what Henderson, they're not paying any rent. They're not paying anything towards the region for being here. Is that correct? That is correct.

John Picken

But Tony, this is what we talked about last meeting, that goes before the House Committee. When you come to the House Committee, you can bring it up there. I will tell you that Garth will back this up. We're actually saving money with them in the kitchen because the past chef, as you call him, was not paying his taxes, was not paying for the credit card, was not carrying any proper insurance or workers comp for his people. Local Charlie's is carrying all of that, so we're not having to worry about those people in the kitchen getting hurt. Now, we are going to be closing the kitchen in June, and we can talk about replacing and it has been discussed quite a few times, but we're stuck between a rock and a hard place, because we're going to be closing the kitchen in June. That's a month and a half from now. For how long? So, it gets renovated. It all depends on the city and the contractors building. We've already purchased some of the equipment, and we're just waiting for the city of Palm Springs to approve the permits.

Tony Aguilar

Okay? I would suggest and recommend that we have a meeting after the election with Juan and indicate that these things must be done in order to come back again.

John Picken

That's going to be up to the House Committee, whoever's on the House committee after the election. Thank you. Any other new business? Ed Vondra, I want to bring up.

Ed Vondra

Maybe this is not the time, but how many people here know what bedrooms village is? Okay? Was over there the other day, and the lead gen donated 50 inch TV to them, so they put in their game room. And my wife and myself donated one of those lead machines. Being involved, you can do this, whatever. And a lot of the girls in the activity donated some puzzles. What is they're supposed to 125 units over there, yeah, single units, families. And they have some families over there that have also have children. The manager for the building asked me if we can donate the screen set. So the next time I go over there, I'm going to get the measurements. I'll figure this going to be again. We'll let everybody know. They just want to let people know what in the middle of trying to do.

Tom Ricchio

sir, we can get in touch with Home Depot what you need, and Home Depot will do it.

Jeff Cole

The general manager will take care of That. All we have to do is buy it and he'll put it up. He'll handle the whole thing. But we need to find out how big of area they have. You've been there before, beautiful swim ball and back yards and stuff. We just need to find out when we can get in there first. When we find that out, then I'll bring it back up again.

Tom Ricchio

Home Depot, they'll probably give you the set.

John Picken

Thank you, Tommy, thank you, Ed, any other new business? Ron?

Ron

This is coming from manual Perez next Friday, April 24 the American Legion Herman Granada's post 739 in the Riverside County, veterans Advisory Committee are holding Town Hall breakfast and town hall meeting. The breakfast to be 730 the nine o'clock is free, and the town hall meeting will be from nine to 11 there to talk about different veterans benefits, housing, behavioral health, court, recreation, anything to do with the county.

John Picken

I'm thank you for bringing that up. I forgot to mention it. It's a town hall breakfast. Friday the 20, 24/4 730 at Indio post.

Allen Lane

Spell your last name for me, H, E, A, T, H, okay.

Andrea Kline

You have to register? Ron, what do you have to register or sign up for it?

Ron

The commander, Steve, why? He is putting all the breakfast together.

John Pickens

Two other things go ahead. One,

Ron

if any you guys happen to go buy any of the local stores the next two weeks, you'll see maybe a Dav told up with some young kids. Man, they're not members of the DAV the DAV contract that. Company, outside company, hire these people, Allen, who are around the United States trying to solicit for brand new members. All the new members are automatically the membership is a life membership with the National let me bring that up now if, by any chance, if anybody here was a member of chapter 66 that used to be here on Saturday, I started receiving calls about six, seven weeks ago, the National finally shut them down. They no longer exist. All the members were transferred into chapter 78, chapter, which is what I belong to. So we now that we have no endowment members. We have there might be six or 700 members now we have no clue, but if any of you heard about it, or you want to talk to us, we're more happy to be able to talk to you. So if you have any things coming here, address to the dab, chapter 66 tax bills, lawsuits, whatever you get important to me, I'll vote them

John Picken

on the national Thank you. This Okay, any other new business? Does everyone have anything for the good of the Legion? Does anyone have anything for the good of the Legion motto,

Amado Salinas

sir, this May, April 30, May 1, May 2. We're holding the second annual drone Palm Springs, drone fest. And we are. We've got 60 schools attending 11 countries. We would hope that maybe we could get our members here, or the color guard to point to parade, the color guard, like they do at the Olympics, to go ahead of everybody, and then members of the post of the American Legion, wearing our covers to go ahead and for each school or each country, carry their banner. So we're looking for volunteers, which will be May 1 on at the palm trees field. It starts at seven. So we like to have volunteers ahead of time to go run through the routine. If we can, if we can, also have our Color Guard, that would be great. The color guard for the Marine ROTC, unfortunately, will be away. They were originally going to go ahead and participate and do the colors, but they will not be able to. They'll be awaited ROTC program.

John Picken

Thank you, sir, thank you. Do you have Lisa's phone number our Color Guard? Would you contact her and see what she can arrange for that is a three day event today?

Amado Salinas

Well, exactly, just the that Monday opening event. So it's a mid week, yeah, so it's on a Saturday.

John Picken

You just said Monday? I'm confused. Yeah, I'm sorry,

Amado Salinas

it's Saturday May 1. Gotcha, that is Friday May 1. Thank you. So Friday May 1 that evening, so they can show up during the day, that would be great. Okay? Thank you, sir.

John Picken

Thank you. If anybody wants to volunteer for that, please contact comrade Salinas, and hopefully you can get a color guard, if nothing else. Maybe, if Lisa can't, help out, maybe you can contact another post, such as Indio. Thank you. Anybody else got anything for the good of the Legion? Anything else for the good of the Legion, if not, stand at attention. Uncover. Chaplain. Will you give us a closing prayer?

Crawford

Dismiss us with your blessing, oh God, as we leave this place with the faith that your spirit goes with us, keep us sensitive to your prompting to the end, that all we do be according to your will. Amen,

John Picken

recover certain arms, recover the pow Mia flag, Till we meet again. Let us remember our obligation to our country can be fulfilled only by the faithful performance of all duties of citizenship. Let service to the community, state and nation be ever a main objective of the American Legion and its members. Let us be ever watchful of the honor of our country, our organization and ourselves that nothing shall swerve us from the path of justice, freedom and democracy. Please face the flag. Salute. 2.

I now declare this meeting of the American Legion, post 519, Department of California, general membership meeting adjourned.

Minutes by ALLEN LANE