

American Legion

Palm Springs Post 519

MINUTES

Executive Committee Meeting 5/05/26 MAY

UPCOMING DISTRICT 21 MEETINGS

MAY 17 - POST 742- CORONA (CHANGE OF LOCATION)

DEPARTMENT CONVENTION
JUNE 25-28 - VISALIA CONVENTION CENTER

MEETING TIMES ARE AS FOLLOWS

SAL'S	0800
PCC	0900
TAL	1000

JOHN PICKEN

Meeting is about to open. All officers will take their stations, sergeant at arms. Please clear the hall entrance and close the doors. Stand at attention. Salute. 2.
Uncover for the opening prayer through the pow mia ceremony.

Chaplain

Thank you God for blessing us once again and bringing us here safely. Thank you for your leadership. Thank you for your guidance. Thank you for your love right now and always in our lives.
AMEN

JOHN PICKEN

Sergeant at arms only, recover. 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 Mia's and the cause for which we stand, namely the return of full accounting. A pow mia empty chair is placed at all official meetings of the American Legion as a physical symbol of the 1000s of American pow Mia still unaccounted for from all wars and conflicts involving 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 the defense of liberty and a full accounting of those missing. Let us rededicate ourselves to this vital endeavor. Sergeant at arms place the pow Mia flag on chair, Sergeant at arms only uncover. Okay, please join us in the Pledge of Allegiance to the flag. Ron, would you lead us in the Pledge. . .

Everyone

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America and to the Republic for which it stands, one Nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

JOHN PICKEN

Everyone recover. Please remain standing. Please join me in reciting the preamble of the Constitution of the American Legion slowly and in unison. . .

Everyone

For God and country, we associate ourselves together, Constitution of the United States of America to maintain law and order, to foster and perpetuate 100% Americanism, to preserve the memories, to inculcate the sentence of individual obligation to the community, state and nation. Faculties are both classes and mass, to make a right and master might promote on earth, to safeguard and transition to posterity the principles of justice, freedom and democracy, to concentrate and sanctify our conference by our devotion to mutual helpfulness.

JOHN PICKEN

Be seated. I now declare this meeting of the American Legion Post 519 Department of California, executive committee in order. roll call, adjutant. . .

Allen Lane

commander - present.

Adjutant – present.

Assistant Adjutant, Ernie - here,

first vice commander, Ernie - here.

second vice commander, Lee Wilson - running late.

Third vice commander, Kevin - late

finance officer - here

chaplain Crawford - here

service officer Allen Lane - here

Judge Advocate Skip - Absent

Sergeant at Arms Beresh - absent

historian James Snow - here

E Board, first year, Mike - - absent

e board second year Doug - here

E, board third year Ron - here

E, board third year Rusanne - here.

Allen Lane

We do have quorum.

John Pickens

Great. Thank you. Okay, we got one upcoming District, 21 meeting that's been on the schedule, May 17. Post 742 Corona. Again, I've said this before, but it's a change of location. We will be in Corona, and then we have the department convention coming up, June 25 through the 28th in Visalia. Hopefully guys have made your hotel reservations if you're planning on going meetings as usual at the district 21 the salaries are eight o'clock. PCC is at nine, and the Tal, which is us, is at 10 o'clock. We don't have any distinguished guests or guests. Speakers. This morning we were supposed to have somebody from Palm Springs welding. They may bang on the door here soon. I don't know. The minutes were distributed by email for the last executive meeting, or not by email. Sorry that should be online. Sorry about that. I need a motion to approve the executive board minutes from last meeting. Ernest Meeker makes the motion. Do I have a second? Jeff Cole's got his hand up. There's a second. Any discussion? All in favor, any opposed, Any abstentions, motion passes, minutes are approved. Will it now do officers' reports? I do not have one in this time adjutant. Do you have anything for us?

Allen Lane

Nothing to report, sir.

John Pickens

First place, second vice is not here. He will be here, and he'll probably have a full hour of dissipation. Third vice commander is not here either. He will be here later, finance officer Gilpin. . .

Garth Gilpin

The new addition to the Finance Report. This is information that's happened in May. We've had several donations come in, basically to the building department. We have one person called asked to have a special meeting for considered donation. We had the meeting on May 1, and they donated \$10,200 to the building account. We had a second \$500 donation from a in favor of a deceased member. And then today, we had a new member come in and handed us a \$5,000 check for the building department. So \$15,700 in addition to the numbers you'll see on the back, information you're looking at here, the bar sales first four months is just right at \$100,000 gross of that's 43,600 and our gross profit for the first four months is \$4,186 that's \$1,000 a month gross profit, which is about average what we've done the last few years. On page two, the SBA loan interest is extra item that is no longer that's the final amount on that have been paid off in full, donations and other income. The measure J is a negative number. That's 12,700 that's money that is owed us from the measure J Committee, which we should get our second check probably the end of this month. The other incomes total down. So the total donations was 22,000 on top of that, we did not add the \$15,000 received this month community outreach. First four months, we've spent \$11,951 so on various accounts, the big one is boys, girls state. Our net income for the first four months is \$13,800 and on top of that, we can add the \$12,000 owed to us by the major J committee. Any questions on the financial?

Rusanne Anthony

Yes on the measure J, the negative \$12,753 that's a receivable. So it should be on the balance sheet as a receivable, but you will show as income on this instead of a negative. So the 13,000 would really be more like a 26,000 surplus.

Garth Gilpin

I'll show it that way, because the balance sheet as the as exist at the post, contains two endowment funds a total over a million dollars. And so I basically, what I do is show the bank accounts at the end of the month, first day of the month to. Show the people where we're physically stay. In fact, my feelings can change is if we show the balance sheet with the million dollars on it, people get a different feeling for the situation.

Rusanne Anthony

I have been meaning to fix that, because that million dollars is actually just a balance sheet item. So put it up the top as an asset, but also put it down at the bottom as a liability, and then it zeroes out and it has no impact on the balance sheet. So I'll do that, and that way you'll remove that worry for you. But if this was a receivable which would be on the balance sheet, then it would be a positive on a profit and loss, and then your bottom line here would be more like 26,000 I mean, I can fix that for you.

Garth Gilpin

Yeah, I say this is over the years.

Rusanne Anthony

I don't mean to put you on the spot.

Garth Gilpin

no but during covid, when we had no money, and you look at the balance sheets, got a million dollars, nobody worries. So something we evolved to say, hey, we don't have any money.

Allen Lane

They will look at it completely different. With a million dollars up there. It changes the minds of a lot of people.

Garth Gilpin

Particularly people who are possibly donors, looking if I've never had one yet asked to see the balance sheet. Measure j, we have spent, say, about 670, \$7,000 so far. That's basically on new equipment, a couple pieces of new equipment are here now. The new sandwich cooler equipment is here. We had the used we had a used one in place. It did not function properly, so we changed it for it was like \$500 net. We could get a new one, bigger sandwich board, and it's now installed in the kitchen. We are scheduled to shut the kitchen down on June 1. Contractor says four to six weeks. So that means probably eight weeks the only hold up we have right now, and it won't stop us from closing the kitchen. Is the city of Palma springs planning department has the drawings, and they've been approved by the riverside Environmental Agency, which is the agency that does the health inspections. So as soon as we get that, we can start installing, but we're going to start the tear out on June 1, and that includes the offices, so the kitchen and the office will be shut down, torn out long time, but think it's going to happen. So any questions?

Allen Lane

you expecting it to take six to eight weeks or something like that?

Garth Gilpin

Actually, four to six. Yeah, we do have all the equipment, so hopefully and we have a plan in place.

John Pickens

Awesome. Garth, anything else? Thank you. Going back to the offices. Questions for you, I said you might know better myself, all of our bar receipts, our daily tabulations or weekly tabulations. How far back would you think we should keep those because we have, you talking about your Z outs, the daily cash outs sheets?

John Pickens

I call them transmittals.

Rusanne Anthony

whatever works, I would keep them for a year. . .

John Pickens

a year, okay? Because I've gone on the old edge of five years is good, but we're full. I gotta get real some of those stuff. So we might need to Warehouse these boxes. Well, Garth and I are kind of on the same thing. We originally talked about five years, but we need to find some place to store this. When we start doing the renovation.

Rusanne Anthony

the bank statements is what you need to hold on to.

John Pickens

Well, he has all the bank statements, and that's all online now, right?

Rusanne Anthony

But what if you lose your online account access bank can always bring that up, right? You can save them in PDF to a computer. But the thing is, if you go through an IRS audit, you've got to be able to show income, okay, which the bank statements do, the cash receipts from the bar. That's just your backup.

John Pickens

I go all the way back to 2018, Yeah, and I want to get rid of the boxes. Saves the boxes, but get rid of what's inside there. Get it all shredded professionally.

Jeff Cole

We had the same issue with all that back storage when I talked to our district, because they had to say, anything past seven years you can discard. But they wanted the previous seven years, similar to Legion, but BFW one in seven years.

John Pickens

These are all bar receipts, you know, daily tabulations.

Rusanne Anthony

seven years when everything was on paper.

John Pickens

Okay? My question has been answered, and I'll you have something, right?

Garth Gilpin

Oh, PNC has been our bank for at least seven years. It was called a different bank. PNC bought it, but those records are now consolidated. You can go back. I don't know how many years with PNC that was called BB, VA or something before that. Oh, yeah. And so we had the same consistent bank for at least seven years, so we should be able to get any records, sales records.

Rusanne Anthony

You know, the important thing is, when you go through an IRS audit, is your vendor invoices, what you pay for, because that's what they go and do, is they selectively pull out what you spent money on. Do you have the backup for what you spent money on? That's what they look for. They don't look so much for your receipts. They look at like alcohol, and they want to see the invoice for the alcohol that you purchase. That's what you have to support your expenses, and that's what the if we went through an IRS audit, even a regular audit, audit, that's that's what a CPA will come in and pull out.

Doug Cron

is there someone in mind for the shredding.

John Pickens

Not yet. I just started this process. We got, I got a month to get the office cleaned out.

Doug Cron

What about keeping Association arc?

John Pickens

I've seen their trucks. Yes, we'll look around. I'm hoping to get some sort of freebie from Palm Springs. They have occasional free shredding days, and I got to get a whole look on their website see if they have that before going further.

John Pickens

We're going to have a lot to shred. That's why.

Allen Lane

Yeah, the trucks are great.

John Pickens

Thanks. Moving right along. Third vice, welcome back.

Kevin Koch

Nothing really outstanding to report working on boys, girls state. We're in the middle of it. Everything so far, so good. Gonna request from Dart, then the check to get it out, to get receipts from every middle school, middle school kids, unfortunately, I won't know for another couple days if they need us to just drop it off, or to have somebody come and present at an honors and if so, I'll be asking members who don't work during the day if they'd like to go to certain middle schools to do that.

John Pickens

Okay, quick question for you on the equipment bags that we were going to get donated. How's that going?

Kevin Koch

I have five bags. We six for the individual in Orange County working on his bus. I'm seeing about getting the patches on. Hopefully the patches will be a go this year to get them. And

John Pickens

what is the date of the boys and girls?

Kevin Koch

Date?

John Pickens

June?

Kevin Koch

I have to check, it's like the second week of June or third week. Third week it's coming up quick.

Yeah. Okay. Bus still to be determined as to how many stops and where the kids are still doing the online zoom. There's only one left. So anybody who hasn't done it, they've really got to make sure they know how to zoom and be on that so just working those issues,

John Pickens

Boys and Girls Scouts. . .

Kevin Koch

nothing new on the scouts. Again, my intent is to go to. The district meeting, which is the first Thursday of every month. So many things are going on like this week. Thursday is the after school event at the Air Museum for the career tracks, which I have a program in. But if I can make their meeting, I will find out if we can expand rather than just treading water with who we have all right.

John Pickens

And last thing would be tomorrow, scholarship meeting.

Kevin Koch

Tomorrow. There is not a scholarship meeting.

John Pickens

Oh

Kevin Koch

because we're having a scholarship dinner this week. And I'm proud to say this week, we are sponsoring more kids than we ever have, 40,000 worth, 4000 to 10 kids. That's 10 kids, including one who is special ed.

John Pickens

Oh, I love it. Anything else,?

Kevin Koch

nothing else.

John Pickens

How's your knee?

Kevin Koch

Horrible. I'm going to need a knee replacement with Albert, he asked for me to do the article for the next newsletter. Okay, so it's a blurb about me and what the third vice does, perfect, and the four pillars and how that's all.

John Pickens

love it.

Kevin Koch

Okay,

John Pickens

sounds good. Thank you very much. chaplain, you have anything for us?

Crawford

Sir? No, sir. Commander, nothing.

John Pickens

Mike Beresh is not here. e board two. E board three? Anthony. . .

Rusanne Anthony

Commander, I took 40 polo shirts to desert promotions today. They're getting embroidered, and they're going to design for me. It doesn't mean we have to go with it, but they're going to design using our logo a sticker, and we could sell stickers for \$1 and I was kind of thinking maybe we could put them on the bumpers of our cars for park here in the parking lot, because we get a lot of outside people that sneak in there, and we don't know if they belong there or not.

John Pickens

I don't know if it's a good idea or what, but I think Lee Wilson had those signs made up for the parking lot, which are, I think are helping, but we do get a lot of people, especially on Thursdays, who decide to park there and walk down to the street fair, or even members will park there and go over to church or to go to restaurants. I like the idea. Stickers are good.

Rusanne Anthony

Anything. We could put them in, like swag locker the shirt locker and let people buy them. We can take a look at that. The only other thing is, Kevin asked me to get shirts for the kids, and which I can do. But I don't know sizes, and I didn't know if they're both small,

Kevin Koch

small. We have no small.

Rusanne Anthony

all small, yeah, what color?

Kevin Koch

doesn't matter. I've got the medium at large. We're good. It's a lot of about three Smalls.

Rusanne Anthony

Three small, yeah, okay, I can actually get those and probably have them in an embroidery and everything in about a week.

Kevin Koch

Okay,

Rusanne Anthony

blue, okay?

John Pickens

yep, I just remembered there was an envelope with your name on it.

Kevin Koch

that was me turning my envelope in.

John Pickens

Did you get that envelope? Kevin it's behind the bar, stuck in the slots.

Rusanne Anthony

I went and asked, and the bartender went through that. . .

John Pickens

I just saw it yesterday. It's a vanilla. It's been there for weeks saying election committee KOCH. And I don't know

Rusanne Anthony

bartenders look through their forms.

John Pickens

Remind me, before we're done here, I'll go look. I just saw it. I just saw it yesterday, so I know it's there. Okay, so that was it on shirts. Thank you for doing the keyboard. Three whips. Or do you have anything for us? Okay, don't stand up if you're feeling dizzy, Judge advocates not here. Service Officer anything for us?

Allen Lane

just getting a lot of new calls and starting to get my name out there. So I'm very happy with that.

John Pickens

You had any progress getting benefits?

Allen Lane

I'm working on two people getting their benefits. And it's wonderful, happy to and training.

John Pickens

Have you gone to the training classes?

Allen Lane

Yes, we were at Indio. I'm on line doing that, and all kinds of training going on.

John Pickens

Awesome. Perfect. Thank you, sir. Anything for us Jeff, sir?

Jeff Cole

just that we did give a chance to guard for the post insurance and also the 250 food boys and girls program from the ALR was submitted today. There's a third thing I just read that, oh yes, in the near future we have ALR was approached to do the ALR area meeting here October's timeframe. So that's something possibility, once I have the day, I'll turn in the form, but I think that could be beneficial to bring all the ALR area five out here.

John Pickens

Okay, awesome. Thank you. Historian slash website.

James Snow

We want to wait till we get to the those?

John Pickens

if you want to give it now, that's fine.

James Snow

Okay, it's up to you.

James Snow

Nothing big. So I started the online membership where you go online and actually sign up online and basically go, I was going to plug it into the TV, but if you go to the website real quick, if you go to where it says join, here it takes you to the membership page. Qualifications are to join, whether it's Legion Auxiliary or the sun. Go to the bottom. I have the forms on there where you can click on and print them out. If you want someone print them out, sign, fill it out and bring it to the post and pay then. Or this is, this is a new thing, click on or apply here online. It takes you to an online form that I created where you can go and put your information in. You can also check in your conflict. It's basically, it's identical to the paper one, pretty much, but it's an online version.

And then it has an option here for you to upload, whether it's d2, 14, or whatever, documentation if you need to use to prove and then down here, when you hit submit, the fee is 65 bucks, correct. You hit submit, and it takes you to, you know, where you put credit card information, and once they pay, it goes directly to the post bank account. What would happen after that is an email will be sent to myself, and I'm trying to set up to where our first vice gets email as well. That way, when he sees it, he gets all the basically, you're just getting an electronic version of a piece of paper.

You take all that information wherever you do from there to prove or get them in the system or however, basically it's just a newspaper. It makes it easier for people to sign up. They don't want to go post about a piece of paper. I'll just do it online real quick. Bam, gets an email, and then we can, I can print out a report that shows who's all signs up online, and I give that report to guard. It's the finance officer, so he can verify where that \$65 you know, make sure it goes from, because we can only do one bank account on here, so it goes to whatever bank account information that, finance officer gave me, then I give them the report, and you can transfer and do whatever it is, put that into the membership account. And so if anyone, if everyone here, can take a moment today or later tomorrow, you can go online and go through the process and don't, don't fill it out, but just look over if you want anything else added to it or take it away. If you if everyone likes it, we start advertising. I'll work on the ones for the auxiliary and for the suns and for the riders as well, too. And so that's all I have for this.

Ernie Meeker

I was going to bring it up. Is the renewal on there, because we have a new renewal form out on in the file folders. And the other thing that I think should be on there would be transfer. . .

James Snow

transfer, oh,

Ernie Meeker

because that way they I don't have to. I have a PDF file that I send out to whoever requests it, but sometimes they can't fill it out and print it, so they want a easier way to do it. So if we can do it on the website, that would be great.

James Snow

Yeah, that's easy. That's it on that one.

John Pickens

I got four things, on that thing, see if I can remember. On the you might want to write this down. On the. The conflicts, I would like to see that we just put other instead of other conflict, because, like myself, I was never in a true war. Okay? The second thing I would when you, when you put your p2 14, put a note there that says, Please black out social security number. I already forgot the last few things, which I just remember. Oh, receipt. When they pay, do they get a online receipt they can show to come in here and use it as a temporary membership card?

James Snow

Yes. We'll make sure I add verbiage on here that you can use this as a temporary card as they use your original card. Yes,

John Pickens

one more thing, but I can't remember what it is.

Ernie Meeker

If we do that, then we need to put on there, or get a copy of it to put by the door or for the bartenders so they know that that's okay for them to or a phone number somebody can call and say, Is this person good? And verification, yeah, just so that the people that work the door and the bartenders know that this receipt is good for them, Lane schoolers

Speaker 1

at the door like you see this, yes, right. If

John Pickens

anybody's seen recently at the door, two months ago, I made up a hard copy of all the possible IDs that could be used so it's laminated there, and they can see all the different, so we'll just have to add that to that. Lee, I'll get to just a minute. That's all I have on that. Yeah, I'm trying to remember, go ahead and

James Snow

go. I'm not going to take away from our second vice thunder, but the finance officer mentioned about someone making the donations, it kind of makes me wonder if they maybe saw the NBC ran. Everyone saw the thing that Kai reach put together for the post with Lee about the radio room and the and the piano. One of the things they advertised in NPC was to donate money to the post to help, you know, bring that piano back up.

Lee Wilson

I could play the TVs,

James Snow

yeah, and then the radio room. So I just kind of curious. It's kind of almost, it was like, almost seemed like scares on that, oh, no announcement for June 1 for the kitchen. Should we put something on Facebook or the website to announce to everyone say, hey, the kitchen's gonna be down from June 6 or June 1 for four to six weeks?

John Pickens

What do you think Garth we call the drop to the date? I'd say six to eight.

Allen Lane

Yeah. What about adding more and then surprising everybody when we're done early. So

Speaker 1

we'll

James Snow

make an announcement on the website and Facebook. I'll put on the announcement page. And also, last year, we did the announcements for the elections and got nominated basically, who on the announcement page. I haven't done it yet. Just want to make sure that we're doing that again. If we are, I'll definitely get those on there and announce

John Pickens

me the election committee chairperson. I

James Snow

did, yep, I just want to because, I mean, that's from the website, but I just want to last for me. You know, if you look at the website, the top part I have a little spot on this is announcements. You know, that's just for us to announce to everybody. And, you know, and if people were subscribed, they should get an, okay, there's announcement. But, you know, we put on there, as far as whoever doesn't look at the email, maybe they'll see the announcements. Or we did it last year. I was, you know, it's just. . .

John Pickens

I think if it really has been sent out as an email blast, would it be adequate to put on there, on the button?

James Snow

No, no. I'm just putting the names on there. I'm not putting everything on there, as far as your statements and you know, all that

Rusanne Anthony

candidates, Lane positions that are running.

John Pickens

just the name, that's it.

James Snow

easy. It's just a spot where people click on just remember, don't have to go back and read everything again. it's Just see the name again. That's it. That's all I got.

Allen Lane

One more question. I did notice your online application. I love it. That's absolutely wonderful. But I would love to make sure that they see that the DD 214 is optional. Having people throw those online concerns me with their social security number on there.

James Snow

let me just back up real quick on this option. It has the Option for me to check if this is PII. And so I click on PII for that part, and they upload it. So I don't know exactly what it does, but I haven't tested that out as far as

uploading something on there and see if it takes any information and it may just, it might just add a statement. I'm not sure exactly what it does, but it does give you the option to click on PII for any of these things. . .

John Pickens

whatever, whatever French word that is, I don't know

James Snow

personal identifiable information.

Ernie Meeker

The other thing that I've been using and verifying stuff with would be because they bring in their DD 214, and a letter that says, This person blah, blah, blah, blah, blah, honorably was discharged anything that has their name and it matches with everything. I don't see an issue with it. And other people that I've talked to really don't have an issue with it that I know of. . .

Rusanne Anthony

your DD 214 says what condition you were discharged under.

John Pickens

yes, but there are some people who've never received a DD 214 because they were dishonorably or less than honorable discharge, but then got it rescinded by the Department of Navy or whatever, because of, don't ask, don't tell. So they only got, and I've had two, three people that letter from the Department of Navy saying that they are reverted to honorably discharged. But they didn't, never got a DD 214.

Ernie Meeker

I got two of them like that in the past week where it said nothing on their DD, 214 that they were honorably, dishonorably discharged. But then he had another sheet of paper that had the date that he was discharged, and it went to honorably on the on the paperwork, so I matched everything and that doesn't have their social security number on it. It just had their service numbers.

John Pickens

Okay, back then they had service numbers that was pre 60s or 1962, somewhere in that area along that line, maybe we just put DD 214 or other documentation that shows you are only discharged.

John Pickens

I can't remember the fourth thing now, whenever we going off that thing, I was like, okay, yeah, so can you look at your I think you were looking at the bottom of your page when I saw the bottom.

James Snow

So everything, your first name, last name, country, address, city, zip code, email, phone number. I certify that I serve at least one day that that verbiage. And then the, if you serve in the conflict of what branch of service, a signature, your recruiter's name is someone you know, like, hey, come join the Legion, the date. And then right here, you can upload your D 14. You just click on it, and then you hit submit, and it sends them to the page so they can pay, oh, that was what it was payment.

John Pickens

Are we going to get charged a fee from the bank? Because we're doing this like we did on there?

James Snow

they do take a percent out of her wics because of that.

Crawford

maybe we can just, yeah?

John Pickens

just food for thought.

James Snow

I mean, it's 65 bucks. They're going to take two point some percent out of that.

John Pickens

Again, that could be something we talked to Garth about on that, because we already send \$43 or something to the national and then another \$10 per person to department we only get a little bit out of.

James Snow

So someone signs up online on the regular website, like, hey, I want 509, that 1000 they still pay. They're paying online. I mean, they're probably don't know what their process is, as far as how they pay their money goes, as far as by the same thing, it's all business. You know, you pay online, someone's going to pay someone somewhere for that service.

John Pickens

Thank you, sir. Okay. I was going to mention this. We have the three different donations in the last four days. One of the people was on behalf of Benjamin Verde, or Verde, I don't know if you guys would come in here on Sundays. He would always. To table number one, it was last few years he's been having oxygen on him, and little, tiny little guy walked in. He passed away, and his nephew wrote us a check for 500 and this was thank you for all the years of membership and commodity. And that was a \$500 check in name of him. So that was very nice. Garth mentioned the \$5,000 check we just got today. I signed up to a new membership. Ernie has already verified his paperwork and was sitting there at the bar. He calls me over, gives me a check for \$5,000 and then of course, the check we just received the beginning of the month for 10,200 for the building fund. I mean, we're doing good. This post is doing good in getting people and liking the post, and we're expanding. So that's great again. Garth, thank you for handling the letters. . .

Garth Gilpin

put that in the file.

John Pickens

Yeah, please. Okay, so good. Now we move on to the House committee report.

Ernie Meeker

You want to do second vice?

John Pickens

oh, gosh, I'm sorry. Yeah, we'll do a second book. You got to keep it down to three minutes, right?

Lee Wilson

A rock before last one is tomorrow night, and I'll tell you, we pay 1000 bucks to be a part of this. It's got to be the best \$1,000 investments magazine stage time. Our tent is like just perfectly placed stage. But, yeah, we got to be known. Also. Come do your pregame. Here, do your post game. After that, I got two karaoke is coming up, and I just heard, I guess what? June 1 we will not have the kitchen. So I need dad's burgers. Maybe he wants to be our other guy, if he could do it otherwise. Los consulates across the street said they wouldn't mind even being our Friday caveat and stuff. . .

John Pickens

remind me, and I'll send you Dad's burgers Information.

Lee Wilson

All right, our new stage light in that box over there, there's eight of them, and Kevin Morrison, the electrician New York Post, we're going to try and fit in his schedule, but our stage is going to look really nice. These new lights that are going to work. I have not done the applications yet for Veterans Day parade, but I'm going to get on it sometime this week. Roger Roadhouse rebels for Memorial Day. It's going to be a hoot. And mccarvey is doing the food. I won't be a part of the ceremony, so that's out of my league. Plan Commander for the ceremony, Color Guard, whatever you're going to do, but I'll be at the Air Museum. And again, it's kind of a big deal. Air Museum, flower drop ceremony, and I get to read the names of the fall and then introduce Gold Star families. . .

John Pickens

before you go much further. Lee, I have a question for you about Memorial Day you got larger and Road House rebels, at least starting at two o'clock and we're starting our solemnities at noon, correct?

Lee Wilson

one o'clock

John Pickens

one o'clock, somebody said that the flyers at noon. So if you guys correct that, and let me know. So I'm prepared to do a Memorial Day speech, and need to let the color guard know, and the ALR is going to be helping out with that, wherever they are.

Lee Wilson

That's cool. Jeff

John Pickens

must be in the bathroom.

Lee Wilson

Yeah. So if you're the Air Museum, it's quite a big deal. People want to come check that out. It's cool. I'm gonna have a table there for the Legion, and also one for the sons Auxiliary. Fourth of July is a Saturday got Woody in the retros, and McCarvey is going to do food for that one also, let's see, should I make a motion I brought up the last meeting that I believe that we should increase the pay for our Friday entertainment from 200 bucks to 250 is this something we should table and go after the elections?

Lee Wilson

Yeah. I just think that shows respect towards those guys, bar stools, the black ones. Andy, our handyman, is putting in bolts, because they're always breaking, and working on it slowly, but he's getting them done. I'll tell you what after this, I'll have I'll set up the TV on my our thing for both Leslie, she was on TV for talking about the piano, about donations. And maybe somehow we can start piggybacking on this somehow, and I'll play that afterwards. Tim Scheffler, Garth, the guy from one Wall Street's neighborhood, did the modernism week thing here. They did the walk, and we were the crown jewel of their little walk this last. Like, two hours, and he can't stop talking about how great we were, and now everybody said that we were really cool.

John Pickens

Moving along. . .

Lee Wilson

let's see, piano restoration. Yeah, I talked to the guy in New York City again, and one of these days I got to be on stage with my phone. He's going to walk me around. We did this a couple years ago. But yeah, it's going to be about 75,000 bucks to send it to Iowa to be restored. And I'm hoping someday we're going to find somebody, maybe on these next modernism weeks, that'll just cut us the check it will be able to plaque for the piano. His piano is restored, you know, by Rod Webster, his generous contributions. You know . . .

John Pickens

concerning the piano, I thought Leslie had somebody in LA that could do the restoration?

Lee Wilson

Yes, and it's not a Steinway. I'm just anal on this one. I think we should have nobody but styling touches. That's my I mean, we can send it to LA, unless we can get enough donations.

Lee Wilson

but that'll be easy. They're all over the place, talking to a Steinway guy. There's so many grandparents out there now. They're bequeathing their pianos to their grandkids and stuff, and the grandkids don't want them. There's a real glut on the market of like, pianos Allen, according to the Steinway guy, anyway, so it'd be easy. Alibi manager is supposed to meet with Melanie on this last Saturday about doing a swing event. Here. You guys haven't heard there's a whole underground groups from, you know, San Diego will go to LA to do swing concerts and dance and, you know, they're really hardcore and really serious about it, and we should handle we should do this and do handle it, just like we did my brother's thing where, you know, you get the tickets on Eventbrite, generates the guest list, and boom. And Melanie says, we clear out all the tables there, Lane room to dance. She just thinks people go crazy here doing this, and we can make a pretty decent money. We'd split everything 5050, right now, if we sold tickets for like, 20 bucks each, we get half that. She gets the other half to pay the band and do whatever. And, oh, proposal from Palm Springs wedding. I was hoping one of those guys would be here tonight. Here it is. We can pass this over to the commander, but with these two generous checks that we just received, I might suggest the back of your handouts is an example of what they be giving us. And I spoke to Raul this morning, basically it's going to cover the back over here in the back where the wooden ones coming apart or falling apart, but the one that's over here is totally destroyed. And from where we're concrete wall starts basically the parking lot, all the way to the park.

John Pickens

So the old wall that fell down?

Lee Wilson

it's going to be on our concrete so that dirt area will still be back there. So he's going to put the thing in basically on our concrete, and it'll go all the way down. It'll be five feet high. We have to decide what kind of gates we want, like a dual gate that opens both ways, which might make sense if we're going to be hauling a moving chunk in the future, or do we just want one gate but they're ready to move, it's going to be like \$8,850 and to me, we need something solid, because if we do something kind of like we used to have out there the wire fence. When homeless guys jump it, you know, still, this thing will hold up, hold up against the homeless.

Garth Gilpin

I've talked to the City Planning Department, building department, and if we have the right or the city says you can build a six foot high wall. And if we do a six foot on our side, it's nine feet on the other side. And the building Commander, I can't understand. He's been here half a dozen times. He says, We don't care. We just want a wall there. So if you want to build a six. Six foot high on your side, that makes it a nine foot drop going off, but stopped the people going over the fence. But we'd have to do something with that existing wall that's hanging there.

Lee Wilson

So according to Raul, five foot was the city code. Five feet.

Garth Gilpin

according to the guy at the city it is six, he says he doesn't care, but he said, if you put it up, I won't say anything. He said, we just want it. We want something there.

John Pickens

So anyway, we're working with it seems like I just heard that in a different context a minute ago, the problem and not a problem. We're going to lose four foot of property by putting that fence up on our asphalt.

Lee Wilson

Yeah, that dirt area with all the weeds and stuff,

John Pickens

yeah, and then access to weed that when we do that's our property, somebody.

Lee Wilson

We also get a gate installed there.

John Pickens

oh, we don't need a gate there.

Speaker 1

No,

Lee Wilson

Okay, do we not want to do it all the way? Yeah? But I mean starting at the end of our building to across the parking lot to that wall.

John Pickens

I need to discuss it a little further, because, again, we're going to lose our property.

Lee Wilson

You want me to ask these guys if they can come here and meet with you?

John Pickens

Yeah, that's fine. Alright,

Rusanne Anthony

the fencing issue here. Shouldn't that go before the house?

John Pickens

Yeah, it's going to. I just want to clarify this stuff before we go to the house.

Lee Wilson

this is what I've learned. And there you go.

John Pickens

We're not voting on it. We're just discussing, Doug?

Doug Cron

is the street fair suspended?

Lee Wilson

Yeah, I had to give up on that one. Much for right now, maybe in the fall, if people are motivated. But Terry and I just need more people to help. It's got to be regular, sustained kind of. . . thing. All right, that's my report, sir.

John Pickens

Thank you very much. I miss anybody's reports. Let me just write something down here while I remember it. Okay, House committee Ernie?

Ernie Meeker

first thing that we need to do is we talked about the event that Jeff wanted to put on. We got more information on that, and I think we should go ahead and approve that.

John Pickens

we have everybody but Andrea here. I talked to her, let her know she seemed okay with the fact that if he takes the PTSD stuff out of there again, it's we need to ask me to vote on it. How about we do this without I will email everybody what Jeff sent me, and we can make a decision next week to get that taken care of. Yes, Jeff?

Jeff Cole

A little research here with the PTSD. There's no professional needs to be present. What I always require. The law training is highly recommended not having any crisis that may come of it. These groups are a willingness group of volunteers, people that share their personal experiences. There is no diagnosis, there's no court mandating, there's nothing, it's a group of people volunteering to come together and help each other. That's why it's anonymous.

Rusanne Anthony

Andrea proposed the same program with Licensed Clinical psychiatrists that are helping right now some post members with their issues with PTSD, and I think we should take both programs and put them side to side and compare them see which is the best fit for this post. I mean, she proposed, and you said no, now you're saying yes to this.

John Pickens

I didn't say no.

Rusanne Anthony

Well, I was told You said no, so let's bring both programs forward. Well, regardless, let's bring both programs forward, because one does come with licensed doctors, and . . .

John Pickens

I believe what happened was it was a motion made and it wasn't passed for Andrea's thing.

Rusanne Anthony

Well, let's put them both forward and see which is the best fit for this post. Do. Oh, sorry, that's my watch.

John Pickens

I didn't say turn your watch off. So you're okay.

Ernie Meeker

Okay, so

John Pickens

let me email everybody and we'll see what comes back. Okay,

Ernie Meeker

okay.

John Pickens

He sent me the information. I'll just forward it to you, and you can forward to the rest of the house.

Ernie Meeker

Okay, because you gave it to me already. We had four event requests that were submitted and approved. Our salad cooler in the kitchen wasn't cooling correctly, so we got one that we paid an additional \$500 for. That was the old one they gave us credit for, but we're just paying \$500 additional for what we already paid for a new salad cooling kitchen will be closed June 1. The tea dispenser has been fixed. We are looking into new vendors and vendors for the kitchen. When it is closed approximately six weeks, new vendor will have to sign contracts one. PS, modernism tour Friday, October 16, has been approved. So if you can get off school,

Ernie Meeker

Memorial Day barbecue lunch from 12 to five, music from two to five on June 2 will be the O'Donnell golf course golf tournament, and we were looking at food after the event here at the Legion.

Lee Wilson

Do you have a flyer for that?

John Pickens

No, we're going to ask you to make a flyer.

John Pickens

June 2, nine o'clock O'Connell golf course, pizza to be bought by the post for afterwards, \$15 at the tournament. When you sign in . . .

Lee Wilson

what time, sir,

John Pickens

nine, check in, probably at 8:38.

Lee Wilson

pizza here?

John Pickens

Yeah.

Ernie Meeker

And the other thing, along with that line, since it falls on the second of the month, which is the second Tuesday, our first Tuesday of the month, we're going to have to change the House Committee to June 1 at 10 o'clock, and it will only be this One time that we will change the meeting. So next month, the House committee will meet on June 1, at 10 o'clock, not June 2. Need to make sure that that gets put on the website so we don't get anybody that shows up. We talked about a volunteer appreciation dinner. We set the tentative date for September, 23 26 it may change, depending on who is the chairman of that committee. They may find a different date, but that date that we have set is September 23

John Pickens

Thank you.

Ernie Meeker

Do you want me to do my membership too?

John Pickens

Might as well you're next on the list. Anyway.

Ernie Meeker

Membership, we've got, I think maybe four or five in the hopper that haven't been put into this system. There's two that just came in. In the past few days, we have a total of 70 new members for this fiscal year. 87 of them are paid up for life. A total of 538 people have paid so far this year. 20 of them are new member our transfer members. That gives us a total of 715, people. Our goal is 736, so we're about 2020, off, 1222, off. So if any, and like I said, we got five or six in the hopper. So we just need some more. If somebody says that we can't or

they can't afford it, please let me know, and I will talk to John to see what we can do to help that person out. Believe that is it.

John Pickens

Along those lines, I found out last year that we could have hit our mark by subsidizing 10 memberships. And again, we wouldn't be paying a full 65, it would be \$46 or whatever. I would love for somebody to make a motion that we allocate 10 memberships to be drawn out of a hat are the ones who haven't paid up yet. Does that make sense?

Allen Lane

I love that idea. I'll make the motion.

John Pickens

Okay, so what we'll do is . . .

Ernie Meeker

I think it should be 15.

John Pickens

That's fine

Ernie Meeker

because the reason why I say that is because I've had three others in the past year that said they couldn't pay for their membership, so they let them drop that I felt kind of bad not going to John about it, but, you know it, he finally told me afterwards that we could do this at the end of the year. So I don't remember the three I have one that I know of for sure that can't pay his bill or his membership dues, so I'm thinking maybe 15, and we can go through the list to see ...

John Pickens

I would just take all the people who haven't paid that are on our membership list, put their names into a bucket And then have somebody draw their names out. If we want to do 15, that's fine. I was thinking 10, just to make it easy, but that's up to you guys. First, we need a motion to do that before we agree to it.

Allen Lane

Happy to make the motion.

John Pickens

We have a motion, second. Okay, so Allen's making the motion with a second. Any discussion 10 or 15? My question, 15?

Ernie Meeker

Anybody

John Pickens

Going once? Going twice?

Rusanne Anthony

Are there people that have hardships and they just can't afford to renew?

Ernie Meeker

Yes, that's what we're referring to.

Allen Lane

Yeah. I think that's a great idea. . .

Ernie Meeker

yes,

John Pickens

but I think that also, if we, I don't know how we could do that.

Rusanne Anthony

So if you draw, you know, make it a drawing, then we could be overlooking the people that have a hardship.

John Pickens

Well, maybe we should amend the motion to take the hardships first and what's left over, we draw their names,

Allen Lane

that's the way, absolutely, I totally amend that to the hardships first and then fill in our gap.

Ernie Meeker

Can I add something to please,

John Pickens

amending it?

Ernie Meeker

to put in there that we do this, the hardship throughout the year, because I, I didn't keep the people that were having issues, because I at the time, I was focused on all these other things, and I didn't know we could do this. So maybe we can add throughout the year, if there's somebody that is having a hardship, that we can go ahead and take care of their membership for them, so that way they're but we can't do it every year. I don't know how to do that.

John Pickens

I'm trying to think of my mind could be a motion for after the I think your yours will be a second motion.

Ernie Meeker

Okay,

Garth Gilpin

okay. Just to keep everything clear, that would be a motion that after July 1 next year. Yes, that motion should be made at that time.

Allen Lane

agreed. We're talking about the hardships.

John Pickens

We'll go back to the original motion. Rusanne, You got your hand up?

Rusanne Anthony

Yeah, sorry. Membership starts the first of the year, right?

Ernie Meeker

No,

John Pickens

no.

Ernie Meeker

July 1

John Pickens

National starts sending out renewal notices for the 27 in July, even though people say, Well, my membership says it ends the end of the year. But it's like joining the Alps or joining something else fiscal year.

Rusanne Anthony

Fiscal Year, it says 2026

Garth Gilpin

right?

Rusanne Anthony

So I'm thinking calendar year, where I know our fiscal year starts.

John Pickens

It took me a year to figure that out,

Ernie Meeker

because it confused me, when I first started doing it, because the first year, I forget what year it was, but I started taking payments for 2026. But then it said 2027 on it. When I did it, so it kind of got confused, but then I got it straight out. Oh, no, you still have to pay for 2026 before you pay for 2027 so it's, it's a little confusing. There's a learning curve, and John's helped me a bunch, and other people have helped me, and most of them, I'll learn them on my own. So it's a hard job.

John Pickens

Okay, so we have a motion on the floor. Is there any other discussion?

Allen Lane

One more thing, can we add when we talk to the people who are having the hardship, to include the questions, "is there anything else the post can do for you? You know, food, housing, what do you need?"

John Pickens

You know, that's a great idea to reach out to those people.

Allen Lane

It's a great contact. You know, while we're talking to them already.

John Pickens

Veterans Service officer, that's in your ballot right there.

Ernie Meeker

So whenever I get somebody that says that they're having a hardship, I will send them to you.

Allen Lane

I'm happy to step in and I will make that call and handle that.

Speaker 1

Okay.

John Pickens

Okay. So we have a motion, we have a second. We have discussion, any other discussion? Okay, all in favor,

Everyone

aye,

John Pickens

any opposed? Any abstentions? So we're going with 15, and hardships first, and we'll draw names out of a hat and send them their card cards. And we will be charged this national rate, which is 40 some odd dollars instead of 65, Yes? we should put a note in there that this is you can write that note saying, This is a gift from the American Legion, something like that. Yeah.

Kevin Koch

Just out of curiosity, Veterans Village, How many members do we have there?

Ernie Meeker

I don't know that.

John Pickens

We only had one member from two years ago. I don't know if she's still there. She had a family, and they were looking to move on from there. The auxiliary helped her out. We gave money. We gave her a membership, I believe or No, somebody paid for a membership. I take that back. I got that somewhere in my notes. Okay, so just, I want to confirm everybody's we're on the same page here. Let's, next week, get a listing of those names that have not paid and whatever hardships you can remember. We'll take care of the hardships right off the top. We can print out labels or something like that that I can put on like a label sheet and cut it up, and we can just

put it into a box, and somebody will choose somebody to pull the names randomly, and we'll take whatever's left over, 1312, whatever. That'd be cool. I think that's a great way of doing it. I learned we could do this from Steve from banning prior to him passing away. Okay? Thank you. Thank you for your emotion. Appreciate it. Communications website, you already got that taken care of. James, thank you. We already talked about finance. I have bylaws on air, but we don't need to do bylaws. You. Okay, going to all business. Roofing Repairs are in the primary preliminary stages of getting more estimates. Use donation was made of \$1,000 I did have one member complain that you didn't think it was an emergency situation for the post to handle.

He has not addressed me since then, still looking for that 50 year member, Walter Paul, I left a message on his son's phone in Arizona, and never got anything back. So I'm still working on that. I believe I might have mentioned this last meeting. New lights are put up in the parking lot by Kevin, who's also going to be working on the light out here in the back. We talked about the new cooler that we got put in there, so we're good there. That's my old beginning in the old business. Okay, going to new business. Election is next week. Good luck to all of our candidates. Is the hours of the election. Are going to our election rules, 11 to five. We will start our meeting at 11 o'clock. So whoever can be here at 11 o'clock on Tuesday to start the meeting, and then we recess for the voting. This is the way it's done. We recess for the election.

Regular meeting will resume at 5pm until the results are in, we will, I'm going to say we will announce results under new business, unless there is another suggestion, do we want to have the results announced as soon as it's done, they walk in here and say, you know, whatever. Or do we want to have it as a item for them to come in and under new business. I'm looking for suggestions. Just do it.

Allen Lane

to be honest, everyone's going to be on edge, waiting for results.

John Pickens

Anybody else.

Ernie Meeker

We may not get any business done afterwards.

John Pickens

That's why I was trying to put it later in the meeting.

Allen Lane

I like that idea. But when do they take over, the new people?

John Pickens

July 1

Allen Lane

so that won't affect that meeting.

Doug Cron

No

Allen Lane

okay, good.

John Pickens

Okay, it was just a thought, Yes, sir?

Allen Lane

Is there anything you wanted to cover at the beginning of that meeting?

John Pickens

No, not really. It'll just be, we're opening. I know you're not going to be here.

Allen Lane

I will not be here. What about a quorum?

John Pickens

Since we're not discussing any business, we won't need to have a quorum. It'll just be a opening of the post or of the meeting, and then we will recess. We did it last year.

Ernie Meeker

We had 11 members last year to open the meeting. Okay,

John Pickens

I don't remember, to be honest,

Ernie Meeker

I think we entered up for a quorum to open the meeting.

John Pickens

No, because we don't choose a quorum till after we do roll call.

Ernie Meeker

That's right,

John Pickens

all right, we'll just keep it the way it is. Open up the meeting and then recess for them to do that. Rusanne are you okay with it?

Rusanne Anthony

Yeah,

John Pickens

okay. Well, you're the election committee chair, so I just want to make sure

Rusanne Anthony

it's fine.

John Pickens

I'm trying to make sure

Lee Wilson

just briefly. You know, making it here by five o'clock is really tough. I gotta be like the first guy out of the parking lot. So I don't know in the future if we could make it 530 or something like that.

John Pickens

That would be an amendment to our election rules, which you can start July 1. To amend that last year, I know you took your lunch break and came over last year.

John Pickens

Okay,

Ernie Meeker

didn't last year, we extended to six a couple of years ago. Then then we,

John Pickens

when we first started this, and the first time we had the election, yes, we went to six. That was because we were doing in September, and nobody knew what the heck was going on, and the ad hoc committee was running that at that time.

Ernie Meeker

Okay, that makes sense.

John Pickens

I mean, I would love for it to go to six, but then we're delaying our meeting. It gets to be a long night, long day for those who were on the election committee. What's that? James?

James Snow

I said it'd be super easy to put everyone's name on the website with an option for them to pick.

John Pickens

I would love for us to be able to do that. I believe that national doesn't allow that
Okay, Saturday, Sun's event cinque de Mayo was a greatest success for those posts. I was here for a little while. People are enjoying the music, enjoying the food. Suns had a really good event. Appreciate them. Already. Passed on my congratulations. Other new business, auxiliary, specifically, April is asking that we match there in the sun's donation for a 6 month period of \$100 per month to go to Veterans Village. What that money is going to is to buy food, paper goods, supplies, baby stuff. If I need baby stuff I need, I would like somebody to make a motion that we support that \$100 a month for six months.

Rusanne Anthony

I Make a motion that we donate \$100 a month for six months to veteran village.

Ernie Meeker

I'll second the motion.

John Pickens

I want to say we're matching their donation.

Rusanne Anthony

Yes.

John Pickens

Okay, any other discussion on that?

Allen Lane

Yes, sir. Is it limited to the donations that you're giving to that group? Because they need everything.

John Pickens

This was coming from auxiliary members. So they've already, technically, they're getting \$300 will be getting \$300 a month to give supplies to them.

Allen Lane

I think that's a great idea.

John Pickens

Any other discussion? All in favor, Any opposed? Motion passes would you get with April and then discuss how you want to do that? Sure. Thank you. Okay, two more things on new business, Mother's Day. Gosh, it's coming up next Sunday. Is Mother's Sunday?

Allen Lane

Yes

John Pickens

traditionally, we have purchased roses to give to all the mothers we ask the door people to give each lady a rose. Last few years, we purchase roses from either Costco or Sam's, because we get a better deal than the flowers shops, and they're good condition. My wife will go purchase those as if everybody's okay with that. We've already approved the purchase of them. I just want to let you know that we're going to be doing that. Lori will be going over Costco and Sam's good. Some price comparisons.

Rusanne Anthony

Check out Trader Joe's. They're better than Costco and flower prices.

John Pickens

Okay, all right, we usually get two dozen or four dozen for the price of two dozen. But okay,

Kevin Koch

how about you? Did we give out last year

John Pickens

we gave out 48 roses? Okay,

Allen Lane

that's great. That's a great number.

John Pickens

Well, I think we might have given a couple of bartenders a Rose as well.

Allen Lane

It really shows appreciation, though. I think it's something that's valid.

John Pickens

And the last thing, a pain in my derriere, the volunteers on the doors, especially on Fridays and Saturday or Sundays, they're getting a little overworked because arguments have broken out because of people not being responsible for what they were supposed to be doing. I would like to see some of us step up and take over door duty occasionally, or maybe once a month, one group takes them the door. All you got to do is check the IDs and make sure they're current and have them sign their guests. And you're here for basically 930 to start down, down around 130 just a thought for people, if you guys want to volunteer, let me know again, it's it would be one day a month if we can get the sons, the ALR and the auxiliary to buy off on that, instead of having the poor auxiliary ladies and men constantly searching for people to work. Food for thought.

Lee Wilson

They love doing that stuff.

John Pickens

Not so much All right, now there's a lot of infighting going on. So anybody wants to volunteer, just let me know. I'll talk to the sons and I'll talk to the alr.

Rusanne Anthony

It should be a share.

John Pickens

That's my thinking. I don't know when I first came on board here, four years ago, it was Auxiliary. Nobody else was doing it, and when I took over as Commander, I just assumed there was a good deal for that. It, and they were good for it, so I was never wondering about it or anything until last year, now that some things have come up along those lines. So just let me know if you want to work the door one day, and I'll coordinate with the lady who's in charge of the door right now. Is there any other business to be held here today? No other new business? Yes, sir,

Allen Lane

I'd like to add one point for consideration. I've heard some hesitation about the \$1,000 motion I made for the USO. I intentionally proposed a higher amount—not just for the impact of our own contribution, but to set a tone. By leading with \$1,000, we make it easier for neighboring posts with tighter budgets to step forward with \$200 or \$500 and still feel they're making a meaningful contribution. Yes, \$1,000 is a significant number, but it reflects leadership and purpose—and ultimately, it supports fellow veterans in a real and tangible way. That's what matters most. That's all I have to say.

John Pickens

Thank you for that. I agree with you. That's why I said I never acted upon that text that I got, and he hasn't brought it up. So as far as I'm concerned, that is in my mind, falls upon the emergency funds that the post would help. I mean, if a veteran fell out here, hurt himself, you know, or needed housing for a month, you know,

we would do it absolutely. Somebody came to us, and maybe we need to make an amendment to our bylaws to change that thing. Also, Yes, Kevin?

Kevin Koch

a question, maybe I missed it. The status of the plaque for Scott grasser?

John Pickens

It's already up there. Okay, yeah, another new plaque went up there for a gem I never heard about. Apparently, years ago he was a path commander. It's next, just below, I think RJ, is plaque

Kevin Koch

okay?

John Pickens

And we've had a number of people asking for information on getting plaques up there, and we've been passing them on to the appropriate people. Okay, if there's no other new business to handle, is there anything for the good of the American Legion? Sir?

Garth Gilpin

the piano issues has been coming up for years. And I would I would like to start a fund for the raise money for the restoration of our piano. And I would like make a motion of \$1,000 come out of the membership Fund, which is currently \$30,000 so we can advertise that we have a fund established and people can donate to that specific program.

John Pickens

I love the idea, but again, we're going to come across the problem that we have with \$1,000 which technically would go before the general membership, according to our past parliamentarian, slash Judge Advocate.

Garth Gilpin

if we had a donation of any amount of money, then we could for that specific purpose, and we could start it without any approval.

John Pickens

Yes,

Garth Gilpin

That is my question.

John Pickens

Okay, so what you're basically saying is that, you know somebody's going to give a donation?

Garth Gilpin

Perfect, enough to start to fund.

John Pickens

It's perfect.

Rusanne Anthony

Just a real quick plug for post 428, they do state night on the second Saturday of the month. It's really good. It's 20 bucks. You get a massive steak, a baked potato salad, and it really does help that post.

John Pickens

been there a couple times now for a steak dinner over there, as long as it doesn't interfere with our stuff going on here. So speaking of that, this Saturday, we do have a celebration of life. So our back bar will be open for members. Celebration life starts at 11 o'clock till four. So if you're coming in over here, you'll have to go in the back. Have I remembered everything? Probably not, if I forgot something. Okay. Is there any further business to come before the meeting? Please stand at attention, uncover chaplain. Please offer a closing prayer.

Crawford

We ask you, God for your blessings on the American Legion. May, we who served our country in war continue in times of peace to serve and shield America, may we ever be loyal to our country and to our God. Amen.

Everyone

Amen

John Pickens

Recover, Sergeant at arms. Please recover the pow Mia flag, Till we meet again. Let's remember our obligation to our country can be fulfilled only by the faithful performance of all duties and citizenship, a service to the community, state and nation be ever made 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, and now I declare this meeting of the American Legion, post 519, Department of California, Executive Committee Meeting adjourned. Thank you.

END

Minutes by Allen Lane