

American Legion

Post 519

MINUTES

Executive Committee Meeting - 6/02/26 JUNE

UPCOMING DISTRICT 21 MEETINGS

DEPARTMENT CONVENTION

JUNE 25-26-VISALIA CONVENTION CENTER

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

Our Father, who art in heaven, we hallow and praise your name. We praise You for this gathering in which we will unite with other comrades to further our programs in the American Legion. Guide us and direct us in our decisions that in all things, they may be pleasing in your sight, in your holy name, we pray. AMEN

JOHN PICKEN

Thank you.

Sergeant at Arms only, recover.

Resolution 288 adopted at the 67th National Convention, encourages all American regional organizations to implement the empty chair Soma ceremony at all meetings as a continual physical symbol of the pow Mia's and the cause from which we stand, namely, their return or full accounting, the 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 is 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 dedicate ourselves for this vital endeavor.

Sergeant at arms, place the pow Mia flag on the chair you.

Would you hand those out for me?

Mike has the copy of the preamble.

Sergeant at arms only, uncover.

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

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. 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, here,

finance officer - here,

chaplain - here,

service officer - here,

Judge Advocate - here

Sergeant at Arms - here

historian James Snow - Excused

E Board, first year Mike - - Excused

E board second year Doug - here

E, board third year Ron - here

E board third year Rusanne Anthony here

Allen Lane

We have quorum.

John Pickens

Thank you. So normally we would list the upcoming District 21 meetings, but they have not been put out yet. No locations illicit. We do have department convention June 25 through 28th in beautiful Visalia Convention Center. Bring your sunscreen and plenty of water. It's going to be hot. The meeting times at

our normal meetings would have been eight. O'clock for the Sal's PCC at nine and the American Legion at 10. We have no distinguished guests at this time. The minutes were distributed by email and the website. Motion to approve the executive board meetings from last meeting. Jeff makes a motion. Ernie makes a second. Any discussion? All yes, Jeff. All in favor? Any opposed? Any abstentions? Thank you. Pass. I Offices' reports, we're limited to three minutes, of course. Lee's not here. We'll start with First Vice Commander Meeker.

Ernie Meeker

Okay, I have nothing to report to,

John Pickens

Adjutant.

Allen Lane

Nothing to report, sir.

John Pickens

Service Coke,

Kevin Koch

sir, busy getting our six ready for boys girl state. The tuition scholarship fund, we went around and presented those. We were very visible at the high schools. Some funds were donated by some wealthy people, and they've run out. And so now we're one of the biggest scholarships. For example, we gave out 40,000 total to Palm Springs Unified. I attended Cathedral City High School's program, and they had a total of 180,000 for their top students, and we gave out 12,000 at that event for the eighth grade Sue Alva Square next month with finance. There's some additional charges for awards and things, but we did not present to all the middle schools. Sylla Vista never got back with me. Not that I'm trying to exclude them, I tried several times, but all the others we presented, and they were well received. We got thank you letters. The kids were overwhelmed. I'm trying to get a handle on awards for next year being proactive for ROTC. There is a school award for elementary, middle, and high. Then for ROTC, there's an academic medal and a military medal. Thing is, they're all sold out pretty much or on wait about four months before the end of the school year, so I will get a handle on it as soon as this is over next month, and put a recommendation in for next year, so we can get things ordered and be on top of things. Still trying to see what's going on with our scouts. I'll get back with you after the next. I have to do a every year a 90 minute, how to handle kids. Because I have to be a member, since we sponsor that's all, sir. Thank you.

John Pickens

Scouts usually sometimes help us with Flag Day, which will be in the middle of this month. I can approach them.

Kevin Koch

I can maybe get Girl Scouts or another Boy Scouts. Okay,

John Pickens

usually have our color guard involved in that too.

Kevin Koch

Yeah, so that's going to be my recommendation.

John Pickens

Okay,

Kevin Koch

and I would like to do the school award throughout Coachella Valley and be seen, start out small but expand, but see what we can do with that.

John Pickens

I wonder if there's any other posts in our district who might have a surplus that we could borrow from them.

Kevin Koch

Yeah, to my knowledge, no, I can't pursue that, but yeah,

John Pickens

okay.

Kevin Koch

And I'm even wondering, I believe CSU San Bernardino is the closest college I believe that might have ROTC college level. I wonder if anybody's even taking care of them. So, anyway, I'll find out soon.

John Pickens

Okay. Thank you very much. Questions?

Crawford

Yes, sir. Commander. Hey, Kevin, is there a way we can get the boys and Girl Scouts to show up here and feed them, do something, just get them here to the post and let everybody see them, because we talk about them all the time, and I'm not saying it's not real, but we would, I'm sure the Girl Scouts,

Kevin Koch

we don't, they don't have sponsorship, but we sponsor them financially to a point, so I include them. They are quite robust. We could do that. The scouts we had cub and a troop, and it's male and female now, but this year they didn't have enough for the troop. Paul's done it for like 30 years, and he's not looking at really expanding it, I think. So, I'm trying to get to district to see who in the area we can, because back when Philbrook was here, it was quite robust. He was out of this building.

John Pickens

before my time.

Kevin Koch

Yeah,

Crawford

okay, we'll talk afterwards. I have a couple more questions.

Ernie Meeker

come in. I just have a question. I know in the past we had the Girl Scouts come out and hand out or sell cookies in our front patio. Yeah, we didn't do it this last year. Is there a way we can get put on the list to have them.

Kevin Koch

Oh, absolutely. absolutely, they'll come out of the woodwork yearly,

Ernie Meeker

yearly thing, whenever they sell, yeah,

Kevin Koch

not a problem, yeah, I think that on our list, please sell them brownies, I will try to do a budget once this is over with Boys Girls State for the next year, that we can load up on things and plan on what we're targeting. What's the level down from Girls House? Brownies,

Crawford

Brownies, I believe they still have them.

Rusanne Anthony

it's Daisies, Brownies, Juniors, Cadets, and Senior. I was a scout for 10 years.

John Pickens

let's change lessons out of Kelt.

Ernie Meeker

Make sure we're on that list, because I think the year that, yeah, no, they did sell. It was nice.

Kevin Koch

It was profitable to them, especially on a Friday.

Rusanne Anthony

It's like the cookie sales won't come around again until next year, right? They're already passed, right? Right.

John Pickens

But to beat right, I'm all out of statements. Yeah, I'm all out of thin mints. Unfortunately, my favorite frozen, frozen thin mints. Thank you very much, Kevin. I appreciate it. Let's keep on, see if we can get those medals going.

Kevin Koch

Yep

John Pickens

these, just same as what I have gone through, yeah, yours, yeah.

Garth Gilpin

Start out the start out with the bank balances, the accounts. We have \$141,000 in all the accounts, bar 23,000 membership 34,000 Measure J is 375 Waiting on, I'm just going to talk Major J while I'm here. I call him this week, ask about one of our next payment, which was due May 12, and they have come back and said, well, we made a mistake. All the people who are presented with \$75,000 or more have to provide an ADP audit, which is an authority under procedure, I believe, is the description. So I've started that with our Wayne Gottlieb, I believe I with the information that we currently have available, we can get to the finance tax advisor and get that cleared up fairly fast, but they're a little embarrassed if

they didn't include this, and so here we go. Allen count, we've had \$63,000 this past May. We had a \$10,000 donation, a two \$5,000 a \$2,000 and a \$600 donation in one month. I specifically asked them, where would you like to go, and they said you tell us. So, I said, building the today. I interviewed a haven't got it back yet, but a company to build a wall out here, reconstruct it. I've got another company, which should come in here Thursday or Friday, so I'll get at least two bids on that. Then I'll take that over to the building department. The gentleman there has told me, just get me some quotes that are reasonable, and I'll sign off on it, so we can get that back wall fixed. It's... I haven't seen the quote, so I don't know exactly what it will be. My interpretation of what is acceptable to the city is reconstruct the cinder block wall. It's 50 feet long, five feet high, and when that is done, we will get a quote from our welding supply company to put a three-foot-high fence on top of. It put gates, metal gates at both ends of the facility, and then we will be protected as much as we can for the back half of the building, so that's in progress. Color guards got 4600 bucks, baseball max accounts got 12,000 and the riders have \$3,059 on the profit and loss statement.

Just briefly, we at \$122,000 we're off about one little over 1% from last year. Gross profit for the first five months for the operation of the canteen, we made \$2,400 so it's running really close. We need to keep up our watch. We've got a situation we've been approached by the Suns and American Legion writers to sell their merchandise, and it's a situation we must be very careful with. I'm assuming the Suns will give us like \$1,000 worth of T-shirts. The bartenders do not bring up T-shirts, coins, whatever, they just bring up custom. So, anyway, with the Suns, at the end of the month, if there's \$300 worth of T-shirts, they're going to say, "I want \$700, and the current way we operate at the bar, we've got to get the bartenders to work with us to bring up what they actually sell, so that's under consideration. We're talking with the bartenders now about that.

The page two is the donation page. We've had June through May baseball, \$3,700 general donations. That's the 29,000 of that. 20 22,000 came in this month, total of 55,000 last. last year, it was 26,000 So we're making headway on the donations. At the bottom, you'll see net other income is \$42,000 and net income, which is gross, is 43,000 So we're ahead. Last year we had our \$21,000 in there, so we almost doubled this year before we had last year. Going into the summer, the kitchen will has been officially shut down. An I five comes in Thursday to put in various stuff that we can take out of the kitchen that we'll keep out of the office, it will keep the general contractor is awaiting the city planning department to approve our application for permits, and one issue that I know of is the historical commission has to sign off on it, but it's all internal work, so I can't see there'd be any problem there. Any questions?

John Pickens

Thank you very much.

Crawford

Yes, Commander. I just want to report on the barbecue that I had this past Monday. On Memorial Day, we did really well. We made over 700 bucks. So, anyway, thank you guys for supporting us. And I'll be back on July 4.

John Pickens

E board two, Crone. Nothing to prove what was made. boards for

Rusanne Anthony

Anthony noticed that the T-shirts have been restocked with 75 shirts, 45 of those were polo, and 30 of them just regular T-shirts. When I order shirts, I have to order them in lots of 24 they all might be ordered for any less than that. I know we got some shirts we got to get for the kids. Is it okay if I go ahead and order 24 more shirts, to which would include the sizes for the children or

John Pickens
make a motion?

Rusanne Anthony
make a motion.

Crawford
Well, I'd like to pay. I need little kids' shirts, so I can pay for my shirts, as opposed to you buying.

Rusanne Anthony
We just reimburse once we get them,

Crawford
okay? But I'm going to have a specific amount, but it will afterwards.

Rusanne Anthony
okay. So, after the. With you guys to tell me what you need.

John Pickens
you have an approximate cost. What you need

Rusanne Anthony
there? Well, their shirts are \$10.50 each.

Rusanne Anthony
That's including the printing, includes the label logo. Yeah, logo,

Crawford
1050 You said,

Rusanne Anthony
yeah, \$10.50 each, so

John Pickens
how many shirts? I'm sorry, 24 so that's \$250 Anybody want to make a motion that we get \$250 put aside for

Ernie Meeker
I'll make the motion for to get shirts for \$250 for the baseball

John Pickens
Is that going to be enough to cover,

Rusanne Anthony
yes, yes, because what I'll do is I'll get the sizes you need, the sizes you need out of those 24 shirts, and the rest I'm going to

Crawford
need like 30 shirts, okay?

Rusanne Anthony

that's even better, but we are having problems, you know, there's.. I wish they had made it to the House committee today, but there is problems with the selling of the shirts. We don't know, because the keys are given to whoever wants to buy the shirt. We go to the shirt locker, take a shirt out, supposed to make it back to the bar to pay for it, just so if you were not seeing the sales,

John Pickens

I've of all, we have a motion. I need a second.

Rusanne Anthony

Doug,

John Pickens

seconding discussion.

Garth Gilpin

Rusanne, call me, or I was.. I will send you the post credit card, so you can order the shirts without resale delivered here. No,

Rusanne Anthony

there's no tax

Kevin Koch

on this.

John Pickens

I've sent out a group text to the bartenders to quit using custom for the shirts, the coins, the hats, and the polo shirts and the license plates. So, you need to input the proper things, and I think so far they're complying, but we will definitely have another conversation about that in the very near to have a better control system on those shirts. Well, there isn't an idea we might need to find a locking cabinet to store shirts in, and just have one or two displayed, and then if the bartender is so busy they can't handle selling a shirt, maybe one of our officers, if they're there, can dig the key and get it, but if they're not, they're just going to hold off on the shirts.

Unfortunately, that's just the way I know we're losing our inventory, either by not being put in properly, so it just gets put in as custom and goes to bar sales, or somebody might take more than one shirt if they're given the keys, and it just happened. One of our bartenders, they were so busy, they gave the keys to a member who went there, opened up thing. I go over, and he came, followed me up behind it, because you just put the shirts in there, and the gentleman almost said his name, darn it. He said, 'I don't want to handle any money. Well, then, why are you opening us to cabbage? You know, yeah, so we can work on that, I think, but we have a motion on the floor. Seconded. Anybody else discussing? All in favor, \$250 for T-shirts. Okay, anything else for sale? Thank you, Eboard. Three Webster: nothing to you, Webster Judge Advocate. Do you have anything for us, sir? No, sir. Service officer, I know you have something for us.

Allen Lane

I have a client that needed a ride to Riverside City Hall, and I hired someone who needed a job to take him and wait and then bring him back. I would like to make a connection to the veteran village where he lives, perhaps have... I don't know, just spit-balling, you know, maybe a ride to the doctors, maybe offer something to the entire village. There's a gal, I guess, Brandee. I'm going to give a call to her and see if

we can make a real connection. I know Andrea has reached out and delivered some stuff to them. I've delivered some stuff to them. It seems like a great way to connect to veterans is to reach out to the community, so that's my goal.

John Pickens

Salvation Army is right next door. Do they have vehicles to transport people?

Allen Lane

That's what I've been trying to figure out. Who does that? I know there's a group that takes veterans from the post up there down to the airport, so maybe they know people who offer service rides, and you know, just rather than having to come up with it on a whim, be a little more prepared, and that's my goal.

John Pickens

Garth, did PSP 2929 do anything local

Garth Gilpin

when I researched it last December?

John Pickens

They only did 29,000

Garth Gilpin

bus trip back, and the other possibility,

John Pickens

I don't know if the USO might have something.

Allen Lane

that's a good idea.

John Pickens

so, we might check with them.

Allen Lane

Okay.

John Pickens

see if they have anything that might be available. If we can subsidize their gas or something like that, that might be money we can take out of our community funding. Okay. Well, thank you for doing what you did.

Allen Lane

Absolutely, we got him there. It's Thursday. We're going to get him there and get him back. He also needs a job, and he doesn't have a lot of skills, so that's something else I'm going to try to do, is like a job board, you know, for people, because I'm sure all the people that live there need something, so I'm going to find out if I can reach out to individuals at the Veterans Village and see what they need - food, housing, toilet paper, you know, simple stuff that we take for granted they may need, and kind of reach out that way, that's my plan.

John Pickens

April Neil is quite active over there.

Allen Lane

Okay,

John Pickens

she sent you an email,

Allen Lane

she did.

John Pickens

Maybe you guys can talk about that.

Allen Lane

That's on my agenda. Yes, absolutely.

Garth Gilpin

Anybody else have any ideas on just.. I've talked with Allen about this. He and I batted around the idea of possibly establishing a fund like \$2,000 \$2,500 that when he might get into a situation, he can respond. I can get him a debit card, he can charge on that card, so I can keep specific amounts, so I know how much he's spending that that way, when he, somebody needs a ride, or somebody needs anything, he's got a little kitty he controls, and so very simply, with a debit card, you can do Uber, or whatever, I don't know, I just, and I do that around, so we've got this \$36,000 and we're negligent in helping veterans.

Ernie Meeker

We did talk about that at the House of Minneapolis. We'd like to touch on it now, that since we have so much that we are looking into resources, so where we can actually start using the money that we accumulated through membership.

John Pickens

Anybody else have any suggestions? Thanks, Garth, you want to make a motion on that?

Garth Gilpin

if through the end of the count fiscal year, which ends and ends this month, we allocate up to \$500 through the end of this for the month of June for service officers application.

John Pickens

We have a motion. Second, Doug. Second. Any other discussion? Just quickly, let me clarify that \$500 for the month of June to pay for services provided by the VSO. Does that work? Allen favor? Any opposed? Beautiful. We're helping veterans. And then do

Allen Lane

we need to make another motion the following fiscal year?

Garth Gilpin

We'll try to do that at the next meeting. Okay.

Allen Lane

In July?

Garth Gilpin

do entertainment. We need to do PS P 29 four or five ideas like that, things like Boys Girls State \$8,000 so we don't have to discuss this at the meetings every time. The people in charge know how much they have set it up on the budget.

John Pickens

Sergeant at Arms, you have anything for us, sir? You want to talk about?

Jeff Cole

The quantum power game.

John Pickens

Yeah,

Jeff Cole

okay. We have Indio ALR, our ALR, Fannin ALR, the Suns for 519 donated. Auxiliary donating that, but it would be 250. It'll get every veteran interested ball game, a hot dog, a bag of chips and soda. At the beginning of the game, we'll have all the motorcycles on the field. The veterans will be on the field during the opening ceremonies. Our commander will do the opening pitch, and then we'll have a designated area for the veterans that sit and watch the ball game. I chose Tuesday the 16th because it's also \$3 beer night for you drinkers, so that's cool. We will be doing it right at the Veterans Village. We are asking people to bring in toiletries or pick on perishable foods as well, and everything we gather there will donate to Veterans Village. We just got to reach out. April gave me the number, reach out, like you said, with the woman that runs the Veteran Village to coordinate it better. So we're asking that the post also match the other donations of 250 like I said, we have Ban ALR Indio Along gave 250 the Suns gave 250 so facilities voting next week, whatever funds we have left over the 100 tickets will put towards doing it next year as well.

Kevin Koch

I motion that we sponsor \$250 for the Senate activity?

John Pickens

Mike seconds it? Any discussion? Yeah. Okay, all in favor. Any opposed?

Jeff Cole

On the side note, as well, we have a Gold Star widow from Redlands who's going to sing the national anthem.

Crawford

Oh, great.

Jeff Cole

So, that should be a pretty good night. Second, I know there's been a controversy on this peer support thing that I brought up. We did have a meeting. It is not a clinic thing. It's simply a gathering of veterans

that have issues after service. We're not treating anybody like I said. Our first gathering, we just talked, and we had a young man who showed up who's had issues. He's a son of a veteran, and after our first meeting, he's heard my story. He heard another veteran with 38 years of sobriety, his story. He's going to walk into an ABC Clinton farm, just through peer support, not through clinical work, or anything like that. Just hearing each other's stories. I mean, that's the biggest thing. A lot of us have a hard time, and as men, or even as veterans, we have a sense of we're stronger, we're invincible, we're supermen. You hear somebody else's story, it's very lifting. It makes you feel that you know you're not weak because you're asking for help. And as a veteran, or even in a family of growing up in a family of veterans, who better to talk to about it, you know, there's no judgment, there's nothing, so I just make it very clear, we're not treating anybody, it's not anything like that, it's a simple basis, we're here for each other, it'd be a once a month thing, and I would personally like if we could use the bathroom over here at the back bar, so I mean, because we are sharing personal stories, like I do share my history of addiction. I'm open on mine, you know, walking to save my life. So, I have done that, so my story could save somebody's life, but there's also people that don't need to be hearing about it. So, it'd be nice to have the back loop just for that purpose alone. There is no medical treatment, nothing like that. It's just the basis of that's why we changed the name. I changed the flyer to Pure Support. So, I mean, I would like to have an approval. We can at least use the back bar room once a month for an hour, just to talk.

John Pickens

You want to make a motion

Allen Lane

Is that a motion?

Jeff Cole

Yes, let's make a motion that on the third Sunday of every month we use the back bar for one hour for the peer support group

John Pickens

discussion.

Rusanne Anthony

What time

Jeff Cole

it'll be at about 5o'clock on the third Sunday of every month.

John Pickens

Thank you for asking that. Any other discussions? All in favor? any opposed?

Jeff Cole

It's open to everybody.

John Pickens

Do me a favor, Jeff. Write out an event request form, so I can remember to put it on the calendar.

Jeff Cole

Okay. All right. Correct me this time. Oh, don't worry, you'll tell us all about it.

John Pickens

Okay.

Yeah, I'm going to give you James's report first. James Snow was supposed to be here at the last minute. He got sent to a breaking news story. Unfortunately, not a good story, but here's what he sent me. I just wrapped up a meeting with NBC. Ford is looking to sponsor news stories, news story packages for America's 250th birthday, and NBC wants to feature. American Legion Post to highlight our history and help raise funds for our building and renovations. If there are any other specific programs, events, or initiatives we want NBC to pitch to Ford for sponsorship, please let me know, so I can pass it along to NBC. We can start building these story packages. So, what he's basically saying is that NBC is talking to Ford Corporation to sponsor 250 year anniversary stuff with the American Legion, and the monies that could be sent to doing our new ceiling and other repairs around there, so it sounds like Ford's very interested in doing this, so I just.. that's his report. We can bring that up to say we're looking for transportation again. The problem with doing transportation is that we technically, you have to have somebody with a chauffeur's license and all these other bells and whistles that you have to do to do that.

Jeff Cole

Yeah, because if it's 12 seats or less, you don't have to.

John Pickens

Well, that's true, as long as it's not for commercial use, Well,

Kevin Koch

we are commercial business, we could work towards that goal and do it, perhaps.

John Pickens

Yeah, we can figure that out. I mean, there's always ways around that.

Kevin Koch

We have good justification for one.

John Pickens

I think what James is working on is going to be real beneficial for this post for promotion, advertising, and growth potential, because the fierce sea force sponsoring the American Legion, man, that's going to be cool.

Crawford

Absolutely.

John Pickens

Anyways, Lee Wilson, wake me up when you're done.

Lee Wilson

Big news karaoke next Wednesday, June 13, the new stage lights are in. They're in a box over here. They're nice. Kevin Morrison, we're to try and do it next week, Wednesday start. His truck is being worked on. He doesn't want to do it with all his tools that he might be, but we're probably going to knock it out next week. Next week, that's the application is done. We're in it that put us down for like five vehicles, a truck, and a trailer, and so we're in the whole scrim, but I also got this letter, or this request from this packet at City Hall, if you like from us to feed the troops, and what times they're going to get

here, if we could set aside spaces for them to park, and you can see the copy of the email she sent me. I'm just sharing that with everybody, and this one is probably too late, unless we begged, and I don't know if maybe Garth or somebody already started working on it, but I can admit I'll drop the ball in this one, but I received the thing from the city that you can request grants and applications for, and if we like to pay \$7,500 the city would match us \$7,500 And I got the application, but then as I started coming here today, I noticed, oh, the application was due on the 30-first, and it says nothing that day after deadline will not be considered. I don't know. Maybe we could try and beg that I wouldn't be able to do anything until next week, but we could crap out something. I know I spoke, I could just deer talk with Mike or something, that you know we need to paint this place on the outside and also the fence. How much is that going to cost if we threw together a proposal?

Maybe they would take it if we got it next week, you know. We have to prove that we're spending at least \$7,500 on the fence and painting in order to get matched \$7,500 Then again, it might be too late unless we begged and cried, but I really can't do anything until next week that school gets out. But then I dropped the ball on that one, but maybe we can do it Memorial Day. I was all over KMIR, KSQ, and see rather represent the Legion mentioned the fallen heroes do all that. Our Fourth of July is going to be out of control with Morty and the Retros. They're not supposedly doing fireworks here this year. It's going to fireworks there by the library, that's what I heard.

So, like, that kind of takes the kibosh out of it for us. Oh, well, I'm going to Thailand in July. Yes, I'm just going to spend 27 days there, get, and while I'm there, I'll also work on our Friday entertainment, get that planned out through the fall. While I'm there, I'd like to make a motion that we start paying our Friday entertainment \$250 up for the 200 It's been at 200 for a couple years now. Some of these guys got a drive here to do this for us, and I just think it shows. A thing of love. I like to make a motion for, like, starting it this Friday, \$200 for our Friday entertainment. That's why I should be on that one. Anybody want to second that?

John Pickens

We have a motion on your second. Mike Beresh is seconding any discussion. Rusanna

Rusanne Anthony

I think we should wait until we got a budget come out for the new fiscal year.

Garth Gilpin

The budget will come out, should start July 1. So, you need to make a motion just for June.

Lee Wilson

Well, we want to do it in July, August from now on.

Garth Gilpin

Basically, we're putting together the budget, which will include that 250 Okay, what you need is the month of this month is just the 250 for this month.

Lee Wilson

Yeah, starting this month, and then July also.

Garth Gilpin

Well, you voted on a separate time.

Lee Wilson

Why don't we wait till July, then, and say just everybody after July? Do you want to rescind your motion? Then reset my motion, but I won't be here to bring it up, because I won't be here at our next meeting. Somebody else could remember.

Ernie Meeker

Why don't you just make the motion for this month, and then next month we'll make another motion to for the year.

Ernie Meeker

Keep that going for the year.

Lee Wilson

Is that the easiest?

Garth Gilpin

That's easy. What would happen is, is when I prepare the budget, I'll figure it out at 250 each Friday night, so it won't have to be. It's just when the budget packs that that 250 will kick in. You'll get a budget for the entire year of x dollars, which will include 250 for 52 weeks, plus a Memorial Day budget, if it's not on a Friday, Thanksgiving extra times we have, so you'll have money for, so you won't have to, you have a special event, you won't have sale, I need three, \$400 for this, and you'll have a kitty that you'll use for the whole year, all right, so you'll gain control of that,

John Pickens

so what I think we're going to skip to till July 1, but you need to present a budget expectation for all of your entertainment for the next year. Well, how much is it going to cost to post to pay for all your entertainment?

Garth Gilpin

Yeah, 52 weeks times 250 plus the Labor Day, Memorial Day, Veterans Day, New Year's Eve.

Lee Wilson

So, why don't I table my motion for now until I've got that on paper, and I'll have it here for our next meeting.

John Pickens

What you can do is email to Garth, and then Garth can make that motion, and then they get put into the budget, but it would be handy to have a full accounting of how much money you think you'll need, and I would say padded by 10% to get to cross sand, so she can put it into the budget, which will be presented July 1, I believe, is our first past fiscal year.

Rusanne Anthony

You had a \$7,000 budget,

John Pickens

which I think we exceeded, probably, because we, we bumped up some of the events, like Memorial Day, which was \$600

John Pickens

stuff like that. So, you need to give a, you know, put all your events down each week, Labor Day, and then give it to between Rosa and both, email both Rosa and Garth with that, and they can figure out what we need to do.

John Pickens

Okay. All right.

Ernie Meeker

The meeting would be July 7, that's the first Tuesday of the month.

John Pickens

Okay. Oh yeah, because July 4 is on a Friday.

Crawford

Yeah.

John Pickens

Thank you.

Lee Wilson

All right, so I'll table that until I read a proposal email reset thing and speaking with Shefner, what's his first name, Tim, Tim Shepherd, Shepherd Scheffner, we are the crown jewel in their thing, they, everybody categorically said we were the number one best distance of all the places to go to, and Leslie will be here to play piano while it's going on, and stuff like that, so we're gonna look really elegant and classy when we do that. Oh, I forgot to put that in here. Leslie's taking the summer off, and so she won't be back maybe till August or September. Our Sunday pianist, if there's somebody that's really wants to do it for whatever reason, wants to play the piano, please, why not? I'm not gonna advertise it or anything.

John Pickens

Well, she's going to come back in September, and then football starts.

Lee Wilson

Oh yeah, that's true. All right, well, that's true. She'll have to wait. All right, what else? What else? What else? What else? That's really it for me, I.

Allen Lane

As the usual stuff.

John Pickens

Thank you very much. Perfect. Good job

Allen Lane

on TV, though. You looked good.

John Pickens

I was going to ask you about the did they drop the flowers from an airplane?

Lee Wilson

Now they shoot them out of those cannons. You might remember there was a, there was a air accident in Texas a few years ago, a fighter applied the bomber would crash and killed everybody. It's like four years ago, so everybody remembers that. And because of that, FAA said no more this, no more that. And so, yeah, they kind of say they drop them from the bomber, they load the flowers on the bomber, but they really shoot them out of these air cannons at the top of the ceiling. So

John Pickens

we saw you on the news, very good. Thank you very much. And thank you for all the hard work you and Terry did.

Lee Wilson

Really good.

John Pickens

Okay. Well, that's all the reports for officers. Now we can go into our House committee minutes, or house report,

Ernie Meeker

the first thing we talked about. Well, we, we talked about a lot of things this morning, or yesterday. We have discussed and decided that it would be good for the Legion for me to take the front door back over, and it was approved that I would get in contact with the ALR, the Suns, and the auxiliary to get sponsors to run the door on Friday night and Sunday morning, and that would be split up between the four organizations.

John Picken

He should know better. That's my point. I think both people should be suspended for the same amount of time, a because we have someone embarrassing the American Legion by doing what he did. Again, the house committee made a motion that it's a six month suspension. I will get together well, if we approve it, we get together with the judge advocate, we will write the letters to both people and get that sent off. It has to be done registered mail, and then we'll take it from there. So, motion, second. Any other discussion? No?

Ernie Meeker

Okay. Membership, we have gotten the final report. We are at 101.36% 1.36% 736 was our goal. And right now we have 746 we have 73 new ones, 87 paid up for lives, 563 total members paid. Transfers, we have 23 and there are, I believe, four or five more in the hopper that will be approved at the next meeting, and just for everyone's information, whenever somebody transfers in, or is a new applicant. I enter them into the system. The system takes two or three weeks for them to be approved. They do not get a card until after they are voted in, unless they are a previous member that has paid, then they get their card when they hand me the money. Otherwise, if you're a new member or a transfer, you do not or will not get a card until after they've been approved at one of our meetings.

John Pickens

Thank you. At our last board meeting, we voted and approved to purchase 15 memberships with a random draw, including a one person who was needy and wanted to still be a member, but didn't have the money. We voted on that. Ernie and I had some people draw names out of the 125 yes, about 125 unpaid from last year. We sent them letters telling that they have been chosen for a membership for the rest of the year, that's why we did that.

Ernie Meeker

Just to clarify, we did not pay the \$65 we only paid the 21 I think 2150 for district and 20 for the state, so we paid 40 some dollars for the memberships, and there was a question about one of the members that was approved back in October. They said he was a new, they said he was a new member. I don't know if he got voted in to or was able to vote, but he was voted in in October. I went back and I checked to make sure, and all the documents say that he is, he was entered into our system October 25 so that person was allowed to vote. The other person, I don't know, got a chance to vote. I'm just letting everybody know how things actually work if you don't know how they work, so it, the numbers change on a weekly basis. It depends on how many I put in every week, so if you want to see the paperwork I have, the paperwork I have every time I entered a person into the system and send it off, I have the documentation for that.

John Pickens

Anybody have any questions for Ernie on House committee meeting or membership?

Jeff Cole

Great job, Ernie.

John Pickens

No, I've been over 100% again. This is great. We missed last year, the year before that we were 100% so it's great. We are talking about the budget finance that's going to be done. Do you have anything else to put on the budget finance committee, besides what we already talked about? The budget will be coming out in July. Okay, move on to old business. The only old business I have right now is kitchen renovation, is supposedly started yesterday. They took all the food out of the kitchen, so we're working on that. Hopefully, we'll start hearing some hammering and chiseling and stuff. Yes, sir.

John Pickens

okay? Well, speaking of that, we talked to local Charlie for next two weeks, he's going to do a. Steam table service for lunch and dinner on Fridays, and then Sunday brunch. We will evaluate that after the two weeks. If we're not happy, we will go to an alternative food source, whether it be a food truck or bring some catering in or something like that

Rusanne Anthony

last week the health department closed their restaurant down twice,

John Pickens

they got a B rating, they didn't get closed down, no,

Rusanne Anthony

they got closed down for cockroach at the station, and the re-inspection came back, and they still didn't clean it up, so it was the third inspection that opened it up. It was in the Desert Sun.

John Pickens

I don't read the newspaper. Okay,

Rusanne Anthony

I think we just need to be diligent watching them. Well,

John Pickens

I hate to say this, but every restaurant has a cockroach infestation. It's just a matter of the inspectors finding the stuff, there's one right there, right now.

Rusanne Anthony

No, I know, but

John Pickens

yeah, I hear you again. There have been a few complaints about the.

Rusanne Anthony

we've seen, you know, cleanliness here.

John Pickens

know, okay. we are going to be opening up the, as Ernie said, to vendors to take over the kitchen. As a side note, Aguilar came into the meeting yesterday, trying to push his agenda for his certain chef to come in, and we took his proposal, and we let him know we would discuss it. We did okay. So that's all my old business. Am I forgetting in the old business? Anybody have anything on that?

Garth Gilpin

I think back on Tony's application for Juan to come back in, we told him Juan would have to have insurance, he'd have to have a state sales tax number, he'd have to have a federal ID number, you'd have to have a bank account, that's no matter who comes in, they must have those four four basic things.

John Pickens

he's going to pay for his own POS.

Allen Lane

I don't think that's too much to ask.

John Pickens

And paid pay the post money. So once we have a renovated kitchen, it's not going to be, you know, no freebies as far as I'm concerned. Anybody else have anything? Okay, new business golf today was a great success. 48 players came in.

Allen Lane

That's great.

John Pickens

Pizza was given to the participants here after, and everybody seemed to have really, really good time. Pictures have been posted on Facebook. If anybody wants to see those, we already talked about the election night incident. Six members of our post attended a post operations training class taught by John Hudson at the Indio Post. Certificates were given out. Everybody should have gotten one that went to that training. It was good training for everybody, and John plans on doing additional training for other aspects of the American Legion in the near future. And that's all I have for new business of this time. Does anybody have anything for new business? Nothing. Okay. How about for the good of the American Legion? Anything for the good of the American Legion? Okay. Yes, sir.

Garth Gilpin

I was asked gentleman who's head of the community outreach at O'Donnell sent some of the videos of the O'Donnell reach out to the post and hopefully get some exposure in like Palm Springs Post or something to Desert Zone, even to NBC to show just the community involvement of both organizations. I'll see him tonight.

John Pickens

Okay. Awesome,

Speaker 1

Garth. You sent me something earlier.

Doug Cron

I would like to make a motion that O'Donnell golf course be sent a certificate of appreciation for everything that they do for the American Legion.

John Pickens

Thank you very much. Second, any discussion on that? All in favor? Any nays? Lee, you have something.

Garth Gilpin

Garth, you sent me an email with a movie attachment when we put that on our Facebook page. Oh. Certainly, just the videos I've took everybody in the golf cart cards. I didn't know you were taking videos, possibly on the screen here at the Legion. Perfect, Kevin.

Kevin Koch

I'm thinking the veteran of the month should get free drinks

John Pickens

I'll table that one. It's a good picture. It's a very good picture. Queen of.. it's a good story. Kelly, okay. Jeff was going to bring this up. He's tried to post certain things on our Facebook page and keeps getting denied. Lee, do you know anything about? No, I

Lee Wilson

don't block Jeff's on our Facebook, but I have blocked him on the Fallen Heroes one that I wrote, maybe.

John Pickens

so it was something, or he had seven posts that were denied, and I don't know how they got denied over the last four or five months, mostly because of all of stuff in his presentations and stuff like that, so I don't know what's going on.

Lee Wilson

fallen heroes, because I want to keep that just enough to fallen heroes, right?

John Pickens

right, I'll try and get a hold of James and see if he knows why that might be happening. Okay, perfect. If there's no other further business to come before the meeting, Chaplain, I closing perfect.

Crawford

Thank you, God, for blessing us again. We're all blessed to be able to do the things that we do, and blessed to help those whom we bless those who need our help. Thank you, God. Amen.

John Pickens

Recover and Sergeant at 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, that 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. Face the flag and salute; two.

I now declare this meeting of the American Legion Post 519 Department of California Executive Committee meeting adjourned. Thank you.

Minutes by Allen Lane