

🌟 Summary

The meeting focused on upcoming events, new member approvals, financial updates, and fundraising efforts, with significant discussions on the financial status and the acceptance of new members. Key decisions included the acceptance of the finance report and the approval of new members into the organization.

📄 Outline 11-12-24 General Membership Meeting

Convened 5:04 pm

1. Opening Ceremony and Pledge •

The meeting began with a prayer for guidance and peace for the nation.

An empty chair ceremony was held to honor POW-MIAs, symbolizing the commitment to their cause.

2. Upcoming Meetings •

District 21 meetings are scheduled for December 8th, May 16th, April 13th, and May 18th.

Meeting times are standardized: Sons at 8 AM, Past Commanders Club at 9 AM, and American Legion at 10 AM.

3. New Member Approvals •

New members were introduced and approved, increasing total membership to 755.

Members included Steve Hillen, Lowell Benson, and others, with no objections raised during the voting process. (Motion To Accept New's

(Motion Passed)

4. Financial Report •

Garth - The finance report indicated a 21% decrease in sales but a 23% decrease in costs, showing effective management.

Donations totaled \$10,091, a significant increase from the previous year, and the organization is working to improve its financial standing.

5. SBA Loan Update •

An SBA loan of \$25,100 was reinstated after being in abeyance since December 2022, with adjusted payments set to begin.

The loan was crucial for maintaining operations during the pandemic, and efforts were made to resolve payment issues with the SBA.

(Motion To Accept Finance. (Motion Passed) See Balance Sheet.

\$1,700 Was Raised Veterans, Day By The Rib Dinner

6. Fundraising Efforts •

Ernie - Recent coin sales contributed to fundraising, with 85 coins sold, generating additional income for the organization.

The coins are priced at \$15 each, and the sales have exceeded the initial purchase costs.

7. QR Code Video Project •

James Snow - A video will be created to accompany pictures in the radio room, providing a one-minute summary and history of the space.

Visitors can scan QR codes to access the video on their phones, enhancing their tour experience.

A proposal will be drafted for the House Committee to discuss the project further.

8. Non-Profit Collaboration •

A non-profit organization aims to support homeless veterans by employing them to collect donations at locations like Walmart.

The organization donates funds to veterans' groups, including the American Legion and VFW.

A presentation by the non-profit will be arranged after vetting their legitimacy.

9. Donation Cards Update •

James Snow - The speaker plans to follow up with Tuck regarding the production of donation cards.

There is a commitment to distribute the cards once they are ready.

10. Zoom Meeting Membership Restrictions •

A system will be set up to restrict Zoom meeting access to members only through a login process.

Participants will be placed in a waiting room for verification before being admitted to the meeting.

11. Veterans Day Events Recap •

Cmdr, A successful Veterans Day parade was held, attended by a large crowd, with many veterans recognized.

The ceremony for RJ's plaque unveiling was well-received, honoring the past chaplain.

12. Membership Complaints Review

Guido - A review of complaints against the commander revealed most were without merit, and the case is now closed.

Tony A, - The member who raised the complaints has the right to escalate the matter to the district if unsatisfied with the outcome.

13. Encouraging Constructive Dialogue •

Guido - The importance of respectful and solution-focused discussions within the organization was emphasized.

Members are encouraged to bring constructive feedback and verifiable facts when raising concerns.

14. Teamwork and Support •

1st Vice Guido - Speaker 2 emphasized the importance of respect, support, and commitment among Legion members to strengthen the organization.

He highlighted the need for collaboration to overcome challenges faced by the American Legion.

15. Committee Formation •

New committees for communications and development/fundraising have been formed, and volunteers are being sought to join.

Speaker 2 urged members to participate in committees to foster a positive environment and generate new ideas.

16. Volunteer Coordination •

Ernie - Speaker 4 requested volunteers to help work the front door on Sundays and Fridays.

Rusanne - Speaker 3 proposed creating a volunteer coordinator position to manage scheduling and avoid conflicts.

17. Membership Updates •

Cmdr, The post received a Certificate of Meritorious Service for surpassing its previous membership enrollment.

Speaker 0 acknowledged the efforts of members in promoting the post and increasing membership. Field Of Valor Ceremony In Cathedral City, Was Escorted By The A L R & D R A Rider's

18. Upcoming Events •

Cmdr, - The post successfully hosted a Veterans Day open house and is planning Thanksgiving and New Year's Eve events.

Speaker 0 mentioned the need to replace a hot water heater and discussed potential dues increase to align with national standards.

19. VA Service Update •

Skip - Speaker 3 provided an update on the VA service officers, noting a reduction in staff and the need for appointments.

He highlighted ongoing issues with claims processing and urged patience among veterans facing difficulties.

20. Veterans' Claims and Healthcare •

Ron Heath - D A V Chapter 78 Cmdr, Speaker 5 emphasized the importance of having a voice in addressing issues with the VA and encouraged members to reach out directly.

Speaker 3 advised that denied claims can be appealed at a higher level, increasing the chances of success.

Speaker 0 shared a positive experience with the audiology department, highlighting the efficiency of online appointment scheduling.

21. Community Engagement through Parades •

Amado - Speaker 3 recounted a successful parade experience with a Korean veteran, noting the crowd's positive response to the veteran's recognition.

A proposal was made to introduce a driver car in parades to honor POW/MIA veterans, which could set a precedent for other posts.

22. Piano Donation and Financial Strategy •

Garth Speaker 3 announced a \$20,000 donation to purchase a Yamaha baby grand piano, with no restrictions on its use.

The piano could be sold or kept until the post's existing piano is refurbished, potentially generating funds for the post.

Speaker 2 clarified that the donation is specifically earmarked for purchasing the piano, ensuring no financial burden on the post.

23. House Committee Structure Clarification •

Amado - Speaker 5 requested a list of House Committee members to clarify participation and voting rights within the post.

Cmdr, Speaker 0 explained the roles of the House Committee and the Executive Committee, emphasizing the need for adherence to bylaws.

Guido - The new chair of the House Committee was introduced, and members were encouraged to reach out for further questions regarding committee operations. Meeting Adjourned 6:14 pm