

## 🌟 Summary

The meeting focused on the adoption of Resolution 288, emphasizing the importance of the POW-MIA empty chair ceremony, and featured a presentation from Operation Restorations about revitalizing American Legion posts. Key decisions included the commitment to implement the empty chair ceremony and the potential collaboration with Operation Restorations for facility improvements. Additionally, the meeting covered updates on facility maintenance, financial performance, merchandise orders, and preparations for upcoming events. Important decisions included the approval of House Committee rules, the suspension of a member for misconduct, and the formation of a committee to revise the bylaws.

## 📄 Outline 1-7-25 Executive Committee Meeting Convened 5:00 pm

### 1. POW-MIA Empty Chair Ceremony •

Resolution 288 encourages all American Legion organizations to implement the empty chair ceremony at meetings as a symbol for POW-MIA awareness.

The ceremony serves as a reminder to secure the release of American prisoners and repatriate remains of those who died in defense of liberty.

### 2. Upcoming District Meetings

The next District 21 meetings are scheduled for February 16th, April 13th, and May 18th at various posts in California.

Meeting times will follow the usual schedule, with Sal's at 9 AM and the American Legion meeting at 10 AM. Guest - Amado Salinas - Valerie Griggs - Pam Devaney .

### 3. Presentation by Operation Restorations •

Valerie Griggs introduced Operation Restorations, which aims to restore American Legion posts at no cost through donations and volunteer labor.

The initiative seeks to document veterans' stories and create a library for future generations while modernizing facilities to increase membership and revenue.

### 4. Importance of Storytelling and PR •

Pam Devaney emphasized the need to tell the stories of American Legion posts to raise awareness and attract funding.

The goal is to connect with major donors and media outlets to support the revitalization efforts and highlight the benefits of the Legion to the community.

## 5. Legacy and Future Relations •

Speaker 7 expressed gratitude for being part of the organization and emphasized the importance of leaving a lasting legacy.

Speaker 0 highlighted the desire to maintain a relationship with the organization moving forward.

## 6. Approval of Meeting Minutes •

The minutes from the previous meeting were distributed via email and website.

A motion was made by Ernie to approve the minutes, seconded by Guido, and passed without discussion. ( Motion Passed)

## 7. House Committee Updates •

John - reported on repairs needed for heaters costing approximately \$1,600.

Guido - A new position, Club Canteen Liaison Officer, was created to oversee restaurant operations, separate from the American Legion's activities.

Guido - The House Committee Code of Conduct manual was revised to define the responsibilities of the new liaison officer. (Motion To Amend House Rules & Code of Conduct Passed)

## 8. Incident Report and Member Suspension •

An incident involving member Jesse Tejada was discussed, where he displayed unruly behavior towards staff and other members.

The House Committee recommended a 120-day suspension for Jesse due to his actions, which included physical intimidation and threats.

The committee emphasized the importance of maintaining a safe environment for all members. (Motion To Suspend Jesse Tejada For 120 Days Passed) His suspension's are For His Privileges Of The Canteen and Club Areas. He Is Aloud To Attend The General Meeting's.

## 9. Communication of Suspension •

Ed - It was confirmed that Jesse would receive a written notice of his suspension via Certified mail, detailing the reasons and rules he violated.

Members discussed the process for Jesse to appeal the suspension and the importance of documenting the incident thoroughly.

#### 10. Facility Maintenance Issues •

Lee - The storage shed's access is hindered by overgrown leaves from a nearby tree, prompting a discussion on hiring a gardener for cleanup.

There are multiple non-functioning floodlight bulbs that need replacement, and it was suggested to assess the type of bulbs before purchasing new ones.

A motion detector light behind the kitchen is not operational, requiring attention for safety during events.

#### 11. Financial Updates •

Lee - The Village Fest collection since September amounts to approximately \$1,030, and a payment of \$1,300 is due to the city of Palm Springs for services rendered.

A \$1,000 donation was made to the Palm Springs Chamber of Commerce for the Rock the Park series, with plans for participation in the Black History Parade on February 22nd.

The financial report indicates a positive trend with net income for the first six months at \$37,000, compared to a loss of \$1,500 last year.

#### 12. Boys Girls State Coordination • 00:51:38

Kevin - The Third Vice is working on coordinating costs for Boys Girls State with the Auxiliary and Son's, aiming to split expenses.

A report on the expected costs for participation is requested to ensure proper budgeting.

#### 13. Fundraising and Project Development •

A guest speaker highlighted potential fundraising opportunities through various foundations, emphasizing the importance of collaboration.

There is a need to ensure that all changes to the building comply with health department regulations to avoid operational disruptions.

#### 14. Financial Performance Review •

Garth - The financial performance for the first six months shows a 3% increase in gross sales, with a notable reduction in expenses for janitorial services and kitchen operations.

Donations have decreased to \$8,689, but overall income has improved significantly compared to the previous year, indicating effective management efforts.

The report includes details on various income sources, including dues, events, and merchandise sales, showcasing a positive financial outlook. (Motion to Accept Finance Report Passed)

#### 15. Merchandise Orders •

Rusanne - The cost of 17 t-shirts was \$643, with 10 shirts remaining in stock.

An order of 28 polo shirts in various colors has been placed, with half already sold before arrival.

The estimated cost for polos is around \$20 to \$25 each, and the Rusanne has paid out of pocket for the initial order.

#### 16. Coin Inventory •

Ernie - Approximately 60 to 70 coins are left from an initial order of 200.

The speaker will provide an exact count by the next meeting.

There is a need to check if coins can be ordered in bulk without increasing the price.

#### 17. Meeting Conduct and Control •

Amado - The parliamentarian emphasized the importance of maintaining order during meetings to prevent chaos.

Members were reminded to address each other by their positions to foster a respectful atmosphere.

## 18. Website Development •

Historian, James Snow - is working on enhancing the website with interactive features and improved donation and membership pages.

A new committee member, Chris Freeman, is interested in assisting with website improvements.

Plans include adding digital forms and online payment options for memberships and donations.

## 19. Donation Strategy •

A donation page is being developed with various recognition levels for donors.

Guido - Suggestions for donor recognition include certificates and challenge coins for different donation amounts.

The committee will discuss and finalize the benefits for various donation levels to maximize fundraising efforts.

## 20. Membership Benefits for Veterans •

The possibility of providing lifetime memberships for veterans who contribute financially was discussed.

Amado - Concerns were raised about the legality of using names of famous individuals for promotional purposes, necessitating legal consultation.

## 21. Website Improvements •

James - Updates on the website include a new announcements page to maintain a historical record of communications.

A membership page is being developed to allow users to create logins and save payment information for future purchases.

## 22. Upcoming Dues Increase Vote • 1:30:42

John - A reminder was issued to vote on a proposed \$5 increase in dues at the next membership meeting to align with national standards.

This decision is part of ongoing financial adjustments within the organization.

### 23. Bylaws Revision Committee •

Guido - motion was proposed to form a committee to review and update the bylaws, which currently lack comprehensive procedures.

Members are encouraged to provide feedback on the bylaws once distributed for review. Skip, As Judge Advocate, Was Named To Lead the Bylaws Committee. We Need Volunteers.

### 24. Law Enforcement Dinner Planning •

Amado - The Navy League is committed to donating funds for a law enforcement dinner, with a request for the American Legion logo on promotional materials.

The dinner aims to enhance public relations and attract new members from the law enforcement community. Meeting Adjourned 6:48 pm