American Legion

Palm Springs Post 519 MINUTES
Executive Committee Meeting 10/06/2026

Overview
The American Legion Post 519 Executive Committee met to discuss upcoming community events, financial status, and organizational updates.

Financial Reports
Garth reported that while sales are up 2% from last year, the bar lost $8,900 due to a $10,000 increase in electric bills. The committee discussed energy efficiency and noted that the current AC system is being evaluated for repairs.
- Decision: The committee authorized $1,500 for Telethon costs.
- Decision: An amended motion was passed to donate $250 to assist a Marine Corps Logistics Group Christmas event via McCarvie.
- Decision: A $250 donation was approved for Phil White and his wife following a house fire.
- Open Question: How will the funds currently in the Color Guard account be managed following their disbandment?

Event Planning
The post is preparing for several high-profile activities including the Matt Schuman VIP event on November 13 and the annual Telethon on November 12.
- Matt Schuman Event: Andrea confirmed VIP tickets are $150, with all proceeds supporting the campaign; a free town hall will follow at 3:00 PM.
- Telethon: James moved to reestablish the Telethon Committee, which will coordinate with volunteers from the Auxiliary.
- Parades: Lee noted challenges regarding the lack of a formal color guard for upcoming Pride and Veterans Day parades; she suggested members volunteer to carry flags manually.

Organizational Updates
Significant discussions occurred regarding communication protocols and membership engagement strategies.
- Communications: Magi raised concerns about "single point failures" regarding website management and requested more professional email addresses (e.g., info@...) rather than personal Gmail accounts used by James.
- Legion Gaming: Andrew Stevens proposed introducing board games and potential esports tournaments to attract younger veterans, emphasizing that no gambling is permitted under post rules.
- Membership: Andrea reported renewal rates at approximately 48% and shared results from recent "buddy checks" for members. She also mentioned plans for monthly new-member happy hours.

Outline
Opening Ceremonies and Roll Call
- John Picken officially convened the meeting of the American Legion Post 519 Executive Committee.
- The chaplain provided an opening prayer, followed by a POW/MIA ceremony and the Pledge of Allegiance.
- The members recited the preamble of the Constitution of the American Legion.
- Allen Lane conducted the roll call for officers, noting several excused members.

Upcoming District Meetings and Administrative Business
- John Picken announced upcoming District 21 meetings scheduled for November 2026, January 2027, March 2027, and May 2027.
- It was noted that the Past Commanders Club (PCC) has been officially disbanded.
- The committee approved previous minutes as posted on the website via a motion by Garth Gilpin.

Matt Schuman Event Planning
• Andrea Kline provided details regarding Matt Schuman's visit on November 13, which includes a VIP event at Garth Gilpin's house and a free town hall from 3:00 to 4:00 PM.
• Tickets for the VIP event are priced at $150 each, with all proceeds going toward Schuman's national commandership campaign.
• John Picken emphasized this is a significant event for the post that will draw many dignitaries and local officials.

Officer and Service Reports
• Kevin Koch reported on local scouting leadership challenges in the valley and mentioned receiving membership certificates from National.
• Allen Lane reported on conducting multiple welfare checks for veterans facing financial or mental health struggles.
• Maggie Raible suggested utilizing the "L Fund" through the LGBTQ Center Coachella Valley to assist female veterans in need.

Parade Logistics and Membership Recruitment
• Lee Wilson noted that the post currently lacks a color guard for upcoming Pride and Veterans Day parades.
• John Picken pledged to investigate whether equipment from the former color guard belongs to the post or individuals.
• The committee discussed creating inexpensive postcards with QR codes to improve recruitment during parades and community events.

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. 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.
1st Vice Andrea Kline – Here
3rd Vice Kevin Koch - Here
2nd vice commander, Lee Wilson - running late.
finance officer - here
chaplain Crawford - here
service officer Allen Lane - here
Judge Advocate - here
Sergeant at Arms Beresh - here
historian James Snow - late
E, board third year Ron - excused
E, board third year Rusanne – excused
E board Three Raible – here
E board one Stevens - Here
We do have quorum.

John Picken
Great. Thank you. Okay,
So Lee Wilson will be late as usual. All right. Everybody's ready. Everybody gets their handouts from the back. We all handouts out there. Okay. James, you get your handouts. No. Yep. One of each. One of each of the folks. I think everybody else except James has got one. I'm not sure. Did you get the hand out? Okay.

John Picken
We have upcoming District 21 meetings. November 15, 2026, Riverside Post 79, January 17th, 2027, at the Indio Post 739. Going to be new. They haven't done one at Indio in quite a while, if ever. March 21st, 2027, Corona Post 742, and May 16th, the Norco Post 328. Meeting times are suns are at 8o'clock, and the American Legion is at 10 o'clock. The PCC, which is the Past Commanders Club, has been officially disbanded. I hope I keep that on there for a couple more months before I just drop it off completely. You guys know the ritual. If you come up here, salute, do all that fun stuff. So we're just going to keep on going. We were supposed to have a distinguished guest for the wounded warrior. Carlos did not was not able to make it, so we'll look forward to him next time. Okay, the minutes are available on the website, I need a motion to accept the minutes as they are seen on the website. Anybody? Garth makes the motion. Second. Kevin makes a second. Any discussion? All in favor. Aye. Motion passes. Officers' reports.

I'm going to hold off on mine because I'll include it in the House Committee report when I do that, first vice. You have anything for us?

Andrea Kline
Is this where I should talk about Matt Schumann?

John Picken.
So go ahead.

Andrea Kline
So you guys should have all. Everybody should have gotten an email communication about Matt Schuman. He's coming on November 13. We have two events that day. We have the VIP event that's happening at Garth's house. There are tickets. Tickets are $150 a piece. They're available at the bar, and they're also available online. So I do have people who are buying tickets online through Eventbrite, and mostly those are out-of-area people that are coming into town for the event. The town hall is from three to four. That's free. That's a Friday, Friday the 13th. So there'll be food and music our normal Friday night. So and so if you know get the word out. What I've done is I've you know I've you know I've texted people. I have sent emails to people. So get the word out to your friends that you know that maybe don't come to the post all that often, and because we're still trying to fill the seats, we'd like to have the post full, you know, completely full that day. So, any questions at all?

Raible
Maybe we should all share the Facebook posts for the American Legend.

John Picken
On our own Facebook, you mean? If anybody asks questions about this event, first of all, thank you, Andrea and Garth, for doing what you guys are doing. It's important for us to relay to all of our people if they ask questions. 100% of that $150 goes to the Matt Schuman campaign, or sustaining his national commandership. Got a word. So there's no nothing is taken away from that $150, so that's one thing we need to make sure everybody knows, and spread the word.
This is a huge deal for the American Legion itself, for the Department of California, but also more importantly, this post in itself. We're going to get recognized by city hall, police departments, fire departments, all these dignitaries who are coming from out, including the department commander, who has tentatively said she's going to be here.
Hopefully, she makes it, and we got all these other people, maybe a commander from Palisades, Newport, and District 21 Command is going to be here. Hopefully, Area Five will be here. So we're looking forward to a big crowd at Garth's House, and then back here again at 3o'clock when we do the town hall meeting. So I think it's just a very huge deal for this post. And again, I can't thank Garth and Andrea enough, and the committee. Well, we didn't have the committee who's doing everything, but and everybody on that committee, which is Andrea, Magi, Amado, Tom Ricchio, and Garth. Is that everybody? Oh no, Kirk. How's Kirk doing?

Andrea Kline
He's good. Okay. He came in. He came in this weekend.

John Picken
Okay. All right. Okay. Anything else?

Andrea Kline
On the buddy checks?

John Picken
Let's do that under membership. Yeah, that'd be great. Second vice here. Third vice.
What do you got for us, sir?

Kevin Koch
Nothing really new. They're trying to get a district meeting together in Redlands for the scouts this Thursday. Unfortunately, I would attend, but it's back to school night parent conferences.
But I'm trying to offer them assistance financially and support to get things going in this area. It kind of looks like the group we were supporting has died. That people have retired and they're not, so they're trying to figure out what to do with the whole valley. The whole valley is lacking leadership. So Girl Scouts in the valley are doing real well.

Kevin Koch
Otherwise, nothing new. I'll share. I got a stack. I'll bring them next week. Certificates finally from National about just examples for membership, etc. Still waiting forever on my cover from National. I can't believe things are taken this way. That's it, sir.

John Picken
Thank you. I have a question for you, sir. What do you know about the Civil Air Patrol Palm Springs Cyber Patriot Team?

Kevin Koch
I know Civil Air Patrol exists at the Air Museum, but I know very little about it.

John Picken
Okay, well I got an email. I will forward this email to you. Basically, they're looking for spot for two competitions on their computers to do cyber security, La Quinta High School kids. So I'll forward you this email, and maybe you can contact these people: Ian Citrum, and then Lane Parsons.

Kevin Koch
Very good.

John Picken
I want to accommodate them if I can.

Kevin Koch
Yeah.

John Picken
Okay. In fact, you know, I'll just give you this, Sergeant at arms, let's do this properly. What time is the VIP event? 1130. Handles to 11.
Adjutant, do you have anything for us?

Allen Lane
Not as the adjutant, but as the service officer.

John Picken
Well, let's go to service officer.

Allen Lane
Had quite a few people check in with me. A lot of welfare checks going on. Everybody's short on money. I get it, but each call I respond to, I learn a little more. Mental illness and lack of taking your meds really can change a person.
I was talking about a Reuben Andrade earlier at the House Committee, just asking if anybody had heard of them. His wife had passed this year, a short while ago; Terry was her name, and so I went over and visited him, did a welfare check after the House Committee meeting, and he's doing all right, he's doing well. His daughter's coming into town.

I had a few more calls asking for help and reaching out to all of them when I can. I had one that I took over some groceries to her. Her husband had passed recently, and I brought the paperwork to sign up for the VA spouse. Paperwork and all that. You know, ask for the flag, ask for the burial. But she was off her meds, and so I kind of just let it go with that, and that's it. We made a few calls for relief while I was there and left her a list of others.
I just have a slew of people reaching out for help, and I'm here for them.
If you know anybody, have them reach out to me. Thank you.

John Picken
Thank you.
Kudos to Allen for all the hard work he's been doing.

Raible
Absolutely, and thank you. May I say one thing, Allen? I don't know if you know the L Fund. If you come across a lesbian that's in need, they're based out of the LGBTQ center, and they have funds, whether it's a car repair or rent or pay an electric bill or medication, education, whatever. There's a pretty big fund.

Allen Lane
Just the initial L FUND?

Raible
Yes. L Fund.

Allen Lane
All right.

Raible
and again, it's through the LGBTQ Center Coachella Valley.

Allen Lane
So one of the bigger problems I'm having is, I bring a list of resources and sit and dial some of them, but pride is a very big thing, and accepting the help that I'm offering sometimes doesn't go over well.

Raible
Oh yeah, I was the chair of the L Fund, and believe me, I didn't know the names of most of the people we were giving money to. There is one person that is assigned to do the interview, and then that board member talks to the board about why, what, and then we would vote on it. So it's pride is a big thing, and it's hard for people to ask.

Allen Lane
I try to wear the psychology hat and just offer assistance, a listening ear. This is not help. This is assistance. I leave it on the counter. I don't try to hand them anything. A lot of times they are appreciative. Don't get me wrong, but shame is a big factor in this. And I have a lot of resources. Home Connect apparently helps people who have an electric bill due, things like that. Catholic services help people who are in a pinch, and I've actually used this service. It's helped people where they're stuck. You know, they don't have the rent. They you know they are three months behind. Unfortunately, those groups run out of money quick.

Raible
the L fund has Have fixed cars. We paid for motels. We paid for a rent for somebody who became wheelchair bound. Replaced hearing aids. I mean, it's an amazing organization. So just something to put in your file.

Allen Lane
I appreciate that because I was schooled this weekend on how uneducated and unprepared I am in this position, and there's always something new to learn every day. I don't care who you are, I am here; and so I appreciate the support because we're all here to help the community.

Raible
Absolutely, there's a lot of gay female veterans out here in the valley.

Allen Lane
There are so many people who need help.

John Picken
so I got a couple questions about the L funding by the 501c.

Raible
Yep.

John Picken
Perfect. How do they get their monies? How do they raise monies?

Raible
There's a gala every year. There's other fundraisers. There are sustaining members. There's any number of ways, and they have large donors. You know, they are large donors. Yes. Adults. One woman gave $25,000 at one of my first events. I had three women that stepped up at $5000 a piece.

Allen Lane
Nice.

John Picken
Is there a way we can get who's in charge of the L fund? Who's a president?

Raible
I think Karyl Ketchum is in charge. K A R Y L, and again, they are now under the umbrella of the center.

John Picken
Maybe we can get them involved here.

Raible
Yeah. Oh, definitely. And I'm going to ask.

John Picken
Come give us a presentation, either at the executive or even the general membership, so we can get that word out.

Raible
I will ask them to put the Matt Schuman event on their weekly calendar.

John Picken
the reason I ask is I mentioned replacing of hearing aids, but the VA will also take care of that if they're if they're a vet, if they're a vet.

Raible
These women are so the L fund is not just
not just for vets. It's 100 percent just gay women because honestly, you know, so many of them are abandoned by their families, and you know the score. And if they look a certain way, it's hard for them to get jobs, and they've been marginalized for so much of their lives.

John Picken
I'm going to reach out or go out on a limb here. It wouldn't be bad to have a link on our page on our website.

Raible
I love it for the veteran women veterans who are gay to be able to click on that and maybe get some more resources.

John Picken
Okay. Thank you both of you, thanks very much.

Raible
Yeah, absolutely.

John Picken
Lee Wilson, are you ready by any chance?

Lee Wilson
Sir, I'm not 100% ready, guys and gals. I don't have anything typed out. The big news is for Pride Parade and Veterans Day Parade, we don't have a color guard anymore. And I spoke with our previous color guard person in charge, and I asked if we could borrow the flags and the harnesses at least, and they said no. So we have we can improvise just by carrying our own flags.

John Picken
Hang on. Whatever equipment is bought by the color guard belongs to the post. So I will talk to Lisa about that myself.

Lee Wilson
Okay. She said that it would belong to the people paid for it themselves. They wanted to keep it. It was the issue.

John Picken
Well, again, it's like those rifles. They belong to the post, and all their money. And I'm going to talk about it in a little while. But okay, sorry. Go ahead. Worst case scenario,

Lee Wilson
we can just carry flags ourselves like so. But I'll need people to volunteer that would want to carry like the American flag, POW flag, California flag, maybe our Legion flag. We can just do this on our own. We don't necessarily need a color guard. We can just do it on ourselves. But would anybody be interested in that? And I'll bring it up at the next meeting in the general meeting.

John Picken
try and contact Indio Color Guard and see if they can help us for Veterans Day. All right. I think it'd be a stretch for both Pride and Veterans Day, but I'll try.

Lee Wilson
why do we not have a color guard?

John Picken
I'll get to that in a little while. Okay, he kind of stole my thunder off. Go ahead, Lee got more.

Lee Wilson
We also have a tent out there. I'm working on the application as we speak. We'll have our tent out in front of Lulu's. That's where it usually is, and we'll need people to help man the tent. Terry and I can set up and tear down, of course, but we'll need help to man the tent. It'll be on a Saturday and Sunday. Saturday all day, Sunday until like 6o'clock.

Andrea Kline
And that's for Friday.

Lee Wilson
Yeah, and we got you know our Halloween party is going to be cool. Veterans Day party is going to be cool. The auxiliary's got an Octoberfest coming up a week from Saturday. We got karaoke two weeks from Saturday, and I guess that's really all my big news.

Raible
Lee,

Lee Wilson
yes, ma'am.

Raible
Do we have cards or something that we have out at the booth or even during the parade? We used to have brochures. Membership. Membership.

Lee Wilson
We used to have brochures. If we had anybody that's connected with like the area or district, maybe those guys, because we used to be able. A model used to be able to sneak us a lot of brochures, like leeches. They want us to pay. We believe the gall of that. They want us to pay for brochures, like we want to give out and recruit people. They want us to pay for it.

John Picken
Well, let's investigate how much it will cost to make our own brochures.

Lee Wilson
We talked about that a while ago. We had these old ones that I made a few years ago. They're kind of dated, but there's one or two out there still. But I know James and I were talking about doing.

John Picken
Kevin, last week at a fundraiser, I had dinner with the owner of Canyon Print, so might be able to.

Lee Wilson
Oh yeah, they'll give us like a general 20% discount or something. But it's like the audacity of us having to pay for Legion brochures to give out to people just blows my mind.

Raible
Yeah, but we could get I think they're five by seven or whatever Postcards, double-sided, that are very cheap, and we could get those printed for very little.

John Picken
Sounds like you're volunteering to look into that for us.

Andrew Stevens
I love it.

Allen Lane
Add a QR code to go to the Facebook page.

Lee Wilson
We've got those cards that we give out the QR codes on them for donations and things, but we haven't used them since Village Fest. But yeah, having something to pass out to people is certainly helpful.

John Picken
So this question came up a few days ago when we were talking about the QR codes. Are we getting charged when we from the bank for using the QR codes when we pay directly from the QR code?

Andrew Stevens
I would assume that that would only be the service fees that you would have then if somebody just filled out the link it goes to. It's not

James Snow
going. I don't know enough. The QR code basically is so the QR code basically set up to go to the donation page on a website, and someone pays for that on a website when they donate, then then Garth gets a one-time like monthly push to the to the bank with the amount that's been donated, but there hasn't been anybody donating the website in a while. But and then and then when Wix sends it over, there is a small fee that comes out of that percentage. So like if someone donates like five bucks, I think it's like one or 2% that comes out or something like that. But I'll give you the exact number if you want the exact number on it.

Allen Lane
I just was wondering. Still, it's worth it though. Okay.

James Snow
Everything is combined all into the website, you know. So we we'll talk about that a little bit.

John Picken
Anything else, Lane? That's all I got. Okay. Thank you, sir. Next would be finance officer.

Garth Gilpin
first sheet that's on the thing is cash. I was away, so cash wasn't deposited for the last week of September. So a little bit more cash, maybe another five, $6,000.

Garth Gilpin
bar lotto account is down, and I'll talk about it now and again with the PLSA. Our electric bill went from 18,000 last year to over 28,000 this year.

John Picken
It was very hot. It was hot.

Garth Gilpin
We also don't have big attendance in the morning sessions. We need to. It stays hot next summer. We need to look at some other alternative to open in the big room.

John Picken
Before you go any further. Just let me correlate our electric bill from last year. This year, we had no AC last year. We're using the swamp coolers, so I think we probably saved a little bit of money there by using those swamp coolers. Hopefully, we'll maybe start cooling down next week, and we can go back to maybe using those swamp coolers again, wherever they might be, at least in the market.

Garth Gilpin
The other issue on the on the money is the color guard with their demise. We had 400 and some dollars in cash added to the $3,700, so we have about $4,100 in the color guard account that we need to decide what we're going to do with that money. One idea that came to my mind is, if we get cooperation from the Indio Color Guard, we could send them a nice check, $500, as they would feel like we're assisting them. Just, just an idea, but the rest of it, we need to figure what we're going to do with that money.

Garth Gilpin
That's about it on the basic. Oh, the other thing is, is the sons are have been using our federal identification number and have not been filing taxes, so their account will come into this report hopefully by next month when we'll start filing our federal taxes, including their operation, they will have to give us access so we can review how they're spending their money, how much money they have. They're adjunct of these posts, so this should have happened years ago. It was during COVID the issue came up. There was a huge squabble here. I was involved with Brian Carr, and he got very adamant about it. And the sons got more adamant.
Anyway, they nothing happened at that time, but it will come under our auspices in very near future. Page two, the sales 199,000 was up about 2% from last year. Total income for the bar we lost 8900, and directly attributable to the $10,000 increase in the electric bill, we if the 10,000 hadn't occurred, we'd be at a break even on basically on the thing. So we're picking up the NFL package, which is a little bit more expensive this year, but we need it. We're starting to give concessions on the prices, and I understand you're doing it to get people in here on Monday nights. But our prices are reasonable anyway, so let's hope it works.
Donations-we're up to $65,000 in donations this year, which is good. It's almost double. It's over double from last year. Bottom line is 65,000 donations less than $9,000 loss, so we're $53,000 gain from prior year. Any questions? Yes, Andrew.

Andrew Stevens
On the on the power on the power usage, do we ever do we have any sort of year that we can back like where the AC was functioning, that we could kind of look and compare to.

Garth Gilpin
There's three or four programs they offer, and I'm going to say three years ago they changed the high time usage from 10 in the morning till four in the afternoon. Now the high time usage is from four to eight. That's when we need the air conditioning. So there's no program that allows us to use that time. Great. So it Just we need to revisit it before next summer.

John Picken
I think you were looking though, comparing three years ago to like last year.

Andrew Stevens
Yeah, like power consumption. What does that look like compared? You know, so it's like, what's the like? You know, why did you so that we could kind of forecast like?

John Picken
I get that information. I think that, if I may, Garth. I'm sorry. Sure. Because I I looked at the electric bills before when I took was canteen manager, and our summer bills were like five to $7,000 per month. Okay, and I think we've been the same pretty much this year, maybe a higher because of that.

But again, last year we used swamp coolers all year long because we didn't have a working AEC system until we got the electrical panels fixed. I got a call in. I'm waiting for an estimate from an air conditioning company to look at what we have. They've been here. I just haven't got the quote yet. That was a month ago, so I'm still waiting on that. So that's where we're at.

Garth Gilpin
In addition to that information, there is money in the Measure J funds for air conditioning changes. So if we can find one of the units is nine years old, the others I think 11. I have the permits for when they were issued to install them. So they still have some useful life left.

John Picken
Kevin,

Kevin Koch
I'm sure we've looked into this, but what about electric solar

John Picken
solar panels? Yeah, we've had a couple people come out to give us quotes, and to be honest, they never gave us a quote. Never got it. Amado was doing one with somebody, and then I asked somebody to give us a quote. Oh, actually, I take that back. They looked at our building. This is the company I use for my personal house. They came back and said, "Well, it's just not cost effective for you guys because I was talking about putting panels on over the parking lot, like you see at all these places.
But they said for them it wasn't going to be cost effective for us. And that was two years, two years ago. So maybe we can get some more. We got it cheaper. There's a lot of well. Here's the other thing we have to look at: is we need to get the roof redone before we put anything on that roof. So and because it's a domed roof, there might be some issues on that side. This is a flat roof, but we got all sorts of equipment up there already: two swamp coolers, the kitchen grease space and all that.

Andrew Stevens
also, the panel could also create a gap between the sun and the roof, which may also lower the just how much energy they cool the roof.

Kevin Koch
Yeah, that's true.

John Picken
Well, they put this foam roof up there, and I was supposed to do that also, but the foam roof I think is deteriorated.

John Picken
Anything else, Garth?

Garth Gilpin
I'll talk about Measure J and the wall at the committee report. Yep. Anything else? Okay.

Raible
One, one little thing. Have we thought? I mean, I don't know what the rules are of when we have to be open, but in the summer, do we push till noon to open, or to save a couple hours?

Garth Gilpin
There's two days a week. Tuesdays are good, good day. Really good attendance and lunch time. Thursday is a good day, I believe.

John Picken
Thursday lunchtime, we have a group that comes in.

Kevin Koch
Yeah.

Garth Gilpin
it's hard to put together a day. Last year we closed on half day on Mondays, I believe it was, which I don't know how much that saved us because we were using the swamp coolers at that time. And I've talked to this before with other members, and you know we start opening at noon. There's our early bird drinkers won't be here, or they'll sit in the parking lot and drink like they do now. Awesome. So, just something to think about.

Allen Lane
Could we put the swamp coolers on until like 10 o'clock; and then bring on the AC.

John Picken
Well, AC doesn't get turned on till 10 o'clock.

Allen Lane
Oh, okay. All right.

John Picken
Between 930 and 10, when the bartenders get here. And hopefully next month everything will be going down. We've got to start using a heater.

Allen Lane
Always something.

John Picken
I don't remember how much. How was our gas bill last year? Do you remember? Oh, it's minimal. Well, we have the kitchen running full time too, so we're not full time. But yeah, occasionally they left the stove on. Okay. Thank you, sir. Appreciate that. Next up, Judge Advocate. Do you have anything for us, sir? Nothing to report. Okay, thank you. Chaplain?

Chaplain
Yes, Commander. I'd like to mention. I don't know if you guys knew. Friday and every karaoke. I didn't know if anybody knew it, but I'm letting you know. And so far it's good. There's been no problems, no complaints.

John Picken
Okay,

Chaplain
we got tickets.

John Picken
That's fine. Take it.

Chaplain
If that's okay, that's okay. For Boy Scouts and Girl Scouts, and we can talk. So anyway, thank you. Yeah, thank you.

John Picken
E board one, Stevens?

Andrew Stevens
Of course, my iPad turns off. I have I have report on Legion Gaming. I want to get this started at our post. I've talked to a few of the few people around the post, just being like, they bring up the idea of bringing stuff into the post that's to do while here. Some people have been excited about the idea of potentially having a bunch of board games. I know there was a pitch from a vendor about an arcade machine that could also potentially be used to bring in money. Like it's just basically feed it money, play video, play some games and stuff like that. But in addition, legion gaming isn't just about board games or anything like that. They want to bring in video games, do tournaments. I have talked with Kevin. There are some esports leagues at the schools that could be potentially we could potentially sponsor, like we do with scouts, baseball, other things like that. I have I have I made contact. I had have had contact with Jared.

Andrea Kline
Palisades?

Andrew Stevens
yeah, Palisades. He he's been the one who's been pushing this both at the State Department and national levels to get this going. In fact, I believe Andrea she sent out that he wants to get a resolution passed.

Andrea Kline
Yeah, they're working on passing a resolution. There was gaming in other states. There was a national. I connected Andrew with another state that was doing gaming, but Jared's trying to get a national resolution for gaming because getting the word out because it's happening, but it's not really.

Andrew Stevens
and this could be a potential avenue to get younger veterans in because I'm on. I've been on their Discord server that they have for this, and there's 1000s of people in it. They are spread across, but that is something where it's like there are people out there who want to who play video games who may you know may find the camaraderie ship of the legion. So I at first I'm still in the kind of planning and figuring out what we'll need for all of that. I may ask for ask for donations for board games from if anybody has.

John Picken
Along those lines, before I forget, that cabinet right behind Mike has board games in it.

John Picken
It does.

John Picken
You want to take a look in there and see what that thing hasn't been opened except by me, probably in years. But there's board games, there's cards in there, and there's a bunch of other miscellaneous stuff. You might want to look through that.

Chaplain
Pardon? Dominoes. There might be dominoes.

Andrew Stevens
I was actually going to get to something like that about stuff like that where we would definitely need posted rules about no gambling. Like don't put money down on it. You know, no putting money real money down on your monopoly game.

Andrew Stevens
You know, just so that because I know that was a big contention at the state convention was they don't you know the state can come down for any if they sniff gambling. Right

John Picken
So and that was the problem they had with those electronic gaming things they were going to do. In fact, Rosanne put out an email two or three months ago about those from National, and somebody actually said, Well, wait a minute.

James Snow
The state of California says no to those machines because they consider it a gaming device.

John Picken
I'm sure they'll work that out because as soon as you call it a gaming, that means gambling. Yeah, that's why it's like that's the that's the hard part because gaming for the younger generation is always associated with video games, board games, Dungeons and Dragons, stuff like that. So you're going throwing back there, Dungeons and Dragons.

Andrew Stevens
Well, I haven't actually played it. I've been very familiar with you about it.

John Picken
played a little bit when I was young.

Allen Lane
I have played it in high school.

John Picken
I've been there.

Andrew Stevens
That would be something I would like to bring out. Absolutely.

John Picken
I looked in there. I saw some board games. I don't know how much was in there.

Andrew Stevens
Yeah. But if that's good, we can maybe bring that out as a kind of hey, you want to do something? Do it. I know that you and Rusanne tried to set up a game night.

Andrea Kline
We tried to do like a social Sunday, you know. So basically, it was it was during the period of time when there's not a lot of people that were in, and so you know. So I know we've got football going on right now, but like you know, are there you know days that could be you know.

Andrew Stevens
there definitely could be other evenings generating interest, and if there's enough interest that gets generated, I could. There's a lot of game shops around town that may I could just put. I mean, heck, do you just put up a you know if you're interested, contact the Legion if you're a veteran and try to see if you can get people in that way.

John Picken
Okay.

Andrew Stevens
So. . .

Andrea Kline
Andrew.

Andrew Stevens
yes?

Raible
When I was at the L fund and I would do some socials and stuff, we ended up getting like a three-foot Jenga, and it was an icebreaker, so you know. And women tend to be a little bit shy. So we put this up, and it was amazing how it became a magnet of people coming together and playing Jenga.
So I see, you know, sometimes I feel that way. I come in and I end up kind of I don't know, not as engaged as other times. So it's just something to think about. The other thing we did was cornhole, and that might be something that we could do up by the stage, just some weird, you know, night.

Andrew Stevens
Especially get something to do that's not just sitting at the bar. Right, it brings people together.

Raible
and some people will like linger over and observe, and then next thing you know, they're doing it. Then they're friends, and they're hanging out together. So it's a nice icebreaker.

Andrea Kline
and the Temecula post, there's two of them, the new one and the older one. It's Post actually has a they sponsor you know cornhole tournaments and it's a source of revenue for them.

John Picken
So I don't know that's a horseshoe tournament.

Andrea Kline
Yeah, right. Yeah. So they and there's an official cornhole league where I mean it's crazy huge on TV

Raible
And they make how did I miss that? It's like bowling.

John Picken
They got all these. They got the shirts. They got the sponsors. They're all out.

Andrea Kline
Bakula has a guy who's you know like up there in the cornhole, you know, players club or whatever you call it, and so they host the tournaments and they bring in a lot of people and a lot of money for that. So. Great stuff, Andrew.

John Picken
Appreciate it. Absolutely. Again, check out that cabinet. Make a list of what you think we need to purchase. Okay. Again, go through that first, but make a list of what, and then at the next meeting, or just send me an email, and we'll figure it out from there. Cool, cool beans. E board two. Neither one of them are here. E board three. Maggie, what do you got? Anything?

Raible
Good.

John Picken
All right.

Raible
Thank you, Commander. A couple of things. You know, I'm learning more and more about being involved in committees and things. In going through the shoe event, got involved a little bit with the email and even our website. So for me, I'd like some clarification. Like we own the website, right? So, you know, for me as a business owner and websites and things like that, and as just as a consumer that receives emails, when I received the email about Shoe, I noticed that the reply to was at a random Gmail account. I understand it's your business, but for me, that immediately raises a red flag that that's not a legitimate person. There's so much spam and scam out there. And I was wondering, first of all, just to make sure that we do own the website, and that maybe we could create an email account that is info at post 519 whatever, so that we make sure that people know that it's at the email correlates to the website name, so that was concerning to me. I think that's something we can do. The other thing that I feel like right now, are we at a single point failure with you? Not failure.

Allen Lane
Nice.

Raible
I mean, I've thought about single point failures throughout. It's something I use in my business. Yes, sir.

John Picken
Can you explain what you mean by single point failures?

Raible
It means that if that person, for some reason, is unavailable, then there's no alternative. So, you know, we always had a backup to every position, and I'm not sure because I mean we ran into each other Sunday, and he was filming my friend's poetry reading. So you know he has a business; he's a busy guy. Is there a way to have sort of a backup? So if we need something instant, we can't get a hold of James. That there's somebody that has the technology.

Andrew Stevens
I'm actually the backup. I haven't. I was granted access to the website. Great. Yeah.

James Snow
So let me let me let me take this real quick. I understand your concerns, and that's a very good point. And I understand that it's one of the things that we actually addressed a while ago. That's something I've been working on. We do own the website. It's hosted through my Wix website or hosting that I host my web two different websites through Wix. And then a while ago, when I first came on board, we had we had someone else that was hosting the website and taking care of the website.
However, the website was, in my opinion, was not very good. Since I've been on board the website, I took the website and I completely scratched and I started from brand new. And so I've been the only person that's been addressing this website since day one. And so with that being said, a website is like a fighting hole.
You know, fighting hole has to constantly be approved upon, and so that's a website. Yeah, absolutely. Constantly has to approve upon your website. Your website only gets better by the input that comes in, and so your input is very valid, and that's a very good point.
That's something I've been addressing. So the thing with Wix is when you sign it, the only way to do that is we would have to create a whole new, and that's one thing I actually didn't create. It I created a web email address. I think I called it like Allen Kaufman 519 at like gmail.com, and that was from last year. And so when you can create a website and you can create a specific name in order to do that, that costs an extra fee. And so and that's and it's like 30 something dollars a month to add different

websites, so we can do that. And I and I know what you're talking about because I see the emails. It says Snow King Media Snow King productions@gmail.com. That's correct. That's because I own that. Right. And so I've been posting the website on that. So work around and Wix doesn't have the ability where you can hide it, and it just says in reply to. And so I'll look more into that and see how we can cover that up to make it not shown that it's my that's actually not my business. It's like my Gmail account that I use for other things, but not like right. But I did write that down, and I get that. And so, and it's another issue that I'm trying to cut you up. The one thing that I notice too is one of the things I've been tracking on is some of these emails, and they do go out. They do land in people's spam, and so I'm trying to prevent that from happening. And so, thing about that is you can't really mitigate that because that's the backend thing, like with Google or Yahoo or whatever email. They determine what goes into your spam chat boxes. So I'm trying to figure out a work around with that to try to make sure that doesn't happen. Maybe that's the reason why he's doing it because it says no team got snow. It's a Gmail account. That's what bothers me.

Raible
mean, whatever I get in, I scrutinize. I had an idiot account that opened up an invoice or something from, and we fought it and we won, but it's a major pain. So I am extremely careful about what I open up, and if it says anything like a Gmail account, I won't open it. I don't click on anything in it. So that's just me and my experience.

James Snow
As far as communication stuff, that is, and so we established communication committee like probably what not even maybe a year ago, but we haven't had a lot of meetings. So now we're just getting back on the ball. We had our first meeting last week, or not last week, but was the last Thursday. Last Thursday. Yeah. So I know. Thursdays ago, and so we're building our communications. We're typing everything up, and I have a process. And as far as emails that's going out, that email went out the day prior or something like that. I thought it was like a couple days prior to that. We've tied that ends up as far as the lack of communication there. My phone is usually. I'm really usually feel pretty good about getting contact back with people that come to my phone, email because I'm constantly busy. I check my email, you know, sometimes beginning a day and end of day, sometimes not even that day.
But I just happen to check it the day later and saw, and so I responded, and so anything like that. Since I'm the chair of the committee of the communications committee, we should come together and we issue it out and then we push out and then we resolve it. So anyway, if I'm not available all the time, right? Andrew came on board. He doesn't have full access to the website.
He has like the I have the overall access to it. He has the next step down, so he can't change like payment plans, things like that. You know, but he can do everything else. Like he has the ability to do everything else. Okay, cool. I just so that is mitigating. Yes, right. And that email.

John Picken
I see what you're saying, Maggie. If you click on like the email you sent out for the leading national commander deal, if you click on American Legion Owen Kaufman, just on the name itself. It comes up Snowking Productions. Right. So somebody doesn't. I'm answering that, you know. Or when it says reply to, it's the same thing, but it's Snowking.productions at gmail.com. Again, nobody knows who Snow King.

James Snow
Yeah. What I'll do is I'll try to see if there's a way I can figure it out as far as an email because it should be like info at or whatever. Yeah. Sal is at you know American Legion Palm springs.com because the website is American Legion Palm springs.com. Yeah, whatever I want to be info or whatever. I did have one set up I think at one point I can't remember. This was like a couple years. Yeah, because I do want to change. We're not going to resolve it

Raible
right this second, but I just want to. But I'm glad you addressed that. . .

James Snow
again because the seniors. You know, I didn't forget about it.

Raible
I just the seniors are getting a lot more savvy. There's so that was one thing, and then the other thing, just in doing the Matt Schuman thing, we send things out for approval, and more times than not, I feel like we get kind of reasons why we can't do that, or we should go through these other routes, and that I understand procedures and policies and bylaws. I I just wish that somehow over time we can institute a more solutions orientated group of people and responses. You know, mission orientated like we were in the military. Like you know, as an entrepreneur, of course, you're not looking for roadblocks. You're looking for solutions from people, ideas. How can we get this done? Not why we can't do it that way. Or we have to take it to the board meeting, and that's delayed. You guys are going to do this.

John Picken
Well, again, I made a decision arbitrary to fund what we had to fund, and I think that we worked that out. Which there was one of our post members who wanted to raise a red flag, but we overcame. There were a couple of them.

John Picken
We overcame that.

Andrea Kline
Yeah, there were there was another email that was like, you have to take this to the board, you know, and it's like, well, this is we're operating underneath the threshold of anything, and on top of that, we've invested, you know, in in trying to get this event going. We have to get the word out. We can't wait for two weeks or a week and a half. And you saw me. I just opened my big mouth and said, "You know, John and Andrea have it under control. It was a very short statement.

John Picken
And I will clarify this a little bit. We had an issue come up with getting the emails out because our email people have been reduced. We had to pay extra money. I'm just telling people who weren't there. Okay, so I made the decision and I gave Andrea my debit card number for the post and said, "Pay for it. It was $288 for whatever rule. So, in my opinion, that was my prerogative as a commander to be able to do that. Certain post members, if they'd heard about that, might have had a little problem because they did originally say, take it to the board by our bylaws. There are certain, in my opinion, there are certain times where we have to just do it, okay. And as I told Andrew, if somebody doesn't like it, I'll take the money out of my own pocket because it's only $288. I don't have a problem. Okay, so if there's a case where we have to make a decision, and doesn't even though our bylaws say an emergency situation, $2,500 max, there's certain times where we have to have that leeway as either commander or as running the canteen or whatever. It's like we have to do repairs. Sometimes we have to do it. Period. So that's where I came off with that. Luckily, you found a better solution, costing the same amount of money, or they're close enough to include to jack up our emails to what 5000 something like that. Yeah. So that worked out, but again, I'm just explaining what happened for those who weren't around.

Raible
Right, and so for me, I'm bringing up
as a culture thing for the executive committee to just be aware of and how over time we can change that a little bit, and the culture becomes can-do it attitude. If this doesn't work, then this. But in this case, I mean, I'm fairly new, and I knew that you had discretionary funds. Andrea knew that. We reached out to you; she did, and the solution came up. That's the difference between, well, take it to the judge adjutant, take it to the board, have an emergency meeting, do an you know. And to me, those are just barriers to it.

John Picken
Well, it is, and it delays the process. And we, unfortunately, and I agree with you 100% When we rule by committee, it takes forever to do certain things.

Raible
I learned a term called paralysis through analysis, and as an entrepreneur, you can't you can't do that. Yes, sometimes you have to make a jump of faith.

Raible
Yeah, I mean, you know, when I was at the North Face, my vice president that I worked for would have staff meetings, and somebody had made a mistake, and you know, so it came to the staff meeting, and he said, "I understand the mistakes, but people understand that if you're not occasionally making a mistake, you're not pushing the envelope, and so don't make the same dumb mistake over and over again. But come on, let's just get off the pod and move forward. So anyway, that's just some observations.

John Picken
Maggie. Good, good input. I agree with you 100% on that. Thank you very much.

Andrea Kline
Thank you.

John Picken
You have anything else?

Raible
No, that's good. Thanks,

John Picken
Sergeant at Arms. Do you have anything for us?

Speaker 2
Nothing at this time.

John Picken
Thank you. Last but not least, our historian. Got the floor, sir. For both, whatever you want to do. Here we go.

James Snow
I won't be that long. I promise. All right.

Andrea Kline
Start the timer.

James Snow
Yeah, right. Start the timer, please. All right. So these are my notes. I'm not going to hit every single one of them. All right. Love the idea. We're going to work on that. So the communications committee. We're going to talk about that. We had a meeting. It was two weeks ago. Two weeks ago, just two weeks ago, so we so the communications here at the post. We're going to tighten it up, right? I don't think there's really been an issue in the past, but as far as anything that has to do with events out here, events, anything communication-wise, media website, out in you know NBC media stuff, whatever. That's all communication stuff. It should come through the committee. And anything, any ideas as far as that. And so we have a few people on here on the community on the committee. Myself, Andrea, Andrew, Arasan, and I believe you want to come on the committee.

Raible
I'm not sure I said that. Oh, okay.

Andrea Kline
She had three tequilas. Oh, there it is. Okay. Anyways, not yet.

James Snow
I'm trying. I would like to reestablish how everything is ran as far as communications, and so we're going to get into that. Not right, not today, but we're going to build all that's coming up for the post every Thursday, the first Thursday after the executive board meetings, we're going to start having our meetings, and so we do have. I did talk to Danielle of ours, getting somebody here from the auxiliary and the Suns, and out you know getting April there. So we're going to get the newsletter crew on board with the committee, so we're all on the same page. Everything is going out, and those are some some things on the newsletter that that we just done there as well too. I don't know if you've been on the website recently, but if you go anywhere. . .

John Picken
question before you go further.

James Snow
Yes.

John Picken
What time is your communication?

James Snow
5p.m.

John Picken
5p.m.

James Snow
5p.m. on every Thursday, first Thursday after every executive board. So our next meeting is this Thursday.

John Picken
This Thursday coming up.

James Snow
This Thursday coming up.

John Picken
As your commander, I'm technically ex officio invited to all meetings. So would you just send me an email reminding me that you're having that meeting? I don't have to. If I don't make it, I don't make it. But I'd like to occasionally jump drop in.

James Snow
Yes, sir. We'll do. Yep. That's that. Shewin. I'm going to get NBC coverage on that. I'll probably be the one covering that, filming it, interviewing it, and I'll get that with NBC. I did add if you go to any corporation or any nonprofit or whatever, anything that you any people want to request anything that's media. It doesn't have to necessarily mean for the news, or doesn't have to necessarily mean for Facebook. Anyone can put anything on Facebook. We have a system in place. You know who throws on the Facebook page and that. But I put on the website. You look at the very top.

There's a thing on there called Media Request One. What that does, and we, you know, our first vice already has done that. And what it does, it keeps us all on the same page. If someone wants to request something that's communication-wise or a media request or anything, it comes to my it comes to me directly when they hit submit. I get it, and what I can do is I can take that media request, and we can figure it out as far as the committee what we do about it. Is this is something we want to put on the news? Is this something we want to whatever the you know on Facebook flyers, is anything that wants to request, and that's I think that's how we should we should start conducting business and anything far as communication, media, anything like that.
Use the form on the website, and then we'll take care from there. Today I got set up out there so we can take pictures. If you want to retake your picture for the officer page or website, I know I have to get Andrew, Andrea, Tom, Allen, and Magi, and Ron, but Ron's not here today. If you want a new picture, I'll take it. Big thing next month. We're less. We're a little over a month away from the telethon. So November 12 is the day that I have scheduled with the busy week

John Picken.
We got a busy week. Busy week. We got Veterans Day, we got the telethon, we got the mainstream. . .

James Snow
So I would like to set a motion today to establish a telethon committee, and what that allows to do is start getting moving on this. And today we have volunteers. We need volunteers to help out with the with the telethon, but I'd like to set a motion to establish telethon committee.

John Picken
go ahead. Well, we had one. We do. We just need to reestablish.

James Snow
Okay, so I motion to reestablish telethon committee for this year's telethon. Second.

John Picken
Second from Andrew. Any discussion? No discussion. Baseball again. I'm

James Snow
sorry.

Garth Gilpin
Is this a baseball? Was last year funds went to base? The funding.

James Snow
that was something different. The telethon goes to the post. The baseball thing. I think there was something that was a different. No, this is last year. It was all just to a post.

John Picken
So we have a motion. Any other discussion?

Andrea Kline
Did you want to do you want to include more people in that from the committee that you had last year?

James Snow
Well, yeah. Yeah. So I want to establish. I do have some more ideas as far as that. I just want to establish, you know, reestablish the telepath committee, and then we'll start addressing. You know.

John Picken
along with the discussion, we had volunteers from auxiliary helping out with the telethon.

James Snow
Yes.

John Picken
Have you talked to Danielle about that?

James Snow
They're all aware. Yes. As far as people coming in, we'll take care of

Allen Lane
that. Okay.

James Snow
We did have volunteers last year from auxiliary.

John Picken
So besides Andrew and James, is there anybody else who wants to volunteer for that committee? Andrew is on there. Okay, so we have three so far. We'll ask at the general membership meeting whoever wants to volunteer.

James Snow
I really don't need that many, honestly. I do have an idea as far as.

John Picken
Can you work with just three from the executive meeting? I'm trying to be politically correct here.

Allen Lane
Could we ask the general membership next week?

Allen Lane
Is that quick enough? We can. Okay. Next week, I'll ask.

John Picken
It was successful beyond any means. So we'll ask for the general membership for two more volunteers. That work with five?

James Snow
I think what I think what we should do is come to the communications committee meeting. We'll discuss everything on that because we're going to need more private volunteers than that. Okay, so you're next. Well, I mean, for your committee. For the for the committee, yes, we're gonna need. Well, yeah, for the committee, we need a few for that.

Andrea Kline
Myself,

James Snow
myself for telecommunications, some of you know events at Lee. If Lee wants to get on board, as far as we need to have some entertainers here, I would imagine. I had, I mean, Richard Weiss would be cool. We have someone here, some county people. We're gonna, I mean, we're going to pack the house like we did last year. This would be a great opportunity to introduce comedians like we did that one time.

John Picken
James, could I clarify? Was that November 12?

James Snow
November 12. Yes, just Thursday. Correct. Just look. Okay. Yes. Yep. So . . .

Andrea Kline
question.

Andrew Stevens
Yes.

Andrea Kline
So maybe when we are looking for volunteers, we we have specific job requests. So we need people who answer the phone. We need people who are, and I'm just making this up, breeders, you know, or something like that. So when you put it out to the general membership, you have two buckets you're trying to fill, and anyone who wants to sign up for that, that's their, that's their swim lane.

Allen Lane
Right.

James Snow
Yes. Oh yeah. Yeah.

John Picken
Stay in your lane.

James Snow
Stay in your lane. I like. I love that. We'll get the. I don't. I honestly don't see any problems getting the volunteers answer the phones. I mean, last year we had eight volunteers answer the phone, and that's all we really need. So really, we just need me. You know, to have NBC come here, and I'm working on still working on trying to get Gary's and Easier if you're a guest host. If that was happening, we'll get.

John Picken
You have a personal relationship with Drew Carey too, so come on, let's get that. That's cool.

James Snow
The thing about that is he can't do it.

John Picken
give you a hoot.

James Snow
He can't do it because he's CBS and I'm NBC, so the contract doesn't judge. So I asked him, but that's the reason.

Allen Lane
Are we having a viewing party? Yeah. Are you for you being on TV?

James Snow
Yeah. We should.

John Picken
Well, we are having a viewing party. We're having a party in here.

James Snow
What time is the parade on?

Speaker 2
11:30.

James Snow
Okay, so this is our second annual telethon, so we got to make this one big. Telethon committee, it's good. We're eventually going to on an app, and I want to ask for a budget for the telethon because we need a budget. I don't think today's the right time to ask.

John Picken
think so.

James Snow
I think you only got a month, so yeah.

Andrew Stevens
We didn't use that much. I just still want to talk. I still want to talk to the vendor we used last year because I mean they gave us a great deal unintentionally by just letting us pay for one license while we had 10. Yeah. But their system is actually really good, and I I was actually going to bring it up on like under like either new business or good for the Legion. But if that's okay.

John Picken
Well, we're talking about it now.

Andrew Stevens
In addition to that, this the software that we used last year could potentially be a good way for people to come in when they call the post to have an option for them to just listen to the events, or even have the ability to press a button and either get connected to, either you leave a message for the commander or leave a message for the service officer to get assistance or something or membership. So you could spread it out; it would also obfuscate the number, so you know you don't have to worry about your number being leaked.

James Snow
I was still working to talk to them more about potentially what if it was worked out well.

John Picken
Yeah, it was a good system. Can I go into the telephone when we were broadcasting and on NBC, was there the ticker tape thing on the bottom?

James Snow
There was,

John Picken
where it gave the phone number.

John Picken
I know we had a board with the amounts. Was it on that ticker tape also?

James Snow
There was not. We just had it on the wall. Okay. Yeah, that would be something I'd have to try to get one of the guys in the graphics. That's fine.

John Picken
just was wondering. It's just a thought that popped in my head.

James Snow
That'd be cool.

John Picken
Because you know, you see, back in the day, I'm gonna date myself. The Jerry Lewis telethons have just raising it, and you have the amount of money, and you'd see it pop up in the corner. Anyways, that'd be cool.

John Picken
That's a good. You're doing a great job on that. I appreciate that. Thank you.

James Snow
Appreciate it. Tell Down Entertainment, yes.

John Picken
Okay, we have a motion on the floor. Let me finish this. Okay, telephone anybody other discussion on the committee formation, reestablishing. Okay, all in favor of reestablishing the telethon committee? Say aye. Aye. Any opposed?

James Snow
Fair enough. All right. Maybe do the motion next week for the budget. Well, I hadn't thought

John Picken
about that. We just had a. A bit of an increase in our monies from the color guard. Is there a way we could just transfer that money into a budget?

Garth Gilpin
Well, just net it out against the income. It's you know if they can find something. Technology changes so fast, I can't keep up with. Oh no, but like you say, the things money on the bottom.

John Picken
Well, we have almost $4,000.

Kevin Koch
Yep.

John Picken
And you used how much last year?

Andrew Stevens
it was only 35 for the phone system. I mean, we only did a budget of 1200 last year. I think it was. Yeah, but we the rest of that was mostly printing. going to make I'm

John Picken
going to make the motion. Then I'd like to make a motion that we authorize $1,500 for the telethon costs. That's my motion. Mike was the Mike got it first. Okay. Any discussion on that?

James Snow
Go ahead. Whatever we don't use goes back.

John Picken
Correct. Yes, Garth, you had discussion.

Garth Gilpin
Money would come from the General membership community.

John Picken
Okay, instead of the color guard money, that's fine. I just threw that out just because I knew there was an extra. Yes.

James Snow
Another discussion on that as far as the money is paying entertainment that could be included in this telethon funds as well, or is that got to come from something different?

John Picken
What did we do? We actually have entertainment last year.

James Snow
We had like four people last year.

John Picken
Were they were they volunteers or were they or did we pay them stipend?

Speaker 2
They volunteered. Yeah, they volunteered.

John Picken
Okay, can you reach out to see if they want to volunteer, I'm sure Prince would volunteer if he would, you know, flee.

James Snow
I think a comedy night would be really cool, honestly. You know, maybe a mixier comedy music. Richard Weiss would see that. Okay,

John Picken
well, that's a committee's job to figure that out. Okay, but you need to establish the committee and meet, obviously, very quickly.

James Snow
Yeah, I think we should. This is Thursday with our communications. I mean, we're going to be having communications committee meeting on Thursday anyway, so we just tie them together.

John Picken
You could, you could, yeah. Okay, I have a motion on the floor, $1,500. Any other discussion before you leave? All in favor? Aye. Motion passed.

James Snow
Almost done here. I was going

Raible
to say, as long as you're done.

James Snow
I'm almost done. I'm almost done. Almost done.

John Picken
Way past our three minutes.

James Snow
Sorry. This is important, so I'm going to do something different this year. I'm going to try to find people that are going to sponsor our telethon, like Toad of the Desert. Maybe Anthony. Yeah, that's extra money that we could get. I

John Picken
got to call him. Sponsor.

James Snow
Hey, you want to? This telethon is being sponsored by Toto the Desert or Walter Clark. I know Walter Clark. I mean, I don't know if he'll sponsor or not, but I have access to people that are sponsored with NBC that might want to sponsor this as well too. So that'll be great. And that'll be you know we can.

John Picken
Don't we have a couple of realtors here who might want to donate some money?

James Snow
On top of that, we all know Jeff Cole to start you know the veterans front, right? He's got a ton of sponsors already.

John Picken
He is out.

James Snow
He is killing it right now. So I added this to my notes because I think I want to bring him on as our sponsor, our sponsor person on the committee. I'm gonna ask him if he wants to want to talk on, and he can go and try to see if he get our. Should have called him

John Picken
last night. Yeah, I saw him the other day at an event that I was at for NBC at the fast pitch

James Snow.
He was there, and so let's see. NBC coordination. That's all I got. And then pictures afterwards. And see, last name.

John Picken
Yeah, everybody who's here. If you need to get your picture, take them with James before you leave.

James Snow
I love the idea with games because it does build relationships. You know, we gotta build relationships, not break them here. Esports. One last thing: e-sport thing. I know it's very popular. I did go. I covered one of those events at Palm Springs, so I think that's a great idea as far as maybe sponsoring that to help bring the younger generation in. I covered an event. E-sports is like sports for nerds now. Not saying they're nerds, but there's kids. The guy, the teacher told me, he's like these kids want to get on interact. It's helping them with their not being stuck in a room and not with the depression. And so, and they don't they're not the kids that like to go out and play sports. They don't have the ability to play a sport because they're not talented that way. They're talented in other ways, and it's playing video games. Esports thing is onto something. It's big at Fall Springs High School. I don't know if this.

John Picken
All I want to see is a golden tee in here.

James Snow
A golden tee.

John Picken
Golden tee. Look it up.

James Snow
That's it. Sorry. Thank you.

John Picken
That's all good. All right. That's all good. All right. So Golden T is a golf game that's that's pretty cool. I had a home version, so it burned out on me. Okay, moving right along. That's all the office reports. We'll go to the House Committee report. Okay, this morning we met at the House Committee. I'm just going to go over this stuff real quickly because we want to get out of here. We've approved five different events coming up from this Friday all the way through March or April next year. Potluck on Sundays is still working out pretty good. Come on in, bring food. 10 to one, we fire up the steam table to try and keep stuff hot. We've had anywhere from 15 to 35 people here, roughly. Some people bring food, some don't. Those who don't usually throw a pretty good donation into the jar. Pardon? I heard you.

Raible
Yeah, sorry.

John Picken
I thought I heard somebody.

Raible
That's a good idea.

John Picken
It is a good idea.

Raible
Rather than trying to bring money in.

John Picken
Right. Kitchen remodel has stalled, and Garth hit that. It's just temporary stuff. Again, all members need to stay out of the construction zone. If you see one of us sees somebody back there, boot them out. And if they don't want to, if they give you crap, you do an incident report. We'll file, you know, an instant report, and we'll have a conversation with them. We've already talked about Pride Parade that's coming up, Veterans Day Parade. In between Pride Parade and Veterans Day is a very important holiday called the Marine Corps Birthday. I'm hoping, and I got, I'm hoping just to have a few Marines come in, do the Cape thing that we always do. Oldest and youngest Marine cut the Cape together. It's not going to be a big deal, but I've got a number of Marines who've asked me if that's going to be done this year again. Sons did a luau on Saturday. Was pretty busy. It seemed like it was a pretty good success. Octoberfest for auxiliaries coming up a week from Saturday. That should be fun. We talked about the Wounded Warrior event. Do you want to hit that?

Andrea Kline
Yeah. Give it a quick

John Picken
explanation.

Andrea Kline
Just quick. Carlos is a is a young one of our youngest members in the post, and he is also works with Wounded Warrior, and so he asked me to meet with him a week ago, and he said I would like to put on a combined event with Wounded Warrior and Post 509, and he's looking at dates in potentially January, he hasn't figured out the dates. Wounded Warrior is they generally focus on post 9/11. So, for example, I'm Desert Storm. I don't qualify for Wounded Warrior, but most of the members of Wounded Warrior, they also don't go into bars. They generally do these events, and they're action-based events. So, wounded warrior will put on an event in Palm Springs.
They'll go on a hike. They'll go golfing. They'll go horseback riding. You know, whatever that event is. And what they'd like to do is sponsor an event here, where they would meet here, and then they would go do their event, horseback riding, whatever it is. When they finish with that event, they would come back and they would have lunch or whatever it is here and drinks. And they're offering then for those of us that don't qualify and/or those of us who would like to join that activity, we'd be able to join that activity. It's a win-win for us.
And Carlos was going to come tonight and speak about that, but then he ended up. He's also working full time, so he ended up not being able to come. So I think it's a good thing. We don't have details yet. We don't have dates, but I just wanted to bring it up to everyone that you know we're looking gaming, trying to bring in young people. This would also bring in young people. So, any questions? Anybody for a membership push with that?

Andrea Kline
It's a membership push for us. Yes. Yeah, and I'll get into the the. Number of members that we have under the age of 50 or so, which is not many. So,

Garth Gilpin
talking about Andrew again. Yeah,

Andrea Kline
he's in my count. Thank you.

John Picken
We already talked about the Matt Schumann event. Again, thanks to Andrea and the committee that's handling That doing a bang-up job, a lot of work going into that. One of the things that came up at the House Committee, we had a motorcycle grandfather's motorcycle club who wants to hold a monthly breakfast at the post. We tabled that particular thing until I get some extra information on it. We also denied a request from Layla Namvar to hold a town hall meeting at our post because of the potential political blowback. The other thing on there was Friday dinners are still being provided by Riccio's. We discussed seeing if there can be some other options besides pasta. That's the House Committee.
Now I'm going to go into my post commander's report. Color guard received a letter dated September 25th from the Color Guard. While this chapter of our color guard service is coming to an end, the memories and friendships and pride we share will remain with us. We are especially grateful for the opportunity to honor our fellow veterans and to present the colors with the dignity and respect they deserve. Thank you to the American Legion Post 519 for allowing us to serve and represent our posts throughout the years, has been truly been an honor. With sincere respect and gratitude to Color Guard, they did want to donate their monies: 1000s of Veterans Village, 1000 to the American Legion riders, $500 to Wounded Warrior Project, $500 to Tower Foundation, and 500 to disabled veterans.

I will double check with people higher than me. That money belongs to the post. It is not up to them to make that. Once they disband, it's not up to them to make the decision to send monies out to these individuals. That will be our prerogative, and now that we have the bank accounts under our purview, those donations are not going to go out right now. We'll figure out what we're going to do with them. So I just want to let you guys know that. There's a couple of emails I printed out for everybody. One of them is that I've received a request to help feed a group of Marines for Christmas. They're getting sandwiches from Jersey Mike's for their Christmas party. It is the Marine Corps Logistics Group up at 29 Palms. The total is just over $1,000, as I said to all four groups. Well, this would be the fourth group. These other three groups, ALR, Auxiliary, and the Suns. I'm looking. Maybe we can get a $250 donation from each of those groups. Both of those, two of the groups have said yes. I haven't heard from Jeff yet. He said he was going to bring it up last night at the ALR meeting. I would like to have somebody make a motion that we pitch in $250 to assist in this endeavor.

Raible
I make a motion that we donate $250 for this Christmas event.

John Picken
Do I have a second? Second. Andrea, arm up first. Thank you. Okay. Any discussion? Garth, I'd like to amend the motion. We use $250 of the cover guard money to supplement. Love it. Okay. We have an amended motion. We need a second. Thank you. Okay, so we need a vote on the amended motion. All in favor of $250 coming out of the color guard, say aye. Aye. Aye. Any opposed? Okay. Back to the original motion supplying $250 from the post. to this event, any discussion on that? All in favor? Motion passes. Second donation is coming up. I don't know if anybody's heard of this gentleman, Phil White, and his wife, Robin, involved in a major house fire. Phil was burned. There were pictures on Facebook that Jeff put out. I wasn't interested about that because it was pretty gross. But he's asking that we donate $250 to that event or that family. Phil and his wife. Robin, there's a clothing box set out in the main hall for clothing and other supplies. We donated some clothing and some bed sheets and bed covers, so that's there. They lost everything in my house.

James Snow
Pardon me. Banning, yes.

John Picken
Yes. So, I'd like to have a motion for that. $250.

Allen Lane
I'll make that motion.

John Picken
Second?

Garth Gilpin
Second

John Picken
seconds. Discussion. James.

James Snow
I just want to mention that MEC is going to be covering this story as well too, so you know any donations, advertise. Have them say, "Hey, bring donations. Here's the post. If any anybody in the community wants to help donate, they can spring here to the post.

John Picken
Like as far as clothes, yes, Jeff had a jar out there for money. I don't know what happened to it. He may have collected it yesterday. I don't know. What I told one of our members is put a check or cash in an envelope. I'll make sure he gets that this next week. So if anybody wants to donate cash or whatever, so we have a motion on the floor. Any other discussion? Who would it be paid to? Good question. I don't know. I'll have to contact Jeff on that.

Garth Gilpin
Okay.

John Picken
Send me an email reminding me, and I'll contact Jeff. Okay. You said you're covering this story.

James Snow
NBC's. I might not be perfect because somebody NBC will be covering. So,

John Picken
is there a way of promoting our post, saying that Post 519 is donating $1,000 from their groups,

James Snow
yeah,

John Picken
that'll be cool.

John Picken
Okay, so we have the motion for that. All in favor? Aye. Any opposed? Perfect. Okay. Thank you. Thank you. Thank you. Okay, you'll contact him. Okay. Perfect. That's the House Committee. That's my commanders. We already did communications, finance. You already did everything there. Measure J, you want to talk? Measure J. Measure

Garth Gilpin
J is good news. Is the permit has been passed by the fire department and passed by the building department. The historical commission put a hold on it on September 1st, and I've been able to contact the HOP person, Sarah Yoon. She does not answer emails. I sent this afternoon. I sent an email to her boss, city manager Ron Dehart, our council member, and I have not heard back from.
I sent the email to the Measure J Committee asking them if any costs that we incurred because the historical commission does not pass and let us proceed with our project. Would those funds be something we could recover as an overrun on our on our project? So that's where that stands. The wall a week ago they sent out a survey team. They sent out another one this morning. When that survey is completed, the wall runs this way and this way. The city is the owner of the lot on the other side. We sold it to them years ago. We're the owner on this side, but there are four other owners of properties connected to that wall, so when the final survey is done, we'll be able to figure out who owns the wall. If it's us, we'll have to use. I have three quotes already in, all of them in the neighborhood of $20,000.

We would, if it's our wall, we would have to use some of our $52,000 in the building department to fix it. If it's the city's law, they will either use one of our three bids or they will use our own contractors. At that point in time, we'll just determine who can place signs up for handicap parking on their lot. If they can place signs on our property, etc. Right now, it's a legal firm who has put up signs so their people can park on the city parking lot. The city doesn't like it either, so that happens. The kitchen.

Andrew Stevens
With obviously with all this stuff, it's like yeah, his thing always seemed to be too good to be true with the prices around here. Just it just Locos Charlie's was pretty good pricing for getting breakfast out here, so.

John Picken
Unfortunately, some of our members killed us with political charges.

John Picken
anything else, Garth? Is that it? Okay, thank you. Membership committee.

Andrea Kline
Membership. I'm going to be quick. So Mike is going to distribute. So every single week, the department publishes our membership numbers. Okay. So it'll show you where we are at this point, and this is within District 21, so our numbers, you know, right now we're sitting about 48% in terms of our renewals. So, if anybody in the room hasn't renewed, come talk to me. The approach that I've taken around renewals is it should be easy. So if anyone is, I'm here most days. I have a dedicated phone number, a dedicated email. If somebody calls or text talks to anyone, they they'll get a response from me. So somebody called this morning and talked to the bar, and they said they can't get a card. Their card is sitting waiting for them. And I reach out to them and say, "Do you want your card mailed? Do you want to meet me at the post? What do you want to do? And so, from the standpoint of the membership, we're doing okay. We should be right around 50% range. We've got.
I think there's like we have like six. Let me find the new. We have new members. We have we had a transfer in Andy Gibbs. This will be brought in front of the membership meeting. Andy is moving from Arizona to here. Gordon knows him. He's the sponsor. We have Crystal Williams. She's from Post 1000. She met a bunch of us at the Taste of Palm Springs, and so she's transferring. James April Dial is from Colorado. He comes to this post often, and he was snowbird, and he sold his place in Colorado is moving here. Richard Wolff is a Vietnam vet, brand new member. I don't have a recruiter for him, but is

John Picken
that gentleman from Veterans Village? We had a wolf over there.

Andrea Kline
There's another wolf that we have on our membership.

John Picken
Well, the one I know couldn't prove couldn't get a DD214.

Andrea Kline
Richard Wolff actually gave me a DD 214 Vietnam veteran and you know honorable. So, and then we have a member, another transfer in from Idaho, Dick Couch, which I guess he comes to the post frequently with another member, Jerry Siggins. So he is transferring his membership from Idaho, and then we have Frank Clark, who is a brand new member who is in Joshua Tree. He was part of the VFW and Joshua Tree. He's come down here. He comes down here, and he's met a lot of people here. So I talked to him, and he showed me his information. So he's a new member.
So those are all the members that that I'll talk about at the membership meeting. And then from the standpoint of our membership and the age, so we were talking about younger members. So the numbers from basically anybody under the age of 49, we have 34 members currently. From 50 to 59, we have 40, 45 members. So this came about because the buddy check team, which was established in the last meeting, they said, "Let's call everybody over 80. Well, that was a lot of people, like 300 people, and I said, "Guys, we can't call everybody over 80. Then we said 85, still too big. Then we said 90. So we called. We called almost everybody over the age of 90. 55 people were called. We made, I think, our contact rate was about 30% of those people.

Allen Lane
That's pretty good.

Andrea Kline
which was pretty good. And I'm in the process of putting that together to basically address, you know, what are all the things that we came up with. We had people who are interested in when they pass it getting help at the post. We had people who are homebound that would like a ride to the post, you know, on different occasions. We had others that just said, "Thank you for calling. You don't need to call me back, but thank you for calling. So once we get once I get that together, I will share that with this team. You guys will see what the results of that is. I haven't had a chance to do that, so I think that's it on the membership side of things. Are the questions, comments, thoughts?

John Picken
Yeah, just a good job. Yeah, keep it up.

Raible
Yeah.

John Picken
So at the end of the year, or within, let's say, within we did it at last minute last year. But if we are within, let's say, 20 people of getting our 100 percent, let's make a motion, which would be probably in May, to fund those like we did last year, where we just drew names for people who have them and send them, we'll pay for that membership using the lesser rate that we, so we don't have to pay.

Andrea Kline
we don't have to do that.
John Picken
I'm hoping we don't have to either.

Andrea Kline
I think we have, you know, the other part of the other part of the committee is that. With these new members, so we have six, I guess it is, or seven. I don't know how many. The new members, you know, the membership committee would actually like to host a happy hour once a month, and we haven't determined when and all of that. They just would like to basically offer to the people that have transferred in or the new members, just come in and meet the membership committee or anybody else that wants to join, and just have a happy hour with them. So we have a we have a person who's volunteering to do that, but we haven't. I said, guys, we got to focus on buddy checks right now. So I'm hoping that if we are you know member centric, member friendly, it's easy to get your membership. It's easy to get a callback that we shouldn't have that issue in May. So that's my goal. I have one other thing on Matt Schuman. We were gonna we were gonna ask for some money from the Legion Garth. I don't know where we're at with that or how we're going to handle that.

John Picken
But I know that that's a large sum of money, but we can probably push to the general membership meeting, and the majority of us here will vote yes. So I don't think that'll be an issue.

Garth Gilpin
You know, if we sell 100 tickets, that'll be 15,000. We'll get donations at the at the pre-event, and with the 2500, we should ask the accelerating sums and AOR to kick in some money. I'd like I'd like it to 20,000 level. I think it's very attainable.

John Picken
Can we bring this up at the general membership meeting?

Andrea Kline
I'm sorry, John. Sorry about that. Feedback membership meeting slacker. I leave five bucks.

John Picken
Okay, thank you. Appreciate everything. That's all the committee reports. Did I forget anything? Okay, going to old business. Let's get this over with. District 21 meeting last month was well attended by our post members. Thank you. We had 12 of our members there. That's the biggest amount we've ever had at a District 21 meeting in my tenure. That's great. We already talked about kitchen. We will soon be holding a fundraiser for law enforcement. Excuse me, for Law and Order dinner in April or May. The fundraiser will have to be before that, so we can have that dinner here. We're hoping to raise 2020 $500 for that dinner. I'm hoping to have an event in January to get donations and fundraise for that. 9/11 event was successful thanks to Jeff Cole and the ALR for coordinating this. I already mentioned the Sons of Wyoming. Matt Schuman. Is there any other old business I need to talk about old business. Please.

John Picken
not had one word about the troops coming. Last year
it was canceled because of the government strike. A year before that, I don't remember.

John Picken
We had them here a year before that. Right.

Speaker 2
How do we feed them? Was it McCarvie and Bergers, or did we bring pizza? But if McCarvie's already cooking on Veterans Day, perhaps he should cook for the troops also. But we can do reimburse. Well, we'd have to give him money though. Well, he's a very good cook.

Speaker 2
What do we do to get troops? It might be about as many as 150. That's a lot.

John Picken
Last year, two years ago, all we had was a band people. We didn't actually have troops coming down. We just had the vans, and they came up. They used the room to change. This room to change had two vans, and then there was mix up on feeding them. But we ended up taking care of that. Again, we don't know who's coming down. So is that is that coordinated by the city, or is it coordinated by one of us?

Lee Wilson
It was coordinated by when the city called me and said, "Hey, can we meet these guys? This is who's coming. Okay.

Speaker 2
And can we get as many as 150 people? The band by itself, I think, was only 80 people, though.

John Picken
It wasn't even that.

Speaker 2
Wasn't even that. So, should I make a motion that we set aside like some money to reimburse Lacardi to pay the troops just in case, or should we stand by? So we had a definitive answer.

John Picken
Let's let's do this. Make a motion that we will authorize the commander as soon as we find out how many people to pay McCarvey. Let me let me preface that by: Are you okay doing that?

Speaker 2
I just need to know what the menu is. Oh, be the same. Your burgers, your hot dogs, your chips. Okay. Yeah,

Lee Wilson
I make A motion that we give the commander authorization to reimburse McCarvie for costs with the troops that we might be feeding on Veterans Day parade.

Garth Gilpin
Second.

John Picken
Any discussion on that, McCarvie?

Chaplain
Just checking with Garth, so I'll be able to use some money from the baseball to pay for this food, and they'll be able to. Okay.

John Picken
Yeah, we'll reimburse that. Okay. Anybody else have any discussion? All in favor?
Aye. Any opposed?

John Picken
Thank you, Lee, for bringing that up. Okay. Any other old business? Moving right along. New business. I actually says new business correspondence. I'm going to read. I'm going to paraphrase this letter we got to Gars from the 29 PSP, a nonprofit corporation. They have over 55 volunteers who have helped basically drive people from 29 Palms down here for events. We we gave them $2,500 earlier this year. They've basically just sent a thank you letter. Over the last two years, they've given 3700 rides, saving the Marines over $925,000. Our volunteer drivers donate their time, vehicles, and gas and energy to provide this service, and our dispatchers spend hours lining up rides with volunteer drivers. During high volunteer periods, such as major troop movements or holidays, they rent busses and vans to increase their capacity. Because of our rapid growth, donations like yours help us move forward. Again, thank you, Robert Hendrick Jr. President and CEO. So that's really cool. We voted on that.

John Picken
So that was wonderful. That's the correspondence I have. I already talked about donating to Phil White and his wife during the house fire. Donated the money for the 29 Palms Marines training for the service officer Lane. You had you were going to bring that up.

Allen Lane
I have Steve Ramirez, who is the director of veteran service officers in LA? He wants to come out and do some training, a three-day event. Of course, training me and anyone else will have the other people from other posts come to that training. We'll also have one of them. There's three coming, Steve and two others. One is coming to the post to offer services, help with anything that veterans need, and then another is going to go to the veterans' village to help the veterans there for anything they need. I'd like to make a motion to request. I'm going to say $1,200 for the three days for mileage and housing for those three people, and of course anything that we don't spend will go back to the post. Second.

John Picken
Any other discussion?

Andrea Kline
So District 21 has. This was at the District 21 meeting. There's a BSO officer that's dedicated to District 21, and they also brought in Adam French, I believe his name is. He's in charge of Riverside County BSOs. So District 21 was planning on hosting a VSO training, so I I'm worried about like there's two initiatives going on here, and I I talked to Allen Doza about you know about what he was planning on doing the VSO that he has, she is located in Hemet, so she would be the person doing the training along with this Adam. I think I have his card somewhere. Adam French, I think his name is. He's in charge of all the VSOs for her site drawing, and they were also planning on creating a liaison as part of that for District 21, and here's this card. I'll pass this down.

Allen Lane
Thank you.

Andrea Kline
So the liaison would be a person that is dedicated through Riverside County to be connected to our post. So when there's issues with any of our post members. This liaison would then escalate it to District 21, and then Adam French, and Adam would be able to help deal with the Riverside County VSOs, and they are supposedly hiring some extra VSOs in our region. That was this is what was talked about at district at the district 21 meeting. So I, so we got two things going on.

John Picken
What's her name again?

Andrea Kline
Cruz something. Cruz.

John Picken
Eileen. Irene.

Andrea Kline
Yeah, I have something

John Picken
Okay, I can't get a number. I emailed it to you, I think. Okay, but you're right. We don't want

Andrea Kline
Well, so the so the question I had with because I know Steve Ramirez really well in LA, and he's helped with other veterans. This is who he's talking to,
and that's who you're talking to, and so Steve Ramirez is connected to LACC, which is which is an LA-based DSO, and that's a separate post in LA. And so I said, well, okay, so you know how does you know Steve's going and doing these trainings, but then we have district, you know we have DSOs within the district. So you know Steve, I believe is funded by the American Legion, where you know Adam is funded through the county.

Allen Lane
Okay.

Andrea Kline
So is this? So the question I have is: This American? Is this an American Legion? You know, initiative, right? You know, so because we have two funding sources here. We've got we've got the county that basically is saying we're going to hire new people. We're going to give a dedicated liaison, but Steve, I believe, is paid his salary is coming through the American Legion, and his, you know, his staff that he's bringing in, because the American Legion at the department level pays 800,000 for BSOs across the state, and dedicated hubs are the big cities, so L.A. San Diego, and then there's one in San Francisco.

So I don't. I'm just bringing it up because I just don't know.

Allen Lane
I'd like to clarify. My request is for our particular training. The ability to bring someone to the post and allow all the members at this post access to a VSO certified trained VSO, and then also going to the veteran village and offering that service and of course it's similar, but I'd still like both the training from the district, of course, but I think Steve brings a lot to the table.

Andrea Kline
I think the district is trying to do that, though. That's my goal. So maybe, well, my point.

Allen Lane
I want to do this next month. I don't want to wait for a committee to decide when to start it. I would like to get the ball rolling. I get they're similar. We can bring them on board, as well, for training.

John Picken
Right. Well, again, as Allen said, and we talked about this before, committees. Slow stuff down, so we need to make a decision, one way or another. I would like to say that this is just me directing this. We authorize the monies. If it doesn't work out. . .

Allen Lane
nothing lost.

John Picken
There's nothing lost, but the money will go back to the post. If we can coordinate with the district in the meantime, this might just expedite the fact that we can get the training done with District 21. So I would say let's keep on doing this until we hit a roadblock.

Allen Lane
And one final note: I think that would be exciting. I find that the training is wonderful and helping people that really, really need our help. It's something I look forward to. Steve is the one that suggested that he bring other people with him to offer these services, and even with, even if they do it on the same day or another time, the training is there. And there's never enough training because every situation is different, everything is different, and being equipped, just how you set up your technology, how you do your notes, how you approach someone, you learn one thing from something. So I look forward to it, and would still like to push for this.

Andrea Kline
Yeah, I don't. I'm not disagreeing with any of it. I'm just saying there's some going on.

Allen Lane
I'd like you to follow it up. If you know that person, have them reach out to me. Let's coordinate this.

Andrea Kline
well, Adam is the one who's leading this.

Allen Lane
Adam French. Okay.

Andrea Kline
Yes.

Garth Gilpin
Would you?

Allen Lane
I'll reach out to him directly.

John Picken
You have his number.

Andrea Kline
I gave him the card.

John Picken
Okay. So we have a motion on the floor for $1,200. We had a second motion. We had discussion. All in favor? Aye. Any opposed? Okay.

Allen Lane
Thank you.

John Picken
I was getting long. This is longest one we've had in a while. I got an email from John Strozier, his son. He has made a request that we contact NBC Steve Sumroll, producer of Desert in a Minute, to highlight our post once a week or once a month. I can't remember which. John was originally interviewed by him about his great grandmother, who, in his words, helped start Palm Springs back in early 1900s. I wanted to ask you: Do you know this, Jeff or Steve Summerl?

James Snow
I know Steve very well.

John Picken
Is this a legit?

James Snow
The desert in a minute. Well, I don't. I have to ask you. I mean, okay.

John Picken
So I'm just going to give you a background. John has been trying to. He's come to me a number of times to help bring his help. You know, do you need help in the kitchen? I know how to design kitchens, and then he came to me the other day. He says, "Hey, I've got this this thing here. I said, "Send me an email, and then I got another email, which I'm gonna forward to you because he's got this membership thing that he wants to present.

Andrea Kline
he wanted to be on the membership committee. Yeah, but he's a son.
I said no, you can't be on the membership

John Picken
. So you've already talked to him.

Andrea Kline
I talked to him. I told him no, you can't be on this committee.

John Picken
Okay

James Snow
John, John, John Allen.

John Picken
No, no, no, John Strozier. Okay, he's a son, and he sent me this email, which is pretty long and drawn out. It's called. He calls it a membership growth strategic marketing plan quarterly. Wow! Just to get out of my hair, I'm going to forward it to you, and I'll be done with it. You can decide what you want. He's also an expert in homelessness too.

John Picken
he's a character. Okay, done with that. Already talked about the Octoberfest that's coming up on the 17th Halloween party. I will not be here. Lee is in charge. There you are. We talked about the Pride Parade, the cars. Garth told me today he's got two cars lined up. There's a lady. I have to see if I can find her if we need to. She says she has a convertible Jaguar. She hangs out with the group and sits at table one on Friday. Oh,

Garth Gilpin
they've used that car before. It's one you rode in.

John Picken
This is a this is the ladies' Jag. Okay. She offered it to me a couple weeks ago, and I haven't. I need to contact her again, but we'll figure that out.

Garth Gilpin
The gentleman that provided his car last two years has agreed to come back.

John Picken
Okay. Okay. Cool. We'll talk to. I'll find that lady and talk to her again. I'll get her name. She gave it to me. I can't remember. Okay, that's all my new business. Is there any other new business?

Garth Gilpin
Veterans Day card. I was called by the Sons today and want to know if I could provide them a car for the Veterans parade, and they suggested that I contact Andy Jessup again. He provided a car last year. I don't recall the car Andy Jessup provided was used by the Suns. I'm going to say that car was used by Aguilar and Amado.

John Picken
I almost I would put money on it.

John Picken
Somebody else, you had something for. Oh, we already talked about those games around. So we're okay. Any other new business, ladies and gentlemen? Okay, it's been a long meeting. Thank you very much for your patience. I think I got every ate all the high points.

John Picken
Well, just out of the goodness of our post, we'll send him a condolence. I think that's appropriate.

Raible
Oh, one last thing.

Garth Gilpin
Go ahead.

Raible
Does everybody know that Jaime's son had an accident, passed away?

John Picken
I believe majority week. I think. Oh my. . .

Andrea Kline
Okay. Maybe he did. Yeah.

John Picken
Supposedly he was cleaning a gun, went off and killed himself.

Raible
Oh my God. He has like a five or seven-year-old little girl.

John Picken
that's Jaime's granddaughter. Yes, Jaime may still be taking donations for that. I don't know. He had a little fundraising barbecue at his house a couple weeks ago on a Saturday. Contact him. He's okay with talking about.

John Picken
Thank you. Anything for the good of allegiance? Anything for the good of allegiance? Hey. If there's no further other business to come before the meeting, stand intention. Uncover, chaplain, will you offer a prayer, please?

Chaplain
Dismiss us with your blessing, O Lord, as we leave this place with the faith that your spirit, always with us, keep us sensitive to your prompting to the end that all we do be according to your will. Amen. Amen. Amen.

John Picken
Sergeant at arms, Prepare to recover the POWMI 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, nation be our 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. Recover. Please face our nation's flag and salute. 2.

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

Minutes by Allen Lane 2026