American Legion Palm Springs Post 519

House Committee Meeting – NOVEMBER 3rd 2026

Attended by
John Picken, Garth Gilpin, Ron Webster, Allen Lane, Crawford, Andrea Kline, Gordon Countryman.

Overview

The American Legion committee met to discuss facility maintenance, upcoming community events, and approved several private venue requests.

Event Planning

John presented several event requests for approval, including a surprise 75th birthday party for Richard Moreno on January 9th in the main hall and a Quinceañera on March 20th. The committee approved both requests, noting that outside events will incur a $1 increase in drink prices. Andrea raised questions regarding the Wounded Warrior event on December 5th; specifically, whether an ABC license is required based on expected attendance and if guests are permitted. For the upcoming Pride Parade this Sunday, the committee approved a motion by Andrea to allow the Sons to sell pulled chicken and pork sandwiches to accommodate parade attendees.

Regarding the Veterans Day parade:

- A new member, Andy Gibbs, requested to participate with his Jeep and a medium banner.
- Garth noted that vehicle participants must clear insurance / documentation with Lee Wilson.
- The parade activities include barbecue, musical entertainment by a DJ, and fireworks at 5:00

Facility Updates

Garth provided progress reports on ongoing infrastructure improvements. The kitchen renovation is underway, with focus shifting toward installing the new hood (quoted at $6,800 via Desert Design) and evaluating split air conditioning units versus replacing larger swamp coolers. A grease interceptor installation is planned for the backside of the drain area following city approval of plans from Riverside County Environmental Group.

Other maintenance discussions included:

- Plumbing issues involving corroded copper-to-aluminum connections in men's room urinals.
- Temporary roof repairs following rain incursions; multiple bids are being sought from contractors like Castro and Two Brothers.
- Ice machine malfunctions caused by water system lockdowns during steam table use.

Member Engagement

Gordon suggested improving communication through social media and website updates regarding city-wide veteran events and restaurant specials. He also proposed using Survey Monkey to gather member feedback on preferred entertainment types to attract new members. Additionally, there was a discussion regarding providing more prominent digital calendars on monitors to prevent members from being overwhelmed by excessive physical advertisements for distant future dates.

Action Items

• Reinforce AED location and operating procedures with bartenders and announce the AED at the general meeting.

• Confirm expected attendance and event details with the organizer of the December 5 Wounded Warrior meet-and-greet.

• Obtain additional roof repair or replacement bids from the contacted roofing contractors.

• Complete and submit the paperwork for the planned mid- to late-April event using the stage.

• Notify Pride Parade attendees pulled chicken or pork sandwiches will be available afterward.

• Cancel the Sunday potluck because food will be provided after the Pride Parade.

• Publish the city's Veterans Week event information on post's Facebook page and website.

• Forward the compiled city Veterans Week events list to James for website and Facebook.

• Research options for creating and distributing a member entertainment survey.

• Prepare Veterans Day barbecue meals, including hamburgers and hot dogs, with the final quantity to be confirmed.

• Obtain revised, directly comparable HVAC quotes covering the kitchen split systems and replacement swamp coolers.

• Double-check the planned grease interceptor installation location and requirements before the kitchen renovation is completed.

Outline

Memorial and Safety Update

• John Picken shared the news regarding the passing of Carl Allves, a frequent guest who died following kidney failure.

• The incident prompted a discussion about the AED (Automatic External Defibrillator) located on the wall under the TV.

• Members agreed to announce the availability and simplicity of the AED at the upcoming general meeting to ensure staff awareness.

Upcoming Event Approvals

• The board approved a surprise 75th birthday party for Richard Moreno on January 9 from 4:00 PM to 11:00 PM in the main hall.

• An update was provided regarding an Iron Horse Marines Foundation fundraiser scheduled for December 6, noting that participants will not wear colors.

• A Quinceañera for a 15-year-old is scheduled for March 20 starting with setup at 2:00 PM and a party at 3:00 PM in the main hall.

Facility Maintenance and Renovation

• Kitchen renovation is currently underway, including updates on plumbing issues with urinals caused by copper and aluminum corrosion.

• Plans are being considered to replace two older swamp coolers with more economical split air conditioning units in the kitchen.

• Garth Gilpin noted that future projects may include bathroom upgrades and addressing potential electrical routing needs once ceiling drop panels are removed.

• Maintenance efforts include repairing roof leaks and resolving drainage issues with swamp coolers using PVC pipes.

Food Service and Programming Updates

• John Picken reported that Sunday potlucks were canceled recently due to weather and post holiday fatigue but will resume this summer.

• For the Pride parade this Sunday, Andrea Kline proposed and received approval for "the sons" to sell pulled chicken and pork sandwiches.

• The regular Sunday potluck will be canceled this week to accommodate the parade activities.

Parade Participation Details

• A new member, Andy Gibbs, requested to participate in the Veterans Day parade with his customized Jeep displaying a banner.

• Discussion occurred regarding vehicle requirements for Pride, such as insurance documentation and driver's license copies for city clearance.

• Multiple members expressed interest in walking or riding in both the Pride parade and Veterans Day parades, including Carlos and various auxiliary members.

Matt Schuman Visit and Events

• Matt Schuman is set to arrive on November 12 for a meet-and-greet at Garth Gilpin's house.

• The visit will involve filming by James (NBC) and social media marketing coverage.

• A fundraiser VIP event involving tickets priced at $150 per person is being promoted to support Matt Schuman's national calendar project.

Veterans Day Celebration Planning

• The Veterans Day event is planned as an all-day celebration featuring a DJ, live band, food service, and potentially fireworks at 5:00 PM.

• Crawford plans to begin cooking hamburgers, hot dogs, and ribs starting around 11:00 AM following or during festivities near the parade time of 3:00 PM.

• Funds have been allocated for meals, though coordination is needed regarding potential city reimbursements for arriving soldiers.

Member Engagement and Communication Strategies

• Gordon Countryman suggested posting city-wide veteran event lists on Facebook/website so members can access information about free meals or special programs like those at McCollum Theater on November 10.

• A suggestion was made to use Survey Monkey to gather member feedback regarding preferred types of entertainment to attract new members.

• To prevent information overload, members discussed implementing a "two-week rule" for advertisements rather than showing events months in advance via flyers or digital monitors

End of House Committee Meeting November 3 2026