American Legion

PALM SPRINGS Post 519 MINUTES

General Membership Meeting October 2026

The American Legion Post 519 General Membership Meeting addressed financial updates, upcoming community events, and membership initiatives.

Financial Reports

Garth provided an update on the post's finances, noting bank accounts started the month at $169,000. He highlighted a significant increase in air conditioning expenses, totaling over $21,000 for the summer. Kitchen Renovations

- Garth reported that plumbing permits were approved and work is underway.

- Electrical work and surge protector installations are ongoing to prevent future equipment damage.

- A drop ceiling will be installed once plumbing and electrical work are concealed. Property Maintenance

- The post is awaiting a survey to determine ownership of a wall near the parking lot to decide if repair costs (estimated at $20,000) fall under the post or the city.

Event Planning

The meeting covered several upcoming community and fundraising activities scheduled through the end of the year and National Commander Visit.

- Andrea announced a VIP event for incoming National Commander Matt Schuman at Garth's residence, with tickets priced at $150.

- The membership approved a $2,500 donation from membership funds to support Schuman's travel expenses and Community Outreach.

- Kevin discussed supporting local youth through basketball and flag football programs, including purchasing helmets and equipment.

- James outlined the Communications Committee's goals, including promoting the second annual telethon and utilizing a new media request form on the website.

- Lee promoted participation in the Pride Parade on November 8 and the Veterans Day Parade on November 11.

- A motion was passed to hold an open house on December 5 during the Palm Springs Parade of Lights.

Membership Updates

Andrea presented membership statistics showing renewal rates currently below 50%. She introduced several new members and transfers to the post. Member Support

- The Buddy Check program has completed 152 calls to members aged 80 and above to provide connection and assistance.

- The membership approved allocating $100 per month from membership funds to host monthly happy hours with snacks for new members.

- Ron provided information regarding veterans' rights to access benefits following changes in discharge classifications and discussed property tax exemptions for veterans.

Action Items

- [] Identify an active scout group that Post 519 can assist and bring the information back to the post.

- [] Arrange for technicians to inspect the air-conditioning systems and identify possible improvements or repairs.

- [] Purchase 40 basketballs and obtain the required quantities and sizes for football helmets and youth-activity duffel bags before ordering them.

- [] Draft a letter requesting authorization to use the American Legion emblem for youth-activity materials, send it to John Picken for endorsement, and support its submission to the appropriate national or department officials.

- [] Organize a monthly new-member happy hour with drinks and snacks, using the approved membership budget of up to $100 per month with unused funds carried over.

- [] Begin organizing a fundraiser dinner and award ceremony for law enforcement and first responders, targeting April or May of next year.

- [] Confirm the ABC licensing requirements for the December 5 open house.

- [] Send a $250 payment to Jersey Mike's for the December 17 Marines' Christmas party after receiving confirmation from the restaurant manager.

- [] Coordinate with the local center to publicize and support outreach to LGBTQ veterans regarding available benefits and discharge-record assistance.

- [] Provide Allen Lane with the eligibility lists and related information for Agent Orange and PFAS claims.

Outline

Meeting Opening and Rituals

• John Picken opened the American Legion Post 519 Department of California General Membership Meeting.

• Chaplain Crawford offered an opening prayer for the community and comrades in need.

• The meeting included a POW/MIA ceremony and the recitation of the Pledge of Allegiance.

• Members recited the preamble of the Constitution of the American Legion.

Officer Reports and Announcements

• Adjutant Allen Lane conducted the roll call, noting a quorum was present.

• First Vice Commander Andrea Kline announced a VIP event and town hall featuring incoming National Commander Matt Schuman.

• The membership voted to donate $2,500 from membership funds to support Matt Schuman's expenses.

• Third Vice Commander Kevin Koch reported on supporting local youth through scout programs and soccer.

Financial and Facility Updates

• Finance Officer Garth Gilpin reported bank account balances and noted high air conditioning costs due to summer heat.

• Kitchen renovations are progressing with new plumbing and electrical work underway.

• A survey is being conducted to determine responsibility for repairs to the post's perimeter wall.

Youth Activities and Communication

• Crawford reported on sponsoring basketball and flag football teams for the Boys and Girls Club.

• James Snow, Chair of the Communications Committee, discussed improving website engagement and social media presence.

• The committee is working to improve internal communication and recruitment for various media roles.

• A proposal was made to use a banner with a QR code at the Veterans Day parade to advertise the upcoming telethon.

Membership Committee Report

• Andrea Kline reported that current membership renewals are below 50 percent and encouraged members to renew.

• Several new members and transfers were officially approved by the membership.

• The "buddy check" program is actively calling members aged 80 and above to provide support and connection.

• The membership voted to allocate $100 per month for snacks and drinks to host monthly happy hours for new members.

Upcoming Events and Old Business

• The House Committee approved several event requests, including upcoming potlucks and a Wounded Warrior meet and greet on December 6.

• Plans are being developed for a fundraiser dinner for law enforcement and first responders in Spring 2025.

• The post is collecting donations of clothing and household items for Phil White following a house fire.

• A $250 donation was discussed to help feed Marines at a Christmas party in 29 Palms on December 17.

Parades and Community Outreach

• Lee Wilson highlighted opportunities for participation in the Pride Parade on November 8 and the Veterans Day Parade on November 11.

• The post will host an open house on December 5 during the Palm Springs Parade of Lights.

• New Year's Eve celebrations are planned for December 31 with music by DJ Eddie.

• The Color Guard has disbanded, and its remaining funds will be returned to the post.

Veteran Advocacy and Closing

• Ron Heath provided information regarding benefits for LGBTQ veterans regarding discharge status updates.

• Discussion was held regarding eligibility for Agent Orange benefits and property tax exemptions for veterans.

• The meeting concluded with a closing prayer by Chaplain Crawford.

Meeting Transcript

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 Crawford
Our Father, who art in heaven, we hallow and praise your name. We praise You for this gathering in which we will unite with other comrades to further our programs in the American Legion. In your holy name, we pray. AMEN amen

JOHN PICKEN
Sergeant-at-Arms only, re-cover. 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/MIAs and the cause for which we stand, namely their return or full accounting. POW/MIA Empty Chair is placed at all official meetings of The American Legion, as a physical symbol of the thousands of American POW/MIAs still unaccounted for from all wars and conflicts involving the United States of America. This is a reminder for all of us to spare no effort to secure the release of any American prisoners from captivity, the repatriation of the remains of those who died bravely in defense of liberty, and a full accounting of those missing. Let us rededicate ourselves for this vital endeavor!
Sergeant-at-Arms, place the POW/MIA flag on the Empty Chair.
Sergeant-at-Arms only, un-cover
Please face the flag and join me in the 'Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag'.

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
re-cover 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
for the following purposes to uphold and defend
the Constitution of the United States of America;
to maintain law and order;
to foster and perpetuate
a one hundred percent Americanism;
to preserve the memories and incidents
of our associations in all Wars
to inculcate a sense of individual obligation
to the community, state and nation;

to combat the autocracy
of both the classes and the masses;
to make right the master of might;
to promote peace and good will on earth;
to safeguard and transmit to posterity
the principles of Justice, Freedom and Democracy;
to consecrate and sanctify our comradeship
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 open for roll call, adjutant. . .

Allen Lane
Commander - present.
First Vice Commander Kline – Go Army, beat Navy.
Adjutant – present.
Second vice commander, Lee Wilson - late.
Third vice commander, Kevin – Go Army.
Finance Officer, Garth - Here.
Chaplain Crawford - here
Service officer - here
Judge Advocate - here
Historian, James Snow - here
Sergeant at Arms - here
E board, Two, Ron Webster – Called and is excused.
E board, third year, Rusanne – Away
E Board first year, Stevens – Excused
E Board three Magi Raible – Go Air Force.

Allen Lane
Understood.
We do have quorum.

John Picken
Thank you, sir. Okay, you will see on here that I have announcements, but that was actually old, which I didn't erase. So we can scratch the welcome to our new first place because we welcomed our last month.

Kevin Koch
Yay!

John Picken
Upcoming District 21 meetings. The next District 21 meeting is going to be the 15th of November, the Riverside Post 79. Starting in 2027, January 17, the Indio Post 739. Not too far for us to drive. Hopefully, some of us can get out there. March 21, Corona post 742, and then May 16, Norco Post 328. Meeting times are as follows: The suns are always at 8o'clock. We used to have the past commanders' meeting; that is now disbanded, so there'll be a break. We won't have the American Legion meeting till 10 o'clock. All members are invited to these meetings. Just keep that in mind. As a reminder of the ritual, when a member is requesting time on the floor, you're going to raise your hand. Please stand after being recognized by the chair. State your name and salute the chair. If requested to come forward to the podium, you'll be escorted by the siren arms. Please salute the flag before passing. We don't have any speakers today, so we'll move right along to the first thing. The minutes are available on the website. Hopefully, you guys look to those. I need to get a vote on the minutes. Anybody want to make a motion to approve said minutes? Garth makes the motion. Second. Kevin seconds. Any discussion? All in favor? Aye. Any opposed? Any abstentions? Passes. Thank you very much. We will move into our officers' reports. We'll go with Adjutant first. Do you have anything for us, sir?

Allen Lane
Nothing to report, sir.

John Picken
Thank you. Okay. First vice.

Andrea Kline
Yes, I would like to let everybody know, there's flyers out out on the tables. Matt Schuman is coming. He will be the next national commander. We are honored to have him here at our post. We're having two events. The first event is a VIP event that you have to buy a ticket. Garth has opened up his house

for that. That ticket price is $150. You can buy it at the bar or you can buy it online. And 100% of the proceeds of that ticket go to Matt Schuman. As you can imagine, being the next national commander, they have to travel, they have to do a ton of work, and and so we're we are supporting him, and this is a fundraiser. The VIP event is for him. Okay, so if you want to come to that event, we are limiting the the volume of people that can come. So if you want to get those tickets, go get them. You can you can use your cash card. You can pay cash. You can write a check. Question?

Kevin Koch
Garth's home is also a historic home. It was Liberace's residence in Palm Springs.

Andrea Kline
Piazza del Di Liberace, and so please you know consider coming to that. We will have people coming from outside of our area. We've got people coming from San Diego. We've got we've got someone coming from Northern California that's an invited guest. We do have dignitaries that will be at that at that event, and also the town hall is at from three to four. So the town hall is free. I do have an event right of. There and so the Eventbrite is mostly for people that are outside of the area that want to come to that event. So people from San Diego want to come to that event. They don't want to come to the VIP event. So that way they can get the information, and we're pushing that communication out to them. And so the other thing I would ask is please share this on Facebook. You know, get the word out to all your friends because we want our we want both these events to be packed. Matt Schuman wants to hear from you, so he'll talk for maybe 15 minutes. Otherwise, he wants to hear what you guys think. So it's your opportunity to share any concerns, anything you'd like to share with them? So James Snow will be covering it from the NBC and from the media perspective. We've done. We've tried to do a lot of. We did some email pushes, so you should have gotten an email from us. There still is like 400 people that have not opened their emails. So if you're one of them, you know, take a look, open your email. So I'm going to pass this around. Anything I forgot, Garth, John, about this. The

John Picken
only thing I want to emphasize, I'll get to you in a second. I want to emphasize the fact that the money, 100% as Andrea said, goes to Matt Schuman and his expenses. All of his expenses are out of pocket, so whatever he raises, he uses to travel around the United States to present his programs and talk to all the other posts around the nation to keep that in mind. Amado,

Amado Salinas
sir, thank you. So, like you said, you mentioned that it is at his expenses, I would like to make a motion that our membership Post 519 collaborate to do a donation of $2,500 for us. So my motion is we raise $2,500 as a donation for Matt Schuman when he visits.

Raible
I'll second it.

John Picken
Any discussion on that motion for $2,500 going to the Matt Schuman support? Anybody want to discuss that? I'm fully behind that, by the way, if that matters. If there's no other discussion, no. I have a question. Where would that money come from? Community or come from membership. Membership. Okay. So we have a motion on the floor for $2,500 to support Matt Schumann. All in favor? Aye. Any opposed? Any abstentions? Passes. Thank you. Anything else?

Andrea Kline
That's my report.

John Picken
Thank you very much. Wilson is going to be late, so we'll go to third vice.

Kevin Koch
Sir, Just working all the student issues, trying to make sure we're squared away for boys, girls, state scouts. The valley is revamping its whole scout program. I don't know if still probably not sponsoring the current post that we did. It's folded, but I'm trying to see who we can assist. There is an Indian Wells post. You think Indian Wells, but no, it's just where they meet. So I'm getting that information. We'll bring it back that we are willing to help an active scout group, Girl Scouts. We gave $1,000 to local youth for soccer recently. One of the four pillars is to support local youth, and we continue to do that. Thank you, sir.

John Picken
Thank you, Kevin. Appreciate it. Finance Officer Garth, you have something.

Garth Gilpin
The finance results were posted on the website. There were a few of these back there. I left half a dozen of them. The bank accounts we had $169,000 at the beginning of the month. One area that's low is bar and lotto account. Main reason it's dropped dramatically is our air conditioning expense for the summer. The bills for the last four months totaled over a little over $21,000, and that was up from the past year. It was just hot. Nothing we knew about it. Page two, the post we lost first what 10 months of the year. About $11,000. We need to, as we go into the next year, see how the summer tourist season helps us out. We have some major J money. We're starting to look at the air conditioning systems, I've gone back the best I can tell that the roof and the air conditioning units were installed in 2018. So they had had eight years of service. Normally, air conditioning units are 12 to 15 years, so we still have some life on them. So I'll get some people in to look at the air conditioning, see if we can do anything. We're getting surge protectors put on, which was past summer blew the air conditioners out several times. Once during the Friday night event, anyway, we'll look at that measure J. While I'm at it, the kitchen got approved on the plumbing permit. We got our permit. The plumbing instructors were here the day after the permit was approved.
They approved the plumbing work. The floor has been resealed. The electrician is busy, but post member, he's been working very actively. He'll not only do the work in the kitchen; he will install our two surge protectors on our two air conditioners. The basic plans of the kitchen that are of importance to us, the work that's being done right now.
The a lot of it's done up on the ceiling, and a drop ceiling will be installed as the last issue on there. So all the plumbing that you see up there, the electrical work, it will be all be hidden. New walls will go in. The child guy was here yesterday. Hopefully, the used equipment out back will be removed shortly. Any questions on Measure J? Second issue is our wall out here. I was called yesterday by the city engineer in charge of the project, the Legion sold that parking lot years ago to the city. There was never any official survey work done, so the repair of approximated three quotes 20 $20,000 are all very close. Before we spent $20,000, I felt we should have a survey, so I had some survey people come in. They gave us an estimate of $12,000 to survey and correct the Kala Sullen Watt.
There are six owners of the property line on the north side and the east side of the wall. So the city got involved, and they had a survey team come out. They've been here twice. The gentleman that called me yesterday said that the a week to 10 days before the city gets a letter defining who actually owns the wall and clear up the issue of where slides can be posted, etc. So that that money, if it is legion law, would have to come out of our building expense, which has currently has $52,000 in it. So hopefully, it's owned by the city. But if it's ours, we'll have to repair. Any questions on

John Picken
Thank you, guys. Appreciate all the hard work. Going back to the kitchen real quick. They've been working their butts off for the last three or four days in there, working the weekends. They put new plumbing in underneath the concrete. That was what we were waiting on for the most part from the city to come out and inspect that. As Garth said, that we have new stuff that's ordered is actually already procured and is at storage with our contractor. So that's all moving right along. As for the finish date, if anybody asks, we don't know the finish date. It's just like every other construction project; it's going to happen eventually. Just ask that everybody has their has patience. Moving along, Chaplain, you got anything for me, sir?

Crawford
Yes, sir. I'm going to report on the baseball. First of all, we were raising money through a 50/50 raffle. We're not going to be doing that anymore. We're going to be going through a program. It's called Cal Chair. And run through the American Legion, it'll just make it easier for us to to deal with everything. So the other thing is, I finally made contact with the Boys and Girls Club. We're going to sponsor three basketball, excuse me, five basketball teams. Okay, and so we're going to be buying 40 balls for them. They also have a boys and girls flag football team that we're going to be buying helmets for. We're just waiting on the size and how many that we're going to need. And did I just mention we bought band equipment?

John Picken
Not yet.

Crawford
Okay, so we bought band equipment for Desert Highlands drill team, and as soon as they can give me a number, we're going to be buying duffel bags. And everything that I'm buying, everybody's already agreed to an American logo on their deal. So they'll have it on their helmets, on their shirt, on whatever duffel bags we decide to buy them, okay. And so at this point, we're just waiting for the seasons to start. But we have other events coming up. I just need to make sure they're going to happen before I tell you.

John Picken
Thank you very much.

John Picken
Amado, you have a question?

Amado Salinas
Okay, my apologies. Whether we're going to use the American Legion Emblem, which requires national department approval, or we can go to Department of California using the Department of California logo with the American Legion.

Crawford
we just can't use Post 519?

Amado Salinas
You can use Post 519 as the thing, but if we're going to use the American Legion logo, you have to have that permission. So if we use the California Department of American Legion logo, it's a lot smoother.

John Picken
Well, let's play devil's advocate here. Seems we already have our shirts with logos on it. We've already gotten permission to do that. Can't we just transfer that over? Do we have to do that for each individual item that we're going to be doing.

Amado Salinas
If we're sponsoring, yeah, if we're sponsoring and putting on, yes, we have to do that. Even though we're not asking for money or anything like that, we still have to let them know, so they are.

John Picken
All right, thank you. Do me a favor, send me a letter that I will endorse and send it to the proper people at Nashville to get the permission, and I'll probably CC Department on that also.

Crawford
Just a couple things I think I forgot to mention. One, I contacted Terry Ingram. He and Amato were involved in the drone competition that they had last year, and so he is willing to work with me and to see if we can get some kids involved into the drone program. Just slip my mind.

John Picken
bring it up from good and easy.

Kevin Koch
Kevin, I can assist if you want to spread that out until the drone program's in the middle. For sure, for sure. I have this.

Amado Salinas
So, last year we had over 2500 students at the drone festival attention, and we had 11 junior ROTC and three ROTC from across California participate, and we anticipate more from New York now, Georgia, Florida, and Texas.

John Picken
Thank you. Everybody else here is absent. E-board three, rival. Thank you.

Andrea Kline
Yes. Yes, sir.

John Picken
That's a new badge.

Raible
Please note, I have a new badge.

Amado Salinas
Rival like Bible.

Raible
Raible like Bible. That's right.

Speaker 2
Love that.

Raible
Just a couple of things. I'm just wondering if maybe it might be efficient to have committees and board members submit their reports in writing at the beginning of the meeting, and the other thing is to maybe, for expedience, have the sergeant at arms keep to the timing of the time allowed for each report. That's it.

John Picken
Thank you. As Maggie mentioned, we do have a time limit, which is three minutes per report. However, sometimes we'll have to extend that for our long-winded people, or if they've got a lot of stuff going on. Sir, Allen, you have anything for us, sir? Wait, Lee Wilson's not here. He's on his way. Nothing. You said nothing, right? Okay. Historian Snow, James.

James Snow
Nothing for historian, but communication stuff.

John Picken
Please go ahead.

James Snow
All right. Caveat on that. I like the idea. So you got I was going to say I was going to make a suggestion. I think maybe some things should be kind of like, hey, you have three. I don't think that's fair. Never mind. We just got to learn how to break everything down and fit it into that certain timeline. So I have a few things on here, and I'll try to keep it within some timing, please. Someone set a timer three minutes. There we go. You got six because you got two things to report on.
Okay, well I don't. Okay, so I don't have anything for story and stuff, but I do have stuff for communication. So let's down. Power over here. All right, magazine. All right, cool. All right, so we had a communications committee meeting last on the last . . .

John Picken
Thursday

James Snow
We had eight people that wasn't eight last Thursday. I've got the time. I didn't put the time on here. Shame on me. 5o'clock. So everyone knows the communication committee meeting goes every first Thursday, or the Thursday that follows the executive board meeting. The executive board meeting goes on the first Tuesday of every month. The reason why we did that is because we found out that one of the Thursdays falls on before the executive board meeting. So it's that Thursday that follows the executive board meeting, and so we're building this communications committee. As we can see, we need to. I've sitting back here. There's some events that's happened around town that I didn't know about, and that's communications. So part of the communications committee is to tighten up our communications here, make every single person at this post be on the same page, and that's one of my goals. Is trying to do as the chair of the communication committee is get us all on the same page. With that being said, I'm the chair. I propose that Rosan would be the vice. I found out that you know, in order to have a successful communication committee, this is long-term goal. There's billets that need to be filled, and I have some billets on here. If you want to see me afterwards, maybe volunteer for them. We'd like to fill this in that way. We can run as a functional, successful communication committee for our folks, and also to make us be the role model for the entire nation. And that's my goal. So we have a few people on it. We have myself. We have Brisans on it. We just-I don't know what village she wants to be in yet. Andrew Stevens is going to help out with website and digital stuff as far as that. Andrew Klein, our first place, is doing email membership stuff. April agreed to be the liaison for the newsletter, and Danielle agreed to be the liaison for the auxiliary. So we still need someone from those fielder villages. I'm living on time, so I'm going to kind of mitigate there, cross it off, and that could be afterwards. So we do need a lot of volunteers. I did establish a info at AmericanLegionPreviews.com email, so that is now on our email. So when emails email marketings go out, people will see that and reply to. I do have to contact a guy that was in charge of the email before because there's something that has to be added as far as DNS serves and things like that. That's something I'm working on establishing in coastal Maine. Okay, so that's already talked about on the website. So anything that comes up that anyone wants to request anything like a flyer, anything MBC, any kind of communication, anything like that? I put a media request form on the website. You go on the website, you click on it. What that does, it generates all these predetermined questions. You fill in the blank, and that lets the communication committee know how we can how we can support that event and get the mass amount of communications out. So, for instance, the other day I just posted. I do want to know the Matt Schuman event. I put that on Facebook as a reoccurring. So that's going to so you don't have to worry about posts anymore. That'll repost every month or every week. I'm sorry. For the telethon, the same thing with the telethon. And Monday night you asked me about. That Monday night football is going to post every Sunday and every Monday, all by itself. So every event that a post has, we have the ability to do that. But if stuff's going out without the communications community knowing about it, we can't actively pull all of our resources together, get the mass amount of communications, the mass amount of people to see this event without it coming through us. So if

you don't come through us with your event, you have anything you want to come to the post with, you're failing yourself. Honestly, so bring stuff to us first. Go through the form on the website so comes to me, so I know how to take action on that and divvy it out, so we can make this event happen. Of course, you know we got the telethon coming up. I did send an email out to Gary Sinise Foundation. I do have a few other people that's on it. Hopefully, I emailed Amado on it too, and I have Fred Bell as well too, trying to get us Gary Sinise to be our guest host for the telethon. I have Olivia Sandusky and Pablo Allen Cena that's going to be here for NBC. I'm still waiting on getting word from Mark Messer and Tim O'Brien. The reason I want Tim O'Brien is because we were talking about you know Legion baseball is failing. I think there's still ability to bring Legion baseball Legion baseball back to the desert. There's a lot of money out here. We just got to get communications out to the desert, and that's our job as communication community to make that happen. I think we can rebirth the Legion baseball here in the desert. We just got to bring people in on it, or however you want. It's your program. However, you want to do, but I think we have the ability to make that happen to bring more money to that program, as long as we apply the communications in the right avenues, which I think we do. We can. So this year, Aldon, I'm waiting on entertainment for that. Putting to make the flyer.
I'll get the flyer as soon as possible. I did put a post on Facebook that's going to advertise every week, but we need to make that a big event this year. I have Jeff. I asked Jeff if he could be the sponsor coordinator because he's got a lot of sponsors for his nonprofit. He said I saw him the other day when I was doing something with NBC, and he said we do that. So that'd be cool if we can get a few sponsors to sponsor our telethon. That's more money they can donate to us. Upcoming events: Octoberfest Veterans Day parade. I do have a question about that. So, during communications committees, we got we got our American League is going to be out there. So we got we got approved for a $1,500 budget for the telethon. Part of that budget, I was thinking we all we all came up with the idea of coming up with a banner that can be walking during Veterans Day to advertise our telethon. I mean, we're missing opportunity of 1000s of people on the side of the streets. We have a banner that we can make and have people walk it. I'll put my dress blues on and walk that if I'm not working with NBC, and you know, advertise on both sides so both sides can street can see and advertise our telethon. You know, with a QR code on there, maybe to advertise mass human stuff on here too. That's an idea. So I think I just I want a motion. Here we go. I want to set a motion that we. I don't think we need to do it once.

Raible
Can I ask you a question? Yes. Has the telethon been approved through the House committee?

John Picken
We did approve it through the executive board, not through the House committee, because that's outside of the post.

Raible
Okay.

John Picken
Anything that happens this side of the post will be House Committee. The actual, I'm sorry, the telethon is. Let me backtrack because I went to the parade in my head. While I get my thoughts together, go ahead, Amado.

Amado Salinas
Sir, last year the House Membership Committee approved an annual telethon.

John Picken
Thank you. I did. That's right. I remember now. Yes. Old days are kicking in.

James Snow
This year is the second annual telethon.

John Picken
you don't have to have a motion. As far as I'm concerned, you already have the $1,500. Your telethon committee is the people who would disburse that money, so if you want to get a banner made up and have a volunteer, or put it across a car or whatever the case may be, that's your guys' alleyway.

James Snow
I guess my question would be: as long as we, if we need to have somebody that approved to add more people to the parade to walk a banner down, advertising or telethon, which is the next day. No, no. Yes, communications. Okay. All right. Let's more volunteers in. Cool.

John Picken
All right. Okay. Before you go any further, are anybody here right now who wants to volunteer for the communications committee and/or the Veterans Day parade marching to help out. So we'll just put it on flyers. Get Ally to put it on the televisions out here. We'll try and get more people. Obviously, I'll be in the parade. We're going to have a few other people in there too. Okay. . .

John Picken
To me, if I may interrupt your report, time out on the time. There are so many events going on in November that. We're feeling a little overwhelmed, okay. Besides the Pride Parade, Veterans Day Parade, the telethon, then we got Thanksgiving coming up, and I'm forgetting. Oh yeah, Marine Corps birthday. To me, right now, the Schumann event is a priority. Secondary would be the telethon, and everything else probably right behind that immediately. If you hit the brakes too quickly, you're gonna run into them. So that's my philosophy on that.

James Snow
Okay, all right. I'm almost done. All right.

John Picken
Restart the time.

James Snow
Reclaiming the time. Website newsletter. Obviously, we're constantly improving the website. Andrew's on it now. He's been studying, you know, the program and everything, how everything works. Him and I work together as far as working all that, and there is a lot of improvements. I've changed the website since I started from the beginning. The newsletter is going to go out. We're going to work on that actually being on a website, but also when someone subscribes to the newsletter, they're going to get the actual newsletter, and that's going to get Apron and Albert and Marion on that. So they're coming to the meeting, so that's all going to take care of, and that's all going to go out in email, and then the general meeting. And I guess that's it. That's all I got.

John Picken
All right, thank you very much.

Raible
Well done.

John Picken
Okay . . .

Allen Lane
I have a question before we continue. Are we having a dinner or anything like we did last year during the parades?

John Picken
Barbecue being presented by McCarvie for the after the parade or during the parade.

Allen Lane
Is that here?

Crawford
Yes. Veterans Day yes.

Allen Lane
Alright.

John Picken
Awesome. That was it. Thank you. All right, moving right along to committee reports. I've got a couple things from the House committee. We approved a number of event requests that are coming up. Two of them were excuse me. One of them was a last-minute celebration of life for a veteran that happened on Friday. We had three. We had three other events that are coming up in the near future. Plus, two events were approved for next year. So we're already getting people requesting dates for next year. We're still doing potlucks on Sundays. It's bringing some people in. It's helping out the post. This past Sunday we didn't. I'll get to that in a little while. We already talked about the kitchen. Please, I know everybody's interested in what's going on the kitchen. That's a construction zone. Please stay out of the kitchen. Okay, we put signs up for a reason. Do not go wandering around there. Nobody is authorized to go in there except the construction people, Garth and myself at this time. Okay, that way it's dangerous back there. Okay, we already talked about the pride parade, Veterans Day parade. This past Saturday, we had the Suns Luau, who did very well. It was a week ago Saturday. This Saturday, as somebody mentioned, Oktoberfest is coming up. Still tickets available at the bar. We're doing a Wounded Warrior event December 5, I believe.

Raible
Six.

John Picken
Six. Thank you. And that's going to be. They're just going to have a meet and greet here. Go do an event and then come back. So we're looking at that as then bringing in money. They're all veterans. They're obviously wounded, so they're going to be having a meet and greet here and having a little camaraderie. Matt Schuman event we talked about, and then Friday dinners have been provided by Riccio's. Continuing to do that, we're going to be changing up the menu, hopefully this Friday with something other than chicken or pasta. It will be posted on Facebook as soon as I know. That's pretty much the House Committee. Okay, we already did communication, so we're good there. We did finance already. Moving right along, we now come to the membership committee. Committee Chair Klein, would you have a report?

Andrea Kline
Yes, I have a report. Do you want to pass this out? So I'm passing out a report that shows you how we're doing on our membership. It's District 21. You look for Owen Kaufman, and that way you can see how we're doing. This gets updated every single week, and currently we are under 50 50 percent for renewals. So if you have not renewed your membership, please come to me. I will get your card. I'll laminate it. So we we need to get people to renew. So we'll be doing a push on that. So we do have we have a number of new members. So we've got. Let's see. I'm going to just list them off. I don't think they're here. For new members, we have Andy Gibbs. Andy's transferring from Arizona Post. We've got Crystal Williams. She's transferring from Post 1000. We met her at the at the the Taste of Palm Springs. So and then James Ape Dale, he's transferring from the Colorado Post. Thomas Adams, transferring from Banning. We've got Richard Wolff, he's a brand new member. Dick Couch is is transferring from Idaho. Frank Clark is a brand new member, and then we have Manuel Majari is also a brand new member, and Manny came in last week and met a bunch of us.

We surrounded him, and he couldn't leave without signing up to become members. So yes, he was part of the wounded warrior Carlos, who was in here. So he, he's, he, and so I would like to. Is anyone here? Any any of these guys here? I don't think so.

John Picken
Manny's a fellow Marine, just so you guys know.

Andrea Kline
So I would like to make a motion to approve these new members and transfers.

John Picken
We have a motion. Magi seconds. Any discussion? All in favor?

Raible
Aye.

John Picken
Any opposed? Any abstentions? Please welcome these new members when you see them.

Andrea Kline
Awesome. Yes, and then I'm going to continue on with the membership committee. As most of you know, that we have started doing buddy checks. So there is a team of members who are doing the buddy checks. Tony Casilo, can you raise your hand, Tony? He's doing the buddy checks. Albert, raise your hand, Joe Odelia. He's doing the buddy checks. Joe O'Connell. He's out of town right now, and then Maggie. So that is our team that's doing buddy checks. The goal is that we're to call. We want to call everybody who is 80 and above. That's a large number. We've currently made 152 calls, and I would say most of those calls, when we reach people, they're very thankful for the phone call. We invite them. We come back in. We tell them about what is going on in terms of the entertainment. If they need help, we get them connected to help. Help. We've had three referrals to Allen out of those 152 calls so far. There's been none for you, McGarvey, and I think we're doing we're doing really well. We've this has been a good program. I actually had a gentleman who we called who called me and said, "Hey, would you would you help do a buddy check for somebody who's in Maine at a post in Maine? And I talked to the to the post today, and they're going to do a buddy check on this individual. So it's been it's the feedback has been really good, and we hope that these folks will start coming into the post. The other thing is that for the eight new members, the membership committee wants to start hosting a monthly happy hour for new members, and so we're working on trying to do the details with that. I did have kind of a volunteer of Gordon to help me host those. He's still waffling, but we would like to we would like to bring in the new members and you know and just welcome them to you know to our post. So any questions for me?

John Picken
I do have a question for you. . . happy hour that you're proposing, are you looking at maybe having cocktails for them, or snacks, or something like that.

Andrea Kline
I think we would probably do something like maybe some maybe snacks, maybe you know drinks, for sure. You know drinks, and maybe it's it's you know maybe it's you know and and the membership committee. Would like to, you know, to sponsor that and to welcome them. Now that doesn't mean that other people can't come in and meet them, but that's our plan. Anybody else on the committee want to weigh in?

Raible
Maybe I just, I'd like to suggest that, especially for new members, maybe we give them one drink token, and they can redeem it any time they want. But that we have an event with snacks that they could come to and have their token, and oh, you know, one token leads to another drink.

You never know. But anyway, having snacks and invite them in. I think that might be a nice thing, but y'all have to approve that.

John Picken
Where I was going with that, and I'd like to make have somebody make a motion that we allocate X number of dollars once a month to facilitate snacks. I'll make a motion. Church. Okay. Well, we have a second, but we need to have an amount of money that we're going to propose. I was thinking, no more than $100 a month. That should cover a drink and snacks. Right. And if there's anything left over, it would be carried over to the next month.

Raible
I like that.

John Picken
Okay, is that okay to make that motion, Church? I modified it a little bit.

Garth Gilpin
Make the motion we do that $100 a month carryover.

John Picken
Okay.

Andrea Kline
I second

John Picken
Have a second. Any discussion, Garth?

Garth Gilpin
these monies come from membership? Membership monies are due to enhance the four pillars of the American Legion, and one of them is veteran services. And I, I personally feel that the monies we're expending are for veteran services. I just like to clarify. Anybody like to discuss it further? But that's where I think the money should come from.

Andrea Kline
I agree.

John Picken
Okay. So we have a motion on the floor taking money out of memberships for $100 a month to provide drink and snacks. I'm sorry, Amato. You just got something. Go ahead.

Amado Salinas
You have a point to carry over.

John Picken
To carry over. Yeah, we've got that written down, so we're good. Moving along. Any other discussion? All in favor.

Raible
Aye.

John Picken
Any opposed? Any abstentions? $100 for a drink and snacks for fun.

Raible
Thank you. Yes.

Andrea Kline
Just one last thing: if anyone wants to join the membership committee, we welcome that. And the goal is that we would call everybody who is 80 and above, and anyone who is high risk. So people can actually reach out to us and say, "I'd like a buddy check. I'd like you to call me. And so, anyways, I know I'm getting long, but that's my report.

John Picken
Thank you very much. Appreciate it. You're doing a great job on membership. The committee doing good. Who else is on your membership committee?

Andrea Kline
Just the people I read out.

John Picken
Okay, they're on the both the buddy and okay. Yep. All right. Good. Good job, everybody who's on the committee. Appreciate you doing that. I think that's the end of committee reports. Is there any committee report? I forgot. Going once, twice. Okay. I'm sorry.

Allen Lane
Waiting for Lee.

John Picken
Yeah, Lee. Well, he may not get here. It was report card day today. Old business. Those of you who attended our District 21 meeting last month, thank you so much. We had the most I've ever seen at one of our District 21 meetings. I think I counted 12 people from our post itself. Very good showing. Let's do that again at the next district 21 meeting, which is November 17th. I think somewhere in that area. I just read it off, you know. November 15th. 15th. Sorry. it's January 17. So okay, that's cool. We already talked about the kitchen. That's well underway again. We will soon, hopefully within the next two months, hold a fundraiser to provide a dinner for law enforcement and first responders, a couple posts have already had them on the west side. I'm kind of behind the eight ball on this. I need to get this rolling. We want to have some sort of like spaghetti dinner or something like that to raise money, so we can provide a dinner and award ceremony.
Maybe April or May next year. The West Side is going to be doing, I believe, in March. Don't quote me on that. 9/11 event was quite successful. I want to thank Jeff Cole and the ALR for coordinating this. Jeff actually stepped up and jumped into the color guard because we were short people. It went off really well. The Sun's Hawaiian Luau was well attended, as we said. I already talked about the auxiliary doing their Oktoberfest twice. Is there any other old business. I'm forgetting any other old business. Moving right along, new business.
Okay, you might have seen the box out there by the front door for clothing and other things that have been listed for Phil White and his wife-they had a house fire to destroy their whole house. The executive board voted to put $250 towards their rehab, so to speak, along with the three other organizations we have here. So we're hoping to get $1,000. The only people I'm waiting on for is from the Suns. Sent Greg an email. He's agreed to bring it up at his next meeting. So hopefully we'll have that 250. The auxiliary is going to be voting on theirs today. I hope so. We should have $1,000 to send to them. If you have any clothing, Bedding. We have a microwave back there. They're looking for whatever they can to restock their home. If anybody has any questions, please contact Jeff Cole, who is the director of our ALR, so you can get a hold of him through the ALR stuff. Magi, you got something?

Raible
Yes. Do we write the check directly to the to the folks that?

John Picken
That I have to confirm with Jeff. I'm sure that's what we're going to do.

Garth Gilpin
I've sent an email yesterday requesting that information. Okay.

John Picken
there you go. Okay, so that's cool. Two of our members have already donated $250 to that. One person gave 200, the other person gave 50. So there's a cash that is being provided there. Jeff had a jar out there for collections. I disappeared, so I'm just collecting the money and keeping it in my pocket. I'm joking; it's in safe spot in the in the office. So we have $250 in cash being up front. Everybody, so you know where it is. The other thing we talked about, we got a request to help feed a certain group of Marines up at 29 Palms. Okay, the mother lives in Menifee or Lake Allen or somewhere in that area. She sent me an email requesting that we help if we can to help pay for this event. They're having their Christmas party on December 17th, I believe. We are going to be sending $250 from us. The auxiliary is going to do the same thing. The other people, the sons are going to do it, and who am I forgetting? ALR. So they're doing sandwiches from Jersey Mike's. That's on base. Again, 50 ham sandwiches, 50 turkey sandwiches, along with all the other fixings, so we're going to be as soon as the Jersey Mike's manager contacts me, we'll be sending them a check for that event. As long as we get the cooperation from the other people, Chuck will go to Jersey Mike's. They will be going to Jersey Mike's.

Amado Salinas
sir. Since it is 29 Palms, I'm sure that we've already contacted District 21 to help their 22 patient or 25 whatever.

John Picken
I went through District Commander. He contacted them.

Amado Salinas
Hopefully, they'll donate.

John Picken
The post up there has not responded. We were told to go ahead and do it, so that's what we're doing. Okay, post Halloween party on Saturday, October 31. Lee Wilson's leading the charge on that. I won't be around. Please dress up, have fun, come on in. There's. Supplying whatever food-I don't remember what the food is off the top of my head-but anyway, it should be fun. We have the three or two parades coming up. Everybody, please try and attend that. At least, if not, just stand out there and wave at the people going by. That's on the Pride Parades on November 8. Obviously, the Veterans Day parade is on November 11. Okay. Importantly, you might see a couple of new additional holes in our ceiling in the main hall. I got a call from our text from our cleaning crew Sunday morning at 145. She was here cleaning, and the ceiling collapsed right next to her at the door.
So we're we closed Sunday. That's why I said talk about the potluck on Sunday. We didn't have the potluck. We closed the post because I was afraid that we might have more damage and more people might be involved in ceiling tiles coming down on top of us, so I made the executive decision, so to speak, to close for the day. I don't think we were going to have a whole lot of people coming anyway because of the rain that was coming down. So we did have a few people drove by. I said, "Hey, it's closed. Why? Give me a call. Okay,

Raible
John, is that related to the Marine Corps birthday?

John Picken
Sorry. That'll be at the bar right down the street. Good one, good one, Magi. Good one. Okay. So we're working on getting quotes to repair or to repair the roof, because there's a number of places where the water came in and did not come through the ceiling, but you didn't see the water spots. So be prepared. We have another storm coming, probably in maybe two and a half weeks. Might close again just out of the abundance of safety. Lee Wilson, you ready for a report?

John Picken
sir. All right, let me finish up here. Is there any other new business?

Andrea Kline
Oh wait, Sorry.

John Picken
Appreciate the enthusiasm.

Allen Lane
On Christmas party, good of the Legion or new business?

John Picken
To be good of the Legion. That's what I thought. Okay. Okay. So I talked about the rain. Talked about Veterans Day, Marine Corps birthday. Lee, do you need some time, or you're good?

John Picken
So, anybody have any other new business they want to bring up? New business, okay? Then we'll go to Lee Wilson when he's ready for his report.

Lee Wilson
Commander. Good evening, everybody. Hey, this Friday is a big deal for us. We're back, sort of, on the Modernism Week tours. One neighborhood, Palm Springs organization-they're going to have about five different tours coming through, maybe 20 to 30 people each this Friday, and it's a great way to get our face out there, get a lot of publicity, and yeah, I'm looking forward to it. I'm going to set up some of my fall neuro displays and stuff like that, but we're really lucky to be a part of this and get our face out there. Maybe, maybe there's going to be that benevolent millionaire that'll want to come check for the roof or something. Trying to do, you know, pull ourselves out. Maybe auxiliary has their Oktoberfest this Saturday. Karaoke is October 21st, our fourth week from this Saturday, ALR is doing food. Our Halloween party is going to be a total booth, of course, because I'm in charge. We're going to have cool band refills and chow provided.
Let's do all the food on that one. Oh, ALR is doing sloppy Joe. Something I've really been involved with for a long time now is the Cathedral City Fields of Honor, where they put all those flags out on the corner of Eighth Hall and Dinah Shore. This year, they're moving the location to City Hall, and we can still have our Legion tent out there. It's a great way to promote the post, and I'm going to have one of my fallen heroes displays out there. Also, I'm trying to round up Gold Star Family. But yeah, as many people in this room as would like to be there, wear their hat, wear legion stuff, and just stand under the tent and talk to people and shake hands and talk about our host. I can always use you.

Andrea Kline
Listen to Lee.

Lee Wilson
Yeah. What is it? Friday, November six. Ceremonies. Oh, the principal. We're going to start setting up the flag on Friday, November six. The ceremony. No, no. Belay my last. Belay my last. The ceremonies start 9o'clock Saturday, November seven, and we'll have our 10 out there by 8o'clock or so.

We have a problem because we also must have our tent out during Pride Week. We're lucky we have two tents thanks to Lavado Salinas over here. One of them kind of got the thing backwards, but it's our backup tent. We can use that one. That's fine and still use our tent for the Pride weekend. We're gonna have that Saturday and Sunday. That's the next one I'm talking about. What else? What else? What else? Probably weekend. Yeah, yeah. We are really lucky guys that we have a lot of support behind us on this. They've waived all our fees. They're treating us like royalty. And this year, hopefully, I've been begging for them to you know help spread the word, particularly like in the gay media and stuff like that, I don't. I don't have any knowledge of this, and so I'm asking these guys to reach out, like gay newspapers, gay radio, gay everybody, and please get the word out. We want as many people as possible to march with us in the pride parade. We lead the damn thing. That's really cool. 250 different entries, and for us to be on point, that's a really big deal.
And we want to round up as many people as possible. Everybody in this room is welcome to join us. Bring your family and friends, and hopefully we can get every. If there's 100,000 people in town, just 1% of those guys serve the military. That's 1000 people. I'm trying to reach all those 1000 people that serve in the military because I know I see them as we're marching by. Okay, but you got to get them so they can march with us. I'm not really good at that. So anybody's got suggestions, but they're supposed to help me out do a better job this year. We'll still have our 10 out there. We have two convertibles thanks to Garf. I just need a driver's license and proof of insurance in that, and we're ready to go for the Pride Parade, Veterans Day Parade. I'll be wearing two hats.
I help out with the Palm Springs Teachers Association, where we do the Gold Star families and such. But I'll be wearing back and forth. We will have three convertibles, golf cart. The auxiliaries can have a truck with that trailer with the haylofts on and stuff. I need people to help carry some of our banners, auxiliary banners, Allen banners. We don't have a color guard anymore, so we're going to need people in this room that will just want to carry a flag out front for us on the Veterans Day parade. Same thing with the Pride Parade. Also, anybody wants to carry the colors, you know, I need that help on that one too. Arts and Recreation-they're supposed to get back to me.
Let me know when, how many troops will be coming on Veterans Day. The worst-case scenario we've had in the past like 150. Usually it's around 80, but we're going to be feeding the troops. We did a motion last week to help pay for the food. But if anybody wants to donate to the cause and help feed the troops on Veterans Day, that's Wednesday, November 11th, and McCarvie is cooking, and he can use help also serving the troops, flipping the burgers, the dogs, all that kind of stuff. And but I'll be out doing the parade stuff. But McCarvie need help here. We got to block off some parking spots for the military bands that might be parking here and then changing in here, putting on their uniforms, getting out of their civies and stuff. Do we have any plans for Thanksgiving yet? Are we doing a Thanksgiving thing?

John Picken
Working on that.

Lee Wilson
All right. Parade of Lights. I think we dropped the ball on when we do an open house. But the Palm Springs Parade of Lights is Saturday, December 5. Parade starts at 5:45. If we have not chosen an open house yet, this might be the best time to do an open house by the end of the year. There's going to be what several 1000 people downtown. People knew that they could come here before we could sell hot chocolate and stuff or the auxiliary. I don't know. We could do something. Maybe that could be our open house. The day of the parade for the lights.

John Picken
It's a good idea. Last year, we did serve hot chocolate and hot apple cider at the at the bar during that time. I actually do like the suggestion of open house. The problem we will have is probably trying to get it advertised quick enough.

Amado Salinas
We see them be running the parade, sir. With the permission and with the approval of the House committee, I make a motion that we on December 5 we have an open house.

John Picken
Okay, you have a second. Okay, any discussion? Okay, no discussion on that. Okay, I like the hot chocolate. Last year, like I said, we did the hot apple ciders.

Lee Wilson
Maybe they'll sell hot dogs. Hot dogs.

John Picken
We can do that. Okay, let's. yes?

Garth Gilpin
Do we need an ABC license on that?

John Picken
Yes, if we do an open house. Oh, yeah, we do. We have to get one day a year that we're allowed to have an open house, we can invite everybody in. That I don't know if they increase the costs on that license. I'll double check on that. Funny thing happened. I tried to make ABC licenses, and their website's been down for a week for some reason. So, but I will, I will follow up on that. Thank you, Lee. We have a motion on the floor. All in favor? Aye. Any opposed? Any abstentions? Open house on December 5.

John Picken
All right. Might as well do it all day.

John Picken
Okay. Seems a lot of people coming down early. Maybe we can get some flyers made up, word out on the website. I don't know. Yeah, we can do media. That'd be great. So we'll get that going. Okay.

Lee Wilson
All right. Then I guess our New Year's is going to be Thursday, December 31st. DJ Eddie is going to be playing music, 300 bucks. But do we have food planned for New Year's? How much we're going to sell tickets?

John Picken
Working on catering for that. I'm looking probably we're going to be doing $100 tickets for right now. I'm hoping to bring the cost down because right now, with my estimates that I've had people give me, it will be a steak and some sort of seafood, and maybe a vegetarian option. We're working on that as we speak. Yeah, Eddie's going to be doing the DJing at 9o'clock. We'll have the dropping of the ball ceremony if we're still awake. Seniors are usually in bed by then.

Lee Wilson
Yeah.

John Picken
Thank you, Lee. Anything else? All right. Thank you very much. Appreciate it. Okay. Before we get to okay, Lee mentioned this because I'm going to go into for the good of the American Legion right now. But unfortunately, this is not the good of the American Legion. It is a sad note. The Color Guard has decided to disband. At this time, they've turned all of their banking information over to our finance officer. They did plan on taking their monies that they had procured and was going to disperse them. However, they didn't realize that they couldn't do that without permission. So the monies all came back to us. Whatever happened to the color guard belongs to the American Legion Post 519. All their uniforms technically would be ours if we paid for them, but apparently they paid for their own.

The armament, we got to decide what we're going to do with that. I am working with people higher up to figure out how to either reinstate the American Legion, but I want to wait until after the new year- it's going to be too confusing with everything we got going on to try and reinstate a color guard with training that's going to happen, uniforms that have to be purchased, flag holders, things like that. So we're going to be working on that. I promise I will have more information soon.
One other thing, for the good of the American Legion, Garth got this letter from 29 PSP, the nonprofit corporation. Basically, they were thanking us for the $2,500 donation that we gave to them in support of the driving that they do from 29 Palms to Palm Springs into the USO, they drove. They saved Marines over $925,000 over the last two years. They gave 3,700 rides. So that's an ongoing program that we should be proud of that we we helped promote that. Thanks to Garth for leading the charge on that. Absolutely. Anybody else have anything for the good of the American Legion tomorrow,

Amado Salinas
Sir, Since the funds from the color guard will now go back into the. They be put into membership, and I make motion those funds go towards the donation of our visiting dignitary, Matt Schuman.

John Picken
I believe at the executive meeting we already decided where we were going to disburse some of that money. Do you remember what we said? We think it was. . .

Amado Salinas
point of order. We need a second first before getting a discussion on that.

John Picken
This is true. Thank you. Model made a motion to take the monies from the color guard to put towards the Schumann event. Is that okay? Go ahead. I need a second. No second.

Garth Gilpin
Roughly a little over 4000.

John Picken
There's no second, so there's no discussion. Yeah. No. Okay. Thank you, Andrea.

Andrea Kline
First place for the good of the legion. It is the Navy birthday party today. Go Navy Army. Go Navy, and I am in the army, or was in the army. So there is a cake back there that does say "Happy Birthday, Navy. Thank you. I think we should all sing "Happy Birthday" to the Navy. Come on, we do. We do it. We cut the cake.

John Picken
“from the halls of Montezuma to the shores of fighter countries, battles in their island and sea.” Okay, that's enough. Enough, enough. We're short of time. Okay, Andrea was gracious enough to bring in cake for the Navy. Thank you, Andrea. Dig in. Okay, I had something else I wanted to bring up for the good of the American Indian. Now I forgot. Go ahead.

Allen Lane
I just like to remind you about what April was talking about before the meeting. The auxiliary and the Legion is working together for a Christmas party at the Veterans Village next month. She's going to have stockings for all the children. Bring your donations next turn, or reach out to one of us, and anything that you can offer would be great. If you have clothes, if you have donations like that, that'd be great. But the money's going towards the gifts to the children. You know, pants, clothes. You know, vital things that they need. I appreciate it. Thank you so much.

John Picken
Thank you. Anybody else have anything for the good of the American Legion? Garth, go ahead,

Garth Gilpin
sir. As our Measure J kitchen gets completed, we will like to have vendors fly with us. There are certain requirements that we need to pass on to them. So, if you know of any restaurateurs, anybody interested in the kitchen, please send myself or John a memo on it, and we will contact them and inform them as to what our plans are for the kitchen. So, thank you.

John Picken
Okay, two more things for the Good American Legion. First of all, thank you all for attending today, it seems like when we have our elections, we have the most people. But this is probably the most people we've had here on non-election days. I want to say thank you to all of you for showing up. This is important for you guys and the livelihood of our post. We want to keep this post running. It's important that we get more people involved. Each one of you guys out there and ladies is responsible for trying to bring people in. Okay, if you have a friend out there or an acquaintance that's a veteran, talk to them. Bring them in. Buy them a drink. I'll buy them a drink if you come in. Okay, if they're not members, I know I will. We need to get our membership up. We got a goal: 755 people members. That's our goal. Last year we had 735.
They jacked it up 20 because we did such a good job. So we need more members. We're 50% right now. A lot of people have not paid their dues. Dues are due starting July through December 31st. Yes, your cards say December of the 31st of this year. However, membership drives start in July. So the more people we get signed up, the quicker we reach that goal. I'd like to see us hit 70% before the end of the year. Okay, yeah, that's a big if. But if we each bring in a new person, we meet somebody. I've met three, four people at the fireside where I go down and have cocktails there now and then, or every day, and I. People there, I've signed up at least three people out of that that bar at the hair of the dog. There's veterans there who come in.
They don't know about the American Legion. Talk it up, talk it up, talk it up, talk it up. We need membership to keep this place running. One last thing, I got a gift card in the mail, and this was from a lady who had her and her sister had a little bit of a bad experience here when they came in.
I talked to them, I fixed the situation, and they sent me a little coffee gift card from Starbucks and says, "Commander Picken, thank you for your leadership. Enjoy a cup of cup of coffee on us, and it's signed by those two people. This is what it takes for us to increase our membership. There's two potential members right here that our membership committee will contact once everything settles down with what happened for them. Super sweet people. We're going to get them signed up, hopefully, and they're out of Montana, so we'll see what happens. Anyways, anything else for the good of the American Legion, Ron Heath?

Ron
May I read something?

John Picken
Please.

Ron
Okay. Recently, Gavin Newsom on the 28th of September passed a lot of veterans lost. One of them was supporting the LGBTQ service members by providing critical housing, employment, transition to life support to service members discharged as a result of President Trump's ban on trans service members from the military. Veterans should never have the right to fight the bureaucracy through benefits and support. That's part of it. The other part was supporting LGBTQT veterans discharging our "Don't Ask, Don't Tell" to update their records and access education, help, burial, and other benefits available to honorably discharged service members. What it's doing is giving them the right to come back and get their benefits. All they have to do, it's not through us; it's through the county BSO's office. So all they got to do, but they need to know this at that parade to be an opportunity.

A lot of people are very embarrassed to come forward. We get, I get a lot of them weekly, and she's seen that firsthand how many people come to see us, and so it's you got to help everybody. Whatever happened to them, not my problem. They need to come back. They will fight for them. They can go right now down to the BSO's office. All they got to do is tell them I was in this branch of the military, and they will they will fight to get their dishonorable discharge, other than honorable, back to general discharge or honorable discharge, and that gives them the right to get their education, housing, and health benefits. Right now, someone discharged under that cannot even go to the VA to get any medical benefits.

Lee Wilson
that people are helping me set this up, but you know we can let everybody know. You remember we had a flyer last year. I had the phone numbers and stuff on it.

John Picken
It sounds like it'd be a good project for a group of kids from somebody's high school to hand out flyers on the parade route. Hint, hint, hint.

Andrea Kline
Maggie has connections at the center, too.

Raible
Maggie notes right now to try to get the message out and have the center work with us and to coordinate that.

John Picken
We've done pretty well, Terry and I. Anything else, Ron? Ron's got more.

Ron
Okay, I'm going to turn over a couple list to Allen. Anybody ever been to Panama? Not in the airport, but in the armory, you were stationed down there. You're eligible for Agent Orange now to spray that area. And I still gave another 27 page list of A Triple F. You know about A triple F, John. You used it. Now, if you are any one of the any one of the bases on this 27 page list, almost every single base that back in my day, my era, every base I was stationed at is now eligible for PFSA. They call it as the runoff from using firefighting, falling or other chemicals got in the water, and but you can't just go. I want to file for this. You got to file for a health reason caused by the PFSA, and he's got the list. I ask him, and can look down the list. Every state has got at least 10 to 15 bases on that list. California's got about 25 or 30 on it. So I mean, it's it's something you can file. And one other one other thing I had the same time they passed this other law SB 296 law. That's your that's your veterans homeowner property exemption tax. This year was $180,000 off what you pay for the house. If you make $185,000 via your tax bill, which you pay to get the IRS, you'll be eligible to get 100% discount next year, as of January 1st. All right, up to a million dollars on your property costs.

John Picken
Can you can you repeat that again, please? Would you repeat that last time when you said 100% of 185.

Ron
Right. Right. Right now, this is your right now. It's at 180,000 off what you pay for the house.

John Picken
What?

Ron
As of January the first, it's going to be if you make over 80. If you make under 85,000, you will pay your property tax. All you'll pay is your local tax. You'll be exempt.

Now, if you're over the 85,000, go up to a million dollars, and they'll reduce it 50% And then, as an example, right now you got 185, 180,000 off. We figured out if you own a million-dollar house, you'll pay about 100. They'll take off about 195,000. They'll just kick off a percentage of It's very confusing, but it's based on what your income is, like your retirements and all that. But don't forget, you do not include your VA if you have VA compensation. That's free money. That's not part of your if you file taxes.

John Picken
So anybody on Social Security would probably be eligible.

Ron
Not me.

John Picken
Okay. You have anything else, Ron? That's enough. Okay, so just so I know, you guys know, and we'll close this down. I did the reduction on my house taxes a couple years ago. It took about a year for them to finally catch up with the Riverside County, but it did help cut my property taxes in half. One last thing.

Amado Salinas
If you like, go down the county recorder, fill out the form, and they'll go ahead and do the assessment for you instead of you trying to figure if you're good or not. So if you go down the county recorder, submit it there. They'll go ahead and then do a recorder back to you.

John Picken
Okay. Anybody else going once? Bob, you have one. Nope. Going twice. Done. If there's no other further business to come before the meeting, please stand at attention. Uncover. Chaplain, please offer a closing prayer, and throw in there, Hopefully, Andrew gets better.

Crawford
Let us depart in peace and in love and charity with our neighbors. May we be joined together in the common goal of service of our God and our country. Let us drive safely and carefully to our homes, and may God's blessing be with us all. We thank you, God, for watching after Andrew. Amen. Amen.

John Picken
Recover the POW MIA flag. Till we meet again, let us remember our obligation to our country can be fulfilled only by the faithful performance of all duties of citizenship. The service to the community, state, and nation be ever a main objective of the American Legion and its members. Let us be ever watchful of the honor of our country, our organization, and ourselves. That nothing shall swerve us from the path of justice, freedom, and democracy.
Everybody, please recover. Please face our nation's flag and salute. Two. I now declare this meeting of the American Legion Post 519 Department of California General Membership Meeting adjourned. Thank you, everyone. Thank you.

Minutes by ALLEN LANE