

**American Legion Post 118 Rio Rancho, New Mexico**  
**General Membership Meeting Minutes**  
**June 29, 2024**

**Attendees**

**Officers:** Commander: Scott Swanson, First Vice: Doug Williamson, Second Vice: Carl Fitzgerald, Chaplain: Kim Schnepfer, Sergeant at Arms: Joe Cook, Finance Officer: Bill Jennings, Service Officer: Absent, Historian: Phil Merriweather

**Attendees:** Garry Branstetter, Donna Harrington, Carla Perea, Jennifer Swanson, Paula Abeyta, Robert Abeyta, Angie Fitzgerald, JoJo Powers, Rose Williamson, Lisa Wilcox, James Scarbough,

**Guests:** Erika Lohr, Katia Baltier

**Minutes**

Meeting called to order at 12:02

Hand salute

Pledge of Allegiance

Prayer - Chaplain

Meeting minutes: Motion to accept meeting minutes from May as posted on the website, Doug motioned, Paula seconded, motion carried and minutes accepted

Finance report read, Motion made to accept the finance report as read was made by Ron and seconded by Paula, motion carried, report approved

Membership report read, Bill motioned to approve and Paula seconded, report approved by all members

Commander introduced guests from Trujillo Funeral Home:

- Erika and Katia from Trujillo gave a short talk about services they provide to veterans, handing out flyers. The Commander invited them to return for the General

Meeting to present the information to those that attend. The board thanked them for their information.

First Vice:

- Work is being done in the game room on Monday and Tuesday evening of next week. Next step will be painting followed by flooring installation.

Second Vice:

- Family Day will be held tomorrow. 10:00 set up will start
- 4th of July will be a pot luck. The sign-up sheet for the pot luck is located in the main bar area. The bar will open at 1330. Bill Jennings was asked if he would do a walk through to share the history of the Post and describe the items in the display cases and he agreed.

Americanism team - nothing

Commander:

- Visit the Fisher House new conference website at <https://www.fisherhouse.org>, and please go to the Friends of New Mexico Fisher House at <https://www.fisherhousenm.org> for donations.
- VERA - visitor engagement reporting agency
- 2026 - America's Birthday!
- NMAL college - Albuquerque - Feb 24th at Crowne Hotel
- Voting on Property taxes this year - \$4k to 10k collect property tax - exemption Mexico legion.org.

- The next National meeting will be held in New Orleans and the next Convention will be held at the end of June at the Inn of the Mountain Gods (more details on both to follow)

Service Officer - Absent

Old Business - none

New Business:

- Monday evening the texturing will be done in the game room. Contractor is donating the paint and the painter will be coming once the drywall is done. Riders and Auxiliary both donated money to complete the work in the gameroom.
- The Elks club has a pool table for sale for \$300 (it will need work) Doug will go to see how much work it needs and Howie offered to donate the \$300 for the table
- Kim brought up creating an Honor guard for the Post. There will be training August 23rd and they would need 4 people to volunteer. We can apply for rifles. Tim "Gunny" offered to assist since he has trained ROTC. There will be no cost for training. Uniforms will need to be purchased. Note - you must be a veteran to do honor guard.
- Doug is still looking into the Scouts using the Post. The Post has approved them meeting here, however the contract and equipment storage are the issue.
- Lisa Wilcox stated that our Chef James was approached by the ROTC to do Post 49 dinner. James offered to cook for ROTC all week and donate his time for SAL meals.
- Howie brought up prime rib dinner and he would donate the prime rib. This would be a sit-down event. More discussion is needed for tickets, cost menu etc.
- Joe Cook stated he was approached by Post 49 to join in an annual fundraising run and they would like to come to our Post. More details to come

For the Good of the Order - Flag retirement will need to be scheduled in early August

Chaplain - Closing Prayer

Joe motioned to adjourn and Jim seconded, motion carried

Meeting adjourned at 13:01