



**American Legion Post 118 Rio Rancho, New Mexico  
General Membership Meeting Minutes  
January 18, 2025**

**Attendees**

**Officers:** Commander: Scott Swanson, First Vice: Jay Wilcox, Sergeant at Arms: Joe Cook, Adjutant Howie Rouillard, Chaplain Kim Schnepfer, Finance Officer Bill Jennings

**Trustees:** Ron Szych, Bill Harrington, Robert Abeyta, Paula Abeyta

**Members:** 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice Carl Fitzgerald

**Meeting called to order at 11:02**

**Hand salute**

**Pledge of Allegiance**

**Prayer – Stand-In for Post Chaplain Kim**

**POW/MIA**

**Preamble**

**Roll Call of Officers**

**Guests** – None

**Dispensed Minutes for December 21, 2024 :**

Motion to approve accept and approve passed

**Finance Report:** Presented by Bill Jennings

Kitchen Revenue down

Motioned to accept passed

**Membership:** Presented by Bill Jennings

- Still several members who have not renewed their 2025 Membership
- None of the membership funds for online and mail in membership renewals goes to the Post and stays solely at the National level.
- Motion to approve passed

**1<sup>st</sup> Vice:**

1. Cage Fitzgerald has been accepted to the Culinary School, and he will be leaving either in March or April
2. There is no volunteer support for the days that the kitchen is not open for food service
3. Without the kitchen, there will be challenges
4. We have been losing Hall rental revenue due to the previous rental prices
  - a. The Hall will be blocked for the Post 118 Memorial Day Ceremonies
5. We need support when it comes to setting up the Hall for Post 118 special events
  - a. Bill Harrington: The biggest issue is with the lack of communication when events are scheduled and need to be set up. Jay concurs with the lack of communication.

6. We need to establish a committee to make posters and other flyers, as the current system is weak.
7. The House Committee and Entertainment Committee have been meeting on a regular basis, communication has been positive.
8. Building repairs wish list has been addressed, and priorities are being established and addressed.
9. Jay met with Marine Corps League, Detachment 1316 Commandant Frank Rue to discuss issues concerning outside food being brought into the Hall during their membership meeting instead of patronizing the Kitchen, since the Hall rental fees being waived.
10. Jay and Frank met with an agreement to an agreement of a \$75 per meeting fee moving forward.
11. Commander Scott Swanson direct Adjutant Howie Rouillard to enter into record, the letter of agreement to be entered into record of today's minutes.
12. Housing Committee suggestions can be placed into the Suggestion Box

**2<sup>nd</sup> Vice:** Excused

**Americanism:** None

**Housing Committee:** Excused

**Post Liaison Officer:** Michael Bates

1. National rules require certification prior to being assigned as a Veteran Service Officer (VSO)

**Unfinished Business:** None

**New Business:**

1. Ron Szych: Elections are coming up.
2. The Trustees will be recommending prospective candidates before the February 2025 Executive Committee Meeting
3. Durin the March 2025 General Meetings there will be open nominations from the floor, and nominated members must be active members, and present at the meeting to be nominated.
4. Elections will be held in the April 2025 General Meeting
5. New Officers will be sworn into office, and assume the position during the May 2025 General Meeting
6. Commander Scott Swanson will be stepping down, and wants to become a Trustee
7. Kim Schnepfer will be stepping down as Chaplain and placing her name into consideration for Commander.
8. First Vice Jay Wilcox will be stepping down
9. Second Vice Carl Fitzgerald will be staying on as Second Vice only
10. Sergeant at Arms Joe Cook will be staying
11. Financial Officer Bill Jennings will be staying on
12. Trustee Robert Abeyta and Paula Abeyta will be staying
13. Trustee Bill Harington will be staying

14. Trustee Robert Abeyta: First Vice Jay Wilcox needs to establish a Job Description for the Bar Manager.
15. Commander Scott Swanson suggested that we purchase dividers for the beer coolers, to prevent breakage.
16. Kim Schnepfer: Souper Bowl Cookoff - \$5.00 per category entered, all funds go to winner of each category.
  - a. Categories:
    - a. Soup
    - b. Stew/Chowder
    - c. Chili
17. Superbowl of Caring: All items will be delivered on Monday, following the Superbowl.
  - a. Canned goods, non-perishable food items, toiletries
18. St. Patrick's Day Redemption Dinner
  - a. Date/Time: Saturday, March 15/17:30
  - b. Cost: \$20.00 per person (Ticket sales end on March 8)
  - c. Menu
    - i. Corned Beef and Cabbage
    - ii. Fish & Chips
19. Upcoming events;
  - a. Dinner and a Movie Night – Every other Thursday (In bar area)
  - b. Karaoke Night – Wednesday and Saturday
  - c. Music Bingo – Tuesday nights
  - d. Trivia Night - Tuesday nights (Once a month for now)
  - e. Sip & Paint 13:00 Bottled
    - i. Instructor: Michelle Montaña
    - ii. Glassware & Bottles
20. Donna Harrington is requesting that Post 118 collect plastic lids and bottle caps for a small college in Santa Fe play area for special need children.
  - a. The Santa Fe Foundation has agreed to build park benches, utilizing the plastic lids and caps at no charge.
    - i. Plastic coffee can lids
    - ii. Medicine bottle caps
    - iii. Shampoo/conditioner etc.. caps
    - iv. Mayonnaise/Ketchup/Mustard etc... lids
  - b. Each bench requires 200 pounds to build

**Canteen:** None

**Sick Call:**

1. Jim Cromwell passed away
2. Christina Fagen's daughter has passed away and her father is in the hospital
3. Yollanda's father passed away
4. Bill Harrington: Daves mother has been placed in Hospice

Please keep their families in your prayers

**Memorial:**

1. Jim Cromwell

**Good of the Legion:**

1. Robert Abeyta: It's \$100 Club Annual General Building Fund time
  - a. Gift \$100 Club pin/Post 118 ballpoint pen/flashlight

**Motion to adjourn**

**Closing Prayer:** Post Chaplain Kim Schnepfer

**Retire POW/MIA Chair:** Joe Cook

**Meeting adjourned – 12:05**