



American Legion Post 118 Rio Rancho, New Mexico
Executive Board Meeting Minutes
February 15, 2025

Meeting Called to Order: 09:33

Officers: Commander: Scott Swanson, First Vice: Jay Wilcox, 2nd Vice Carl Fitzgerald, Financial Officer Bill Jennings, Sergeant at Arms Joe Cook, and Chaplain Kim Schnepfer

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

Excused: Trustee Angie Fitzgerald

Hand Salute

Pledge of Allegiance

Opening Prayer: Chaplain Kim Schnepfer

POW Chair: Joe Cook

Distribution of the Minutes of January 18, 2025, Executive Board meeting and General Membership Meeting.

1. Bill Jennings motioned to correct the minutes under new business item #16 to read: A motion was made by financial Officer Bill Jennings to close the Money Market checking account and purchase two \$11,000.00 CDs with the remaining balance to go into the general fund. Motion 2nd by Bill Harrington, motion carried.

Motion to accept with corrections by Bill Jennings, 2nd by Ron Szych; passed.

The Commander stated that Howie is no longer an adjutant due to the current election and how he is conducting himself during this campaign which is unbecoming of an officer. Sending out text messages that if he is not voted for commander, he will take everything he bought for the post and transfer his membership elsewhere. Making statements to backstab anyone to get what he wants because he's a backstabbing SOB and downgrading a fellow officer on social media that they are not to be trusted. Pictures of proof of all this were shown to the E-board. Sgt at Arms reiterated that his appointment was under conditions, cleared it with the judge advocate, and with the green light, he was let go.

Guests: None

Reading of Finance Report: Bill Jenning

1. Food Revenue Down
2. Made overall profit
3. Motion to accept by Bill Harrington, 2nd by Kim Schnepfer: passed

Membership Report: Read by Bill Jennings

- Still several members who have not renewed their 2025 Membership
- We are at 79.43% of paid members.

- At the last convention, we were 100% for NM
- Motion to approve, passed

First Vice:

1. Gave everyone a copy of the new rental agreement.
2. Changed payment for pricing, cleaned up verbiage.
3. Hall rental prices are qualified on the front of the agreement as to what price to charge. Want to give a carte blanche to hall representative to make a deal to put bodies in the hall.
4. Verbiage was changed about bringing booze in or taking booze out; if not followed, party is over.
5. For any other behavior issue, they get a 1 and done warning. No refund of monies to take place.
6. Will give the contract a week to look over, then will be disbursed to use.
7. We can let the public know the post is open for rental.
8. For clean up to get deposit back, it will be a 5–7-day window to make sure post is cleaned.

Second Vice:

1. Souper-bowl cookoff was a success. People want to enter next year. Good turnout.
2. Superbowl of caring: 1800 pounds of food collected. Kim to post on website, was a success.
3. Superbowl Sunday, not as big as last year, but still a good turnout.
4. Final raffle & 50/50 was \$1333.00, auction was around \$900.00
5. Auctioned off items that didn't have any bids.
6. Raffle money to go to entertainment committee. Money from silent/live auctions goes to the housing committee (general fund)
7. St. Patty's Day is the next event. Dinner/Dance with DJ (Tony Wise). \$20.00 a ticket: Corned Beef and Cabbage or Fish'n Chips. Dinner from 5-7pm, dance from 7-11pm.
8. The last day to purchase tickets is March 8, 2025. POS should give a count as to how many of each were sold.

Americanism: Nothing.

Athleticism: Nothing.

House Committee:

1. Maintenance and repair. The front dishwasher needs a circulation pump for hot water pressure because it's too far away from the water tank.
2. What do we do for repairs in terms of membership doing repairs vs. outside contractors.
3. Kim proposed that any member who does repairs should be licensed so if something goes wrong, we can claim our insurance.
4. We have a member who has done repairs, is not licensed, but in the military did the same type of work and would trust their work.
5. We would handle these types of repairs on a case-by-case basis. Depending on the work to be done, the E-Board will make the call to pay or use in house crew.
6. The fan motor in the beer room has been pulled; looking for a new one.
7. Exterior stucco needed.
8. Swap Coolers. Contractor that did mini splits has a design out of Australia, said it works and cheaper than refrigerator air.
9. The roof system has cracks, the contractor will be out March or April to fix.
10. Painting of the building is to be done soon. Asking for volunteers to help paint.
11. The front door is now adjusted to close properly.

12. The Furnace above the kitchen is 40 years old, looks decent and heats, but it's going to die. That needs to be serviced.
13. The two mini splits are 3-ton units. For the game room, its ok, but in the bar, not so much. The mini split in the gaming office would be just as much to relocate as to put all new.
14. We need to look at new possibilities.

Sick Call

1. Dave's mom was in hospice, still is.
2. Mary Tiltston's son passed away yesterday morning
3. Yolanda's mom passed away last month.
4. A lot of members are out sick.
5. Michelle that hosts sip n paint is out sick.

Please keep their families in your prayers

Post Service Liaison: Excused

Unfinished business: None

New Business:

1. Food truck tonight and next Saturday night. Test it out and see if it will benefit us moving forward. Options on the table are if food trucks don't work, we have the potential to rent out our kitchen to a cook.
2. The food trucks will park in the street, we will use parking cones to block off some of the parking spaces for patrons. Some trucks need a guarantee of \$600.00 a night. Tonight is a trial night, no money from of us for these trail runs.
3. We can rent the kitchen out to a cook, they purchase insurance under their business name so if the kitchen goes up, it's covered under their insurance, not our insurance.
4. The post can put in the contract that must carry insurance for such an event.
5. Jay wants to talk to our agent to see what the possibilities are and the coverage they would need and what our responsibilities would be.
6. Trustees met to create a slate for new officers. Trustees are two years; officers are one year. The trustees that are up are Ron Szych and Paula Abeyta. Historian is open, Sgt at Arms is Joe Cook, Service officer is open, Chaplain is open, Finance officer is Bill Jennings, 2nd Vice is Carl Fitzgerald, 1st Vice is Donna Harrington, Legion Commander is Kim Schnepfer.
7. Next meeting (in March) nominations will be made from the floor, must be in good standing & a member (veteran) of post 118, and can only nominate another member (veteran).
If each office does not have a nomination, the person in the position will be confirmed. Any challenges to the slate will be an election in April and will also be run by the trustees.
8. Ibar Romero is the Service officer for Post 118; we need to update the bylaws to re-word this section.
9. We will let the new regime decide to change by-laws for the service officer.
10. Bill Jennings said, to change the by-laws, make a motion to remove from by-laws, put on web site for all to do, but table for now, do a by-law review for new officers.
11. Bill Jennings said the adjutant hasn't turned in the service officer paperwork, so we still have vacancies. The by-laws haven't been ratified due to the paperwork not being turned in.

Commander

1. Would American Legion like to donate money for the special Olympics. Last year we donated \$100.00. A motion made by Ron Szych to donate a motion of \$125.00, 2nd by Kim Schnepfer. Motion passed.

2. Do you speak English or comprehend English? Print your name on the sign in sheet where it says to print your name, don't make a squiggly line. Stop playing games. It's a shame we have to talk about this. Just follow the sign in.

Good of the Legion:

1. It was brought up at the mid-winter conference that if you get a flag or earn from the VA, you cannot be buried at the National Cemetery. There is currently a bill to reverse that ruling. So you can be buried at the National Cemetery if you receive those.
2. The money for increase in benefits towards property taxes has kicked in. If you have a disability, you must take in the letter to take effect.
3. A couple of things that happened lately, Howie's been released and slander on social media with this election is not acceptable and WILL NOT be tolerated.
4. Refrain from making corrections on public posts if you have not read the by-laws or constitution. It's not up to one individual to decide if a post is appropriate or not if there is nothing in writing against our functions that says if this is appropriate or not. If any questions arise, go to the Sgt at arms or Judge advocate for clarity. Social media IS NOT the place to bicker. Stay off social media.
5. Admins track on Post 118 FB, but not on GROUPME.
6. A threat made by Howie, that he would leave the post and transfer membership and take everything he bought. Trustees need to take inventory of all our stuff with serial numbers, models etc. so if it walks out the door, it's theft. He has 6 things he can take: 2 preatrium boards, a kegerator, Hot dog machine, meat slicer and his two-wheel dolly.
7. A motion by Joe Cook to have the trustees inventory all our equipment and 2nd by Bill Jennings. Motion passed unanimously.
8. A motion from Joe cook to allow Bill Jennings to sell the tall dishwasher to post 69 starting at \$200.00 but negotiating from there, 2nd by Robert Abeyta. Motioned passed.
9. If Howie comes in and starts to take stuff, don't get in the way, call the cops.

Motion to adjourn

Hand Salute

Closing Prayer: Chaplain Kim Schepper

Securing the POW Chair: Sergeant at Arms Joe Cook

Meeting Adjourned at 10:45AM