

## **American Legion Post 118 Rio Rancho, New Mexico**

### **General Meeting Minutes**

**August 17, 2024**

#### **Attendees**

**Officers:** Commander: Scott Swanson, First Vice: Douglas Williamson, Second Vice: Carl Fitzgerald II, Chaplain: Kim Schnepfer, Sergeant at Arms: Joe Cook

**Trustees:** Ron Szych, Bill Harrington, Angie Fitzgerald

**Members:** Bill Jennings - Finance Officer, Phil Merriweather - Historian

**Guests:** None

#### **Minutes**

##### **Meeting called to order - 11:02**

- Hand salute
- Pledge of Allegiance
- Prayer - Stand-in Chaplain
- POW/MIA
- Preamble
- Roll Call of officers
- \*Minutes were not available\* go to the website and read them there.

#### **Finance Report**

- Jennings read
- Motioned to accept by Doug, 2nd by Phil, motion carries

#### **Membership Report**

- 2024 we have 625 paid members
- in 2025 we have 103 paid members
- Gained 46 new legion members this year

## **First Vice**

- Boy Scouts. I talked with local leaders; they gave us no direction. One of the scout leaders gave ultimatum of going with EIN # or they will go elsewhere. We will not give our EIN #.
- I'm stepping down as 1st Vice, moving back to Pittsburgh in Oct; will need to find another 1st vice, I will work with them through September.
- Lots of discussion about the opened positions; adjutant, service officer and 1st vice. Ibar is our department service officer until we get one at our post. Jennigs mentioned service officer is responsible for their own cards, etc. Is not a paid position.

## **Second Vice**

- Sept 1, Game room re-opening; officers are providing food. Asking members to bring side dish, time is from 12-6pm.
- Friday Sept 6th, dinner and a band \$20/person limited to 112 tickets. Dinner 5-7pm. The band (Tall Boys and bad Decisions) is from 7-10pm; variety of music. The food is Green Chili Chicken enchiladas, with lettuce, rice, beans, sopapillas, and biscochitos.
- Sunday Oct 13th Post 118 rummage sale/arts & Crafts day. \$30/table if the patron is manning their own table and they keep all the proceeds. \$20 to post if patron is dropping off goods to sell their stuff and post will man the table and keep all the proceeds. Left over stuff post will be donated to charity. Patrons that want to drop off their stuff is to be done by sept 13th.
- Saturday Oct 5th is the 2nd annual Post 118 pig roast from 3pm - 6pm. \$20/person. Will also have the blind auction for items in the back room. We will set things up a week prior so patrons can view items and bid on them during that week. We have a volunteer sign-up sheet and birthday sheet, please fill out both.

## **Americanism**

- None

## **Unfinished Business**

- Still have to hang lights/signs, and other plaques. Need all the help we can. We have until Friday August 30th.
- Still trying to find shelves/folding tables we need to put up. If carpenters want to donate shelving/time to install, that would be great.
- Mike and Pamela Bates donated a "Game Room" LED light to go above the door.

### **New Business**

- Angie brought up that the cost we charge for the RV rental, is low. We need to raise the prices and think about the "long-term" rental from monthly to weekly. We're not covering the cost of electricity. We will discuss and vote at the E-board meeting. Membership can provide input as to what they think would be a fair price. Can we get a meter to monitor how much electricity is being used out there? We will adjust the contract. If the renters are NOT legion members, the contract will serve as a temporary membership so they can patron the post.
- We need to be more diligent in advertising our dinners, events, etc. so people will show up.
- For \$50 membership, you get up to \$5000 of free money for accidental life insurance as long as you maintain your dues. Keep your garrison (official) hat in your glove box, and if you die "accidentally", your spouse can get the money. Go to: [www.TheLIT.com/LegionCare2](http://www.TheLIT.com/LegionCare2)
- Go out and vote in November, they want to raise the amount of property tax break for disabled veterans from \$4,000 to \$10,000.

### **Entertainment committee**

- None

### **Memorial to post member**

- None

### **Good of the Legion**

- Looking to fill 4 positions. Need a Service Officer, 1st vice, adjutant and a possible 3rd vice (Americanism). All positions do have to be filled by a Legionnaire (Veteran).

## **Closing**

- Prayer
- Retire POW/MIA chair
- Meeting adjourned 11:56