



Post 716 General Membership Meeting

01/09/2024

7:05 PM

Post 716, Los Alamitos

3252 Florista St.

Los Alamitos, CA. 90720-2306

Meeting called by: Commander

Type of meeting: Regular

Attendees: Commander- Bryan Bell (X), 1st Vice- Rick Molina (X), 2nd Vice- Vacant, E-Board- Bill Sestito (X) Barney Felix (X), (Vacant), Finance- Rick Hamlin (AE), Adjutant- Roger Haag (X), Judge Advocate- Roger Haag (X), Jr Past Commander- Ernie Rodriguez (X), Chaplin- Keith Elliott (X), Rider's Liaison – Art Odom (X), Son's Liaison –Art Odom (X) Sergeant-at-Arms (Temp) Tony Martin (X)

Quorum: YES

Time: 7:05 pm

Bar Manager: Mary Hernandez (X)

Guests: Mark Thronberry, prospective new member.

Approval of Minutes: Motion made to approve the minutes as distributed. Motion passed.
November meeting minutes accepted and approved.

OFFICERS REPORTS

COMMANDER'S REPORT

Status of Mural: Mario S. is the muralist and has started work on the mural.

Revitalization of hallway near bathroom has began. Matt S. donated \$1000 and Barney F. donated \$500 toward materials. The hallway will have an updated look that matches the rest of the hall and there will be overhead storage.

Taking applications for Post Custodian.

Hall Projector: Steve W. is helping to apply for a grant with Epson to get a new projector and 150" screen. Need to raise approximately \$7,000 for this project. Will discuss in detail under New Business.



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FIRST VICE-COMMANDER

January 1, 2025 is the last day to pay 2025 membership. Please pay dues to avoid being taken off membership roll.

Request assistance to do call-party to contact members who have not collected their membership cards.

Status of Parking Lot: Notices have been posted throughout the hall. Parking lot will be closed for repaving from January 29-30, 2025. Contractor provide a 50% discount off the original quote, as a donation to the post. .

SECOND VICE-COMMANDER (VACANT)

VACANT

EXECUTIVE BOARD- BILL SESTITO

VACANT

EXECUTIVE BOARD- BARNEY FELIX

No Report.

EXECUTIVE BOARD – ART ODOM

No Report



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ADJUTANT'S REPORT

Wall of Heroes update. received duplicate of Medal of Honor. Meeting with printer about donation of pictures and citation for the wall. Hope to have the MoH display up by the end of February. Request donations of military memorabilia.

Fraudulent emails. Disregard and delete emails asking for money, claiming to be an officer of the American Legion.

FINANCE OFFICER

Finance Officer is out of the country. Commander will provide a report at the next meeting.

CHAPLIN'S REPORT – KEITH ELLIOTT

No Report

JR. PAST COMMANDER (“JPC”)– ERNIE RODRIGUEZ

No Report. But suggests the Post start a fundraiser for the veterans affected by the wildfires.



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SON'S LIAISON – STEVE WORKING

Son's have participated in a lot of events.

Last week's Baked Potato Night was well-attended.

Steak Friday is last Friday of this month.

Fish Fry is this month.

Would like to host a Super Bowl party, discussion later in the meeting.

If you know of any veterans affected by the wildfires, please let the Son's know if they need any assistance.

RIDERS'S LIAISON – ART ODOM

Participate in Wreaths Across America. Large turn-out. Thanked the Post and families for donations.

BAR MANAGERS REPORT

No Report

HALL RENTAL MANAGER- VACANT

No Report



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PUBLIC AFFAIRS OFFICER

Acquired digital illustration products to help improve our social media posts to publicise post events and promote hall rentals.

NEW MEMBERS

Mark Thronberry, 6 yrs USMC, prospective new member.

Vote on membership taken, vote passed. Member accepted and sworn in.

OLD BUSINESS

Commander states Art Odom was appointed to E-board but the membership must now vote to make the appointment permanent.

Fred Torres nominated Art Odom to Executive Board. Seconded by Anthony Lewis. Motion Carried.

NEW BUSINESS

Nathan Medeiros provided information about veterans gaming organization and inquired about setting up an event at the post. Mr. Medeiros agreed to be the liaison between the post and the organization.

Commander appointed Nathan Medeiros as Service Officer.

Discussion about the need to take down the lighting scaffolding on the stage.



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Roger Haag makes a motion to remove the lighting scaffolding and to make it available to the membership for 30 days and then disposed. Rick Molina seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Steve W and Commander discussed the need for a projector and projector screen. The projector would be mounted to ceiling and it is a powerful projector. Most of the cost would be covered by an education grant by Epson. Steve W volunteered to prepare the application. The cost of the entire project would include the remaining price of the projector, mount installation and cost of projector screen. Total estimated cost is \$7,000.

Roger Haag makes a motion to install a new projector in the hall, to include submitting the grant application to Epson and raising of funds for the project. Barney Felix Seconded. Motion Carried.

Bill Mayhue provided information about Boys State and a history of why we sponsor 2 students from Western High. It costs \$850 to sponsor a student to go to Boys State.

Bill Mayhue makes a motion for the Post to sponsor 2 high school students to Boys State at a cost of \$1,700. Art Odom seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Steve Working explained the Son's would like to host a Super Bowl party at the post. Hosting a Super Bowl party will generate bar revenue and a portion of the sale of food would go toward supporting veteran programs. Requests the Post donate \$200 toward the cost of food for this party.

Roger Haag makes a motion for the Post to donate \$200 to the Son's toward the cost of food for the Super Bowl party. Barney Felix seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Rick Molina discussed hosting the James Kelly Band (JKB) once a month. JKB has a loyal group of dances that follow them and an event could be financially beneficial to the Post either through a cover charge for each guest and/or increased bar revenue. JKB charges \$500 appearance fee. Some members concerned about a long-term contract. Mr. Molina assured members it was month-to-month.

Rick Molina makes a motion for the Post to appropriate \$500 to pay the James Kelly Band to play an event at the Post in January 2025. Ernie Rodriguez seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Art Odom discussed the purpose of the National Legacy Fund and the quilt fundraiser.



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Art Odom makes a motion for the post to donate \$100 toward the National Legacy Fund Quilt Fundraiser. Roger Haag seconded the motion. Motion carried.

GOOD OF THE LEGION

Commander thanked Tony Lewis for updating the boards in the hall and bar with post information.

Commander thanked Steve Working for installing the new TVs in the bar and setting up the A/V system.

Art Odom took down the license plates in the hallway wall to prepare for the revitalization project.

Drawing: \$450

Member Number: #49, Jorge Chavez

Next Month the Drawing Prize increases to \$470

Next General Meeting will be: February 13, 2025

Adjourn: 7:53 pm