



# American Legion

James Witkowski Post 138  
1264 W. University Dr. Mesa Az 85201

## MEETING MINUTES

A Quorum has been established! JJ / LH (Adjutant/Commanders initials)

### **General Legionnaire Meeting** **Meeting Date: November 26, 2025, 1902**

1. **Call to Order**
  - a. Meeting called to order by Commander.
  - b. Colors posted, salute, and opening prayer offered by Chaplain.
  - c. POW-MIA flag placed on empty chair as a symbol of remembrance.
  
2. **Pledge of Allegiance and Preamble**
  - a. Recited by all present.
  
3. **Roll Call**
  - a. Commander, First Vice, Second Vice, Judge Advocate (online), Adjutant, Finance Officer (online), Chaplain, Sergeant at Arms, Trustees present or exc as noted.
  - b. Quorum established
  
4. **Approval of Minutes**
  - a. Minutes of the previous meeting were posted online.
  - b. Motion to accept minutes as corrected (adding responsibility for 100-list maintenance) was made, seconded, and approved.
  
5. **Finance Report (Presented by Finance Officer Josh)**
  - a. Club account: \$4,755
  - b. Special events: \$2,018
  - c. Relocation account: \$869
  - d. Lottery account: \$1,601 (to be moved to club account)
  - e. Bingo account: \$500
  - f. Patio fund money (from auxiliary) not yet received; \$5,000 owed to auxiliary.
  - g. Concerns raised about total cash being below the target \$10,000 threshold, impacting ability to cover emergency expenses.
  - h. Motion to accept finance report made, seconded, discussed, and carried.



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## 6. Membership Report (First Vice Derek Vitola)

- a. 12 new members in November; total 53 new members since June 1.
- b. Explanation of the 100-List: a tool for reaching out to new or prospective members within 25 miles of the post.
- c. Emphasis on membership retention through buddy checks and outreach to current members.
- d. Volunteers requested to assist with calls.
- e. Recognized several new members by name.
- f. Another transfer member announced (Bill).

## 7. Second Vice Report

- a. Upcoming events: Thanksgiving dinner with food starting at 1200
- b. Sip and Paint Event on Dec 6 at 1530

## 8. Chaplain Report

- a. Prayer requests for Rose Larson and Susan Thenard (hospitalized).
- b. Prayer offered for two National Guard members shot in Washington, D.C.
- c. Recognition and update on Battle Buddy Baker's recovery from motorcycle accident.
- d. Emphasis on family support and volunteer calls to maintain connections among members.

## 9. House Committee Report

- a. \$500 budget approved for painting red, white, and blue stripes on marquees and building front.
- b. Meeting scheduled December 1 at 5:00 PM for house committee to discuss maintenance, programs, and planning for 2026.
- c. Discussion of "Buddy Check Monday" initiative encouraging members to make three calls to fellow members.
- d. Volunteers needed for various projects.
- e. Praise for operations team's work.

## 10. Additional House Report (Second Vice)

- a. Fire suppression hood (Ansul system) permit approved; installation expected next week.
- b. Volunteers needed to move items for kitchen work.
- c. Proposal to add Wednesday night karaoke with \$50 weekly expense approved.
- d. Bingo permit hearing scheduled December 8 at 5:45 PM (virtual attendance possible).



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- e. Discussion of poker night scheduling; concerns about overlapping with existing events.
- f. Emphasis on increasing revenue through multiple weekly events.

## 11. Unfinished Business

- a. Bylaws review underway; need more volunteers to assist with editing and updating.

## 12. New Business

- a. Thanksgiving dinner plans reviewed; large turnout expected.
- b. Christmas plans and New Year's band suggestions requested.
- c. Discussion of Sons of the American Legion (Sons) IRS tax exemption status:
  - i. Sons are integral to the Legion but historically have not had tax-exempt status.
  - ii. National-level work ongoing to clarify and resolve tax issues.
  - iii. Bartenders may need to charge tax on drinks sold to Sons in the future.
  - iv. Compliance with parent organization rules emphasized, including leadership confirmation, bylaws approval, reporting, and financial controls.
- d. Plan to begin paying bar manager (proposed Michaela) to manage bar operations and accountability.
- e. Motion made to use bingo funds to pay bar manager; no second, motion failed.
- f. Suggestion and motion approved (\$100 budget) to create a deployment location sign pointing to places members were deployed (Iraq, Afghanistan, etc.).
- g. Motion approved (\$250) to purchase poker supplies (chips, cards) with discussion about financial feasibility.
- h. Announcement: Chaplain Madison's commencement ceremony for bachelor's degree on December 13th at the post.

## 13. For the Good of the Legion

- a. Introduction and swearing-in of new service officer Brian Kimber (Army combat engineer, MSW).
- b. Recognition of Brian's new role and encouragement for members to reach out for veterans' assistance.

## 14. Closing

- a. Closing prayer by Chaplain.
- b. POW-MIA flag retrieved, colors posted, and meeting adjourned.



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Meeting Adjourned – 2024 hours

John Jones

Digitally signed by John Jones  
Date: 2025.12.14 14:43:37-0700'

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Adjutant

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Commander