

American Legion Post 512

Meeting Minutes

August 3, 2020

I. Call to order

Brian Andrus, Commander Post 512, called to order the regular meeting of the American Legion Post 4512 at 1900 hours on 3 August 2020 at Post 512, Carmel, CA.

II. Roll call

Roll call of the officers and/or board members was conducted. The following individuals present Brian Andrus, Sai Fernandez, Richard Connelly, Anastasia Gonzales, Gerry Paratore and Mario Gonzales. Additionally, 10 members were present in the hall. A Quorum was present, and the meeting was called to order. Chaplin invocation conducted and POW/MIA flag was posted

III. Approval of minutes from last meeting

Minutes of the previous meeting were read and approved without corrections.

IV. Reports

- (1) Finance report: \$11,560 total in all accounts. Paul Rodriguez ask who was on the finance committee and volunteered to be a member of this committee.
- (2) Membership report: Sai Fernandez, 1st Vice, introduced himself to the membership. He has processed the membership for 30+ mail in membership renewals. He discussed paying dues either to him, by mail or through the online site at MYLegion.com.
- (3) Ways and Means: Boys state payments have been credited back to the post. Other than that, no transactions have happened because of COVID-19 closure.
- (4) Facilities report: no new status updates. Roof still needs repair. The "Raise the Roof" Go-Fund-Me account was mentioned, and members were encouraged to donate, goal \$39-50K.
- (5) Service officer report: Food bank is available through the Veteran Transition Center. Additionally, medical, dental and legal services are

available. It was noted that even in the time of COVID-19 volunteers are needed at the center.

V. Old business:

- a) From the discussion (last month) of regular monthly SAL meeting and need to reach out and participate with the SAL, Brian Andrus, Gerry Paratore and Greg Olson agreed to attend the SAL meeting on the following Monday.
- b) Pricing of drinks in the lounge to bring pricing in line with board guidance is ongoing (Action: Gerry Paratore), but hasn't been completed.
- c) Comrade Sai Fernandez needed a new house and has found suitable housing in Carmel Valley.

VI. New business:

- a) The following "Motion to Censure" as adopted by the Executive Committee in closed deliberations was read:
 - i) Motion to censure: Because of the events associated with and around the unauthorized access of the American Legion Post 512, specifically the poolroom, the following motion was made, seconded and approved by the executive boards for discussion and action at the 3 August 2020 regular monthly meeting of Post 512:

It is moved that the following actions (censure) for Brendan Sullivan (AKA Sully), Tom Doty and Clint Colby (?) be imposed, That from the date of reopening of the lounge; Brendan Sullivan (AKA Sully) and Clint Colby (?) are denied access for 4 months; Tom Doty is denied access for 12 months. Additionally, they will be placed on the "No Trespass" list with the Carmel PD.

- b) A general discussion of the rules for discussion and action was led by the commander, Brian Andrus.
 - i) This is a Legion item
 - ii) Discussion by legionnaires, but time could be given to SAL for comments.
 - iii) We will follow parliamentary procedures and "Robert's Rule".
- c) Discussion followed of how the motion was agreed to, what was the evidence and the exact charges; was there minutes of the executive committee meeting and will the be made available. John Tomkinson asked to have the minutes made available. The consensus of the board/leadership was that the actual discussion behind

closed doors of the Executive Committee were not for release. But the motion could be discussed in the meeting with questions asked and some answered. A motion open discussion and vote on the "Censure; was made and withdrawn. A motion to discuss how to proceed and what documents would be needed was made and withdrawn.

- d) A motion was made, seconded and passed to table this item pending release of more information (facts around the event and the charges and punishment). It was noted that the issue was now totally closed to any further discussion during this meeting. It was noted and confirmed by the SJA that prior to the motion to table the Censure could have been discussed, modified or dismissed.
- e) A discussion around the edges of the Censure followed,
 - i) The individuals involved are good folks, have been around for a long time and have contributed many volunteer hours to maintain the building in the past. Sai said that this could be a learning event that we could build on. John T. noted that we should support the AL Family as well as the SAL and that this action is the culmination of years of loose rules and even looser supervision and support. Marla yielded time to Tom D. (SAL) who suggested that we meet to talk and find a solution.
 - ii) It was decided that the following information would be provided to the members (legionnaires); The Charges (Motion to censure), a summary of the violation (what was done) and how the penalties were determined.
 - iii) Marla was going to be the go-between with the SAL to provide mitigating information from SAL and others that might want to be heard.

Discussion of cameras in the building followed. One member was very concerned about cameras and recording of audio and video, with regards to the audio it was noted by the Commander, Brian Andrus, that it could not be turned off Additionally the recording is secure and was not available to the general public. Brian stated that the cameras were there to protect the hall and some valuable artwork and not to spy on people. The adjutant noted that before the cameras there were instances of entry into the building at odd hours and someone was sleeping there. Additional discussion about the legality of recording in the building with or without audio followed. During this discussion a member issued an inappropriate statement in front of the Legionnaires and SAL members present. This member apparently agitated about the Post's current audio/video recording process and said to a fellow Legionnaire. "I ought to kick your ass." When he was asked to leave, he continued to issue unsuitable comments that were unbecoming of a Legionnaire or any member of Post 512. This type of

unacceptable behavior is covered under Article IV, Discipline of Post and Post Members. Full transcript logged by the Executive Committee.

- iv) A motion to remove all cameras on was made, seconded and failed to pass.
- v) The executive committee will investigate the legal issues around video and audio recording.

VII. Adjournment

Brian Andrus, Commander Post 512, adjourned the meeting at 2039 hours.

Minutes submitted by: Gerry Paratore

Minutes approved by: as read in the general membership meeting