

American Legion Post 512 Meeting Minutes

December 7, 2020

I. Call to order

Brian Andrus, Commander Post 512, called to order the regular meeting of the American Legion Post 512 at 1910 hours on 7 December 2020 at Post 512, Carmel, CA.

Introduction of guests:

Paul Brown - Department Adjutant

Dan Clay - District Commander

Natasha Pinedo – Area SAL coordinator

Paul Martin – Sqdrn 512 SAL Commander

II. Roll call

Roll call of the officers and/or board members was conducted. The following individuals present Brian Andrus, Richard Connelly, Anastasia Gonzales, Gerry Paratore and Mario Gonzales. With 4 members online and 6 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: \$14,356 total in all accounts.
 - (a) Total income for the month \$520 Total outlay \$1000. The post continues to burn through its reserves.
 - (b) We applied to National for impact funds for Posts with a grant of up to \$1000. We received \$1000.
- (2) Membership report: 11 cards processed

- (3) Ways and Means: With the proposed county closure, Friday openings will be cancelled. The post is soliciting donations to support ongoing expenses until we can reopen.
- (4) Facilities report: Light out over the hall door. Needs replacement.
- (5) Service officer report: Jimmy Burke, SAL member, was released from hospital care and is now at home. Members are encouraged to visit.
- (6) Correspondence to the post:
 - (a) Carmel City recognized Post 512 in the efforts to restore and maintain the WWI monument in a proclamation read by the Mayor.
 - (b) The bell in the WWI monument was cleaned which removed its patina. No physical damage was done to the bell. Richard Kreitman, Sqdrn 512 SAL member, is working to restore the patina.

V. Old business:

- a) A discussion was had about our annual events calendar and who is traditionally in charge of each event. Generally, turn out to meeting is minimal and so is participation in planning and organizing. Consequently, just a couple of members end up planning everything. It was suggested that we pull together all the events into one document, develop a planning guide and establish a POC for each event – Sent to the Executive Committee for action.
- b) With the closure of the Hall, Christmas dinner will be cancelled. We will investigate piggybacking with Carmel Foundation.
- c) Buddy Check month coming up. The officers will make calls to member in the month of December

VI. NEW Business:

- a) The Post has been offered a \$2000 matching grant which can be used for operating costs. Qualification Requirements for the grant: submit the charter/by-laws, submits organizational “Code of Conduct” and submit proof of “non-profit status. The executive committee created an Organizational “Code of Conduct” at the last meeting and submitted for the grant. The grant was approved.
- b) The executive committee approved “Code of Conduct” was presented to the membership at the December meeting. There was discussion about where it came from, why it was developed and whether it needed to be approved in the general membership meeting. The consensus of the executive committee was that creating

the “Code of Conduct” was within the purview of the committee as outlined in the current By-laws.

- c) An outline for SAL/AL management was read. It included the creation of a SAL advisor to work as a go between to coordinate actions, convey information and voice concerns of both the SAL and the AL. It was noted that all the requirements set out in the document were either good management practices that will also apply to the AL or were specified in the Department Manual for the Post SAL Advisor. This created serious concerns from the SAL members present and some AL members that the current leadership was overreaching and exceeding its authority.
 - i) Guidance was supplied by both Paul Brown and Dan Clay. They both cautioned that we, SAL, and AL, work together and put the Mission first. We should look for the positive in what we do and work towards mutual support. The SAL is a program of the AL and needs to have a plan to support and sustain. But the Post needs to include the SAL in its planning. It was suggested that we slow down the process to allow the SAL to participate.
 - ii) A motion was made to authorize Gerry Paratore as the current SAL advisor to start coordination with the SAL on moving forward. The motion was seconded and approved without dissent.
- d) A question was raised from the floor about a budget for the post. Currently no budget is available or appears to have been developed. This will be sent to the executive committee for action.
- e) Boys state participation pins are available for last year’s candidates. The Americanism committee will plan to have them presented.

End of meeting blessing and the retirement of the POW Flag was completed

Brian Andrus, Commander Post 512, adjourned the meeting at 2015 hours.

Minutes submitted by: Gerry Paratore

Minutes approved by: as corrected 4 January 4, 2021