American Legion Post 39

Gilbert Arizona

General Meeting Minutes

Sept 6, 2022

Meeting convened at 1800 by Commander Bailey, a quorum was present and officer roll call was taken, with 13 members in attendance.

Guests:

* **Gregg Mullaly (Lynxx) – Bingo Machines**
  + Project started a few years ago. Gaming Dept didn’t like what we were doing. Raided a Post, went to court and won. Judge didn’t say the machines were legal or illegal. In 25 locations around the state.
  + Hearing next Friday, Sept 16th.
  + Post 107, Safford, Quartzite, Post 3, Post 109, installed.
  + We operate machines approved by AZ Gaming Commission.
  + Frank asked questions: We’d like 2 or 3 machines. Answer: We don’t like to install numbers that low. Safford (5 machines) for one week, made $5,400. Average checks between $1,500 to $6,000 per week.
  + Costs are: Bingo License (which we already have).
  + Has an ATM Machine but will deactivate, as we already have an ATM under contract.
  + Lynxx Lawyers will provide any and all legal representation in case of any raids, legal actions, etc.

**Minutes:**

* August 2022 Minutes:
  + Motion to accept, seconded, no discussion, voted, passed.

**1st Vice Ellis:**

* New members – 14, Transfer – 8
* Motion to accept all these folks into our Post, seconded, passed.
* 53.02% for this year (295 total)

**2nd Vice Barry:**

* Kitchen Calendar:
* July Kitchen report
  + Discussed kitchen report
  + Income $1,233.00
  + Expenses $1,880.49
  + Profit
  + Profit/Loss YTD now $(647.49)

**Finance Officer/Treasurer Ken Skwirtz:**

* Currently working on the PPP Debt Forgiveness.
* Will be submitting for Mission Blue Grant this week.
* We will have to generate funds for post improvements.
* Beginning of June we have since paid approx. 6k in repairs.
* Roughly 24k for architecture. Engineering and so forth.
* We paid approx. 37k in utility, cleaning, direct tv, APS, Town of Gilbert fee’s

**Service Officer:**

* **Wayne resigned. Rick Shoemaker will assume position of Service Officer.**

**Chaplain Jim Paplaczyk:**

**HEALTH & SICKNESS**

**OPENING PRAYER**

Almighty Father, we pray for your guidance as we meet as comrades and friends of The American Legion. Be with us as we meet our commitments as members of this great organization. Guide our hearts and our minds as we work together for God and country.

In your name we pray. Amen.

**CHAPLAIN REPORT**

I visited Henry (AL) Williams. He is in St. Joseph Hospital & Medical Center, 350 W. Thomas Road, Phoenix, AZ; building 3 East, Room 10. He is unable to speak because of breathing apparatus but seemed happy to have a visitor.

Jerry McBee was released from the ICU and is recuperating at home. When I spoke to him he said to pass on to his brothers and sisters that “This ol’ goat is as ornery as ever”.

Dr. Dan DeSantis had triple bypass surgery and has been released from the hospital and is recuperating at home. I get regular updates from Evelyn on his progress.

Please keep these brothers in your prayer for a speedy and full recovery.

**CLOSING PRAYER**

Let us depart in peace, love, and charity with our neighbors. May we be joined together in the common goal of service to our God and our country; and may God’s blessings be with us all.

In His name we pray. Amen.

**Color Guard:**

* Sept 18, 0700 Flag Retirement
* Color Guard is out of the darkness now.
* Working with Boy/Girl Scouts on Flags, etc.

**Committee Reports:**

* Queen of Hearts – $8,600 (11 cards remaining). Next drawing Sep 12, 2022 1900 hrs.
* Bingo - doing well
* Christmas for Kids – Need help for 2022. Already collecting for this program. Looking to collect about

$1,000 per month prior to this event. Member of the Post gave a $1000 donation to Julio this week. They wish to remain un-named.

* Looking for volunteers to take over Gilbert Days.
* 50/50 – doing good. Money going to Christmas for Kids.
* Dog Tag Campaign
* Flags for First/Second Graders. Fred says it will start up beginning of new year.
* Boys State – Julio has done well on 50-50. Money now going to Christmas for Kids (June to Aug). Doug waiting on info from local schools on how many boys were sent.
* Building Committee – Mike Bailey wants to chair this. Met in March and prioritized projects, are getting (preliminary quotes). First effort is Bar and Floor in that area. Coming up with a Fund Raiser to pay for this. Next up are Bathrooms and Binko Machines. Also Gazebo and Storage Shed. Commander wants to meet to get these going.
* Veterans Advisory Board Jr. JROTC Program – we donated for one cadet, but did not use the money. Mike will bring up what to do with the money not used during next E-Board Meeting.
* Packages for Troups: Start Oct 1 (Julio). Send around the first part of December. Dec 3 at 0900 we’ll package her at the post.
* Tech Committee – met last month/week. Projects in discovery phase – Website.
* New Shed out back.
* Re-doing the tables on the Patio.
* Bar – getting quotes.
* Bingo Machines -

**Old Business:**

* Copier – paid the buy-out to give the copier back. We are buying our own copier – Saving us over $400 per month.
* Building Remodel – Commander wants to meet with committee members and get things moving. Back Patio, etc., is dead at the moment.
* Storage Unit emptied. Remaining things are in Aux locker.
* First Saturday – building cleanup.
* Meeting guy about the Bar this week.

**New Business:**

* Billy Ellis paid (during Convention) $18 for Post 39. We need to pay him back.
* Flag Fund Raiser – Mitch will make an American Flag that will hang Dog Tags inside the Stripes. Could bring in $17K.
* Red Tee-Shirt – State 48 – we’re looking to design a Shirt for Post 39. Fund raising effort for Christmas for Kids.
* Wally – 100 Club -
  + Golf Tourney
* Used Toyota we can upgrade and sell.

**Good of the Legion:**

* Audit Committee – Finance Officer cannot lead this group. Mike Bailey, Leslie, Frank and Andrew. Meet before E-Board meeting and report. Not much going on at the moment but setting a meeting with CPA. Having a tough time finding someone.
* Audit Fund Raising –
* There will be Boys State this year. Doug has not received all info yet. (Doug)
* Finance Committee Chaired by Ken Skwirtz. Establish budgets. Need volunteers.
* Six new chairs outside. Did the top of the table outside.
* Burn Pit Law passing. Any Vet who served and was affected by this will get compensated eventually.
* Vet Advisory Board attended Ribbon Cutting for Cider Bar opening here in Gilbert.
* VA giving COVID Booster.

We need the following positions:

* Tax Officer – recommended by Finance Officer, Commander has final say. Form 9
* GET INVOLVED WITH YOUR POST. WE NEED VOLUNTEERS.
* ATTEND THE GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETINGS.
* Post 39 is a member of the Gilbert Chamber of Commerce.
* Trying to get the Fire Suppression System approved by Town of Gilbert. So far, no cost to the post.
* Leslie concerned about money going out and no fund raisers.
* Newletter – haven’t posted one in two years. Wants to email blast the Newsletter to all members.
* Jr ROTC Events –
* Veterans Advisory Board – starts back in August. Need volunteers.
* Building committee – met with city this morning. Need a budget for the projects.

**Adjourned at 1900 by Commander Bailey.**