



The American Legion
Duane Ellsworth Post 129
Department of Arizona
22246 S Ellsworth Rd, Queen Creek, AZ 85142



GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING MINUTES Saturday, January 17, 2026

Meeting called to order at 1000 by Commander Craig Barnes.

Chaplain's Prayer given by Asst Chaplain Louis Clark

POW Ceremony performed by Sergeant-At-Arms Huxley Madeheim

Pledge of Allegiance given by ALL

Preamble of Constitution of The American Legion given by ALL Members

Roll call of Officers

Present: Craig Barnes, Post Commander; Robert Keller, Finance Officer; Huxley Madeheim, Sergeant-at-Arms; Steven Cain, Adjutant; Imre Kertesz, Service Officer; Robert Bartlemay, Judge Advocate; Members-at-Large: Louis Clark, Donald Ayers and Scott Sossaman.

Not Present: Shawn Sunnarborg, Vice Commander; Peter Anello, Chaplain; Members-at-Large: Dennis Walker, Bruce Fraser and Charles Ridgeway.

Quorum of officers met

Introduction of guests:

New members introduced themselves

Reading of Minutes

Adjutant Steven Cain read the minutes from the November 15, 2025, general membership meeting. Ken Wilson motioned to accept the minutes as read, Robert Barlemay seconded. No discussion. All agreed.

Adjutant Steven Cain read the minutes from the November 15, 2025, executive board meeting.

Officer Reports

Vice Commander – Membership: Report given by Commander Craig Barnes

- 1) Post has 447 members; 278 members paid for 2026 (90.0% of goal of 310); 20 new members, 22 PUFL, 171 renewals, 243 members not yet paid for 2026; 6 transfers out, 27 transfers in since July 1, 2025.
- 2) Donald Ayers motioned to accept the following applicants as new members of the post: Michelle Naegeli, Michael Sweeney, Cameron Weeda, Joel Ingham, Vincent Ferretti, William Engelstad, John Woody, Isaiah Garfias, Preston Crupe, Michael Busquaert, Orbra Simser, Kevin Harper, Thomas Bottini, Duane LaKose, Daniel Richardson, Jeff King, Steve Littrell, Jay Duarte, and James Oliphant. Motion was seconded by Scott Sossaman. No discussion, all agreed.

2nd Vice Commander – Events: Report given by Commander Craig Barnes.

- 1) Provided details on previous events.
- 2) Queen of Hearts continues every Monday evening at TC's Pub and Grub. Our average is rising every now every week. Jackpot is almost to \$5,000.
- 3) Post 129 is organizing a Cornhole Tournament on March 7, 2026, at QC Junction Café (Canyon State Academy) to support new equipment for their kitchen and for our post programs.

Finance Officer: Report given by Finance Office Robert Keller

Service Officer: Report given by Service Officer Imre Kertesz

- 1) Service officer had nothing new to report.

Chaplain: Chaplain Peter Anello is excused, report given by Commander Craig Barnes.

- 1) Sick Call: Chaplain Peter Anello caring for his wife, Cherie, who is continuing to recover from multiple strokes. Shawn Sunnarborg's wife went back into hospital after knee surgery. Please keep them in your prayers. Please keep anyone experiencing sickness and/or troubles in your prayers.

Committee Reports

- a) Honor Guard – Report given by Donald Ayers
 - Still looking for more members to join.
 - Guard is certified. Waiting for more members to join the Guard so they can be included in the National Cemetery rotation.
- b) Sons Squadron 129 – Report given by Vince Davis
 - Jeff Brown install as Squadron Finance Officer. Rick Noem installed as Squadron Sgt-at-Arms.
 - Replacing signers on SAL bank account.
 - Looking for opportunities for community involvement/service.
 - Looking for more members/participation.
- c) Boys State/ALLECA - Report given by Commander Craig Barnes
 - Communicating with local high schools for potential participants.
- d) Junior Shooting Sports: No report.
- e) Riders Chapter 129: No report.
- f) Off-Road Riders: Report given by Louis Clark
 - Going on a ride after the meeting. Anyone is welcome to join in.
- g) Scouting: No report.
- h) Oratorical: Report given by Commander Craig Barnes.
 - Local Oratorical competition will be held February 7. Help is needed!

Correspondence – None

Videos

- No video, technical difficulties

Old Business – None

New Business

- a) None

For the Good of the Legion

- Commander Craig would like to start holding “trailer training” to teach members how to set up and run the trailer at events.
- Resuming Food Truck Fridays next door. Help is appreciated.

Meeting adjourned at 1101.

Next Meeting will be on February 21, 2026, at 1000.

Respectfully submitted on January 21, 2026

By Steven Cain, Adjutant