



The American Legion  
Robert F. McDermott Post 309  
P.O. Box 884  
Helotes, Texas 78023



## General Membership Meeting May 08, 2025 Minutes

A general meeting of The American Legion, Robert F. McDermott Post 309 was held on May 08, 2025. The Commander being in the chair and the Adjutant being present, the meeting was called to order by Donato Rios, Post Commander at 7:00 pm.

**OPENING CEREMONY:** was conducted by Commander Don Rios

**ROLL CALL:** There were 19 total members in attendance and nine guests. A quorum was confirmed. **(Sign-in Sheets Attached)**

**20th DISTRICT FIREFIGHTER & EMT OF THE YEAR:** Helotes Firefighter and EMT of the year for Post 309 were both selected as winners at the 20<sup>th</sup> District convention and will represent the 20<sup>th</sup> District at the Department convention in July.

- **Joshua Smith** was recognized as the 20<sup>th</sup> District Firefighter of the Year with a certificate and plaque.
- **Cory Ramon** was recognized as the 20<sup>th</sup> District EMT of the Year with a certificate and plaque. (Award accepted by Helotes Fire Chief Scott Moreland)

Both individuals will be recognized at the Helotes City Council Meeting on May 22<sup>nd</sup>. If you are available, please show up (wear your garrison hat) and make the Post presence known.

**DRAPING OF THE CHARTER:** The Draping of the Charter Ceremony was performed for recently departed member **Jose Chavarria**, 17-year member (USMC) who was transferred to Post Everlasting.

**INITIATION/AWARDS:** Two new members were initiated into the post. New members are.

- **Harry Shouter**
- **Ed Bozek**

**MINUTES:** March minutes were previously distributed to members. Two typographical errors were noted. A motion to approve the minutes as corrected was made by Carlos Vela, seconded by Jose Cardenas. **Motion Approved**



## ELECTION OF 2025-2026 OFFICERS

- The adjutant announced two changes to the slate of officers.
  - Both **Richard Baldwin** and **Joe Young** withdrew their nomination for health reasons. Don Showmaker and Don Hammond volunteered to fill those positions respectively.
- A call for nominees was made with no further members stepping up. The current slate of officers is as follows:

<i>Position</i>	<i>Candidate</i>	<i>Position</i>	<i>Candidate</i>
Commander	<b>Donato Rios</b>	Chaplain	<b>Mark Ochoa</b>
1 <sup>st</sup> Vice	<b>Don Hammond</b>	Judge Advocate	<b>Scott Guller</b>
2 <sup>nd</sup> Vice	<b>Kelly Spicer</b>	Historian	<b>Robert Dieguez</b>
Adjutant	<b>Caros Vela</b>	Ex Committeeperson	<b>Karen Stark</b>
Finance Officer	<b>Johnn Carreras</b>	Ex Committeeperson	<b>Richard Baldwin</b>
Services Officer	<b>Randal Smith</b>	Ex Committeeperson	<b>Ron Allman</b>
Sgt at Arms	<b>Willis Gray</b>	Ex Committeeperson	<b>Ken Derr</b>

Carlos Vela made a motion that since there was only one candidate for each position, the commander direct the adjutant to cast a single vote for the slate of officers. 2<sup>nd</sup> by Scott Guller. Motion Approved

## REPORTS:

- **MEMBERSHIP: Robert Dieguez (Absent)**
  - We have met and exceeded our goals for this year We are currently at 121.01%, with 288 members. We needed an additional 24 NEW members to qualify for the Post Excellence Award; we recruited 29.
- **ADJUTANT: Ron Allman**
  - **Reports** – Consolidated Post report has been submitted to Department. The last report to be submitted is the post certification report.
  - New officers. I need you to see me after the meeting to provide information for the certification report.
  - Recently received mail:
    - \$180 from Department for online membership renewals
    - \$400 from Jupe Mills for the Color Guard
- **FINANCE: John Brouse (Absent)**The finance report was distributed prior to the meeting (**Report Attached**). Motion to approve the report made by Jose Carreras/2<sup>nd</sup> by Carlos Vela. **Motion Approved.**
- **CHAPLAIN: Mark Ochoa** Reminded members to reach out to the chaplain if they, or their family members are in distress and need help or prayers. This month we remember the following.
  - Jose Chavarria who passed away last Monday. To be buried at Ft Sam on May 15<sup>th</sup>.
  - Leon Portillo, Richard Baldwin, and Joe Young who are fighting health issues.



- **SERVICE OFFICER: Rand Smith**
  - Met with numerous veterans at Cornyval and provided support.
  - ROTC – Scholastic and Military Excellence Medals presented last month to Harland, O’Connor and Sotomayor High Schools(2 medals each).
  - **Boys State** – Processed an additional last-minute boy for Boys State. We now have 5 qualified and funded boys to send this year.

### **COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

- **EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE:** April 3rd Executive Committee minutes were previously distributed to members. A motion to approve the minutes was made by Carlos Vela, seconded by Jose Cardenas. **Motion Approved**

### **OLD BUSINESS:**

- **Memorial Day** – The commander announced that our Post will be participating in a joint Memorial Day celebration with VFW Post 7108 to honor our deceased veterans. The ceremony will be held on May 24<sup>th</sup>. The ceremony starts at 1000 and will include a reading of departed post veterans. State representative Josey Garcia and a Bexar County Commissioner will be in attendance. There will be food afterwards (Hamburgers and Hot Dogs). You are encouraged to come out with our VFW brothers and sisters to honor and remember our fallen comrades.
- **Cornyval** -
  - We were able to have a booth at Cornyval for all 4 days in spite of the rain and T/Storms on Thursday and Friday. Thanks to John Brouse (and Stephanie), Rand Smith, Robert Dieguez, Don Shomaker for the setup and manning of the booth.
  - We signed up 11 new members during Cornyval.

### **NEW BUSINESS:**

- **TEXAS HB 5144** – Unaccredited Disability Claims. The commander read a message from District Commander Eric Mayer, highlighting • Texas HB 5144. The aim of the bill is to stop the predatory practice of claim sharks preying on vulnerable veterans. To make your voice heard, Names and phone numbers at the capital are available. See the Commander after the meeting.
- **Oratory** – Ron Allman has stepped up to lead the effort for the post to conduct its first ever oratory contest next year. He will be looking for volunteers to help. Details to follow.
- **Memorial Day Roll Call** – To be held at Ft Sam with the reading of over three Thousand names. Our own Bill Gray is the POC for this activity. Don Rios has volunteered to help. If you would like to get involved, contact Bill Gray.
- **3<sup>rd</sup> Division Conference** – will be held May 30-Jun 1, 2025, at Post 245 in Seguin. Carlos Vela and Don Rios will be attending. If anyone else desires to go, see Don Rios ASAP.



## **GOOD OF THE ORDER:**

- **AMERICAN LEGION RIDERS**
  - Texas State Rally last weekend
  - New Officers Elected
    - Director: Ed “Lucky” Ybarra
    - Asst Director: Kenneth “Cap’n Dirt” Derr
    - Treasurer: Danny “Pudge” Hernandez
    - Secretary: Yolanda “Mudslide” Ochoa
- **AUXILIARY:** Served a Memorial Day meal of Brisket with all the trimmings to meeting attendees. It was delicious!
- **SCOUTS**
  - Barbara Breazeale reported that scouting numbers are up.
  - Troop 401 is up to 76 scouts with new members being new to scouts (not crossovers)
  - This summer there will be 14 scouts doing the ranger program locally.
  - Sea based program in June in Florida for a week on a sailboat.
  - The 2<sup>nd</sup> adventure will be in Philmont where the scouts will ride and care for donkeys in addition to other challenges.
  - Recently completed a local camp out.
  - They had a booth at Cornyval.

**GUEST SPEAKER:** Agnes Trimbell, Texas 4H Shooting Sports Ambassador, who spoke on what the 4H has to offer in their various Shooting Sports programs.

**CLOSING CEREMONY:** was conducted by Commander Don Rios

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

- The next meeting of Post 309 will be held on June 12<sup>th</sup> where the 2025–2026-year officers will be installed.

There being no further matters of business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:11 pm by Don Rios, Commander.

Respectfully submitted,

Ronald Allman, Adjutant  
American Legion Post 309  
Helotes, Texas



The American Legion  
 Robert F. McDermott Post 309  
**SIGN-IN SHEET**  
 08 May 2025



<i>Initials</i>	<i>Name</i>
	Addison, Edward N
	Allen, Billy W
<i>[Signature]</i>	Allman, Ronald M
	Ambrosino, Rose
	Andrews, Mary C
	Angeles, Manuel
	Armijo, Albert
	Arnett, Alesa D
	Arnett, Mark E
	Atchison, Knowles Y
	Babb, Mike
	Badillo, Daniel
	Baldwin, Richard
	Barclay, Charles Jr
	Benninger, Michael D
	Bergstedt, Kurt E
	Blackwell, John
	Blancas, Mario J Sr
	Bleier, Michael S
	Boatman, Thomas R Jr
	Bojar, Kevin
	Bomhack, Thomas L
	Bonaparte, Christina
	Bowden, James
<i>[Signature]</i>	Breazeale, Barbara A
	Breazeale, Joshua W

<i>Initials</i>	<i>Name</i>
	Bridges, Robert
	Brouse, Jason P
	Brouse, Jesse
	Brouse, John A Jr
	Bryant, Joe K
	Buckley, Brian D
	Bumgardner, William K
	Calton, Dallas A
	Camacho, Luis A
	Caputo, Richard W
<i>[Signature]</i>	Cardenas, Jose R
	Cardenas, Luis G JR
	Carlton, John R
<i>[Signature]</i>	Carreras, John J
	Carter, Wayne M
	Chavarria, Jose V
	Chavez, Gilbert
	Chesterfield, Hilton
	Christy, Robert
	Coe, Tony
	Conway, Garry
	Correa, Angel
	Cuellar-Garcia, Mario B
	Dalton, Joel B
	Dalton, Linda S
	Dalum, Elizabeth A

**SIGN-IN SHEET**



08 May 2025

<i>Initials</i>	<i>Name</i>
	De La Rosa, Marco
	De La Rue, David
	Demaree, James
	Denn, John
	Dennis, Timothy A
<i>MS</i>	Derr, Kenneth W
	Dieguez, Linda D
	Dieguez, Robert R
	Domke, Warren E
	Donnelly, John E
	Donner, Laurence M
	Duarte, Martin G
	Dudley, Charles "chuck"
	Estlack, Joe
	Field, Charles
	Fierro, Norberto
	Flores, Aaron H
	Flores, Gerald
	Foersterling, Martin
	Foley, Brian
	Foley, Philip A
	Fonseca, Amy
	Galvan, Roberto
<i>MS</i>	Garcia, Alejandro
	Garcia, David J
<i>MS</i>	Garcia, Eric
	Garcia, Miguel
	Gearhart, Norris H
	Geist, Robert D

<i>Initials</i>	<i>Name</i>
	George, James R
<i>MS</i>	Gilmore, Larry J
	Gilmour, Michael A
	Glazier, Paul C
	Gober, Jamie L
	Goguen, Donna L
	Golightly, Kenneth
	Gonzalez, James P
	Goodspeed, Fred E
	Gordon, Donald J
	Graham, Emanuel C
	Graham, Kenneth W
	Gray, Margarita
	Gray, Willis
	Gray, Willis E III
	Griffin, David W
	Guerra, Daniel L
	Guerra, Jorge J
	Guerrero, Gwendolyn Nicole Leon
	Guerrero, Rodney Ramon Leon
<i>MS</i>	Guller, Scott
	Guzman, Jesus
	Hale, James M
	Hamilton, James D
	Hampton, George
	Henry, Richard A
	Hernandez, Danniell A JR
	Hernandez, Danniell Anthony SR

**SIGN-IN SHEET**



**08 May 2025**

<i>Initials</i>	<i>Name</i>
	Hinshaw, Donald L
	Howard, Phillip A
	Jasso, Arnulfo
	Jermunson, Deborah L
	Jewell, Jeff
	Johnson, Grant E
	Johnston, Robin R
	Joiner, Michael David
	Jordan, Mark D
	Juarez, Mike
	Kantor, Martha E
	Kantor, Michael A
	Keller, Gail D JR
	Kephart, John M
	Killpack, Shiela
	Killpack, Reese
	Knowland, Ollie
	Kottwitz, David
	Kowald, Barry C
	Larin, Moris
	Lewis, Stephen I
	Llamas, Oscar Jr
	Lojewski, David
	Long, Kenneth
	Lucas, Chris
	Maldonado, Dan Jr
	Mandato, Dominick
	Manning, Lori J
	Manrique, Madeleno

<i>Initials</i>	<i>Name</i>
	Martin, Rodger L
	Martinez, Jesse J
	Martinez, Pedro
	Maynard, Judy
	Maynard, Ken
	Menard, Michael R
	Mendoza, Marcos
	Meuse, Richard J Sr
	Meyer, Andrew
	Miller, Carolann
	Miller, Chris
	Miller, Ernest
	Miller, Marvin L
	Miller, Paul E
	Mitchell, Chevana
	Moralez, Eric
	Moralez, Nicolas
	Morrow, Raymond C Jr
	Murphy, Ned K
	Nedelin, Dmitry
	Nelson, Elisha Jr
	Obiedo, Adrian
<i>MO</i>	Ochoa, Mark JR
	Olmo, Edward
	Parks, Ronald
	Peterson, Alan L
	Portele, Michael A
	Portillo, Leonilo
	Quates, Lisa L

**SIGN-IN SHEET**



**08 May 2025**

<i>Initials</i>	<i>Name</i>
	Raymond, Carlos A
RP	Rendon, Guadalupe "coach"
	Rendon, Jose
	Rich, Curtis R
	Ridenour, Jessica H
DR	Rios, Donato Jr
	Rivas, Lee M Sr
	Roach, Delius L JR
	Roeth, Charles
	Rogers, Daniel E
	Rundquist, Robert
	Ryan, Richard P
	Salas, Richard R
	Sanders, Craig P
	Sawyer, Thomas F
DS	Scepanski, Dave
	Scepkowski, William
	Schmitt, Deric Scott
	Scott, James
	Shafer, William R
	Shaw, Gary L
	Sherman, David B
	Shipp, Leslie N
	Showmaker, Donald
	Slania, Kyle
	Smelt, Brittney
	Smith, Bernard C Iii
RM	Smith, Rand M
	Smith, Walter R

<i>Initials</i>	<i>Name</i>
	Sonnichsen, Cade
	Sothorn, Joel B
KS	Spicer, Kelly C
KS	Stark, Karen M
	Stengel, George (Dick) J (Dick) JR
	Stephenson, Mark W
	Stout, Roy W
	Surber, Olen A
	Tamayo, Jose R
	Theil, Joachim Herbert Erich
	Thompson, Robert W
	Toole, James P
	Torres, Daniel
	Tschirhart, Kerry
	Uribe, Javier E
CV	Vela, Carlos
	Vardeman, Bobby B
	Velasquez, Jose A
	Verdoza, Monica
	Vinton, Paul
	Viola, Steven P
	Wayt, Daniel A
	Webb, Gary K
	Webber, Rolando S
	Weiss, Harry (Dave) D
	Wells, Nathan
	West, Robert J JR
	West, Robert J SR
	Williams, Scott F

**SIGN-IN SHEET**



**08 May 2025**

Initials	Name
	Wydra, Mark
	Ybarra, Eduardo
	Young, Joseph M
	Bozek III, Ed J
	Brett, Jeremy J
	Carmona, Michael
	Riganad, Garrett M
	Ludwick, Jeffrey
	Ludwick, Judy H

Initials	Name
	Ortiz, Josue
	Ortiz, Toni
	Ortiz, David A
	Hadden, John E
	Johnson, Chris R
	Ramirez, Angelica A

Guests / Visitors <i>(Please Print)</i>	Organization <i>(If Applicable)</i>
JOHN FERRELL	MEMBER
Yolanda Ochoa	Auxiliary
Agnes Trimble	4-H guest
Loulee Trimble	4-H guest
<u>POST 1000</u> HARRY SCHOLTEU	
OMAR OCHOA & BETH	OCHOA GUESTS
Hammond Don	Life Member 309

**SIGN-IN SHEET**

08 May 2025



Guests / Visitors <i>(Please Print)</i>	Organization <i>(If Applicable)</i>
JOHN F Josh Smith	Helotes Fire
Dean Newman	Helotes Fire
Scott Moreland	Helotes Fire
FR. ROBERT GUERRA	HUB Mission

# Robert F. McDermott Post 309

## Financial Report

### Statement of Activity

For The Month Ending  
April 30, 2025

<b>Beginning Balance</b>	<b>\$ 11,345.69</b>
<b>Deposits and Credits</b>	<b>\$ 1,573.93</b>
<b>Withdrawals and Debits</b>	<b>\$ 2,675.10</b>
<b>Ending Balance</b>	<b>\$ 10,244.52</b>

### Available Cash

For The Month Ending  
April 30, 2025

<b>PNC Bank Checking Account</b>		<b>\$ 10,244.52</b>
<b>Unrestricted</b>	<b>\$ 6,104.31</b>	
<b>Restricted</b>	<b>\$ 4,140.21</b>	
Wreaths Across America	<b>\$ -</b>	
Sons of The American Legion	<b>\$ 1,504.76</b>	
Boys State	<b>\$ 1,595.45</b>	
Color Guard	<b>\$ 1,040.00</b>	
<b>Cash Drawer</b>		<b>\$ -</b>
<b>TOTAL CASH ON HAND</b>		<b>\$ 10,244.52</b>

# Robert F. McDermott Post 309

## Financial Report Details

For The Month Ending  
April 30, 2025

### Deposits and Credits

Membership Dues	\$	43.68
Wreaths Across America Sponsorships	\$	100.00
Boys State Donations	\$	1,097.25
General Donations	\$	333.00
<b>Total Deposits and Credits</b>		<b>\$ 1,573.93</b>

### Withdrawals and Debits

Membership Dues - National & Department	\$	160.00
Child Welfare Foundation Donation	\$	240.00
Meeting Supplies - POW-MIA Chair Cover replacement	\$	20.94
Firefighter and EMS of the Year Awards - plaques	\$	167.03
Boys State Delegate Registration and T-shirts	\$	1,840.00
Helotes Cornyval Booth	\$	117.24
Commander's Discretionary -capital purchase 10'X10" patriotic canopy	\$	129.89
<b>Total Withdrawals and Debits</b>		<b>\$ 2,675.10</b>

**NOTE: Reason membership dues received total less than \$45 per member is because memberships paid onsite, such as Market Days, with a credit or debit card is done through The Square account which charges a fee per transaction. The transaction fee is 2.6% plus 10 cents if the card is swiped or contactless with the chip and 3.5% plus 15 cents if the credit card or debit card number is manually entered.**