

General Membership Meeting Veterans Memorial Post 347 American Legion Lady Lake FL January 14th, 2026

At 5:33 pm, Commander Musser called the meeting to order. The meeting opened in good order with a roll call from officers showing a quorum present.

PSO Maria Alexander, MAL Ries, Historian Wince – Excused

VIPs

1. Joan Suelter – Eastern Area Commander
2. Ed Falkowski– SAL Eastern Area ALR Chairman
3. Mike Seidel – Past District 6 Commander, Past Post 347 Commander
4. David Musser – District 6 Commander
5. Tina Charney Burgess – District 6 Historian
6. Rob Burgess – District 6 Adjutant

Minutes

- Executive board minutes from Dec 19th & Jan 6th, 2026, were sent to the members of the Executive Committee.
- General membership minutes from Dec 10th, 2025, were posted on the Website.

**A MOTION was made to accept as posted the General Membership Meeting Minutes by Joan Suelter
SECONDED: Dan Martin No Discussion APPROVED**

Finance: Bob Irvine

American Legion Post 347
Preliminary Income Statement
Year to Date (Fiscal Year July 1 - December 31)

| Profit & Loss Statement | Year-to-Date December 31, 2025 | Year-to-Date December 31, 2024 | \$ Change | % Change |
|------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|------------|----------|
| Gross Revenues Less Direct Expense | \$360,713 | \$337,146 | \$23,567 | 7.0% |
| Operating Expenses | (\$285,700) | (\$272,812) | (\$12,888) | 4.7% |
| Income from Operations | \$75,013 | \$64,334 | \$10,679 | 16.6% |
| Community Services | (\$89,856) | (\$37,997) | (\$51,859) | 136.5% |
| Community Services | (\$14,843) | \$26,337 | (\$41,180) | -156.4% |

American Legion Post 347
Preliminary Income Statement
AS OF December 31

| | As of December 31, 2025 | As of December 31, 2024 |
|--------------------------------|----------------------------|----------------------------|
| Short-Term Assets: | | |
| Operating Cash | | |
| Petty Cash | \$15,600 | \$16,500 |
| Operating Account | \$242,275 | \$193,599 |
| Membership Account | \$133,512 | \$254,727 |
| Total Operating Cash | \$391,387 | \$464,826 |
| Other Current Assets | \$45,766 | \$45,581 |
| Total Short-Term Assets | \$437,153 | \$510,407 |
| Long-Term Assets: | | |
| Reserve Bank Account | \$950,473 | \$744,959 |
| Other Assets | \$4,701 | \$4,701 |
| Property & Equipment (net) | \$2,262,004 | \$2,302,467 |
| Total Long-Term Assets | \$3,217,178 | \$3,052,127 |
| TOTAL ASSETS | \$3,654,331 | \$3,562,534 |
| TOTAL EQUITY | (\$3,654,331) | (\$3,562,534) |

**A MOTION to accept the finance report for audit by John Gorsuch SECONDED: Mike Haynes
NO DISCUSSION APPROVED**

1st Vice: Tina Burgess

- We are currently at 86.35 % with 5,523 members renewed for the 2026 Membership Year, we were at 77% last year.

| New | xfers | FL 400 | Reinstate | Total |
|-----|-------|--------|-----------|-----------|
| 39 | 26 | 8 | 0 | 73 |

| Ave birthdate | Jan 14, 2026 | Jan 8, 2025 |
|---------------|---------------|---------------|
| 3/10/1957 | 86.35% | 79.71% |

| Army | Navy | Air Force | Marine Corp | Coast Guard |
|------|------|-----------|-------------|-------------|
| 25 | 20 | 16 | 11 | 1 |

- New Members were welcomed into Post 347

2nd Vice: John Gorsuch

- Feb 14th AYCE breakfast. Post 347 World War 2 and Korean veterans, and children under 12, eat for free.
- Dental Clinic in Clearwater offers FREE dental care for veterans with a DD214
- National Veterans Golden Age Games, June 2026, Tampa Fl
- Super Bowl Party Sunday, Feb 8th, Drink specials, Kitchen open 5:30 till Halftime, 50/50 every hour.
- There is now an AED at the Driving Range

3rd Vice: Dan Martin

- 152 hours

Judge Advocate: No Report

Post Service Officer – JB Alexander

Contacts: 34 Hours: 60.5 Miles: 248

December 2025 PSO Report

| | |
|--|---|
| Category of Assistance provided | Total contacts (including tele-meetings) - 34 |
| Eleven (11) Seeking increase in % of disability | |
| Four (4) New disability Claims | Total volunteer hours - 60.5 |
| Twelve (12) Other asst. (tax prep, ID Card info, burial) | |
| One (1) Gallbladder Cancer Test Follow-up | Alexander PSO out of state 23-30 Dec. |
| Six (6) Family member of Vet Assistance | |
| | Total Miles Driven - 248 miles |
| Referrals | Events |
| Fifteen (15) handled by PSO | 18 hours at Post for info (Tuesdays) |
| Nine (9) Sumter Co VSO | Alexanders out of state 23-30 Dec. |
| 0 - Lake County VSO | no info table on 30 dec |
| Five (5) DAV VSO | |
| One (1) Marion County VSO | Submitted By: J.B. & Maria Alexander, PSO |
| Four (4) - pending | |

Honor Guard: Joan Suelter

- 6 Events in November: 2 funerals (1 Bushnell, 1 Local); 1 meeting; 1 Color Guard; 2 Community service
- 2,940 Miles and 375 Hours.

Office: Don Hart

- Staffing is at or near 100%.
- Token program is running smoothly
- Tuesday evening hours will close at 5 pm.

Lounge: Beth Musser

- Total December Lounge income: \$39,486.10
- Expenses: \$29,332.11
- Net Profit: \$10,153.99
- Volunteer (\$1,924.00) and Honor Guard (\$118.50) beverages: \$2,042.50
- Volunteer hours: 1,458.5

Kitchen: Rob Burgess

- December Volunteer Hours: 635
- Income for December: \$11,234.00 Cost of Goods: \$4,227.60
- Total Profit: \$7,006.40
- Total Number of meals served: 2,098. Volunteer meals served: 287.
- December Breakfast: 420 Meals sold, Income: \$3,360; Cost of Goods: \$770.96; Profit: \$2,589.04
 - Free Meals: Honor Guard (6); Korea (6); ROTC (7); Kids (4) & Volunteers (18)
- General Membership Pizza: \$83.86
- Hall Rentals for January: 2
- During Shutdown we hired an agency to deep clean the kitchen. It looks great.

- Every Kitchen Crew needs to **Sweep** and **Mop** after their shift

Auxiliary: Ruth Sovern

- The Auxiliary continues on its fast track to 100 percent! We are currently at 90.2%, with 2,563 renewed of 2,823.
- The Auxiliary had an extremely busy holiday season and would like to thank our volunteers, our members and our community for their continued support through all of our Programs.
- As a family, we were able to supply significant food staples along with holiday meals for Thanksgiving and Christmas to 100 families. Each family received enough food to last throughout the entire school holiday! We received an abundance of donations this year which really helped stretch our dollar.
- The Auxiliary Angel/Bell Tree Program provided gifts to more than 150 children/seniors and several families in need. We also hosted 60 local Toys for Tots volunteers as a "thank you" for all the work they put into our local Toys for Tots program.
- Over the next several weeks, the Auxiliary will be focusing on the following Programs:
 - The Auxiliary is once again co-hosting the Lady Lake Mock Student Town Commission Meeting on Thursday, January 29, 2026, at 9:30am at the Lady Lake Town Hall. This is a part of our Education Program. The students are 7th grade civic students. They actually play the roles of the Mayor, Chief of Police, Parks/Rec Manager, HR Manager, and each of the respective Commission seats. The students write proposals on how to make Lady Lake a better place to live. It is interesting and fun to observe. Come on out and join us.
 - Girls State: We are sending 5 HS juniors up to Tallahassee this summer to participate in the Natl Program.
 - High School Scholarships: This year we are sponsoring 6 - \$5,000. scholarships for Leesburg & Villages HS.
 - Female Veteran Luncheon will celebrate our female veterans with a lunch on Monday, March 9, 2026.

Sons of the American Legion: Rob Burgess

- Our membership is a 795 renewed for 71.0% (Goal 1120).
- Valentines Dance on Saturday Feb 14th with Susie Costa performing. Ham and scalloped Potato Dinner. \$25PP. On sale soon.
- We are planning to go on Tuesday. March 31st to cook for Fisher House. This will be celebrating Vietnam War Veterans Day.
- Wreaths across America was successful and thanked the families for their participation. Son's have purchased wreaths for next year to take advantage of a discount.
- Family Golf Tournament Date: Saturday May 16th, Rain Date May 23rd. location is Broad Stripes at Stonecrest. On sale Tuesday Feb 3rd and office after. \$ 100 per person. We will have a two-tiered scoring format to allow a better chance of winning a prize. Pays first two places in each tier.

American Legion Riders: Linda Haynes

- Miles – 9,096 Hours – 1,436
- Totals for 1st six months: Miles – 99,388 Hours – 15,884
- Wednesday lunch rides continue to be well attended and well received.
- Riders continue to work in the kitchen and welcome all volunteers.
- Christmas Raffle was a huge success; all were excited by their prizes.
- Challenge Coins are to be available for \$10. Purchase one at the front desk or from one of the Chapter Officers.
- Our active membership stands in the 70's. Membership renewal is well under way.
- Lastly, We will be participating in the escort for the National Commander's Visit.

Post Everlasting: Lisa Johnson

- Chaplain offered prayer and a moment of silence for the following:

- Robert Colby, John Gizzi, Fernand Thomassy, James Scott, James Taylor, John Callahan, Edward McManus, Dai Jones, Donald Glynn, John F Roberts, Everett Allen

Unfinished Business

- Packard Raffle: A 1941 Packard fully restored that's going to be raffled as soon as the tickets are printed. The tickets are going to be \$25 each, five for 100 and the drawing will be on Memorial Day. This raffle supports Bushnell National Cemetery monuments.
- Post rekeyed – We've got approval to get that done, but we haven't sat down to figure out what keys are going to go to what doors.
- Hall Update: We will have a wall with all of the war eras, and memorabilia will be associated with each war.
 - For the leaders the families, go ahead and pick out your top four plaques that you want to display on the wall, and we're just going to keep it a straight line across.
- Pavillion: I visited with Lady Lake today, and they are streamlining the procedure for us. We have to do the site survey and get that to the city, within days, they said we'll be able to move forward with construction.
- Silent Disco Party: Feb 26th here at Post 347 from 5:30 – 8:30. One DJ (Scooter the DJ) multiple music channels. Wireless headphones for all. \$20pp and all proceeds support Bushnell National Cemetery monuments.

New Business

- \$2,500 for (5) Boy's State candidates
- Donation to Marion Therapeutic Riding Association (MTRA)
 - A MOTION to donate \$2,500 for Marion Therapeutic Riding Association by Barbara Kyle**
 - SECONDED: Ellen Tierney NO DISCUSSION APPROVED**
- Donation to Outdoor Valor
 - A MOTION to donate \$2,500 for Outdoor Valor by Jim Stasse SECONDED: Don Hart**
 - NO DISCUSSION APPROVED**
- Donation to Lady Lake Soccer, this will be the annual donation as opposed to the biannual donations we've given in the past.
 - A MOTION to donate \$2,500 for Lady Lake Soccer by Joan Suelter SECONDED: Heath Davenport**
 - NO DISCUSSION APPROVED**
- \$700 for a new computer for the Commander's Office. The desktop in there died.
 - A MOTION to donate \$700 for Commander Office Computer by Wayne Rodgers**
 - SECONDED: George Youngs NO DISCUSSION APPROVED**
- Donation to National Commander's Charity, Veterans & Children Foundation
 - A MOTION to donate \$5,000 for National Commander's Charity, Veterans & Children Foundation by Tina Burgess SECONDED: Mike Seidel NO DISCUSSION APPROVED**
- Donation to Florida Department Commander's Charity, Special Olympics
 - A MOTION to donate \$5,000 for Florida Department Commander's Charity, Special Olympics by Dan Martin SECONDED: John Gorsuch NO DISCUSSION APPROVED**

Donations:

- \$1000 from Anthony Maniscalco in support of our efforts to care for Veterans.
- \$300 from Tone Ranges
- \$100 from Larry & Cheryl Johnson

Correspondence:

- Thank you letter from Bahia Shrine Project for our donation.

Good of the Legion

- NO OPEN CARRY in the post
- Volunteer of the Month Susan Duncan
- Breakfast – Feb 14th 7 – 11 am
- PTSD Awareness Sponsored by Outdoor Valor combined with the VA Open House, more to follow.
- We need committee members to help plan for the Sunshine State 250 Showdown on the 4th of July 2026. It may seem far away, but we need to start planning for America’s Semi-quincentennial Birthday.
- Eastern Area Commander Joan Suelter discussed the ‘Eastern Area Military Ball’ is now a hoedown. on March 21, 2026 in Titusville Fl at Post 0001.
- Boy Scout Troop 113 is having a Spaghetti Dinner Sunday, Feb 1st, 11:30 – 3:00 Drive thru or Sit Down \$8.

With no further business to come before the Executive Committee, the meeting was closed in good order.

Time Adjourned: 6:35 pm.

Respectfully submitted,



Robert C Burgess, Adjutant
Jan 15^h, 2026