

GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING
Veterans Memorial Post 347
American Legion
Lady Lake FL
February 12, 2025

At 5:32 pm, Commander Musser called the meeting to order. The meeting opened in good order with a roll call of officers showing a quorum present. Absent were Mike Haynes and Wayne Rodgers who were attending the Legion Riders Summit in Orlando.

Commander introduced VIP's: Joan Suelter-6th District Commander, Mike Seidel-Past Post Commander, John Gorsuch-Past SAL Eastern Area Commander, Danny Roe-6th District SAL Commander.

READING OF THE MINUTES: Due to the length of the General Membership minutes, and being posted to the website for availability, the Adjutant requested the Minutes to be accepted as written.

MOTION TO ACCEPT: Lealie Yeates **SECONDED:** Pete Carston No Discussion **Motion passed.**

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MINUTES: With each member of the Executive Committee receiving a copy of the minutes via email and with no corrections or additions, the minutes are accepted as written.

FINANCE: Bob Irvine

Bob gave a Year-to-Date summary as of January 31, 2025.

Preliminary Income Statement

| | Jan 31, 2025 |
|--------------------------------|--------------|
| • Gross Revenue less Expenses: | 410,887 |
| • Operating Expenses | (317,997) |
| • Community Services | (43,363) |
| • Net Income / (Loss) | 49,537 |

Preliminary Balance Sheet

| | Jan 31, 2025 |
|------------------------|--------------|
| • Petty Cash | 16,500 |
| • Reserve Bank Account | 744,959 |
| • Total Assets | 3,738,804 |

A MOTION to accept the finance report for audit: John Gorsuch SECONDED: Dan Martin APPROVED

1st VICE: Tina Burgess

- A total of eighty-eight new members joining Post 347: 62 New-25 Transfers-1 Reinstatement. All Names were read into the minutes.

Tina Burgess made a **MOTION** to accept these new members. **SECONDED: Jim Stasse No Discussion**
Motion passed.

All the new members were gathered for a group photo and were given an opportunity to introduce themselves.

Commander Musser welcomed the new members and stated that this is their post and to get acquainted with the rules and information. Get involved. Volunteer. He encouraged them to check the website for updates.

- This was the largest intake of new members since Tina was First Vice Commander.
- Nine female veterans are with this group.
- The average birth year is 1958. We are slowly getting younger.

2nd VICE: John Gorsuch

- Breakfast on Saturday, March 8th from 7-11 am. All Post 347 WW II and Korean war Vets eat free. Children under twelve will eat for free. Blood Mobile will be here. Donate a pint, eat for free.
- Volunteers are needed for Sunday, February 16th for set up of the Vietnam War Commemoration Ceremony on Monday, February 17th.
- Vietnam War Commemoration on February 17th. All Vietnam Vets who attend will receive a Vietnam Veteran lapel pin. The dates are inclusive from 11/1/1955-5/15/1975. We will have a two-star General and Colonel visiting and handing out certificates and lapel pins.
- Charter Research will sponsor a lunch and greet on Dementia studies on February 14th at 12 noon.
- Purse Bingo has SOLD OUT.
- The Village Honor Flight is sponsoring a concert on March 2nd at 6 pm. Tickets are \$10.
- The American Legion Family charity golf Tournament is on May 17th at Broad Stripes Country Club.
- We are looking for a volunteer to run the Saturday Breakfast starting next October. Jim Dollins is stepping down.

3rd VICE: Dan Martin

- Report for January:
 - Hours-215
 - Picked up 5 30-gallon bags of yard debris.
 - Replaced three outside lights.
 - Performed routine maintenance of all refrigeration equipment.
 - The golf cart died. It turned out to be a module and it was covered under warranty.

POST SERVICE OFFICER-JB and Maria Alexander

- JB explained that they are a resource for veteran’s needs. They will be available every Tuesday in the lobby from 3:30-6:00 pm. We will not be available on February 25th.
- There have been a lot of changes to Disability qualifications. If you were rejected in the past, see us and resubmit an application.
- New ID cards. We will assist you in obtaining the new card.

Report Submitted:

- 6- Seeking increases in percentage of disability.
- 4- new disability claims
- 7-Other assistance (tax prep, ID card info, etc.)
- 4- Referrals overseen by PSO.
- 5-Sumter County VA 5-DAV
- 1-Marion County 2-Lake County

HONOR GUARD: Commander John Gorsuch.

| | | | |
|--------------------|---|----------|---------------|
| | Honors Funerals (1) | FNC 1 | Local-0 |
| | Total Events (5) | Post-3 | Community13 |
| Total hours (370) | Funerals-90 | Post-190 | Community-90 |
| Total miles (1296) | Funerals-1200 | Post-69 | Community-300 |
| | Total membership-49 | | |
| | Volunteers are needed. Please consider. | | |

LOUNGE: Rob Burgess

- Net profit for the lounge-\$31,033.
- Del-Phis are coming in on Friday, February 14th.
- Four new premium wines are being promoted.

KITCHEN: Harriet Turnbull-Report submitted.

- November Volunteer Hours-787
- Income for the month was \$18,938. Cost of Goods: \$7,951
- Total Profit: \$10,987.
- Saturday breakfasts sold-396. 2 WW II, & Korea Vets and approximately twenty-five workers.
- National Commander's Dinner: \$2,159
- General Membership Pizza: \$105.
- February hall rentals: seven
- We are understaffed and could use more volunteers. Also, I need an Assistant Manager. As of today, I am short 2 weeks for a fryer and 1 week for a grill man. I am heavily relying on our current volunteers to step up and our snowbirds, who will be leaving before you know it.
- CHARTER RESEARCH: Luncheon will take place on February 14th. 12 Noon.

AUXILIARY: Tina Burgess gave the report

- Membership: 2,593 paid for 99.5%.
- We have completed the Girls State applications process. Five delegates and five alternates were selected. The selections were from The Villages and Leesburg.
- Women Veterans Luncheon on March 10th. Our new women veterans are invited. Heath Davenport will be the guest speaker.

SONS OF THE AMERICAN LEGION: Danny Roe

- Membership: 1014 members for 95.6% of goal of 1061.
- Volunteer hours-580.
- We recently had our Valentines Dance. Jersey Frank did an excellent job in entertaining.
- Family Golf Tournament: Saturday, May 17th (due to a date conflict) at Broad Stripes Country Club. (formally Stonecrest). Four-some's are \$95 pp. Thanks for the Family support again this year. If anyone wishes to serve on the committee, let me know. Will sell out fast. There are about ten four-some's left.
- Bud Boyer was taken to the hospital, and he had cardiac triple bypass surgery. He is doing well.

Commander's Comment: There is a big jar sitting on the office window. The post has purchased a foursome for the golf tournament. Each member is encouraged to enter by filling out one ticket. We will have a draw for a foursome and you will golf for free.

LEGION RIDERS: Report given by Sherri Ward.

- Miles-9,233 Hours-1,332
- Membership voted to have prospective members ride three times with the chapter prior to bringing before the membership for a vote.
- Riders will continue to work in the kitchen on the 1st, 3rd, and 5th Sunday.
- Wednesday lunch rides are well attended. We continue to participate in funeral escorts when requested. We had thirty riders for today's lunch ride.
- Fund Raiser: Spring Fling with Scooter the DJ on April 12th. More information will be forthcoming. Tickets will be on sale soon.
- The Rider Summit will be held on February 12-15 and will be in Orlando.
- Tickets for the District 6 \$25,000 voucher for a new or used bike are ongoing. Tickets are \$20 each or six for \$100.
- The Annual Poker-Run will be held on February 22nd. We expect to host members of other Chapters at that time.
- Membership stands at 73 active members.
- You can also be a supporter of the Riders.

CHAPLAIN-Lisa Johnson

Post Everlasting: George Andrus, Johnnie Davis, William Gardner, Miles Johnston, William Mann, James McClellan, Albert McGibney.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

- Vietnam Veterans Commemoration-February 17th at 10:00 am. Ready to go. We will have a four-star general and will observe proper protocol. 180 veterans and ten surviving spouses.
- PURSE BINGO-SOLD OUT.

DONATIONS

- A letter request from Lady Lake Youth Soccer for \$5,000 for Spring and Fall seasons.
 - A MOTION to approve this donation was made by Dan Martin. SECONDED: Mike Seidel.
No further discussion. MOTION PASSEDThe Judge Advocate stated that this item was tabled and was submitted in error. This will be held in abeyance and resubmitted at March's meeting.
- The Lady Lake Parks Department has requested a donation of \$7,500, for fireworks.
 - A MOTION to donate \$5,000 to Lady Lake Parks Department was made by Joan Suelter.
SECONDED: Robert Corillo. DISCUSSION: We operate the golf driving range along with the Lions and generate high incomes and that is why we are generous with donations. MOTION PASSED
- A donation request from AMVETS Post 2006 for \$200 to sponsor their Softball team at Continental Country Club.
 - A MOTION was made to donate \$200 to Amvets Post 2006, which was made by Mike Seidel.
SECONDED: Jim Dollins No further discussion APPROVED

NEW BUSINESS

- Nominations for Office: Commander, 1st Vice, 2nd Vice, 3rd Vice, Finance, Chaplain, Sgt at Arms, Historian, Members at Large (4). The Adjutant, Post Service Officer and Judge Advocate are appointed.
- Nominating Committee: Pete Carston and Ellen Tierney. The Committee duties start 120 days out from the election, which is held in May. Nominations from the floor may be made in March and April's general membership meeting. Three nominations submitted: Commander, Finance and Member at Large. Interested in running for office? You must see Pete or Ellen and fill out the nomination form. If not here for nomination, you must submit a letter stating that you will accept the nomination.

CORRESPONDANCE

- New Life Christian Church-Thank you letter or providing medical equipment and assistance in getting to Indianapolis.
- St. Paul AME Church-Thank you letter for the convection oven and range from the kitchen.
- We donated to Combat Vets to Careers, on Route 44, all the old chairs.
- St. Jude Hospital for Children-donation request. (Already donated)
- American Cancer Society-Donation request (2x) (Already donated)

GOOD OF THE LEGION

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

Time Adjourned: 6:27 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Philip R. Crouthamel

ADJUTANT

February 12, 2025