

# General Membership Meeting Veterans Memorial Post 347 American Legion Lady Lake FL April 8<sup>th</sup>, 2026

At 5:32 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, MAL Haynes – Excused

## VIPs

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Joan Suelter – Eastern Area Commander</li> <li>2. Ed Falkowski– SAL Eastern Area ALR Chairman</li> <li>3. David Musser – District 6 Commander</li> <li>4. Tina Charney Burgess – District 6 Historian</li> <li>5. Rob Burgess – District 6 Adjutant</li> <li>6. Ed Freeman – Lady Lake Mayor</li> <li>7. Bill Lawrence – Lady Lake Town Manager</li> <li>8. Sherriff Pat Brennan – Sumter County Sheriff</li> <li>9. Cp Austin McConnell – Sumter County Sherriff</li> </ol> | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>10. Chief Steven Hunt – Lady Lake PD</li> <li>11. Deputy Chief Jason Brough – Lady Lake PD</li> <li>12. Lt Allen Greene – Lady Lake PD</li> <li>13. Charles Gehrsitz – Lady Lake PD</li> <li>14. Michael Tisdell– Lady Lake PD</li> <li>15. Lt Jason Wells – The Villages FD Station 51</li> <li>16. William Turner – The Villages FD Station 51</li> <li>17. Daniel Hayasaka – The Villages FD Station 51</li> <li>18. Ellis Secola – The Villages FD Station 51</li> </ol> |
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## Minutes

- Executive board minutes from Apr 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2026, were sent to the members of the Executive Committee.

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

- General membership minutes from Mar 11<sup>th</sup>, 2026, were posted on the Website.

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

## Finance: Bob Irvine

**American Legion Post 347**

| Preliminary Income Statement       |                                |                                |            |          |
|------------------------------------|--------------------------------|--------------------------------|------------|----------|
| Profit & Loss Statement            | Year-to-Date February 28, 2026 | Year-to-Date February 28, 2025 | \$ Change  | % Change |
| Gross Revenues Less Direct Expense | \$526,284                      | \$490,166                      | \$36,118   | 7.4%     |
| Operating Expenses                 | (\$382,354)                    | (\$361,823)                    | (\$20,531) | 5.7%     |
| Income from Operations             | \$143,930                      | \$128,343                      | \$15,587   | 12.1%    |
| Community Services                 | (\$116,592)                    | (\$51,092)                     | (\$65,500) | 128.2%   |
| Net Income (Loss)                  | \$27,338                       | \$77,251                       | (\$49,913) | -64.6%   |

**American Legion Post 347**

| Preliminary Income Statement   |                      |                      |
|--------------------------------|----------------------|----------------------|
| AS OF February 28              | As of Feb 28, 2026   | As of Feb 28, 2025   |
| <b>Short-Term Assets:</b>      |                      |                      |
| Operating Cash                 |                      |                      |
| Petty Cash                     | \$15,600             | \$16,500             |
| Operating Account              | \$275,805            | \$236,530            |
| Membership Account             | \$147,404            | \$261,437            |
| Total Operating Cash           | \$438,809            | \$514,467            |
| Other Current Assets           | \$37,344             | \$37,222             |
| <b>Total Short-Term Assets</b> | <b>\$476,153</b>     | <b>\$551,689</b>     |
| <b>Long-Term Assets:</b>       |                      |                      |
| Reserve Bank Account           | \$969,000            | \$744,959            |
| Other Assets                   | \$4,701              | \$4,701              |
| Property & Equipment (net)     | \$2,247,004          | \$2,287,467          |
| <b>Total Long-Term Assets</b>  | <b>\$3,220,705</b>   | <b>\$3,037,127</b>   |
| <b>TOTAL ASSETS</b>            | <b>\$3,696,858</b>   | <b>\$3,588,816</b>   |
| <b>TOTAL EQUITY</b>            | <b>(\$3,696,858)</b> | <b>(\$3,588,816)</b> |

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

## 1<sup>st</sup> Vice: Tina Burgess

- We are currently at 95.34 % with 6,104 members renewed for the 2026 Membership Year, we were at 90.8% last year.

- New Members were welcomed into Post 347

| New | xfers | FL 400 | Reinstate | Total |
|-----|-------|--------|-----------|-------|
| 23  | 7     | 8      | 1         | 39    |

| Ave birthdate | Apr 9, 2026 | Apr 9, 2025 |
|---------------|-------------|-------------|
| 1/27/1960     | 95.34%      | 90.80%      |

| Army | Navy | Air Force | Marine Corp | Coast Guard |
|------|------|-----------|-------------|-------------|
| 15   | 10   | 10        | 4           | 0           |

## 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice: John Gorsuch – No Report

## 3<sup>rd</sup> Vice: Dan Martin

- 174 hours
- A/C system has been serviced

## Judge Advocate: Heath Davenport – No Report

- Behave yourselves

## Post Service Officer –JB Alexander

Contacts: 49    Hours: 66    Miles: 212

- Maria attended the veteran suicide prevention class, six hours of an Ocala this past month.
- Our cry for help was answered. We do have someone new coming on board, and we're very lucky, I believe, to be bringing on board Mike Haynes. Mike's going to go to the training in June, but with his background I feel that we're very fortunate to be able to have Mike come on board with us, to assist in our job here.

### March 2026 PSO Report

| Category of Assistance provided                           | Total contacts (including tele-meetings) - 49            |
|---|--|
| Ten (10) Seeking increase in % of disability              |  |
| Seven (7) New disability Claims                           | Total volunteer hours - 66                               |
| Five (5) - ID's, request for records, computer help       |  |
| Eight (8) - Caregiver, DIC, Axillary                      |  |
| Fourteen (14) - Community outreach, other legions, burial |  |
| three (3) pending   | Total Miles Driven - 212 miles                           |
| <b>Referrals</b>  |  |
| Eighteen (18) handled by PSO                              | <b>Events</b>  |
| Nine (9) Sumter Co VSO                                    |  |
| Fourteen (14) - Lake County VSO                           | Attendance to Veteran Suicide Prevention Class - 6 hours |
| Two (2) Marion County VSO                                 |  |
| Two (2) - DAV VSO   |  |
| One (1) - Webster   | Submitted By: J.B. & Maria Alexander, PSO                |

## Honor Guard: Joan Suelter

- 9 Events in March: 3 funerals; 4 meeting; 1 Training Color Guard; 1 Community service
- 5,860 Miles and 585 Hours.

## Office: Don Hart

- Staffing is at an acceptable level. We have two (2) new volunteers in training.
- Volunteer Hours: 154

## Lounge: Beth Musser

- Total March Lounge income: \$50,986.00
- Expenses: \$24,488.96
- Net Profit: \$26,497.04
- Volunteer (\$2,993.00) and Honor Guard (\$222.00) beverages: \$3,215.00
- Volunteer hours: 593

## Kitchen: Rob Burgess

- March Volunteer Hours: 1228
- Income for March: \$25,295.00 Cost of Goods: \$10,454.08
- Total Profit: \$15,140.92
- Total Number of meals served: 2,420. Volunteer meals served: 329.
- March Breakfast: 467 Meals sold
  - Free Meals: WWII (1);Korea (1); ROTC (9); Kids(0) & Volunteers(24)
- General Membership Pizza: \$71.88
- Hall Rentals for April: 2

## **Auxiliary: Tina Burgess**

- Membership renewal is 104 percent!
- Jo Linda Spear is our current Volunteer of the month.
- Maureen would like to thank all the volunteers that helped make the 32nd annual Female Veteran Luncheon a success! We honored about 75 female veterans. Our guest speaker was American Legion Department of Florida Commander Jessica Moore.
- Maureen would also like to thank everyone for donating their costume jewelry for the Leesburg Middle School Mother's Day Project. The school has reached its jewelry quota early. We do not need any more jewelry at this time.
- In April, we will begin signing people up to help us distribute Poppies. May is one of the Auxiliary's Annual Poppy Distribution days. Poppies are distributed on/or around Memorial Day as a way to honor and remember our fallen warriors who willingly served our nation and made the ultimate sacrifice for our freedom. Friday, May 22, 2025, is our designated Poppy Distribution Day. Stay tuned for more details over the next few weeks at the Queen of Hearts, Bar Bingo and our General Membership meetings.

## **Sons of the American Legion: Rob Burgess**

- Membership: 1102 renewed/new/transfer 98.4% of (Goal 1120)
- Total S.A.L. volunteer hours, 505.
- Fisher House visit on Tuesday, March 31st to cook for them celebrating Vietnam War Veterans Day. It was a great success 11 people went from the S.A.L. We served the house and several workers from the Veterans Hospital. Thanks to Family for donations of Burgers and Brats.
- Family Golf Tournament Date: Saturday May 16th, Rain Date May 23rd. location is Broad Stripes at Stonecrest. On sale Tuesdays and in the office. \$ 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. We are also raffling a quilt donated by Honor Flight and a Grill donated by Lowes on 466 A. Thanks to all the family for your support. We are taking singles, doubles, and triple sign-ups to make up 4 person teams
- Save the Date. Halloween Party will be on Saturday October 31st. Tight Jeans are performing. Valentines Party will be on Saturday, Feb 13<sup>th</sup>, Suzie Casta will be back performing

## **American Legion Riders: Robert Stepnowski**

- Miles – 8,512 Hours – 1,822
- Wednesday rides will transition to breakfast rides this month. The rides are well received and well attended.
- 20 Riders participated in the Blessing of the Bikes at New Covenant United Methodist Church on March 25th. Senior Pastor Harold Hendron provided us with a history lesson regarding the Blessing of the Bikes and did a wonderful job praying over us and our bikes for protection and safety.
- Riders have fielded a foursome to participate in the SALS Golf Tournament in May.
- Riders continue to work in the kitchen 1<sup>st</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup>, and 5<sup>th</sup> Sundays.
- Challenge coins remain available for \$10 and may be purchased at the front desk or from one of the Chapter Officers.
- Sales for the Lottery Board are ongoing Drawing will be April 11<sup>th</sup> at the 2<sup>nd</sup> Saturday Breakfast.
- We are pleased to host the In-State Unity Riders on April 22 at Post 347. We expect approximately 50 riders for dinner. Several of our riders will be representing our Chapter at this fund-raising ride. This is the in-State Unity Ride and monies raised will go to PROJECT Vet Relief's Suicide Prevention Initiative.
- Membership, including 10 support members, stands at 89.

## **Post Everlasting: Lisa Johnson**

- Chaplain offered prayer and a moment of silence for the following:
- PEL: Jerry Clawson, Donald Maehlenbrock, Ike Mediate, John Miloy Jr, Ralph Rawson, Donald Scherwat, Fred Weiss, Stanley Bukowski, Harry Franklin, Michael Rodriguez, Glenn Allen, James Mohan, Frank Gallo, Edward

Lawhon, Ronald Blanchard, Lewis Smith, D Wayne Laranjo, Frank Caruso, Jay Hance, William Holmes, Marvin Kanak, James Proud, John Daly, Harry Jacobs, Glen Augustine, Edward Baran, Thomas Koscelnik, Edward Metz, Andrew Rauwerda, Thomas McCulla, John Skipper, Raymond Lebrun, Robert McCourt, Marshall Grillo, Randall McIntyre, Nicholas Vaream, Victor Voner, Robert Greenough, Howard Bauder, Farrow Kuhn, Leo Soldner, Robert Primo, Charles Wheeler

- Sick Call: Danny Boone, Sam Huff, Jim Arnold, Ron Monet

## Unfinished Business

- Pavillion: The guy that was going to do the survey for \$3,450 or whatever it was, has not returned my calls.
- Nominations Close. Elections will be May 13<sup>th</sup> 11am – 1 pm and %:30 pm during the General meeting. Following is the Slate of Candidates:

### 2026 - 2027 Slate of Candidates

|                                      |                    |                        |                       |
|--------------------------------------|--------------------|------------------------|-----------------------|
| <b>Commander</b>                     | --- Tina Burgess   | <b>Sgt-at-Arms</b>     | --- John Gorsuch      |
| <b>1<sup>st</sup> Vice Commander</b> | --- Tony Gibson    | <b>Historian</b>       | --- No Nominee        |
| <b>2<sup>nd</sup> Vice Commander</b> | --- Barbara Kyle   |                        | --- Maria Alexander   |
| <b>3<sup>rd</sup> Vice Commander</b> | --- Matthew Tinnin |                        | --- Michael Capozzoli |
| <b>Finance Officer</b>               | --- Robert Irvine  | <b>Member at Large</b> | --- Wayne Rodgers     |
| <b>Chaplain</b>                      | --- Larry Miller   |                        | --- Michael Haynes    |
|                                      |                    |                        | --- Wayne Rodgers     |
|                                      |                    |                        | --- Ellen Tierney     |
|                                      |                    |                        | --- James Gillespie   |

## New Business

1. Donation to support school medal program.

**A MOTION for \$850 with \$250 for each high school winner, \$50 for each eighth-grade winner, and \$25 for each fifth-grade winner by John Gorsuch SECONDED: Wayne Rodgers NO DISCUSSION APPROVED**

2. Donation to support the Town of Lady Lakes ‘Big Bang’ fireworks display on Jun 27<sup>th</sup> for their 4<sup>th</sup> of July Celebration.

**A MOTION for \$7,500 to support the Town of Lady Lakes ‘Big Bang’ fireworks display on Jun 27<sup>th</sup> by Heath Davenport SECONDED: Barbara Kyle NO DISCUSSION APPROVED**

3. Donation to support the new Sumter County Sherriff’s Charity Golf Tournament.

**A MOTION for \$500 to support the Sumter County Sherriff’s Charity Golf Tournament by Robert Roybal SECONDED: Ellen Tierney NO DISCUSSION APPROVED**

4. Donation to support the Project Vet Relief in connection to Unity Ride in April.

**A MOTION for \$500 to support Project Vet Relief to be awarded at Unity Ride stop at Post 347 by Robert Stanziola SECONDED: George Youngs an Amendment was made to raise the amount to \$1000 by Wayne Rodgers, Robert Stanziola who made the original motion agreed to revise his original motion to \$1.000 support Project Vet Relief to be awarded at Unity Ride stop at Post 347 and was SECONDED again by George Youngs NO DISCUSSION APPROVED**

## Donations:

- Dr Karen and Art Guty donated about a ton of food for our Veterans.
- \$200 from Norman Cedarstrom

## Correspondence:

- Thank you for support of Arbor Day Program

## Good of the Legion

1. Volunteer of the Month Jo Linda Spears
2. Last Breakfast – Apr 11<sup>th</sup> 7 – 11 am with Bloodmobile, a request has been made for more support.

3. Apr 9<sup>th</sup> – Mega Bingo doors open at 8:30 am
4. Apr 15<sup>th</sup> – Eli Lilly Seminar “Your Brain Matters. 4 – 5:00 pm
5. Apr 22<sup>nd</sup> the Unity Ride will stop here.
6. Apr 24<sup>th</sup> – Annual Vet Expo 9 am – 3 pm
7. Apr 25<sup>th</sup> – Community Shred from 9 – 11:30
8. May 28<sup>th</sup> – 31<sup>st</sup> Remember our Fallen
9. There are two opportunities to see the traveling Vietnam Wall in Florida.
  - a. April 23<sup>rd</sup> to 27<sup>th</sup>: Crystal River Harley Davidson, 1147 S Suncoast Blvd, Homosassa FL.
  - b. May 3<sup>rd</sup> to 11<sup>th</sup>, Wickham Park, 2500 Parkway Dr, Melbourne, FL
10. Apr 15<sup>th</sup> the Honor Flight Mission 70 returns with entertainment at 9:30pm and Busses expected by 11pm
11. May 24<sup>th</sup> 2026: Flag placement beginning at 9am at Bushnell National Cemetary section 625
12. May 20<sup>th</sup> & 30<sup>th</sup> America Rocks will be presented at Seabreeze Center. Tickets are \$10 with proceed supporting our Color Guard as the head to defend their title this summer at the National Convention in Kentucky.
13. We a still looking for help planning the BIGGEST and BEST 4<sup>th</sup> of July celebration. Please see Tina Burgess to help support this effort.

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

Time Adjourned: 7:02 pm.

Respectfully submitted,



Robert C Burgess, Adjutant  
Mar 12<sup>th</sup>, 2026