

GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING
Veterans Memorial Post 347
American Legion
Lady Lake FL
April 9, 2025

At 5:30 pm, Commander Musser called the meeting to order. The meeting opened in good order with a roll call of officers showing a quorum present. Members at Large, Mike Haynes, Wayne Rodgers and Chaplain, Lisa Thomas were excused.

INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS & VIPS: Phil Crouthamel, Past Department Historian-John Gorsuch, Past SAL Eastern Commander-Danny Roe, District Six SAL Commander.

SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS

- **Marion Therapeutic Riding Association (MTRA)**
 - Provide equine therapy for people with mental and emotional challenges.
 - Provides veterans living with PTSD, TMI, Loss of limbs and other challenges from all over central Florida, including Lake, Marion, and Sumter County.
 - Assists veterans with physical and emotional balance, hand-eye coordination, and communication through therapeutic horse care, interaction, and horseback riding.
 - Offers programs to Veterans year-round because PTSD and other challenges do not take a day off. Veterans can also visit the horses, at any time for additional one-to-one interaction.
 - There is no charge to the veteran, and they do not turn away any veteran seeking equine therapy.
 - The cost is \$400 per veteran for an eight-week session. This covers the feeding and care of twenty specially trained horses, insurance and certified equine therapy instructors and trainers.

With us today is Catherine Sears, Executive Director, Lisa Boettcher, former Army Military Police and Afghanistan War Veteran and Pat Murrow, AL unit 347 Sgt-at-Arms and MTRA volunteer. Commander Musser presented a check for \$2,000 to cover the tuition for five veterans through an eight-week therapeutic session. Commander Musser stated that this will be an ongoing donation campaign.

- **Fifty Year Membership Certificates.**

Early each year, records are selected for every Legionnaire who qualifies for 50, 60, 70, 75, 80, or 90-year continuous membership certificates. This year, American Legion Post 347 will be honoring fifteen of our own and tonight we will be honoring two 50-year members.

Richard Ebaugh: U.S. Air Force, Accounting Specialist-Vietnam
Gregory A. Haas: U.S Navy.

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: Dave Musser **SECONDED:** John Gorsuch Motion passed.

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MINUTES: With each member of the Executive Committee receiving a copy of the minutes via email and not receiving any corrections or additions.

MOTION TO ACCEPT: Dave Musser
passed.

SECONDED: Ellen Tierney

Motion

FINANCE: Bob Irvine

Bob gave a Year-to-Date summary as of February 28, 2025.

Preliminary Income Statement

	March 31, 2025
• Gross Revenue less Expenses:	577,000
• Gross Income Statement	169,416
• Operating Expenses	(408,584)
• Community Services	(74,078)
• Net Income / (Loss)	86,339
Preliminary Balance Sheet	March 31, 2025
• Membership Account	262,153
• Total Short-Term Assets	743,802
• Reserve Bank Account	744,959
• Total Assets	3,773,430

A MOTION to accept the finance report for audit: Dan Martin **SECONDED:** Mike Haynes
APPROVED

1st VICE: Tina Burgess

- We have forty-three new members to welcome tonight. New-30 Transfers-12 Reinstatement-1
- Fellow members: We tried something new this month. The Executive Committee voted to process membership, sooner than later. It was our belief that once an application was submitted, a DD-214 submitted for our records, and membership dues collected, we should process and distribute cards as soon as possible. If there are no objections from the floor, the Commander will welcome our newest members.
- A group photo was taken, and each new member was invited to speak.
- Commander Musser welcomed our newest members. Commander Musser gave his welcome speech and urged all to make this your American Legion post.

2nd VICE: John Gorsuch

- We are having a "Shred Event" on April 26th. It is a free drive through. Two bank boxes is the limit.
- A reminder that the American Legion Family Golf tournament is on May 17th.
- Breakfast is on Saturday, April 12th from 7-11 am. All Post WW II and Post 347 Korean War Vets eat free. Children under twelve will eat for free. The Bloodmobile will be here. Donate and eat for free.
- Post elections are coming up.

3rd VICE: Dan Martin

- Maintenance Hours: 160
- Trim all the bushes.
- Pick five bags of leaves.

I am looking for someone to help with yard work, mowing, weeding, etc. for 10 hours weekly.

FRONT OFFICE No Report

POST SERVICE OFFICER-JB and Maria Alexander (JB gave a report)

They are an official resource officer to aid veterans in navigating the VA System. We have assisted fifty-seven veterans in the first three months of this year. Currently assisting a homeless female veteran out of Gainesville.

Category of assistance provided	%
• Eleven (12) seeking increase in % of disability	40.7%
• Two (2) seeking follow-up on current claim	7.4%
• Six (6) New Disability Claims	22.2%
• Four (4) Other assistance (tax prep, ID Card info, burial	14.9%
• Two (2) Pending	7.4%
• Two (2) No Response from Veteran	7.4%
Referrals	
• Five (5) handled by PSO	18.6%
• Fifteen (15) Sumter County VSO	55.5%
• Two (2) Lake County VSO	7.4%
• Two (2) DAV VSO	7.4%
• One (1) Marion County VSO	3.7%
• Two (2) Pending	7.4%

Total Contacts (Including Tele-Meetings) 27 Hours-52 Miles-243

JUDGE ADVOCATE-Heath Davenport

- The Post Constitution and By-Laws have finally been approved by the Department of Florida.

HONOR GUARD: Commander John Gorsuch

	Honors Funerals (4)	FNC 2	Local-2
Total Events (11)	Post-4	Community-3	
Total hours (524)	Funerals-297	Post-132	Community-95
Total miles (4169)	Funerals-3420	Post-449	Community-300
Total membership-47			

LOUNGE: No Report

KITCHEN: No Report

AUXILIARY: Tina Burgess gave the report

- Total membership stands at 105.9%.
- We will be looking for volunteers for distributing Poppies on Memorial Day.

SONS OF THE AMERICAN LEGION: Danny Roe

- Membership: 1081 members for 101.8% of goal of 1061.
- Volunteer hours-620.
- Family Golf Tournament: Saturday, May 17th at Broad Stripes Country Club (formally Stonecrest)
 - Four-some's are on sale now at \$95 per person. One team is left. Trying to get a singles team.
 - We are still looking for volunteers.
- Dine-to Donate at Culvers on route 466A, Thursday April 10th, 4-8 pm. Culvers will donate 10% of total proceeds to the SAL. Proceeds will benefit Children and Youth Programs.
- Special Olympics: The 2025 State Equestrian & Corn Hole Championships was held in Ocala on Friday, March 28th and Saturday March 29th. We had five (5) volunteers. It went well and it is worth the effort to help when the opportunity arises again.

- Scholarships are being awarded. The Committee met on Wednesday, April 2nd and voted to award \$20,200.

LEGION RIDERS: Linda Haynes

- Miles-13,810 Hours-2,923
- The In-State Unity Ride is April 6-12. This Rid will raise funds for Project Vet Relief. We have 8 Riders participating.
- Riders will continue to work in the kitchen on the 1st, 3rd, and 5th Sunday.
- Wednesday lunch rides are well attended. It will change to breakfast run as the weather gets warmer. We continue to participate in funeral escorts when requested.
- Fund Raiser: Spring Fling with Scooter the DJ on April 12th. Tickets are \$20 and are available on Saturday’s Breakfast and Wednesdays 12-2 at the Post.
- Membership stands at 75 active members.
- Lastly, the Riders are having the glass replaced in the display cabinet in the hall. The quote has been obtained, and we are in the process of scheduling a time for the repair.
- Any member of the Legion Family can join the Riders.

CHAPLAIN-Lisa Johnson-Absent

Ellen Tierney gave the report.
Post Everlasting

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

- Pavillion: Plans are in the works for the construction of a 40x60 foot Pavillion. ROMAC has drawn up the plans and will be setting the estimate. We must present it to the Lady Lake Council for approval. The location will take away thirty-four overflow parking spaces.

- **Final Nominations on the Floor for Office-April 9, 2025**

With no final nominations from the floor, the final slate of candidates is set.

COMMANDER	Dave Musser
1 st VICE COMMANDER	Tina Burgess
2 nd VICE COMMANDER	John Gorsuch
	Wayne Rodgers
3 rd VICE COMMANDER	Dan Martin
FINANCE	Bob Irvine
CHAPLAIN	Lisa Johnson
HISTORIAN	Bobby Wince
SGT-AT-ARMS	Janes Dollins
MEMBERS AT LARGE (4)	Anthony Gibson
	Mike Haynes
	George Ries
	James Stasse

The Adjutant, Service Officer and Judge Advocate are appointments. This list will be posted in the post.

- *With only one position being contested, the voting ballot will have only the 2nd Vice Commander position.*
- *The Voting will take place on May 14th from 11:00 am-1:00 pm and at the membership meeting that night.*

- You must have your membership card to vote.

DONATIONS

- A request from JVSC, at Florida National Cemetery, Bushnell for \$2,000 (Two Thousand Dollars) for the purchase of flags for placement on the graves.

Dan Martin made a MOTION to donate \$2,000.

SECONDED: John Gorsuch

No

Discussion

MOTION APPROVED

NEW BUSINESS

- A budgeted donation for \$20,000 for scholarship awards was brought before the membership for their information. Currently, we have twenty scholarship essays for consideration.
- Gold Star Family Project. We would like to donate a wall in the lounge. We are currently in the planning stages and would like to see the whole Legion Family participate. If interested in volunteering, please see Tina Burgess.
- We are looking for two (2) part-time short order cooks or the kitchen. This would allow us to open the kitchen more often. Please see the Commander for more information.

CORRESPONANCE

- St Jude Hospital donation request.

GOOD OF THE LEGION

- Ellen Tierney: The Honor Flight departed the post at 2:30 am and return later tonight by 11:00 pm. If you can, come back and welcome the flight home. We have three post members on this flight.
- Tina Burgess: A Letter of Endorsement for the High Office of Sixth District Commander for administrative year 2025/2026 was submitted by 1st Vice Commander, Tina Burgess for Post Commander Dave Musser for this office. The commander gave his thanks to the memberships for this endorsement.
MOTION to accept this endorsement: Tina Burgess SECONDED: Ellen Tierney
No Discussion MOTION APPROVED
- As per the By-Laws, John Gorsuch was permitted to give a five- minute speech on his qualifications for the office Of Post 2nd Vice commander.

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

Time Adjourned: 6:33 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Philip R. Crouthamel

ADJUTANT

April 90, 2025