

General Membership Meeting Veterans Memorial Post 347
American Legion Lady Lake FL
August 13, 2025

At 5:30 pm, Commander Musser called the meeting to order. Honor Guard Color Guard presented colors. The meeting opened in good order with a roll call from officers showing a quorum present.
Chaplain Johnson Absent

Minutes

- Executive board minutes from Aug 7th, 2025 were emailed to the members of the Executive Committee. They were accepted with minor revisions.
- General membership minutes from Jul 9th, 2025 were posted on the Website. They were accepted as posted.

Awards Tina / Joan

- Eastern Area Commander Joan Suelter presented two memorial resolutions certificates honoring past department Commander Phil Harrison from the National Executive Committee and Department of Florida to his family. Mrs Harrison and his great grandson expressed their thanks.
- 1st Vice Commander Tina Burgess presented to two of our members who reached 50 years of continuous American Legion membership. James Crocker and Randall Klatt were presented with a certificate honoring this accomplishment and it was explained they will no longer need to pay dues.

Finance: Bob Irvine

Preliminary Income Sheet as of July 31, 2025

- Gross Revenue less Expenses: \$56,787
- Operating Expenses (\$44,771)
- Community Services (\$16,540)
- Net Income / (Loss) (\$4,524)

Preliminary Balance Sheet as of July 31, 2025

- Total Short-Term Assets: \$631,449
- Reserve Bank Account \$750,473
- Total Assets 3,662,223

A MOTION to accept the finance report for audit by Dan Martin Seconded: John Gorsuch
No Discussion APPROVED

1st Vice: Tina Burgess

- We are currently at 48.83% for 2026 Membership Year, we were at 24.13% last year.
- For August, so far, we have 56 new, transferring members.
 - New: 29 Transfers: 25 Reinstate: 2
- All the new members present 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. There are all kinds of opportunities. He encouraged them to check the website for updates.

2nd Vice: John Gorsuch

- Presented the following, requesting we post the following.



3rd Vice: Dan Martin

- 178 hours
- My volunteer, Marybeth, is doing great. We've caught up with most of our preventive maintenance.
- Also, another member just started volunteering, his name is Glenn. He will work a couple of days a week.

Judge Advocate: Heath Davenport

- Behave yourselves.

Post Service Officer – JB and Maria Alexander

- Contacts: 27 Hours: 45 Miles: 140

JULY 2025 PSO ACTIVITY	
Post 347, Executive Board	
Category of Assistance provided	Total contacts (including tele-meetings) - 27
Ten (10) Seeking increase in % of disability	Total volunteer hours - 45
Three (3) New disability Claims	
Ten (10) Other asst. (tax prep, ID Card info, burial)	
Four (4) Galleri Cancer Test Registration	
	Total Miles Driven - 140 miles
Referrals	Events
Twelve (12) handled by PSO	20 hours at Post for info (Tuesdays)
Eight (8) Sumter Co VSO	
Two (2) Lake County VSO	
One (1) DAV VSO	
Four (4) Marion County VSO	
Submitted By: J.B. & Maria Alexander, PSO	

Honor Guard: Commander Joan Suelter

- 17 Events in July: 6 funerals (4 Bushnell, 2 Local); 8 meetings; 3 community service events
- 6,520 Miles and 814 Hours.

Office: Jim Stasse

- We have a lot of people on vacation, a lot of people injured and sick.
- We have three new people that are going to train.
- The office is open from 4 – 7pm every Tuesday, and we get a lot of people come in and renewing. You have until the end of the month to save \$10.

Lounge: Beth Musser

- Total July Lounge income: \$34,622.75
- Expenses: \$16,485.54
- Net Profit: \$18,137.21
- Volunteer (\$2,625.75) and Honor Guard (\$408.25) beverages: \$3,034
- Volunteer hours: 1487.5
- Announced upcoming Entertainment.

Kitchen: Rob Burgess for Harriett Turnbull (Working in Kitchen)

- June Volunteer Hours: 650
- Income for the June: \$13,880. Cost of Goods: \$5,429.25
- Total Profit: \$8,440.75
- Total Number of meals served: 1,556. Volunteer meals served: 275.
- General Membership Pizza: \$77.40
- Hall Rentals for August: 3
- Discussed need for weekly/monthly Deep Cleaning

Auxiliary: Tina Burgess

- Legion Family Food Drive. Carol did a great job organizing and coordinating. Maureen would also like to thank the American Legion family members and all our other community members for the food and cash donations we received.
 - The estimated value of the collected food is estimated to be at \$15,000
 - We also collected \$1,500 in cash donations. We voted to include another \$100 make it \$1600, we sent them each a \$400 check.
 - We had 29 volunteers on Sunday and eight volunteers on Monday.
- Renewals: Right now, we're at 23% renewals processed. Our memberships are \$40 until August 31 the seems to be working rather well. I think we've had a better response with \$5 off than a little red stamp generous spaghetti dinner somewhere.
- Started this week we will be in the lobby, Monday, Wednesday and Friday, from 12 to 3pm, processing the renewals, giving them their cards as soon as they come in works out real well. The last two Tuesday nights, we've done over 40 renewals each night.
- Oktoberfest is coming. It's going to be on September 28 it's going to be 5 – 9 pm in the post Hall.
 - We'll be serving unusual menu at Bratwurst, Jaeger schnitzel, German potato salad, red cabbage, spaetzle, cucumber salad, all the good stuff, and dessert.
 - Jonnell & the G Man have agreed to do it again for no charge, which helps us out.
 - There will be a lottery board and 50/50, tickets,
 - 200 Tickets will be going on sale Monday, August 18, Monday, Wednesday, Friday and on Tuesday nights, we're not going to ask the bartenders and the front office to sell them.

Sons of the American Legion: John Gorsuch

- Our membership is a little lower, over 100 renewed for around 10 to 11% not sure what our goal is just yet. Not sure why national hasn't put it out. So I don't really know what our goal is going to be, somewhere around 1117, give or take membership.
- Volunteer hours: 620
- Doug White is back, and doing well.
- Eatons Beach fireworks: July 4, we got \$1,350 for Special Olympics.
- We're sending one person to National Convention in Tampa this year and sending three people to fall conference in November and just FYI, the block is open for reservations.
- Tentative date for family golf tournament is going to be Saturday, May 16th, with the rain date of the 23rd
- Halloween party will be November 1st. Bill D Williams will be performing
 - \$25 per person. Dinner will be served.

American Legion Riders: Linda Haynes

- Miles – 15,484 Hours – 2,475
- Riders are preparing for the 2025 Legacy Ride. This ride will begin in Virginia and end in Tampa at the National Convention.
 - Family support is much appreciated.
 - We have 8 bikes and 2 passengers. They will ride approximately 1500 miles. That's an approximate.
 - On August 21st, we're attempting to put together maybe a car pool of folks to go and greet them in Dunellen as they pull into the last gas station. I'll get more information about this.
- Wednesday breakfast rides continue well and are well attended.
- 11 Riders participated in the Food Bank initiative.

- The Riders continue to work in the kitchen on the 1st, 3rd and 5th Sunday.
- We now have a Riders Challenge coin for sale \$10.
- Active membership stands at 70.

Chaplain – Ellen Tierney

- Offered prayer for Post Everlasting for Stanley Bukowski, James Curley, David Hedrick, Paul Ingram, Barry McFarlan, Tyrone Woods, Richard Conlin, Charles Glad, Claude Hurst, Carl Masters, Jim Runnels, Ellison "Vic" Vickery, Harold P Krauss, Carmen DiQuollo, Robert Moynihan, Dexter A Mayworm
- The Commander asked for a moment of Silence in their remembrance.

Unfinished Business

- PAVILLION UPDATE: COMMANDER – Still waiting for the town of Lady Lake to forward us the paperwork to fill out so that our site survey can be completed
- Mike Hayne secured the NFL package for this fall.

Donation

- Tina discussed our commitment to Marion Therapeutic Riding Association; we are planning on paying \$2,000 every other month until the \$8,000 budgeted has been used starting this Month. This program assists veterans living with PTSD, traumatic brain injuries or loss of limbs, utilizing specially trained horses and Certified Therapeutic writing instructors. MTRAA does not charge any veteran for participation in the state week program, but they do rely on scholarship donations, which we are doing. There is a current veteran class in session right now, including 14 veterans, and it's an eight-week session, and there are 10 veterans on their current waiting list.

New Business

- Jim Dollins investigated installing an awning over the Back door of the kitchen to cover the entrance to the freezer. This was approved by the commander.

Correspondance Rob Burgess

- Remember Our Fallen: We need to Approve a \$2,500 Deposit to secure May 28-31, 2026.
A MOTION to pay the \$2,500 Deposit by Heath Davenport Seconded: Joan Suelter
No Discussion APPROVED
- Requesting donation of \$1000 for Marine Corps Det #1242 providing Tradition Thanksgiving Meal for active duty Marines and their family. This is a way to honor Our Gold Star family, Tim Standfest. He goes every year to assist with the distribution of food. After the motion was made Barbara Kyle requested an increase to \$3,000. The commander said we'd have to table the motion till it went through the Exec Committee. JAG suggested we act on the current motion and take the increase to the E-board.
A MOTION was made to donate \$1,000 by Rob Burgess Seconded: Mike Haynes
No Further Discussion: APPROVED
- Lady Lake Youth Soccer Association. Six different categories where they were looking for donations. In the past, we've donated for uniforms and some equipment. So one of the things is team uniforms, and another thing is, I'm looking for 10 sponsors at \$300 for the equipment. So I suggest \$1,000 would cover the uniform banners, one of the sponsorships for a field and equipment.
A MOTION to donate \$1,000 to Lady Lake Youth Soccer by Rob Burgess Seconded: Dan Martin
No Discussion APPROVED
- American Cancer Society: A year ago, last August, that we approve the \$500 from American Cancer Society. So if we want to donate to them, it can be like I said, \$500 was what we give to him in the past.
A MOTION to donate \$500 to American Cancer Society: Rob Burgess Seconded: Mike Haynes
No Discussion APPROVED
- St Jude's: The last time we gave him was a year ago at this time that we approved the \$500 for them. Do we want to pursue that again?

**A MOTION to donate \$500 to St Jude's by Rob Burgess Seconded: George Ries
No Discussion APPROVED**

- ALS Association. Again, it was last year, at this time last year for the we gave a \$500 donation. We want to give to the ALS Association \$1000. \$500 Donation and \$500 in memory of David Duke a dear friend and member we recently lost to ALS.

**A MOTION to donate \$1000 to ALS Association by Rob Burgess Seconded: Dan Martin
No Discussion APPROVED**

- Tunnel to Towers Foundation. They do a lot of good for the American heroes, both first responders and veterans. Great organization.

**A MOTION to donate \$500 to Tunnel to Towers Foundation by Rob Burgess Seconded: Joan Suelter
No Discussion APPROVED**

- Vietnam Veterans of America, Chapter 1036. 13th Annual Golf Tournament on Oct 6th is looking for us to field a four-some. Players will be drawn on Sep 10 General Membership Meeting

**A MOTION to pay \$500 for a 4-some by Rob Burgess Seconded: Jim Stasse
No Discussion APPROVED**

Good of the Legion

- Volunteer of the Month August: Betty Spencer.
- 1st Vice Burgess Read a moving thank you letter from a 2024 Scholarship recipient who still wanted to express her gratitude.
- Jim Dollins: I was approached by Light south, a company doing blood drives for the breakfast. They have a program called be a local hero community transfer. I put together a sheet and sign up for a blood drive for 9/11. If you get 15 donors, they'll give \$300 for our charity. The more people you get, the more money. You get 60 people, total grants, \$1,250 but we have to get people to participate.

With no further business to come before the meeting, The Chaplain gave a closing prayer. The meeting was closed in good order.

Time Adjourned: 6:42 pm.

Respectfully submitted,



Robert C Burgess
Adjutant
Aug 13, 2025