

General Membership Meeting Veterans Memorial Post 347
American Legion Lady Lake FL
September 10th, 2025

At 5:30 pm, Commander Musser called the meeting to order. The meeting opened in good order with a roll call from officers showing a quorum present.

Jag Davenport – Excused, Historian Wince - Absent and MAL Stasse – excused

VIPs

1. Troy Horsley, Department of Florida Sergeant at Arms – Praised our Award winning Color Guard and requested our support for his bid for 2nd Vice Commander to the Department of Florida.
2. Joan Suelter – Eastern area Commander
3. Darcy Bockman-Wright, 4th District Commander/ Vice Chair for Department of Florida Boys State – Thanked us for our support for sponsoring 4 to Boys State and to request continued support in this effort.

Minutes

- General membership minutes from Aug 13th, 2025 were posted on the Website.
A MOTION was made to accept as posted the General Membership Meeting Minutes by Rob Burgess
SECONDED: John Gorsuch No Discussion APPROVED
- Executive board minutes from Sep 3rd, 2025 were emailed to the members of the Executive Committee.
A MOTION was made to accept as posted the Executive Board Meeting Minutes by Rob Burgess
SECONDED: John Gorsuch No Discussion APPROVED

Finance: Bob Irvine

Preliminary Income Sheet as of August 31, 2025

Gross Revenue less Expenses: \$97,561

Operating Expenses (\$90,448)

Community Services (\$36,693)

Net Income / (Loss) (\$29,581)

Preliminary Balance Sheet as of August 31, 2025

Total Short-Term Assets: \$395,187

Reserve Bank Account \$950,473

Total Assets 3,631,090

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

1st Vice: Tina Burgess

- Remind all that there was still a \$5 savings if renewed before Nov 11th
- We are currently at 51.99% for 2026 Membership Year, we were at 40.62% last year.
- For September, so far, we have 39 new, transferring members.
 - New: 33 Transfers: 23 Reinstated: 1
 - Army: 22 Navy: 11 Air Force: 17 Marines: 4 Coast Guard: 3

2nd Vice: John Gorsuch

- October 11th, AYCE breakfast is back. (Not Gluten Free) Post 347, World War Two vets, Korean vets, and children under 12, eat for free.
- As operations manager of the Driving Range we are always looking for volunteers. We look for ball pickers, ball sellers and people working in maintenance, which cut grass, basically, and they help out with maintenance.

- Also they're looking into getting an AED at the driving range.
- Presented the following, requesting we post the following.



3rd Vice: Dan Martin

- 186 hours
- Annual Maintenance is currently all caught up.

Office: Don Hart

- Office staffing: We're at a lower than needed level. We maintained office hours from 9 am – 4 pm, 5 Days/week. With illness, injury, and that other thing called age or staf mis dwindling. We are requesting volunteers.
- The office on Tuesday nights has slowed down a little bit. We will remain open till 6 pm on Tuesdays.

Judge Advocate: Heath Davenport was excuse (No Report)

Post Service Officer – JB and Maria Alexander

Contacts: 35 Hours: 44.5 Miles: 140

August 2025 PSO Report

Category of Assistance provided		Total contacts (including tele-meetings) - 35
Twelve (12) Seeking increase in % of disability		
Four (4) New disability Claims		Total volunteer hours - 44.5
Fourteen (14) Other asst. (tax prep, ID Card info, burial)		
Four (4) Galleri Cancer Test Registration		PSO's out of state 25-31 August 2025
Two (2) Homeless		
		Total Miles Driven - 140 miles
Referrals		Events
Seventeen (17) handled by PSO		
Twelve (12) Sumter Co VSO		12 hours at Post for info (Tuesdays)
0 - Lake County VSO		
Three (3) DAV VSO		
Four (4) Marion County VSO		
		Submitted By: J.B. & Maria Alexander, PSO

Honor Guard: Joan Suelter

- 11 Events in August: 4 funerals (3 Bushnell, 1 Local); 6 meetings; 1 community service events
- 4,910 Miles and 641 Hours.

Lounge: Beth Musser

- Total August Lounge income: \$35,447.25
- Expenses: \$25,361.43
- Net Profit: \$10,085.82
- Volunteer (\$2,104.25) and Honor Guard (\$286.50) beverages: \$2,390.75

- Volunteer hours: 1384

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

- August Volunteer Hours: 758
- Income for August: \$15,058 Cost of Goods: \$6,387.74
- Total Profit: \$8,682.26
- Total Number of meals served: 1,655. Volunteer meals served: 262.
- General Membership Pizza: \$96.75
- Hall Rentals for September: 7
- Discussed need for weekly/monthly Deep Cleaning

Auxiliary: Tina Burgess

- Auxiliary membership goal this year is 2823 members. As of today, the auxiliary is 1059 or 37%
- Renewals are being processed in the post lobby, still between the hours 12 to 3 on Monday, Wednesday and Friday. We'll also be renewing on Tuesday evenings, if we can get somebody here.
- Our annual Oktoberfest dinner, which will be Sunday, September 28 here in the hall, doors will open at 5 pm. Dinner will be served at six. The menu will be Bratwurst, Jaeger schnitzel, German Red Cabbage, Spaetzle, cucumber salad, apple sauce, Rye, pumpernickel bread and butter and Apple sauce. Tickets are \$25 per person, and they're on sale now in the post lounge by me, or anytime the membership is in the lobby, the entertainment will be Jonnell & the Gman and they've done it the last couple of years for us, for free.

Sons of the American Legion: Rob Burgess for Danny Roe (Excused)

- Our membership is a little over 278 renewed for 24.8% (Goal 1120).
- Volunteer hours: 640
- Bob O'Neill and Danny Roe attended the Troop 13 dinner and the Court of Honor on August 27. Some members of the auxiliary were there as well. From my experience in another life, I was extremely involved with Boy Scouts in the leadership role. After seeing this troop, it's got to be the best all-around troop I've ever seen in my life. Rob said the same thing; these guys have been a troop since 1942. They have had 88 Eagle Scouts. That's huge. We've decided to support these guys, because I don't think we could have found the better troop.
- Halloween dance, November 1 Bill D Williams is performing, we got the Chicken Cordon Bleu dinner. Tickets are \$25 per person, and they're going to go on sale September 30, on Tuesday night, and then in the office after that.
- We also just set our date for Valentine's Day dance, on February 14.
- Family Golf Tournament: Saturday, May 16th, rain Date May 23rd, almost completed on a contract with Broad Stripes at Stonecrest.
- Lastly, last night, Tina came to our executive meeting and told us about the 250 challenge that we're wanting to do locally in support of Samaritans first, and our guys all voted in favor of helping out. So we'll get to Tina on exactly what we need to do to help you out, but Sons are all in on that.

American Legion Riders: Linda Haynes

- Miles – 39,218 Hours – 5,419
- Our riders returned from a successful run. And as you know, they started in Virginia, they rode to Virginia, where the ride started, and they finished in Tampa. And we'd like to thank all the families for donating and helping us do that. It's truly appreciated. The last figure I have is that they raised \$855,785 plus for Veterans & Children Foundation (VCF).
- Our Wednesday rides continue. They'll soon move to lunch rides, I think they've got a few more weeks at breakfast rides. They voted to keep it a couple more weeks, but they're going to be moved to lunch rides. Very, very soon.

- The riders continue to work in the kitchen. However we talk about the kitchen, we are having trouble getting volunteers to work in the kitchen. We've kind of talked about it informally, but we're struggling. I don't know if we can continue. That's just where we are.
- Our Christmas raffle, and we'll have more information about that. That's we should start selling tickets for that in October.
- Our active membership stands at 70, and we have begun to renew 26 memberships.

Chaplain – Lisa Johnson

- Offered prayer for Post Everlasting for Jefferson D. Clay, Raymond Goetschkes, Patrick J. Stack, Henry R. Trevant, Garland L Radford, Charles W Snowden, and Roger C Bowen.

Unfinished Business

- Pavillian Update: Commander - still waiting for the town of Lady Lake to give us the paperwork so that we can give it to the builder

New Business

Donation

- Had a request last General meeting that went back to the Executive Board and was approved. Requested an additional donation of \$2000 for Marine Corps Det #1242 providing Tradition Thanksgiving Meal for active-duty Marines and their family as a way to honor Our Gold Star family, Tim Standfest.

A MOTION was made to donate \$2,000 by Rob Burgess SECONDED: Dan Martin

NO DISCUSSION APPROVED

- American Legion USA 250 Challenge – 1st Vice coordinated with all family groups, and all are on board. We will use Project Christmas Child to fill 250 shoeboxes with gifts for children to be distributed worldwide. All family members are sending reps to train on Sat, Sep 6. Auxiliary has approved a \$750 donation to defray cost of shipping our boxes.

A MOTION was made to donate \$750 for shipping costs by Rob Burgess SECONDED: Bob Irvine

NO DISCUSSION APPROVED

- Volunteer of the Month September: Larry Pekoe.
- We entertained a request for a donation to Smiles for Veterans. After discussion no motion was requested.

Correspondance Rob Burgess

1. Msgt Mulkeen (ret) from MC Det #1242 thank us for \$1000 Donation
2. Scholarship Thank you Letters.
3. Ocala Veterans Village Thank you
4. MTRA
5. ALS Thank you
6. St Jude Thank you

Good of the Legion

1. Volunteer of the Month September: Larry Pekoe
2. We will be dedicating our very first gold star tribute bowl on Sunday, September 28 at 11am in the lounge. September 28 is also gold star Mother's Day, and our two Gold Star Mothers that are members here will be our guests as we honor their sons killed in action in Iraq and Afghanistan. We would appreciate your presence. It is before the post opens, but please come to the dedication, and light refreshments will follow.
3. 1st Vice Tina Burgess – All post 347 families are teaming together to complete the American Legion family USA 250 challenge to celebrate our nation's 250th birthday. Next year, we have registered our participation in the community service category, and will team an Operation Christmas Child to pack and send 250 shoe boxes to children worldwide. The estimated cost to fill the box is between 20 and \$25 in addition to the cost, like the

adjutant said, we are requesting an additional 10 if you can afford it, to help cover the cost of shipping. If you are interested in participating in this endeavor, I will be signing the boxes out beginning in October, Rob and I have already packed some of the boxes. I have them back there for you to see, and we have 250 boxes. I'm not just going to let them lay out there and disappear and not come back, because we have a goal of 250 so if you're interested in more information, just see me, please.

4. Mega Bingo is coming Dec 4th
5. Another reminder of the AYCE Pancake Breakfast on Oct 11th.
6. After the 50/50 is pulled we will select the names of players and alternates for the Vietnam Veteran Golf Tournament on Oct 6th.
7. 1st Vice reiterated about the free dental care available to Veterans (With DD 214) and Spouses in Clearwater, FL.

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

Time Adjourned: 6:39 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'R. C. Burgess', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Robert C Burgess, Adjutant
Sep 13, 2025