

**GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING**  
**Veterans Memorial Post 347**  
**American Legion**  
**Lady Lake FL**  
**September 11, 2024**

- At 5:30 pm, prior to the opening of the meeting, First Vice-Commander, Tina Burgess, requested everyone to stand for a moment of silence in memory of the victims of 9-11. Also, in the back of the hall, Tina decorated a table in honor of the victims of 9-11.
- The meeting opened in good order.
- Past and present Department and District officers were recognized in attendance.
- Roll Call: Commander-Dave Musser, Excused/Post Service Officer-Dennis Storey-Absent/M.A.L.-Wayne Rodgers-Excused/M.A.L.-Jim Stasse-Excused/Judge Advocate-Heath Davenport. There is a quorum.
- The minutes of the General Membership Meeting, of August 14<sup>th</sup>, 2024, were read.  
Discussion: Pete Carston stated that the prison's Squadron number was listed as 402 and should be 403. This correction will be noted.  
Motion to accept: Dan Martin                      Seconded: Danny Roe                      Approved

**READING OF HIGHLIGHTED BY-LAW CHANGES-Tina Burgess**

The By-laws have been posted to the website for 2 months.

Article II-Management-Section 5: No post business on personal computers.

Article IV-Discipline-Section 2: Lounge Discipline.

Section 3: General Discipline

There were numerous corrections but the above two were highlighted for discussion.

Motion to Accept: John Gorsuch                      Seconded: Joan Suelter

Discussion: Pete Carston requested that Article IV, Section 2 and 3 to be read aloud.

With no further discussion-Motion approved.

**FINANCE: Bob Irvine**

- Presented a Power-Point presentation of the budget for fiscal year, July 1, 2024-June 30, 2025. The budget for this period will be \$700,000 with \$98,000 slated for Community Service. This month's report showed a loss of \$18,000. Report attached.  
Motion to Accept: Dan Martin                      Seconded: John Gorsuch                      Approved

**1<sup>ST</sup> VICE: Tina Burgess**

Due to Tina as acting Commander, Member at Large, Mike Haynes, read the report and introduced the new members for September.

Currently we are at 40%. The first goal is September 11<sup>th</sup> for 50%.

For September we have: 24 New-17 Transfers.

After introduction, the new members were given an opportunity to introduce themselves.

Afterwards, a group photo was taken to be posted to the website.

Tina reminded everyone that this is their post, read the Constitution and by-laws and to become involved in the activities of the post, especially the need for volunteers.

**2<sup>nd</sup> VICE: John Gorsuch gave the report.**

- North Florida/South Georgia Veterans Health are offering flu shots at their VA Health Care facilities. You can also get a flu shot at the VA during primary care appointments or flu clinics.
- Purse Bingo: November 16<sup>th</sup>-\$25 pp. 20 games and three specials, two raffles and a cash 50/50. Limited kitchen menu: burgers, hot dogs, fries, onion rings, chicken cheese quesadillas and salad with grilled chicken. The cash bar will be open. Tickets can be purchased at the Post. For more information: [swenzlick@spnmd.org](mailto:swenzlick@spnmd.org)
- Community and Family Block Party: October 5<sup>th</sup> at the Elks Lodge in Kissimmee.
- Veterans Jump Day: November 2<sup>nd</sup>-9am-2pm. 200 Paratroopers will be jumping at Lake Dora in Tavares.
- NSU Health has a new Dental Clinic in Clearwater. This service is free to Veterans with a DD 214. You must make an appointment. Married couples with a marriage certificate can be treated free.
- Snowman's Run: They will be here at the post on October 16<sup>th</sup>. The trucks and cars from "Smokey and the Bandit" will be here. The post will be receiving a donation from this group.

**3<sup>rd</sup> VICE:** Dan Martin

- 192 hours.
- Dan introduced a new member of the maintenance staff: Robert Carillo.

**POST SERVICE OFFICER:** Absent.

**HONOR GUARD:** Commander John Gorsuch

- Funerals: Honors at FNC-3 Honors Locally-2
- Events: Post-2 Community-1
- Hours: Honor Funerals-412 post-93
- Miles: Honor Funerals-3720 Post-310 Community Service-60
- Total membership-44
- The Honor Guard is always looking for volunteers. We have ten members who are over 80 years of age and are now inactive.

**LOUNGE:** Rob Burgess

He gave a report on Lounge Income and Expenses for August. He invited the new members to stay and enjoy the hospitality in the lounge.

**KITCHEN:** Harriett Turnbull-Absent

**AUXILIARY:** Tina Burgess gave a report.

- Current membership stands at 20%.
- Oktoberfest tickets, September 29<sup>th</sup>, are going fast.

**SONS OF THE AMERICAN LEGION:** Commander Danny Roe

- Membership: 256 members for 24.1% of goal of 1061.
- Thursday Meals: Back to normal. We had sandwiches during the summer. We will now have lasagna instead of ravioli. We will have 4 rotating dishes.
- Not Too Scary Halloween: October 26<sup>th</sup>. Lady Lake Little League Park. Looking for help to man the tent. See Danny Roe to volunteer. Walmart is donating candy and helping.

- Halloween Dance: Saturday October 26<sup>th</sup>-\$20 pp. Tickets on sale October 1<sup>st</sup> in the lobby on Tuesdays and in the office. Entertainment-Del Phis. Proceeds benefit Fischer House
- Valentine Dance: Saturday February 8<sup>th</sup>. Entertainment-Jersey Frank. Tickets will go on sale in January and will have a lottery board. Proceeds benefit the Special Olympics.
- Family Golf tournament: Saturday May 10<sup>th</sup>. (Rain date: May 17<sup>th</sup>) Broad Stripes Country Club (formally Stonecrest). More info to follow.

**LEGION RIDERS:** Director Linda Haynes

- Miles-37,697 Hours-3106  
Total Active Participating Riders-68
- Legacy Ride: August 18-22
  - Approximately 2900 miles
  - 9 Riders and 1 Passenger
- Our plaque was “stolen” and retrieved while our Legacy Riders were on the ride.
- Riders will be working the kitchen on the 1<sup>st</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> Sundays.
- Fund Raising coordinator has begun to work on the Christmas Raffle. This will include a gardening wagon full of cheer as well as numerous baskets.
- Renewals will begin at the September ALR general membership meeting.
- The Florida Motorcycle Safety Program was launched by the Florida Department of Highway Safety and Motor Vehicles in collaboration with American Bikers Aiming Towards Education (ABATE) Of Florida, Inc, The Latin American Motorcycle Association (L.A.M.A.) in October of 2023, with the goal of reducing the number of motorcycle accidents and fatalities on state roads. More information to follow. For now, you will begin to see signage that will remind drivers to watch out for motorcycles. Our ALR riders will begin to place these signs in approved designations. Be on the lookout for them.
- Barbara Kyle has agreed to be our new Historian.

**CHAPLAIN:** Lisa Johnson

- Sick Call: Bill Duffy, Ed Lawson
- Post Everlasting: James Hammelman, James Lyons, Gary Margerum, Jeffrey McGowan

**OLD BUSINESS: None**

**DONATIONS**

- JVSC has requested a donation for the installation of a new monument at Florida National Cemetery, Bushnell. Ellen Tierney gave a brief dissertation of this new monument. This monument is titled: “Military Honors” which will have three statues: A family member sitting; A military member presenting a folded flag beside a standing bugler. This monument will be made of bronze. The cost will be \$180,000-\$200,000. The deadline will be spring of 2025.  
The Executive Committee approved a donation of \$10,000.  
Motion for donation of \$10,000: Ellen Tierney  
Seconded: Dan Martin Approved

**NEW BUSINESS**

- Dan Martin has requested a new Backpack Vacuum up to \$700.

Motion: Barbara Kiley Seconded: John Gorsuch      Approved

## CORRESPONDENCE:

- Nothing of Consequence

## GOOD OF THE LEGION:

- Our Volunteer of the Month for September: John Holmes. He works on the Golf Driving Range on Rolling Acres Blvd. John received a certificate, preferred parking space and new challenge coin. Tina gave a brief description of how the Driving Range benefits the Legion and The Lions Club. Please keep the nominations coming in.
- Tina announced the selection of the new National Commander, James A. LaCoursiere and read a brief biography.
- New Post 347 Challenge Coins are available. They are \$10.
- There will be no political attire worn by any member in the post. This is accordance of the American Legion National Constitution, Article II, Section 2 was read at the meeting.
- Members are requested to send an email and go to “American Legion Action Center” and click on” VA Funding Shortfall.” This will send an automated email to your congressional representatives with your names and address automatically filled in. This is in response to the \$15 billion combined deficit over this fiscal year and the next. Please support this endeavor.
- The Executive committee has modified the House Rule #9-DRESS CODE- “Men will not be allowed to wear sleeveless or tank top shirts” This section has been REMOVED. A discussion was led by Pete Carston and Ellen Tierney opposing this rule change. Dan Martin reminded everyone this is a Veterans Post and not a Country Club where all veterans should feel welcomed and comfortable. Since this is an administrative change, no vote from the membership is required.
- **A reminder that future meetings will begin at 5:30 pm followed by social time.**

With no further business to come before the membership, the Commander closed the meeting in good order.

Meeting adjourned: 6:50 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

*Philip R. Crouthamel*

**ADJUTANT**

September 11, 2024

## ATTACHMENTS

The following officers were present: 1<sup>st</sup> Vice-Tina Burgess/ 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice-John Gorsuch/ 3<sup>rd</sup> Vice-Dan Martin/ Finance-Bob Irvine/ Adjutant/Historian-Phil Crouthamel/ Members at Large-Mike Haynes, George Ries/ Sgt at Arms-Jim Dollins/Immediate Past Commander-Joan Suelter