

General Membership Meeting Veterans Memorial Post 347
American Legion Lady Lake FL
October 8th, 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.

Excused – 2nd Vice Gorsuch, 3rd Vice Martin, Finance Office Irvine, Member at Large Haynes

VIPs

1. Joan Suelter – Eastern Area Commander
2. David Musser – 6th District Commander
3. Larry Miller – 6th District Chaplain
4. Tina Charney Burgess – 6th District Historian
5. Rob Burgess – 6th District Adjutant

Minutes

- General membership minutes from Sep 10th, 2025 were posted on the Website.
A MOTION was made to accept as posted the General Membership Meeting Minutes by Joan Suelter
SECONDED: Rob Burgess No Discussion APPROVED
- Executive board minutes from Oct 2nd, 2025 were emailed to the members of the Executive Committee.
A MOTION was made to accept as sent the Executive Board Meeting Minutes by Joan Suelter
SECONDED: Rob Burgess No Discussion APPROVED

Finance: Dave Musser

Preliminary Income Sheet as of September 2025

Gross Profit: \$106,275

Total Expenses (\$111,482)

Community Service Expense (\$2,361)

Net Income / (Loss) (\$5,207)

Preliminary Balance Sheet as of September 2025

Total Short-Term Assets: \$395,187

Reserve Bank Account \$950,473

A MOTION to accept the finance report for audit by Lisa Johnson
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 57.7% for 2026 Membership Year, we were at 48% last year.
- For September, so far, we have 57 new, transferring members.
 - New: 30 Transfers: 23 Reinstate: 4
 - Army: 24 Navy: 12 Air Force: 9 Marines: 9 Coast Guard: 3

2nd Vice: Rob Burgess

- October 11th, AYCE breakfast is back. Post 347, World War Two vets, Korean vets, and children under 12, eat for free.
- You are invited to a special **Medicare Annual Enrollment Period (AEP) Event** hosted by your local American Legion Post in partnership with **LIT and e-Health**. These events are designed to help you make informed Medicare choices while supporting **The American Legion**. Join us to:
 - Discover how your Medicare decisions can support your local Legion.
 - Learn to navigate the **LIT/E-Health Experience** for Medicare options.

- Explore your Medicare choices during AEP.
- Connect with LIT representatives and special guests.

Event Details:

- **Lady Lake – Veteran Memorial Post 347**

Date: October 29th

Time: 3:00 PM

Location: 699 W Lady Lake Blvd, Lady Lake, FL 32159

- Oct 4th – Customer Appreciation Day: Music, Free Food, Raffles, and Product Demos
- Purse Bingo is Nov 15th, w/meal. Doors open at 4:30 pm. \$25 for 20 games, 3 specials, 2 raffles and 50/50.

3rd Vice: Rob Burgess

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

Judge Advocate: Heath Davenport (No Report)

Post Service Officer – JB and Maria Alexander

Contacts: 36 Hours: 54 Miles: 168

September 2025 PSO Report

| Category of Assistance provided | | Total contacts (including tele-meetings) - 36 |
|--|-----------------------------|--|
| Fourteen (14) Seeking increase in % of disability | | |
| Three (3) New disability Claims | | Total volunteer hours - 54 |
| Nineteen (19) Other asst. (tax prep, ID Card info, burial) | | 35 |
| | | Total Miles Driven - 168 miles |
| Referrals | | Events |
| Four | Sixteen (16) handled by PSO | 16 hours at Post for info (Tuesdays) |
| | Five (5) Sumter Co VSO | Galleri Testing - 9 hours |
| | One (1) Marion County VSO | Two day Galleri event served 164 veterans |
| | Seven (7) DAV VSO | |
| | Seven (7) pending | Submitted By: J.B. & Maria Alexander, PSO |

Office: Jim Stasse

- 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 staff is dwindling. We are requesting volunteers.
- We may have to reduce the hours of your office that we can't get more volunteers to work.
 - Commander added that we are looking at hours of 10 am till 2 pm, with Commander, 1st Vice and Adjutant picking up the slack.

Honor Guard: Joan Suelter

- 10 Events in September: 5 funerals (1 Bushnell, 4 Local); 1 meeting; 4 service events
- 3,190 Miles and 490 Hours

Lounge: Beth Musser

- New Guest Policy for Bar Bingo: Wednesdays – 2 guest; Sunday – 1 Guest
- Total September Lounge income: \$37,022.55
- Expenses: \$26,259.26
- Net Profit: \$10,763.29
- Volunteer (\$2,409.60) and Honor Guard (\$243.00) beverages: \$2,652.60
- Volunteer hours: 1416

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

- September Volunteer Hours: 853
- Income for August: \$15,619.00 Cost of Goods: \$6,193.28
- Total Profit: \$9,425.77

- Total Number of meals served: 1,713. Volunteer meals served: 261.
- General Membership Pizza: \$96.68
- Hall Rentals for October: 5
- Jake has begun filtering the oil

Auxiliary: Tina Burgess

- Auxiliary membership goal this year, as set by department, is 2823 members. As of today, the auxiliary has 1669 members paid for 59%
- 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.
- October is kick off month for our holiday activities. We are in the process of buying and or collecting food for the American Legion family, Thanksgiving, Christmas food box programs. Our Legion family sponsors 50 local families for Thanksgiving, and then again at Christmas, the families receive a complete holiday meal, Staples needed to keep the children fed while they are out of school. If you wish to donate to the cause, I have a list. Just see me after the meeting, you can drop your items off at the front office, just make sure you indicate your donation is for the family's holiday food boxes.
- Three of our girls state delegates that attended, we are very proud.
- One high school was the recipient of the Florida State University four-year tuition, although she did admit she'd rather be a Gator, and our delegate from Leesburg was a recipient of the \$50,000 Samsung scholarship. So two out of three of our girls came back award winners

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

- Our membership is 385 renewed for 34.4% (Goal 1120).
- Volunteer hours: 654
- 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 now in the office and on Tuesday nights.
- Save the date for Valentine's Day dance, on February 14. Susie Costa is performing.
- Fisher House visit: Dec 4th at 11:00 am, We take gifts for the Veterans in the Hospital. Contact Danny if you are interested in going.
- Family Golf Tournament: Saturday, May 16th, rain Date May 23rd, working a contract with Broad Stripes at Stonecrest.
- Family 250 challenge Sons are supporting Samaritans Purse Project. We took 50 boxes and will fill them, then turn them in to Tina. Because of time constraints, we will fill them and ask members to donate cash.

American Legion Riders: Jim Dollins

- Miles – 8,583 Hours – 1,882
- Wednesday breakfast rides have moved to lunch rides; these rides continue to be well attended and well received. The District 6 Unity Ride will be held on October 18th. This ride will start at Post 219, include stops at 4 Posts and the Baldomero Lopez State Veteran Nursing Home in Land O'Lakes. We have several riders preparing to participate.
- Riders have been busy retrieving our plaque as well as capturing other Chapter's plaques, this game is enjoyed by many of our members.
- Riders participated in the Tribute to the Troops escort on September 27. This escort was to honor and remember USA CPL Willard Delong who was killed on 9/27/69.
- Riders continue to work in the kitchen however, we are having difficulty finding replacements for some of our volunteers who have retired from the kitchen. We welcome everyone.
- Sales for the Christmas Raffle tickets will begin at the second Saturday breakfast. Tickets will be 1 for \$5 and 3 for \$10. The Raffle will include an adult trike with lots of cheer as well as many other prizes.
- Challenge Coins are to be available for \$10. You may purchase one at the front desk or from one of the Chapter Officers.

- Our active membership stands at 72. Membership renewal has begun.
- Lastly, due to the Thanksgiving Holiday we will reschedule our November meeting. That date will be published as soon as it is confirmed.

Chaplain – Lisa Johnson

- Offered prayer for Post Everlasting for Joseph F Bellavia, Walter D Lias, Richard Boyce Arthur LeFebvre.

Unfinished Business

- Pavillion Update: Commander – Had a conversation with Major and hopefully we will move forward soon
- Bathroom refit that was approved earlier is being looked into.

New Business

- \$2,500 for Outdoor Valor: Adjutant read the following From Matt Schwanke, “This year we have done 31 fishing trips and have crossed the 2000 veterans served with no reported suicide. We launched “operation fresh start” which is a year long no cost program to rethink the va’s treatment. OFS provides 12 months of medical care with our doctors and provides vitamin and hormone optimization with 12 weeks of counseling with our staff consoler. We also launched “rally point” which is a weekly ptsd support group that meets every Wednesday night. Currently we have 12 veterans attending on consistent basis. We also started Vows & Valor wife’s support group that meets once a month.”

A MOTION to donate \$2,500 to Outdoor Valor by Joan Suelter SECONDED: Larry Miller

NO DISCUSSION APPROVED

- The Executive Committee approved \$250 The African American Club of the Villages for veteran dinner on 11/11/25. Requestion assistance. **No Motion is required.**
- \$500 Veteran’s Club Charity Golf donation plus 4-some for Driving Range Volunteers

A MOTION to donate \$500 for Veterans Club 4-some plus donation by Ellen Tierney

SECONDED: Joan Suelter NO DISCUSSION APPROVED

- Joan Suelter, Department of Florida Woman’s Veteran Chair requested a donation of door prize baskets for a luncheon in Pompano Beach. Commander agreed to donate 2 baskets.
 - Commander Musser made a request for member to donate their time to help with the baskets.

Donation

- \$500 from Richard Williams
- \$200 Jim Gillespie to the Honor Guard

Correspondance Rob Burgess

- Suggestion Box – Jim Stasse
 - Adjutant read submitted report: there's a couple of things. Just to let you know, the suggestions don't just disappear. We do look at them. We talk about them though may not always take action on them.
 1. Hooks under the high top tables. Was one of the suggestions. If you look under the high tops, the hooks are there.
 2. Light over the pool table. People want lights over the pool table. We are in discussion of that.
 3. They're look at changes for Saturday nights and maybe bringing food trucks in. That's ongoing. We're working on that information.
 4. Daily drink specials, draft beer and wine specials, one a day, once a week. Again, we're looking at them.
 5. And the last but not least is God Bless America or National Anthem on Tuesday nights, as opposed to the Lee Greenwood song.
- Thank you, Card
 - McFarlan Family & the Daly Family

Good of the Legion

- Volunteer of the Month Terry Strassburg
- 250 Challenge: Post 347 families are teaming together to compete the American Legion family project 250 to celebrate our nation's 250th birthday in 2026 we have registered our participation in the community service category and will team with Operation Christmas Child to pack and send 250 shoe boxes worldwide.
 - It costs approximately 20 to \$25 to fill the box. We're also asking for \$10 to cover the cost of shipping.
 - I only have about 40 more boxes to hand out, so if you're interested, I'll have them at the end of the meeting.
 - If you don't, if you want to fill one but you don't like to shop, I'll take you 30 bucks and I'll fill your box for you.
- We dedicated our Gold Star tribute wall on September 28 which was gold star Mother's Day. We were honored by the presence of two of our very own. only about 30 attended this event .
 - That being said, please take a moment to view our memorial wall that honors two young men who give the ultimate sacrifice.
 - If you or anyone you know would like to honor their own Gold Star family member, please see me, and we will make it happen.
- Florida Department of Veterans Affairs is currently gathering feedback from Florida veterans and their family members. Their survey will gather information about their awareness and use of state, federal and local services that are available to them. They need some good information, so please take the time to fill out the survey. It can be found at Florida vet.org I do have a copy of the survey if anybody wants to take a look at it
- Matt Tinnin Discussed his Lunch and Leard on October 22nd, 2025. I'll be doing sign ups on that Tuesday night when we come for Queen of Hearts. But October 22 we'll be providing lunch here in the hall, and I'll just do an educational event. If anybody has any questions for the open enrollment. I'll be doing one in November, but I may be talking about cyber awareness. So with my background in cyber, I want you guys to be aware of what's going on and how they're attacking our community.

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

Time Adjourned: 6:41 pm.

Respectfully submitted,



Robert C Burgess, Adjutant
Oct 11, 2025