

GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING
Veterans Memorial Post 347
American Legion
Lady Lake FL
November 13, 2024

- At 5:30 pm, Commander Dave Musser opened the meeting in good order.
- Roll Call: Post Service Officer, Dennis Storey was absent and Member at Large Wayne Rodgers was excused due to medical issues.
- There is a quorum.

FINANCE: Bob Irvine

- Presented a Power-Point presentation the Finances of the Post.
 - The Post income derives its income from the lounge, kitchen, Queen of Heart and the Driving Range.
 - Operating expenses are utilities, insurance and depreciation, which have gone up by 20%.
 - Income has decreased due to the shut down for Hurricanes Helene and Milton. Community services came in about \$23,000.
 - Bob gave an explanation on what the reserve account is, as it is funded by CD's paying at a rate of 4%. This account is used for big ticket repairs and purchase of needed equipment.

Motion to Accept: Dan Martin

Seconded: John Gorsuch

Discussion: Commander Dave gave a brief outline of what the post has spent on the various equipment and repairs the post needed.

Approved

Subject to audit.

JUDGE ADVOCATE: Heath Davenport

A few months back, the Post By-Laws were reviewed and approved by the membership. It is now time to review and approve the Post Constitution. The Post constitution has been posted to the website and in the post with highlighted changes.

- Most of the changes are administrative.
 - Recommendation for removal: **Article IV, Section 8**
This is to prevent outside posts from discriminating expelled members from that post joining Post 347.
 - Recommendation for inclusion: Article V, Section 5
"Every member in good standing, *dues paid and no disciplinary actions within one year of election and living full time within fifty (50) miles of the post* shall be eligible to hold office in the post".
 - Recommendation for **removal**: Article VII, Section 5
"An audit shall be made by the Post Auditing Committee and a qualified Public Accountant, ***if recommended by the Post Auditing Committee***".
 - Recommendation for inclusion: Article VII, Section 7.
"Investment and expenditures of such funds shall be directed by the Executive Committee *and expenditures must also be approved by the general membership.*"
- Approval by the general membership was by voice vote.

- The Constitution shall be forwarded to the Department of Florida for final approval.

1ST VICE: Tina Burgess

- Sixty-five (65) new members: 45 new, 18 transfers, 2 reinstatements.

A motion to accept the new members made by Tina Burgess.

Seconded by Heath Davenport. No discussion Approved

Each member was given an opportunity to introduce themselves. Afterwards a group photo was taken for the website.

The Commander encouraged everyone to get to know the Legion and become involved.

Endorsement for Eastern Area Commander

- Joan Suelter-U.S. Navy Veteran,1965-1968; Ten year member of the American Legion, involved with the Auxiliary, Tri-County women Veterans, liaison for Post 403, (Sumter County Detention Facility) Post 347 Commander, 6th District Commander, Vice Commander, Sgt at Arms and Women’s Veterans liaison with the Department of Florida.
- Endorsement made: Dan Boone Second Endorsement: Robert Stanziola
No discussion Endorsement approved by voice vote.

2nd VICE: John Gorsuch gave the report.

- Golf Driving Range promotion for Veterans Week-Any veteran will get a free second bucket of balls.
- Volunteers needed for the Golf Driving range. See the 2nd Vice.
- Thanksgiving tickets sold out but, there is a waiting list.
- Purse Bingo sold out.
- Saturday Breakfast on December 14th with Mr. & Mrs. Claus as your hosts.
- St. Paul Textile will be dropping off a donation shed. This is for clothes, shoes and bedding. It will benefit veterans and victims of disasters. Items must be bagged.

3rd VICE: Dan Martin

- September-190 hours.
 - Due to Hurricane Helene: 7 ½ hours over 2 days for clean-up. Filled up the dumpster. No damage to the building
- October-195 hours
 - Due to hurricane Milton: Filled the dumpster. Clean-up only took 2 ½ hours due to a clean-up crew: Dave Musser, John Gorsuch, Lisa Johnson, Wayne Rodgers , George Young and Robert Carrilo.
 - Minor damage: 2 signs ripped from their posts, a few soffits came loose
- Uncrating of kitchen equipment: 2 convection ovens, 2 six burner stoves. A total of 2900 lbs were moved.

FRONT OFFICE-George Ries

- Always looking for volunteers. Looking for 2 days a month-8 hours total.

POST SERVICE OFFICER: Absent.

- 8 Contacts

HONOR GUARD: Report given by Rob Roybal

- Funerals: Honors at FNC-2 Honors Locally-2
- Events: Post-1 Community-4
- Hours: Honor Funerals-276 Post-63 Community Service-18
- Miles: Honor Funerals-2740 Post-210 Community Service-60

- Total membership-46
- 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 October. He invited the new members to stay and enjoy the hospitality in the lounge.
- Veterans Day-Drink specials.
- New Years' Eve Party- \$25 per ticket. We will not provide food. Bring your own. Jonnell & The G Man in the lounge and The Del phis in the hall.
- Football squares will be on sale. We take no profit from the suares. All funds go toward prizes.
- Army-Navy Game: December 14th. Drink Specials. Free Fried Bologna Sandwiche at halftime.

KITCHEN: Harriett Turnbull-Report submitted

- Harriet is working the kitchen
- Thanks for the new equipment.

AUXILIARY: Tina Burgess gave a report.

- This past Sunday, a group of volunteers packed 175 gift bags that were delivered on Veterans Day to veterans residing in seven local Assisted Living Facilities.
- Immediately after our Veterans Day Program, another group of dedicated Auxiliary volunteers prepared and served a delicious lunch to approximately 120 veterans and family members.
- A special shout out to Barbara Kyle for her famous baked beans.
- The Auxiliary is taking reservations for the Early Bird spaghetti dinner slated for December 1st. It will cost you \$1.00 to reserve a seat and \$5.00 for guests. The \$1. 00 collected is given back to the members in the form of a drawing.
- The 2025 renewal rate for the Auxiliary is sitting at an amazing 78%. JoLinda Spears is the Chairperson, and total renewals stand at 2,035 of 2,605. This success has prompted calls from Department on the success of the membership drive and the answer was "Hard Work."
- The Poppy Distribution netted \$6,400.

SONS OF THE AMERICAN LEGION: Commander Danny Roe

- Membership: 528 members for 49.8% of goal of 1061.
- Volunteer Hours: 545
- Halloween Dance netted \$2446, added to budgeted amount, and rounded up. We will be presenting a check for \$7,000 to the Gainesville Fisher House in December
- Culvers Dine to Donate was rescheduled to November 14th, 4 to 8 pm at Culvers on Route 466A. They are donating 10% of proceeds to children and youth Programs.
- Wreaths Across America: December 14th at Noon. Bob O'Neal has the program almost ready to go. The speaker will be Lady Lake Mayor, Ed Freeman. Recently, the Colonial Dames and Combat Veterans did some clean up at Lady Lake Cemetery. Lake Weir JR ROTC will be doing a final clean up on December

7th and we are going to power wash a few things to get ready for the ceremony.

- Valentine Dance: Saturday February 8th. 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 10th. (Rain date: May 17th) Broad Stripes Country Club (formally Stonecrest). Foursome will go on sale February 4th. The cost is \$95 per person. Looking for donations.

LEGION RIDERS: Director Linda Haynes

- Miles-18,290 Hours-2,940
- Total Active Participating Riders-71 Renewals: 60
- Riders will continue to work on the 1st, 3rd, and 5th Sundays.
- Wednesday lunch rides continue and are well attended.
- The Christmas Raffle is underway, tickets will be available at the Saturday breakfasts starting October 12th and Tuesday evenings until the drawing on December 15th.
- ALR Christmas party is scheduled for December 7th.
- Renewals began at the September ALR general membership meeting.
- The November ALR meeting will be moved to November 21st due to the conflict with Thanksgiving week.
- A check for \$500 was sent to the Department for Hurricane Relief.
- The Riders consist of the entire American Legion Family, you are entitled to be a rider. You can ride a bike or be a support member. Everyone can participate.

CHAPLAIN: Lisa Johnson

- Post Everlasting: Cornelius Fenowitz, Patrick D'Annunzio, Ralph Bixler, Thomas Hogan, Douglas Lee

OLD BUSINESS: None

DONATIONS: None received.

NEW BUSINESS:

- Dan Martin: A MOTION was made to purchase 4 AC "IV" drain cleaners to keep the AC drain lines clear. They are \$500 apiece. SECONDED: Rob Burgess. No Discussion. Approved
- We will be having a second Veterans Outreach Day on January 10th, 2025. We will have representatives from the VA Villages Outpatient Clinic, Lake County Community Engagement, Partnership Coordinator from the Orlando Veterans Affairs Medical Center of Orlando. Also, we will have representatives from Charter Research, audiologist, Dr. Evan Pemba, Lin's glucose screening and also the Blood Mobile.
- A Vietnam War 50th Anniversary Commemoration will be held at the post on Monday, February 17th at 10:00 AM. As this five-year program nears its end, the organizers are hoping to go out with a bang at the Largest American Legion Post in the world.
 - The Vietnam Lapel Pin will be presented to living Veterans who served on active duty in the U.S. Armed Forces at any time during the period of November 1, 1955-May 15, 1975, regardless of location.

- Additionally, the Department of Defense will be presenting Certificates of Honor to a surviving spouse of a Vietnam Veteran.
- If interested, please see 1st Vice-Commander, Tina Burgess

CORRESPONDENCE:

- St Jude, National Cancer Society and ALS Society.

GOOD OF THE LEGION:

- **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: 6:53 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Philip R. Crouthamel

ADJUTANT

November 13, 2024

The following officers were present: Commander- Dave Musser/1st Vice-Tina Burgess/ 2nd Vice-John Gorsuch/ 3rd Vice-Dan Martin/ Finance-Bob Irvine/Chaplain-Lisa Johnson/Sgt at Arms-Jim Dollins Adjutant/Historian-Phil Crouthamel/ Judge Advocate-Heath Davenport/Members at Large-Mike Haynes, George Ries, Jim Stasse/ Immediate Past Commander-Joan Suelter.