

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

At 5:32 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;

VIPs

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

Minutes

- General membership minutes from Nov 12th, 2025 were posted on the Website.
**A MOTION was made to accept as posted the General Membership Meeting Minutes by John Gorsuch
 SECONDED: Dan Martin No Discussion APPROVED**
- Executive board minutes from Dec 10th, 2025 have not been written but will be sent to the members of the Executive Committee.

Finance: Bob Irvine

AMERICAN LEGION POST 347 PRELIMINARY INCOME STATEMENT YEAR TO DATE (Fiscal Year July 1 thru November 30)				
Profit & Loss Statement	Year-to-Date November 30, 2025	Year-to-Date November 30, 2024	\$ Change	% Change
Gross Revenues less Direct Expenses	\$ 269,641	\$ 278,481	\$ (8,841)	-3.2%
Operating Expenses	\$ (244,034)	\$ (231,227)	\$ (12,807)	5.5%
Income From Operations	\$ 25,607	\$ 47,254	\$ (21,648)	2.4%
Community Services	\$ (46,824)	\$ (30,388)	\$ (16,437)	54.1%
Net Income / (Loss)	\$ (21,218)	\$ 16,867	\$ (38,084)	-8.8%

AMERICAN LEGION POST 347 PRELIMINARY BALANCE SHEET AS OF November 30		
	As of November 30, 2025	As of November 30, 2024
Short-Term Assets:		
Operating Cash	\$ 15,600	\$ 16,500
Petty Cash	\$ 243,711	\$ 190,990
Operating Account	\$ 121,136	\$ 244,167
Membership Account	\$ 380,447	\$ 451,657
Total Operating Cash	\$ 49,777	\$ 49,761
Other Current Assets	\$ 430,423	\$ 501,418
Total Short-Term Assets	\$ 430,423	\$ 501,418

	As of November 30, 2025	As of November 30, 2024
Long-term Assets:		
Reserve Bank Account	\$ 950,473	\$ 744,142
Other Assets	\$ 4,701	\$ 4,701
Property & Equipment (net)	\$ 2,269,504	\$ 2,309,967
Total Long-Term Assets	\$ 3,224,678	\$ 3,058,811
TOTAL ASSETS	\$ 3,655,102	\$ 3,560,228
TOTAL EQUITY	\$ (3,655,102)	\$ (3,560,228)

**A MOTION to accept the finance report for audit by Dan Martin SECONDED: JB Alexander
NO DISCUSSION APPROVED**

1st Vice: Tina Burgess

- We are currently at 78.5% for 2026 Membership Year, we were at 65% last year.
- For November, so far, we have 41 new/ transferring members.
 - New: 19 Transfers: 17 Post 400: 2 Reinstate: 3
 - Army: 16 Navy: 13 Air Force: 7 Marines: 5 Coast Guard: 0
- Average birth year 1954.
- The new members were introduced and welcomed in to the Post.

2nd Vice: John Gorsuch

- Dec 13th, AYCE breakfast with Santa and Mrs. Clause. Post 347, World War 2 and Korean veterans, and children under 12, eat for free.
- Wreaths Across America at Lady Lake Cemetery starts at Noon this Saturday (Dec 13th)
- Back to the 70's is also Dec 13th @ 4pm \$20 Doors open at 3:00 pm, Comp tickets available for Vets.
- Army/ Navy Game This Saturday, Dec 13th 3pm kick off Free Bologna Sandwiches available at ½ time. \$2 Draft and well drinks.
- New Year Eve Tickets are still available see Lounge managers.

- Post will be closed Christmas day and New Years Day.

3rd Vice: Dan Martin

- 147 hours
- Maintenance stands ready to fill hole and paint the hall.

Judge Advocate: Rob Burgess for JAG

- There is the new open carry law, but our members need to know we are a private club and our rules state NO Weapons are allowed on the property.

Post Service Officer – JB Alexander

Contacts: 28 Hours: 63.5 Miles: 235

November 2025 PSO Report

Category of Assistance provided		Total contacts (including tele-meetings) - 28
Ten (10) Seeking increase in % of disability		
Two (2) New disability Claims		Total volunteer hours - 63.5
Sixteen (16) Other asst. (tax prep, ID Card info, burial)		
		Total Miles Driven - 235 miles
Referrals		
Seventeen (17) handled by PSO		Events
Five (5) Sumter Co VSO		20 hours at Post for info (Tuesdays)
One (1) - Lake County VSO		10 Hours (x3 PSO) for new and renewal PSO trng = 30 hours
FIVE (5) DAV VSO		Mike Holt added as PSO
		Submitted By: J.B. & Maria Alexander, PSO

Honor Guard: Joan Suelter

- 16 Events in November: 6 funerals (4 Bushnell, 2 Local); 1 meeting; 2 Color Guard; 7 Community service
- 6,888 Miles and 944 Hours.

Office: Don Hart

- Staffing is still good.
- Office will be closed on Christmas Eve and New Years Eve at 12:00.
- Shirts need to be ordered for 3 Staff members.
- Volunteer hours: 271
- Asked about chips being available on 1/2/26
- Had a productive staff meeting on Dec 6th with 15 of the volunteers.
- No Public Bingo until 1/8/26.

Lounge: Beth Musser

- Still working on ideas for Saturday night... Waiting for an update from the committee.
- Total November Lounge income: \$39,754.00
- Expenses: \$22,832.61
- Net Profit: \$16,921.39
- Volunteer (\$2,155.25) and Honor Guard (\$571.50) beverages: \$2,726.75
- Volunteer hours: 1343
- Effective immediately a change in Lounge hour hours to Mon – Sat 12 – 9pm and 12 – 5pm on Sunday.

Kitchen: Rob Burgess for Harriett Turnbull

- November Volunteer Hours: 787
- Income for November: \$18,788.00 Cost of Goods: \$7,180.70
- Total Profit: \$11,614.27
- Total Number of meals served: 2,098. Volunteer meals served: 287.
- General Membership Pizza: \$89.85

- Hall Rentals for November: 4
- Families, please clean up after your shift: Sweep and Mop floors.
- Once again volunteers are needed

Auxiliary: Tina Burgess

- The Auxiliary Membership goal this year is 2,823 members. As of today, the Auxiliary has 2,357 members paid, for 83.5 %. Membership renewals can be processed between the hours of 12-3pm on Monday, Wednesday and Friday.
- The Auxiliary has had an extremely busy holiday season thus far. President Caswell would like to thank our volunteers, our members and our community for their continued support through for all of our Programs. Here's what we've accomplished during this holiday season:
- After the Veteran's Day Tribute held here at the Post, The Auxiliary prepared and served a picnic style lunch to 160 Veterans and their guests.
- The Post Vice Commander and Auxiliary VA&R Chairman, Tina Burgess, organized the assembly and delivery of 320 beautifully filled and decorated Gift Bags to our local Veterans residing in assisted living facilities on Veterans Day.
- We distributed over 5,000 Poppies on Veterans Day and raised \$7,569.15 in proceeds.
- Our Angel/Bell Tree Program is complete. We committed to 100 Children and 50 seniors. This year, the Unit also adopted three families.
- Our Legion Family Thanksgiving Food Box Program went off well. To date, we've spent \$9,000 and have received a great deal of donations. These donations have allowed us to pack a lot of extra items. If you would like to donate items for the Christmas boxes, you can through December 15th. See me after the meeting and I will share the list. Please indicate that the donation is for the "Holiday Food Program." On the 15th, we will pack 50 Family Food Boxes for Christmas. We provide important staples and healthy snacks for the children while on Holiday Break from school.
- Lastly, The Auxiliary is hosting the Toys for Tots Appreciation Dinner tonight in the Lounge.

Sons of the American Legion: Rob Burgess for Danny Roe

- Our membership is a 720 renewed for 64.3% (Goal 1120).
- Volunteer hours: 635
- Culver's Dine to donate: Wed, Dec 10th CR466A 5-8pm. All proceed to benefit our C&Y programs.
- Fisher House visit was Dec 4th. We took gifts for the Veterans in the Hospital. We presented then with a check for \$7,000.
 - We are planning to go in the spring to cook for them. They gave me some dates centered around Veterans Celebrations.
- Wreaths across America: Sat, Dec 13th starts at noon, Lady Lake Cemetery.
- Save the Date: Valentines Dance on Saturday Feb 14th with Susie Costa performing. Ham and scalloped Potato Dinner. \$25PP. On sale in Jan.
- Family Golf Tournament: Saturday, May 16th, rain Date May 23rd, location confirmed: Broad Stripes at Stonecrest.
- We will be honoring Walmart Manager Rob Smith at our next membership meeting if would like to join us. Latest donation for Fisher House was 50 Popcorn tins and \$200 in gift cards.

American Legion Riders: Linda Haynes

- Miles – 10,026 Hours – 1,751
- Wednesday lunch rides continue to be well attended and well received.
- We plan to participate in Wreaths Across America on the 13th.
- Riders continue to work in the kitchen and welcome all volunteers.

- Christmas Raffle tickets are currently on sale. The drawing will be held on December 21st. Tickets are 1 for \$5 and 3 for \$10. The Raffle will include an adult tricycle, a beautifully hand-sewn Christmas Quilt, a membership Shooters World and many other prizes to include baskets with golf packages, gift cards and other items. First Place has the choice of the tricycle and the quilt.
- Challenge Coins are to be available for \$10. Purchase one at the front desk or from one of the Chapter Officers.
- Our donation to the Sumter County Shop with a Cop will be presented on Nov 19th at the Sumter Sherriff's Office. We also donated to the Auxiliary Angel Tree.
- Our active membership stands in the 70's. Membership renewal is well under way.
- Lastly, our Thanksgiving gathering last week was well attended and a good time was held by all.

Suggestion Box: Jim Stasse

- Air deflectors for the AC vent near bar.
- TV in the game room;
- Queen of Hearts consolation prize of \$50 pulled at 8pm.

Unfinished Business

- Pavillion Update: still on hold

New Business

- \$200 District 6 Annual Picnic – Passed with Commander's prerogative.
- Fisher House Foundation

A MOTION to donate \$1,000 for Gainesville Fisher House by Jim Dollins SECONDED: Larry Miller

NO DISCUSSION APPROVED

- Bahia Shrine Fundraiser – Special Needs Children

A MOTION to donate \$500 for Bahia Shrine Annual Fundraiser by Ellen Tierney SECONDED: Don Hart

NO DISCUSSION APPROVED

- 347 Auxiliary Holiday Food Program

A MOTION to donate \$1,000 for 347 Auxiliary Holiday Food Program by Wayne Rodgers

SECONDED: Mike Haynes. NO DISCUSSION APPROVED

Donations:

- (2) \$50 from widow's of members

Correspondence:

- Camp Lejeune Turkey Giveaway letter from Tim Standfest: Total purchases included:
 - 3400 turkeys purchased from Sam's Club and commissary at Camp LeJeune
 - 112 hams purchased at Camp LeJeune commissary
 - 5000 dozen (300 cases that have 200 eggs to a case) eggs purchased from Simpson eggs in Monroe NC
 - 5 pallets corn and 5 pallets of green beans purchased from Sam's Club
 - 1 pallet of stuffing purchased from Sam's Club
 - 1 pallet of mashed potatoes purchased from Sam's Club
 - 35 cases of Apple sauce, 35 cases of Mac and cheese purchased from Sam's Club
- St Pauly Textiles collected clothing and send us 4 ¢ per pound. We earned \$1250, a big thanks to the maintenance crew for all their work sorting through the clothes.
- Thank you letter from Lake County Schools for our donation..

Good of the Legion

- Sunshine State 250 Show Down
 - It may seem far away, but we need to start planning for America's Semi-quincentennial Birthday. The Department of Florida American Legion, in conjunction with Florida Government, is holding a Sunshine State 250 Showdown
- I would like to thank all who participated in our Project 250 Challenge. I am pleased to share that we delivered 345 Operation Christmas boxes for Samaritans Purse, exceeding our goal by 95!
- Volunteer of the Month Ellen Tierney
- 1st Vice Burgess discussed how we are going to remove all the plaques from the Hall and reorganize how we are going to put things back on the wall. Sections for the Color Guard trophies, WW1, WW2, Korea...etc. The Families will have a limited section as well as a 9/11 section.
- 1941 Packer raffle 1 - \$25; 5 - \$100 to be drawn on 4th of July. Open to the public.
- MTR update- they were about to shut down the Veteran Program till the New Year but received our check in time to keep it going.

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

Time Adjourned: 6:36 pm.

Respectfully submitted,



Robert C Burgess, Adjutant
Dec 10th, 2025