

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

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

- Commander Musser introduced Joan Suelter, Past Post Commander, current 6th District Commander, and incoming Eastern Area Commander.
- Reading of the November's meeting were read by the Adjutant. With no additions or correctios, the minutes were accepted as read.
- For the Executive Committee minutes, there were no additions or corrections, and they were accepted as printed.

FINANCE: Bob Irvine.

- Five-month report ending on November 30, 2024.
- The Balance sheet, Cash and Reserve with total assets are over the three million mark.
- The Profit and Loss showed a decrease due to the Lounge being closed for hurricane weather. Extra expenses were also incurred due to the purchase of new kitchen equipment. With all of this, the revenue is greater than last year.
- Operating expenses are up due to insurance and utilities.
- There was a net profit in November due to 2 extra events, (Purse Bingo and Mega-Bingo).

A MOTION to accept the finance report for audit: Dan Martin **SECONDED:** Rob Burgess **APPROVED**

1st VICE: Tina Burgess

- We have 51 total new members:31 New-18 Transfers-2 Reinstatements. Their names were read into the minutes.
A MOTION was made by Tina Burgess to accept these new members **SECONDED:** J.B. Alexander
Commander stated that he played Legion Baseball for Post 1011 in Pennsylvania. We also have a Father and son joining the post (New and transfer) **APPROVED.**
- All members were given an opportunity to briefly introduce themselves. Afterwards, a group photo was taken to be posted to the website.
- Commander gave a brief dissertation on the new members that this is their post. Take time to know the post by reading the Constitution and By=Laws, the Lounge rules. Sign-up online to take the Legion Basic Training. Also check our website for the latest updates.

2nd VICE: John Gorsuch- Absent (Report from Exec. Committee)

- Lady Lake Christmas Parade-December 7.
- Breakfast at the Post, December 14 from 7-11 an. Mr & Mrs Claus will be there.
- Wreaths Across America: Lady Lake Cemetery, December 14 starting at noon.
- Army-Navy game at 1500 on December 14th. Drink specials and Fried bologna sandwiches at halftime.
- Veteran Outreach (Open House) on Friday, January 10, from 9-3. Some of the services being offered: VA Villages outreach Clinic, Geriatric Research clinic, My Healthy Vet, DAV and DSO, Whole Health, Women's Health, Blood Pressure station, Flu Shots, Social Workers discussing Homeless vets, VA Vison Impairment Team, Clermont Vet Center, Charter Research, Audiologist, Lake Sumter Lions Club for blood sugar screening, Bloodmobile, In-Home health care for veterans.(Tina Burgess)
- Dental Program: Offered by NSU in Clearwater, free or for minimal cost for Veterans and their married spouses. (Tina Burgess) Tina has flyers and you can connect to our website. (Tina Burgess)
- Vietnam War Commemoration Ceremony-February 17th starting at 10:00 am. Vietnam Era veterans will receive a special lapel pin. Surviving family members will also receive a special certificate and lapel pin. Close to 100 veterans have signed up. We are looking for about 200-250 veterans. We will have a 4-star general from the Marines in attendance.

3rd VICE: Dan Martin

- 190 hours.
- Back-Pack vacuum has arrived and is in use.
- Back kitchen equipment is installed and running.
- The kitchen will be closed December 23 to January 2, the kitchen will be closed to install new equipment in the front kitchen. We will need volunteers on December 23 & 24 to clear the kitchen. Equipment will be installed on December 26 & 27.

POST SERVICE OFFICER-8 from Dennis Storey

JB and Maria Alexander gave a brief introduction of themselves. They have attended the necessary Schooling for the position.

HONOR GUARD: John Gorsuch-Absent

No Report

LOUNGE: Rob Burgess

- Gave an income statement for November along with volunteer drinks cost.
- Volunteer hours of 1550.
- Sunday, Tuesday and Wednesday attendance policy will be member and one guest.
- December 28th will be the last Saturday night Trivia. Various replacement programs are being discussed.
- Volunteer of the Month-Jim Dollins.
- New Years' tickets still on sale for \$25 pp. Del Phis will be in the hall and Jonnell & The G Man will be in the lounge. Bring your own snacks.
- Army-Navy game was discussed.
- Holiday Hours: December 24 and December 31 Post will close at 5 pm. On December 31, post will reopen for ticket holders at 7:30 pm. Post is closed on January 1.
- No Queen of Hearts on December 24 and December 31. After the December 17th draw, you MUST have a 2025 membership card. January 7th will be the next draw.
- The commander gave a brief description of Queen of Hearts to the membership.

KITCHEN: Harriet Turnbull- (Working the kitchen)

- The biggest need is VOLUNTEERS. You don't need to know how to cook. Other duties are available.

AUXILIARY: Tina Burgess gave the report

- 87% of renewals. 2,147 renewals.
- 50 Christmas boxes will be delivered to needy families.
- Operation Home Front has delivered 2,000 toys to Carter Middle School, Rolling Acres Middle School and Fruitland Park Elementary School.
- The auxiliary has supplied 200 gifts to the Salvation Army Angels, 50 gifts to seniors living in Assisted Living facilities and gifts to children of homeless families.

SONS OF THE AMERICAN LEGION: Danny Roe

- Membership: 760 members for 71.6% of goal of 1061.
- Volunteers' hours for November were 595.
- A check was presented to Fisher House in Gainesville for \$7,000
- Culvers Dine to Donate was held on November 14th. Culvers donated 10% of proceeds to our \$Children and Youth Program (4495.65) + \$341.52 in tips. Total: \$837.17.
- Valentines Dance-Saturday February 8th Band will be "Jersey Frank". Proceeds for Special Olympics. Tickets go on sale in January. Menu: Ham, Scalloped Potatoes, Green Beans. Tickets: \$25 pp.
- Family golf Tournament: Saturday, May 10th. Rain Date: May 17th. Broad Stripes country Club. (formally Stonecrest). Four-somes go on sale February 4th. \$95 pp. Accepting donations and looking for volunteers,
- Wreaths Across America: A huge program. They make over three million wreaths distributed over 4,900 locations. Our ceremony will be December 14th at Lady Lake Cemetery.

LEGION RIDERS: Linda Haynes

- Miles-11,713 Hours-1,143
- Milea and hours were lower in November due to holidays and numerous escorts in October.

- Riders will continue to work in the kitchen on the 1st, 3rd and 5th Sunday.
- Wednesday lunch rides are well attended. We continue to participate in funeral escorts when requested.
- The Christmas raffle is underway. Tickets are available at Saturday breakfast, Tuesday evenings and when the riders work the kitchen.
- The ALR Christmas party will be held in lieu of the December meeting.
- Membership: Total active members for '24 was 70. 78 members have renewed for '25 that puts us at 111%.
- \$1,000 donation for "Shop with a Cop" Sumter County
- Donations at the fall Conference
 - \$500 for Suicide Prevention
 - \$500 for Children and Youth
 - \$500 for vet Relief

OLD BUSINESS:

DONATIONS

Upcoming:

- Participated in "Shop with a Cop: in Leesburg-\$1000.
- Send 10 boys to Boys State-\$5000.
- Shriners Bahia Circus-\$500

CHAPLAIN-Lisa Johnson

Post Everlasting

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|----------------------|--------------------|
| ➤ Patrick D'Annunzio | William E. Denholm |
| ➤ Kack Griswald | Thomas Roarty |
| ➤ Brian R. Tuttle | William Perry |

Sick Call

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| ➤ Bill Duffy | Therm Nichols |
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NEW BUSINESS

JUDGE ADVOCATE: Heath Davenport

- Updated Lounge Rules-Highlights
 - Under 21 Years of age: No Gambling-Pull Tabs, Queen of Hearts.
 - No firearms
 - Gentlemen sleeveless shirts approved.

CORRESPONDANCE

GOOD OF THE LEGION

Tina Burgess-We will be holding a "50th Year Vietnam War Commemoration Ceremony on Monday, February 17 at 10 am. You are eligible for this award if you served November 1, 1955-May 15, 1975, regardless of where you served. We are looking for 200 recipients. For more information, please see Tina. A slide show will be presented. We would need a photo of you during the time served and a current photo. She will have handouts.

With no further business to come before the meeting, the Chaplain led us in prayer and the meeting was closed in good order. Meeting adjourned: 6:18 pm.

Respectfully submitted.

Philip R. Crouthamel

Assistant Adjutant
December 5, 2024