

**Winter Park Memorial American Legion Auxiliary Unit 112
General Meeting Minutes**

October 11, 2011

The October 2011 general meeting of the American Legion Auxiliary Unit 112 was called to order at 7:15pm by President, Aunita Padgett. Aunita offered the invocation and Johanna Langis led the Pledge of Allegiance and Preamble to the Constitution of the American Legion Auxiliary.

Members in attendance included:

Marge Berrios

Johanna Langis

Jo Anne Russell

Nell Colbert

Aunita Padgett

Aunita thanked everyone for coming and Nell confirmed that we have a quorum for this meeting. Aunita asked for permission to deviate from the printed agenda should the need arise and everyone agreed.

Nell Colbert reported that the minutes from the last meeting that were emailed to all members and posted on the Unit's YahooGroups. There were also printed copies available those needing them. JoAnne Russell moved (seconded by Marge Berrios) that the minutes be approved as written. Motion carried.

Nell Colbert presented the Treasurer's Report noting that the document had been emailed to everyone via the Yahoo Group. The report showed that we began the month with \$685.69, received interest income of \$.03 and had no expenses of, leaving us with a closing balance of \$685.72 as of the end of the month. Nell reported that we have received no additional income but that we paid out \$40.41 to Office Depot for our food drive project and \$152.60 to Emblem Sales for Halloween coloring books, a POW-MIA chair cover and the school medals we agreed to present during the planning conference, leaving us with a balance of \$492.71. Jo Anne Russell moved (seconded by Johanna Langis) that the Treasurer's Report be approved as written and filed for audit. Motion carried.

Nell Colbert noted that the only correspondence received this month was the Goldenrod Chamber of Commerce newsletter for October. The Department Communiqué still has not been posted to the Department website.

Information from the Post's Executive Committee meeting held last week was shared with the members. Aunita reported that we have notified the Post that we will not be able to support the November Yard Sale as it falls on the same weekend as the Department's Fall Conference. Nell noted that the Post has asked the unit to assist them in screening the Oratorical contest during one of the upcoming meetings. Aunita will verify which month they will need us.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

- **Membership:** Nell Colbert reported that we have turned in ten membership renewals for 2012 and that we have one new member. We received dues from one additional renewal this evening, bringing our paid membership to twelve, bringing us to 86% of our membership goal. Nell noted that we have received several additional applications for new or transferring members but none were accompanied by dues payment. Nell indicated that she will continue to try to reach these prospective members.
- **Community Service:** Nell Colbert reported that we have ten collection boxes in place for our food drive that runs through mid-November. The boxes are due to be picked up during the week of 11/7 and we will meet at the Post on 11/15 to sort the food and build our holiday food boxes for our needy Veterans.

- **Children and Youth:** Aunita Padgett noted that she is updating the narrative for the work that we have already done for the Children and Youth program, including the Easter Egg Hunt last April that was not included in last year's narrative, our Christmas in July activity with the Post and our upcoming Halloween party with the Post.
- **Americanism:** Johanna Langis reported that we have offered to teach flag etiquette to the children at both Cheney and Eastbrook Elementary Schools but that neither has asked for our help. Nell also noted that in December we will be passing out information about the Americanism Essay contest when we deliver the Girls State information.
- **National Security:** Marge Berrios reported that she recently received information on another opportunity that we have in regards to our coupon project, noting that we have signed up to support an Army base in Okinawa. Periodically Marge will be mailing a box of coupons to the base so that the families can use the coupons in their PX.
- **Veterans Affairs and Rehab:** Aunita reported that for Veterans Day, she and her husband will continue their tradition of putting flags on the graves of Veterans at the local cemetery.
- **Past President's Parley:** We recently learned that our teas for the ladies at the VA Nursing Home is actually a project falling under Past President's Parley. Since our last event was so well received, we have scheduled another event on November 10th. Aunita is making the arrangements.
- **Poppy Distribution:** Aunita Padgett noted that we have several booths scheduled for the Veterans Day holiday; November 9th at the Lakemont Walgreens, November 14th at another Walgreens and November 5th in conjunction with the Goldenrod Chamber of Commerce holiday parade. Jo Anne Russell agreed to contact the Walgreens in Oviedo since this is also a very busy location and Aunita will arrange for the booth at the Lakemont store. Johanna Langis suggested that we also consider having a booth at Winn Dixie in Casselberry.
- **Constitution and By Laws:** Nell Colbert reported that we need to work on revising our Constitution and By Laws to update our dues structure to keep us in line with the recent increase passed by national. Marge Berrios moved (seconded by Johanna Langis) that we increase our dues for 2013 to \$30 for renewing members and \$35 for new members. Motion carried. Nell will update the current documents so they are ready for when we need to vote on them after Christmas. There was also some discussion regarding the need to look at changing our meeting night to accommodate membership growth as well as to adding an Executive Committee to our Constitution and By Laws that currently shows that we will not have an Executive Committee until the unit reaches 25 members. It was decided to table the discussion about the Executive Committee and changing the meeting night until January to see where our membership sits at that time.
- **Legislative:** Aunita Padgett reported that she periodically forwards emails she receives to Nell to forward out via our YahooGroups. Aunita requested that if a member agrees with the contents of the email, that they join in and send a letter or email or make a phone call to their legislators. Aunita reminded everyone to keep a log of what correspondence they send out and note if there is ever any kind of response.
- **Leadership:** Nell Colbert presented our leadership segment for the evening by sharing the information about the National Adult Leadership program that is available on-line. Nell encouraged everyone to download the program, read through the material and complete the final exam. The exam is mailed to the national office for grading and those passing will receive a certificate.

OLD BUSINESS:

- **Bank Signers** – Marge and Nell will meet at the Post on October 19th at 11am to go to Fairwinds to make the necessary changes to our account.

- **Financial Review** – Aunita Padgett announced that she still needs to obtain Mayra Ruiz’s signature on the letter so that we can file the report.
- **Friendly’s FUN Night** – Nell reported that Friendly’s has filed bankruptcy and closed the UCF store so all future Fun Nights scheduled are cancelled. This also means that we will probably not see any payment for the event we did in August. It was agreed that we need to each be looking at developing additional fundraising opportunities.
- **Reading Rockets** – It was agreed that we will shop for the Reading Rockets books on October 19th right after taking care of the bank business.

NEW BUSINESS:

- **2011-2012 Budget** – Nell Colbert presented the proposed 2011-2012 budget noting that while we show a deficit of about \$75, we have not looked at replacement fundraisers for the lost Friendly’s activity. Johanna Langis moved (seconded by Marge Berrios) that the proposed budget be adopted as presented. Motion carried. Further discussion about fundraising was tabled to next month.

OTHER BUSINESS:

Everyone made their contributions to the AEF piggy. Aunita reminded everyone that the Friendly’s FUN Night scheduled for Thursday has been cancelled and that our next activity is October 19th when we will shop for the books for the Reading Rockets packets. Aunita also reminded everyone about the Post’s Halloween party for the kids on October 30th. We need helpers to decorate the Post and help distribute candy to the children as they depart. Also, before our next meeting, we will have a membership drive/Poppy Drive as part of the Goldenrod parade activities on 11/5. If we meet at the Post before 9am, we can car pool as parking will be at a premium near the Chamber.

With no further business, Aunita Padgett offered the benediction and closed the meeting at 8:55pm.

Respectfully submitted



Nell Colbert
Secretary-Treasurer

Minutes approved _____

Nell Colbert, Secretary _____

Aunita Padgett, President _____