

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

July 9, 2013

The July general meeting of the American Legion Auxiliary Unit 112 was called to order at 7:05pm by President, Marge Berrios and opened by tradition.

Members in attendance included:

Marge Berrios

Aunita Padgett

Nell Colbert

Debi Shannon

Nell confirmed that we have a quorum for this meeting and Marge was granted permission to deviate from the printed agenda should the need arise.

Marge welcomed everyone and announced that the 2013-2014 theme is Cruising for Unity and the new Department President is Gerrie Bailey. Marie Eatman from St. Cloud Unit 80 is the new 6th District President.

Our guest, Nancy Mailloux, from Union Park/Bithlo Unit 242, was asked to introduce herself. Nancy indicated that she may be interested in transferring to our Unit.

Nell Colbert reported that the minutes from the May meeting were emailed to all members but that there were no minutes from June since that meeting was held in conjunction with the Post for the purpose of installation. The May minutes were also posted on the Unit's YahooGroups site and placed on our unit website. Nell had hard copies of the minutes available at the meeting for review by those who had not received them via email. Debi Shannon moved (seconded by Aunita Padgett) that the minutes from May 2013 be approved as written. Motion carried.

Nell Colbert gave the Treasurer's Reports for both June and July since the June report was not shared in last month. There were no expenses and only \$.03 in interest income during May. The June report showed an opening balance of \$641.76 and a closing balance of \$641.79. The June report showed that we began the month with \$641.79, received income of \$254.60 and had expenses of \$96.27, leaving us with a closing balance of \$800.12 as of June 30th. Nell reported that we received \$35 from Sharon Leimer as a new member along with \$30 from Cheryl Knapp for her 2014 dues since the beginning of July but that we had no expenses since the first of the month. Nell reported that the Treasurer's Report was emailed via the Unit's YahooGroups and was posted on the YahooGroups site. Nell also made hard copies available at the meeting for review by those who had not received the Treasurer's Report via email. Debi Shannon moved (seconded by Aunita Padgett) that the Treasurer's Reports for June and July be filed for audit. Motion carried.

Nell Colbert noted that the only items of correspondence received this month was the monthly newsletter from the Goldenrod Chamber of Commerce and a note from Hannah, our Girls State candidate. Nell noted that the June issue of the Department Communiqué has NOT been posted to the Department website. Traditionally there is no June Communiqué due to convention and Girls State falling back-to-back.

Nell Colbert noted that at the Post Executive Committee meeting it was announced that the SAL Squadron will be hosting an Open House on 9/21 for the purpose of recruiting new members for the Legion family. The Post has requested that the Auxiliary be present to share information about our programs and on-going projects so that we, too, can recruit new members.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Marge called on committee chairs for their updates. As each report was given, the chairs took time to explain our programs and projects to Nancy.

- **AEF:** Nell reported that we continue to collect money each month for AEF and that we received a certificate at convention for our contribution this year.
- **Americanism:** Marge reported that she participated with Oviedo Post 243 in a flag retirement ceremony at the Tremont Retirement Center last month. Nell reported that the Americanism essays that we received from the students at Eastbrook were sent to Department for their contest and that we presented our Americanism Essay Contest medal to the Eastbrook winner during their school program at the end of May.
- **Cavalcade of Memories:** Aunita had nothing new to report. Aunita noted that our scrapbooks are in the Post hall.
- **Children and Youth:** Aunita reminded everyone that the Post's Christmas in July is coming on July 27th.
- **Community Service:** Marge and Aunita reported no new projects have been planned.
- **Constitution and By-Laws:** Nell reported that our Constitution and By-Laws are up to date.
- **Education:** Nell reported that she has been in contact with Costco about obtaining backpacks for our school supply drive and that she has placed a collection box at the Goldenrod Chamber to collect school supplies and non-perishable foods for the school pantries. Nell also noted that we have been asked to do Reading Rockets for the third grade at Eastbrook and the second grade at Cheney Elementary Schools.
- **Girls State:** Marge reported that both our delegate and our alternate attended the orientation and that our alternate was picked to represent another Unit. Both girls have kept in contact with us reporting that they had a great time and are looking forward to sharing their experiences with us soon.
- **Juniors:** No report
- **Leadership:** Nell reported that we again were recognized at the Department convention for our leadership program.
- **Legislative:** Aunita encourage everyone to stay informed about issues concerning our military and our Veterans and to continue to be proactive in contacting our legislators.
- **Membership:** Nell reported that we were recognized at convention for achieving more than 103% membership and presented the ribbon we received for our flag.
- **National Security:** Marge noted that she now has lots more coupons to clip and ship to Okinawa.

- **Past President's Parley:** Aunita noted that we need to set up some dates for 2013-2014 during our planning conference.
- **Poppies:** Aunita reported that she has set up 11/9 for a booth at the Winn Dixie on University at Goldenrod. It was noted that this is the same date as one of the 6th District meetings. Aunita will handle the Poppy booth while others attend the District meeting.
- **Public Relations:** No report as we have no on-going PR program. Nancy indicated that she would be willing to take on this position for us once she has officially transferred to our Unit.
- **Veterans Affairs and Rehab:** Aunita reported taking some additional donations to the VASH program. Nell also reported taking donations to VASH but noted that she was told that they can no longer accept general household items like furniture, cooking utensils, cookware, etc. as they have no place to store them. For the time being, they can accept clothing donations only. Nell noted that she is waiting on a receipt for the goods donated over the Memorial Day weekend and will get a copy to the Unit as soon as it is received.

LEADERSHIP SEGMENT: The Leadership segment was dropped due to the lack of air conditioning in our meeting room this month.

OLD BUSINESS:

- Fundraising – Debi reported that she heard back from the David Maus Foundation that we do not meet their requirements for donations.

NEW BUSINESS:

- Dues for new members joining late in the year – Nell suggested that we consider adopting a standard for pro-rating dues for NEW members who want to join the unit late in the year, specifically after we begin collecting dues for the next year after June 1st where, if they are turned in as soon as they are received, the new member would be added as a new member for the current year and then be required to pay the full dues for the following year almost immediately. Nell indicated that there are two ways to handle this; either through an amendment to our Constitution and By-Laws or to handle on a case-by-case basis depending on when the new member makes application to join the Unit. After a brief discussion, Debi Shannon moved (seconded by Aunita Padgett) that we handle each applicant on a case-by-case basis. Motion carried. Aunita Padgett moved (seconded by Debi Shannon) that between June 1, 2013 and August 31, 2013 prospective new members should be offered the opportunity to pay only \$16.50 for 2013 along with their \$35.00 for 2014 so that they can join immediately rather than waiting until September to officially join the Auxiliary. Motion carried. Nell will contact Sharon about this new opportunity.
- Planning Conference – Nell reported that the School of Instruction is planned for August 17th at Post 19. After a brief look at personal calendars, it was decided that our planning conference will be held on Sunday, August 18th beginning at 2pm.
- Program Committee Chairs – After a brief discussion, it was agreed that our committee chairs will be as follows:
 - AEF – Nell

- Americanism – Marge and Nell
- Cavalcade of memories – Aunita
- Children and Youth – Aunita
- Community Service – Marge and Aunita
- Constitution and By-Laws – Nell
- Education – Nell and Debi
- Girls State – Debi and Marge
- Juniors - open
- Leadership – Nell
- Legislative – Aunita
- Membership – Nell
- National Security – Marge
- Past Presidents Parley – Aunita
- Poppy – Marge and Aunita
- Public Relations – Nancy (pending)
- Veterans Affairs and Rehab – Marge and Aunita

Sgt-at-Arms Debi Shannon introduced Ted Costello, our Department VA Hospital Rep, who asked if we would consider doing another bingo party at the VAMC like we did last Christmas. Ted indicated that he will provide the funds to purchase all the goodies for the party and that we are needed to do the set up and then help the Veterans with their Bingo cards. It was agreed that we will plan a date for this activity during our planning conference and let Ted know so that he can get it on the hospital calendar. Ted also announced that there will be a Fisher House built at the hospital and that facility will be in need of furniture, kitchen equipment, linens and other household supplies once the facility is built.

After everyone made their contributions to the AEF piggy bank, Debi Shannon offered the benediction and Marge Berrios adjourned the meeting at 8:25pm.

Respectfully submitted



Nell Colbert
Secretary-Treasurer

Minutes approved _____

Nell Colbert, Secretary _____

Marge Berrios, President _____