

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

November 21, 2023

The November 2023 general meeting of the American Legion Auxiliary Unit 112 was called to order at 7pm by President, Marge Berrios. The meeting was opened according to ritual.

Members in attendance included:

Marge Berrios
Terry Berrios
Nell Colbert

Maria Santiago
Debi Shannon

Guests in attendance were:

Bob Colbert, Post 112 Adjutant

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 our newest member, Maria Santiago, her granddaughter, and Terry's daughter.

The minutes from the last meeting were emailed to all members. Debi Shannon moved (seconded by Terry Berrios) that the minutes be approved as written. Motion carried.

Nell Colbert gave the Finance Report. Debi Shannon moved (seconded by Maria Santiago) that the Finance Report be filed for audit. Motion carried. Nell gave an update on the Treasurer's class she attended at the Fall Conference.

Nell Colbert shared items of correspondence received this month including:

- Department *The Florida Canvas* newsletter
- Unit Membership Credit Report – now being send via email
- Dept. of Agriculture Solicitors renewal paperwork

Bob Colbert reported on the Post Executive Committee meeting:

- The camera system at the post has undergone a major upgrade.
- The Home Depot upgrades are complete, including a new stove and refrigerator.
- The Post and SAL will not have regular meetings in December; any business requiring immediate attention will be handled before the Christmas party on 12/8.
- The Post needs RSVP's for the party ASAP but not later than 12/5.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Marge called on the Committee Chairs to give their updates if there was activity during the month.

- **Children and Youth:** Nell gave an update on the Children and Youth class she attended at the Fall Conference. Lots of good information. Most Department committees have monthly Zoom meetings; C & Y is on the 2nd Thursday at 7pm. Contact the Department chairman for the Zoom link.
- **Girls State:** Marge gave an update on the Girls State class she attended at the Fall Conference. Our fee for 2024 remains at \$400 but will probably increase for 2025. Department is considering instituting at \$25 registration fee to be paid by the girls when they register to help deter last minute no-shows. If the girl attends, her \$25 will be refunded.
- **Membership:** Nell gave an update on the Membership class she attended at the Fall Conference. Lots of good information. In addition, Nell reported that with our

newest member, Maria, we are now at 92.3% of our membership goal. We have three ladies who have not yet renewed for 2024.

- **National Security:** Marge gave an update on the National Security class she attended at the Fall Conference. We can also include support for first responders in addition to active-duty military in our efforts. Poppy money can also be used to fund Honor Flights. The National Security Committee meets via Zoom on the 3rd Monday at 7pm and everyone is welcome to attend.
- **Poppies:** We collected \$8 in unsolicited donations at the Eastbrook Veterans Day program and our Tijuana Flats efforts netted another \$52.
- **Public Relations:** Nell is working on our Rotary grant application which is due by 12/15/2023.
- **VA & R:** Our annual Christmas food baskets will be delivered to the Lake Baldwin VAMC on 11/29 along with the Post's Giving Tree family items. One of our baskets will go to the Post's family and the others will go to any Veteran family the VA chooses to bless with our donation.

LEADERSHIP SEGMENT:

Debi encouraged everyone to log in to the learning center on the national website and complete the basic training classes. Please download your certificate and email it to Debi. Be sure to log your hours spent taking the course for our annual reports.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

- Debi needs an updated roster to send get well/condolence cards. Nell will email.
- Eastbrook Veterans Day program was nicely done. Action Church provided breakfast and we handed out flags and poppies to all the Veterans attending. Nell, Debi, and Marge supported the event along with our Post Adjutant, Bob Colbert.
- Debi, Marge, and Nell shopped for the Eastbrook food pantry backpack project and the goodies were delivered on 11/10 after the conclusion of the Veterans Day program. We provided all the non-perishable food items for a nice Thanksgiving dinner for 15 families.
- Marge, Debi, and Nell delivered our check for the Scholastic Book program to the teacher at Eastbrook who uses the program for her students.
- Providing a simple meal for the Post meetings has proven successful in increasing their attendance. Since there is no december meeting at the Post, meals will pick up again in January.

NEW BUSINESS:

- Marge and Nell gave updates on a few other classes they attended at the Fall Conference. The Unit president's class that Marge attended emphasized that we can accept help from volunteers who are not Auxiliary members, and their hours can be counted under the program for which they volunteer. Another class that Nell and Marge attended was called "Who You Gonna Call" and it emphasized knowing and using your resources, not necessarily following the "chain of Command."
- As noted in the Nov-Dec newsletter, the Legion Family holiday dinner/party is set for 12/8 at Perkins. There will be an optional gift exchange (\$15-\$20). The Post needs RSVP's not later than 12/5.
- Activities for 2023-2024 – There was a lengthy discussion about our calendar of activities for the rest of this program year. We outlined the following:
 - Jan. – Girls State and Americanism Essay Contest letters to the high schools and Essay Contest information to the elementary schools.

- Feb. – our regular monthly meeting will be both in-person at the Post as well as on Zoom and we'll have a light meal. We will judge the Americanism essays received at our in-person meeting. Girls State interviews will be held on 2/25/24 at the Post beginning at 1pm for set-up and 2pm for interviews.
- March – information out to our elementary schools about the Scholastic Achievement Awards for 5th graders
- April – Purple Up for Military Kids is 4/15. It was suggested that we set up a Military Child's table at a local restaurant or at Eastbrook.
- May – Our May meeting will be another in-person meeting with the Zoom option as we will be electing our officers for 2024-2025. The end of the month will have many school awards programs where we will present school medals. The Seminole County Veterans Luncheon is also in May, and we will partner with Post 243, Post 112, and the Fern Park Post and Unit to have a display table to share information about our programs and possibly recruit some new members. Our Post will also be holding a Memorial Day program in which we will have a part.
- June – Department Convention
- July – In-person and Zoom for Installation of Officers
- August – summer vacation
- September – Back to School! Contact Eastbrook about how many families will be getting backpacks.
- October – Shop for Eastbrook backpack project and Veteran's Holiday food basket projects
- November – Eastbrook Veterans Day program. Deliver food for Thanksgiving backpacks. Deliver Holiday Food Baskets to Lake Baldwin VAMC
- Post family holiday party
- Happy New Year 2025!

ANNOUNCEMENTS AND REMINDERS:

- Send service hours to Marge and Nell. If you are helping with activities/events at other Posts, be sure to include them. We also need a brief description of what you're doing.
- Next meeting is 12/8 at Perkins for the holiday party.
- 6th District Auxiliary meeting is 12/9 at St. Cloud Post 80 beginning at 9:30am.

Debi Shannon offered the benediction and Marge Berrios adjourned the meeting at 7:54pm.

Respectfully submitted



Nell Colbert
Secretary-Treasurer

Minutes approved _____

Nell Colbert, Secretary _____

Marge Berrios, President _____