

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

**September 17, 2024**

The September 2024 general meeting of the American Legion Auxiliary Unit 112 was called to order at 7pm by President Marge Berrios. The meeting was conducted via Zoom and 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.

The minutes from the last meeting were emailed to all members. Terry Berrios moved (seconded by Debi Shannon) 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 Colbert shared items of correspondence received this month including:

- Department new 2024-2025 *The Florida Toolbox* newsletter
- Unit Membership Credit Report
- Mailer from the Ritz Theater in Sanford re free tickets for the Falconaires performance in October

Bob Colbert reported on the Post Executive Committee meeting:

- While only lightly attended, the Post held a moving Patriot Day ceremony on 9/11. Bob thanked Marge for setting up the memorabilia display. The ceremony has been posted on the Legion's website.
- The SAL breakfasts will be starting up again in January but will be no charge and will not have the lake Nona Veterans in attendance. This is to try to get more activities going at the Post. Participants will need to RSVP and help from the Auxiliary will be greatly appreciated.
- The Post sponsored Scouts America Girl Troop will be meeting at the Post through the end of October since their usual meeting place is undergoing some renovations. They also have a member who will be working on her Eagle project at the Post on 9/28.

**COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

The group agreed to deviate from the agenda so we could do the 6<sup>th</sup> District meeting updates during our Committee updates.

- **AEF:** Units have been encouraged to build an AEF donation "house" out of any materials available (Legos, popsicle sticks, etc.) and have them on display at their Post home. The AEF houses should be emptied of any donations and brought to Fall Conference.

- **Americanism:** The Americanism Chair emphasized that saying the Pledge of Allegiance at school or during meetings, etc. should be logged as an Americanism activity. It was also noted that the Essay Contest cover sheet is being updated and should be available on the new Department website soon.
- **Children and Youth:** The Young Hero and Good Deed awards fall under Children and Youth. Please promote them with local Scout Troops and schools. We also need to set a shopping date for our backpack project for the Eastbrook food pantry that we will deliver in early November.
- **Community Service:** There was a brief discussion about the updated Impact Forms and Nell shared her screen showing the forms from the Power Point presentation from Saturday's District meeting. Everyone should fill out the forms, but everyone was encouraged to continue to send in their service hours to Nell and Marge every month because so much of what we do does not fall within any of the categories shown on the Impact forms. The Department Community Service Chair will be holding regular Zoom sessions for anyone wishing to participate. Please email [CommunityService@alaf.org](mailto:CommunityService@alaf.org) to request the Zoom link.
- **Education:** Nell has contacted the new teacher at Eastbrook who is interested in receiving our Scholastic Books check so she can get one book per month throughout the school year for the first-grade students in her class. Marge and Nell will present the check on Friday, 9/20. This is our *Give Ten to Education* project.
- **Girls State:** The cost for the 2025 program will remain at \$400. Two of our delegates will be attending the Post 243 meeting later this week to share their experiences. Since Post 243 funded our over-quota delegate, it is important for at least one of our delegates to attend their meeting so their membership can see the benefit of their donation.
- **Legislative:** Nell posted a link on our Facebook Group that everyone can use to participate in the Legislative program that is easy and requires little effort. Just go to [www.votervoices.net/americanlegion/home](http://www.votervoices.net/americanlegion/home). This is where you can sign up to get alerts on when we need to contact our Government Officials about Legislative Acts/Bills concerning our Veterans.
- **Membership:** Nell reported that our PUFL has now posted, so we are showing 24 paid members. We need 29 members to reach 100% this year. We have two members who have yet to pay for 2025. Debi announced that she will be signing up her granddaughter. Marge will promote joining our Unit at the Post 243 event in hopes that some of their spouses will join our Unit to help us reach 100%.
- **National Security:** It was announced that beginning this year, participation in Wreaths Across America should be logged as National Security.
- **Public Relations:** Nell has been updating both our Facebook Page and Group – please check them out. As soon as the girls do their updates for Post 243, Nell will complete our update for the Rotary grant we received earlier this year, and she will begin working on our grant application for 2025.
- **VA & R:** Nell promoted the *Be The One* training put on by Columbia University. There is a training on Thursday, 9/19, beginning at 2:30pm via Zoom and the link to register is on our Facebook Group. Nell also noted that the Department VA & R Chair will be holding regular Zoom sessions for anyone interested. Just email [VeteransAffairs@alaf.org](mailto:VeteransAffairs@alaf.org) to request the Zoom link. We need to set a date for our shopping for the holiday baskets we take to the VA at Lake Baldwin for the Giving Tree project.

### **UNFINISHED BUSINESS:**

- School of Instruction – no update

**NEW BUSINESS:**

- 6<sup>th</sup> District Meeting – Most of the 6<sup>th</sup> District meeting business was reported above. Past Commander Kurt Geiss did speak to the Auxiliary about the Challenge 22 Walk that will take place on 11/2 beginning at 9am starting from Winter Garden Post 63. This year, there is no cost to participate and golf carts will be available for anyone who is not able to walk the route but who still wants to participate.

**LEADERSHIP SEGMENT:**

Debi presented an outstanding segment on the Art of Communication, a training that dealt with how to communicate in our current society where there is so much division. Debi emphasized that when we argue, we often lose track of the main point of the argument so there is no resolution.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS AND REMINDERS:**

- Send service hours to Marge and Nell
- Fall Conference is November 11-24
- The District picnic to support Boys and Girls State transportation will be held 3/22 at Fern Park Post 183. Volunteers are needed to help serve, set-up, and tear-down. The menu will include fried chicken, and everyone is asked to bring a side.

Debi Shannon offered the benediction and Marge Berrios adjourned the meeting at 7:44pm.

Respectfully submitted



Nell Colbert  
Secretary-Treasurer

Minutes approved \_\_\_\_\_

Nell Colbert, Secretary \_\_\_\_\_

Marge Berrios, President \_\_\_\_\_