

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

October 15, 2024

The October 2024 general meeting of the American Legion Auxiliary Unit 112 was called to order at 7:02pm by President Marge Berrios. The meeting was opened according to ritual.

Members in attendance included:

Marge Berrios

Nell Colbert

Debi Shannon

Terry Berrios-Guariglia

Maria Santiago

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. Debi Shannon moved (seconded by Maria Santiago) 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 *The Florida Canvas* newsletter
- Unit Membership Credit Report

There was no report from the Post Executive Committee as the Post meeting was taking place concurrently with our meeting and the Adjutant was not available.:

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

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

- **AEF:** Our AEF collection house is complete. Nell will bring it to Fall Conference as requested by the Department AEF Chair.
- **Americanism:** The updated cover sheet for the Essay Contest is now available online. Nell will send the form to our elementary schools and ask the principals to encourage their students to submit essays. As usual, our judging will take place in February.
- **Children and Youth:** This year, Eastbrook has eight students receiving food filled backpacks every Friday. We need to schedule our date to shop for the food for the Thanksgiving backpacks.
- **Education:** Marge and Nell delivered the \$250 Scholastic Books check to a teacher at Eastbrook.
- **Girls State:** We had two of our delegates attend the Post 243 Boys State/Girls State steak dinner. The Post members were extremely impressed with the girls' reports and as a result, we have added several new members who are spouses of Post 243 members.
- **Legislative:** Nell reminded everyone to sign up to the Legion's Legislative Grassroots Action Center link that sends information out about topics about which we need to contact our legislators. Just go to www.votervoice.net/americanlegion/home to sign up for alerts

- **Membership:** As of today, we have 30 members for 2025 which gives us 103% of our goal.
- **National Security:** There is a combined Americanism/National Security Zoom meeting every month on the 3rd Monday of the month. To get the Zoom link, please email the Department Chair at either Americanism@alafi.org or nationalsecurity@alafi.org.
- **Poppies:** Marge will be checking with Brenda about availability at Tijuana Flats for a Poppy booth.
- **Public Relations:** The Rotary club's website has not posted the updated 2024-2025 Rotary grant application. Nell will continue to check for updates. Lots of information is being posted on our Facebook page and our Facebook group; if you are on Facebook, please like our page and join our group. Nell shared some history about our social media presence, noting that our Facebook group was created in September, 2009; our Facebook page was created in March, 2010; and our website was established in April, 2011.
- **VA & R:** Eastbrook's Veteran's Day program is scheduled for 11/8 beginning at 9am. Since we have again been invited to have our regular display table where we give our Poppies and small American flags to the veterans in attendance, we need to arrive at the school by 8:15am so we are ready when the families arrive for the breakfast. All our members are encouraged to attend. Please email Nell to let her know you are coming so she can get us registered. Nell reminded everyone that there is a monthly VA & R Zoom meeting on the 3rd Thursday of each month beginning at 7pm. To sign up to get the Zoom link, please email veteransaffairs@alafi.org

LEADERSHIP SEGMENT:

Debi presented our Leadership segment, first reminding everyone that 10/21-25 is Buddy Check Week. Please call a Veteran to see how they are doing. Next, Debi presented the next segment that was begun last month dealing with how to communicate, the next steps.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

- Nell is now the editor for the 6th District's Auxiliary monthly newsletter. If you have something of interest, please get it to her before the 20th of each month.

NEW BUSINESS:

- There was a brief discussion about sending a donation to the Department's Auxiliary Disaster Relief Fund, a program started by Dee Bell, our 2023-2024 Department President, as her special project for the year. Terry Berrios-Guariglia moved (seconded by Debi Shannon) to send a \$100 donation to Department. Motion carried. Nell will get the check cut and mailed.
- Birthday cakes for services birthdays – One of the suggestions from last month's VA&R Zoom meeting was to recognize each branch of the service by providing a birthday cake for the Legion meeting in the month where the branch's birthday falls. Terry Berrios-Guariglia moved (seconded by Debi Shannon) that we provide a birthday cake for the Legion meetings for each service branch's birthday. Motion carried. Birthdays fall in the following months:
 - Navy – 10/13
 - Marines – 11/10
 - Space Force – 12/20
 - Army – 6/14
 - Coast Guard – 8/4
 - Air Force – 9/18

OTHER BUSINESS:

- The 6th District Legion has a new Commander, Joan Suelter, as Peter Gregory stepped down due to health issues.
- The 6th District Legion Family is collecting new, unwrapped toys for the Domiciliary and Transitional Housing families. The District President, Penny, would like the toys collected brought to the December 6th District meeting in Mount Dora. If you are not able to attend the Auxiliary District meeting, please drop off your toys at Post 112 during the Post's regular November meeting on 11/12. Nell will transport the toys to Mount Dora.
- Those present shared their experiences during the two recent storms. Most had little to no damage other than tree debris. Some also lost power.
- Congratulations to Terry Berrios-Guariglia on her recent wedding!

ANNOUNCEMENTS AND REMINDERS:

- Send service hours to Marge and Nell
- Department's Fall Conference is 11/22 – 11/23 at the Caribe Royale Resort. All Auxiliary members are encouraged to attend. There are many learning opportunities on Friday, 11/22 to help all members learn more about our Auxiliary programs. You do not need to stay at the resort to attend as many members drive down each day. Time for lunch is short so quite a few attendees also pack their lunch.
- The December 6th District Legion Family meeting will be held at Mount Dora Post 35 on 12/7. These meetings usually have check-in beginning at 9am with the meeting starting at 9:30am; meetings usually end by noon.

Debi Shannon offered the benediction and Marge Berrios adjourned the meeting at 7:45pm.

Respectfully submitted



Nell Colbert
Secretary-Treasurer

Minutes approved _____

Nell Colbert, Secretary _____

Marge Berrios, President _____