

The American Legion Winter Park Memorial Post 112 Family



Winter Park Memorial Post 112
4490 North Goldenrod Road
Winter Park, FL 32792
www.wpflpost112.org
407.671.6404

2023—2024

Officers

Commander

James Middlekauff

1st Vice

Commander

Billy Dover

2nd Vice

Commander

OPEN

Adjutant

Bob Colbert

Finance Officer

Bob Colbert

Sgt. at Arms

Ron Gagne

Judge Advocate

OPEN

Asst. Judge Adv.

Terry Brown

Service Officer

Jim Middlekauff

Ted Costello

Chaplain

Billy Dover

Historian

Larry Middour

Sons of the Legion

Commander

Jim Carten

Auxiliary

President

Marge Berrios

Newsletter Editor

Nell Colbert

Website

[http://](http://www.wpflpost112.org)

www.wpflpost112.org

COMMANDER'S MINUTE

Greetings fellow Legionnaires of Post 112:

I hope everyone is doing well and staying healthy in this heat, please stay hydrated when being outside. If anyone is in need of assistance - please reach out to one of us.

As I mentioned in my last note, we will continue with our "blended" meetings and hope for more members to feel comfortable to actually attend the meeting at the Post (it is in great shape). Speaking of shape, the Home Depot has offered to do some "improvements" above and beyond what we have already done to improve the looks. Stay tuned, or stop in on a meeting night. As the note on page 2 of the newsletter suggests, we will try having some type of a light dinner for our meeting nights starting in October. Let us know if this is something that would interest you and the desire to participate.

Although we will not be having a September 11th ceremony, take a pause to remember the horrible day that was experienced in the United States. Just like the POW/MIA Veterans, we do not forget those who have lost their lives. Also, in September on the 15th is National POW/MIA Day and several ceremonies will be around for anyone to participate in. As the Commander for another year, we will be doing as much as we can to promote the Legion's policies and ceremonies.

Talk to other Veterans about us, the Legion is going strong. *"Anyone who has served honorably in the US Armed Forces since December 7, 1941 are now eligible to join, including Active Duty"* so bring them to a meeting and check out our awesome Post.

Until next time, take care and God Bless.

For God and Country,
Jim Middlekauff
Commander, Post 112

Volume 16, Issue 2

Sept.—October 2023

IMPORTANT NOTICE

To continue getting Post 112 family emails, please send your correct email address to Bob Colbert (bcolbert@usa.net) ASAP

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Our Happenin' Auxiliary—Nell Colbert

BOOM! And just like that our 2024 membership drive is well underway with eighteen of our current members already renewed for 2024. That puts us at 64.29% of our goal of 28 members. Thanks to everyone who has already renewed. Below are the members who have paid their 2024 dues as of 8/20 when this article was updated:

Marge Berrios
Terry Berrios
Sharon Brown
Claudia Caruso
Aurora Colbert
Braelyn Colbert
Nell Colbert
Victoria Colbert
Mary Doyle
Lisa Gagne
Cheryl Knapp
Sharon Leimer
Aunita Padgett
Laurel Ross
S. Scott Ross
JoAnne Russell
Debi Shannon
Madelda Thompson

If your name is not listed above, please mail your \$45 check to:

ALA Unit 112
PO Box 2246
Goldenrod, FL 32793-2246

Or you can pay on-line by credit or debit card by logging in to your account at the national Auxiliary site:

www.members.legion-aux.org

At our installation ceremony in July, we were presented with an award for our articles in our Legion Family newsletter. We were recognized at the Department Convention and the plaque was presented at our installation meeting in July. As soon as the Post improvement projects are



completed, our plaque will proudly hang with our other awards received over the years.

Laurel Ross presented some information about the Veterans "Healing Through Expression" project that is being done in partnership with the Orlando VA Healthcare System and the MOAA (Military Officers Association of America.) MOAA would like to partner with our Unit to obtain a grant from the Auxiliary national organization. Information was emailed to all members along with the minutes from our August meeting. We would like to discuss this in further detail at our September meeting on 9/19 to determine if this is something we might like to do. Please be sure to read the brochure and please plan to attend our September meeting.

Coming up this fall are a few of our regular projects and we would love to have more of our members help out. In September we will be preparing for our *Give Ten to Education* project where we support one teacher at Eastbrook Elementary who uses Scholastic Books in her classroom. For \$10 per student, Scholastic Books provides one book per month for each student in the class to have for their own to keep. The students love this and

we are encouraging their reading skills by helping them build a small home library by the end of the school year.

In early November we will be shopping for the Eastbrook food pantry weekend backpack project just in time for Thanksgiving. We purchase all the non-perishable goodies needed to make a complete Thanksgiving dinner for those students whose families, some of whom are military families, need a little food assistance for the holidays.

We will also be shopping for the VA's Giving Tree project where we will provide a number of food baskets for the military families requesting assistance with holiday items for their families. We assist Post 112 with the shopping for their family and we donate several non-perishable food item baskets for a great Christmas meal for our Post's family plus a few more.

Hope to see everyone in-person for our projects and on Zoom for our meetings.

We welcome all female Veterans and Veteran spouses along with the mothers, sisters, grandmothers and granddaughters of Veterans who would like to actively support our military, our youth and our community through our community service projects. To become involved, please call Nell at 321.303.7445.

To see what we've been doing, check out our Facebook page at: <https://www.facebook.com/ALA112FL> or our website at: www.AmLegionAux112FL.com

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COMMANDER'S MINUTE

Greetings fellow Legionnaires of Post 112:

I think fall may finally be here! Covid is still showing it's ugly face since I just got over it (again). Let us know if anyone needs help with medical or anything else we can do for you. Hurricane season is still here, so be ready.

As I mentioned in my last note, we will continue with our "blended" meetings and hope for more members to feel comfortable to actually attend the meeting at the Post (it is in great shape). Speaking of shape, Home Depot has offered to do some "improvements" above and beyond what we have already done to improve the looks. By the time we have our next meeting, the work will be done, so stop in on a meeting night and see what else has been done. As the note suggests in the newsletter, we will have some type of a light dinner for our meeting nights. October's dinner meeting was a great success. November's meal will feature pasta. Let us know if you would like to attend. We need to know before November 6th so our Auxiliary member who does the shopping and cooking can get everything needed to feed our crowd.

Hope you all had a safe and Happy Halloween! Remember Veterans Day and thank you for serving! At our November meeting we will be conducting our Post Everlasting ceremony, so if you have not attended one of these maybe now is the time. We will also be having our Annual Christmas Party/Dinner at Perkins again. Always a good night to be together and it will be on December 8th starting at 6:30 PM. The Post and Auxiliary support will be doing the VA Giving Tree program where we supply items for a Veteran family in need.

Talk to other Veterans about us, the Legion is going strong. "Anyone who has served honorably in the US Armed Forces since December 7, 1941 are now eligible to join, including Active Duty" so bring them to a meeting and check out our awesome Post.

Until next time, take care and God Bless.
For God and Country, Jim Middlekauff, Commander

Volume 16, Issue 3

Nov.-Dec. 2023

IMPORTANT NOTICE

To continue getting Post 112 family emails, please send your correct email address to Bob Colbert (bcolbert@usa.net) ASAP

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Our Happenin' Auxiliary—Nell Colbert

We are making great progress in our 2024 membership drive. 21 of our members already renewed for 2024, putting us at 81% of our goal. Thanks to everyone who has already renewed.

If you have not received your 2024 membership card, that means that your 2024 dues have not yet been paid. Please mail your \$45 check to:

ALA Unit 112
PO Box 2246
Goldenrod, FL 32793-2246

Or you can pay on-line by credit or debit card by logging in to your account at the national Auxiliary site:

www.members.legion-aux.org

At our September meeting, guests from MOAA shared their vision about the "Veterans Healing Through Expression" project and our members voted to partner with MOAA to help them obtain a grant from the Auxiliary national organization. All the paperwork has been submitted and we are waiting to hear back from MOAA to see if their grant request is going to be funded by national.

This month we will be presenting our *Give Ten to Education* check to one teacher at Eastbrook Elementary who uses Scholastic Books in her classroom. Our \$250 check will provide each of her students one book per month for the entire school year to have for their own to keep. What a great way

to encourage young students to become avid readers!

In November we have three major shopping projects: the Eastbrook food pantry weekend backpack project, the VA's Giving Tree project with several Post members, and our annual holiday food baskets for the military families requesting assistance through the VA's Giving Tree program. If you would like to help with any of our shopping trips to help Veterans and their families along with the Eastbrook students, please let Nell or Marge know. The Eastbrook project will be done on 11/6 at 1pm (meet at Publix on University & Goldenrod) and the VA shopping will be done on 11/28 at 2pm (meet at Costco on University & Forsyth.) No date yet for the Post's Angel Tree shopping.

After such a busy November, we all need a little party time! And, of course, it wouldn't be December without our **Legion Family's annual Holiday party**. This year, the party will be held on **December 8th** at the Perkins restaurant on University Blvd. at Forsyth Road. Our traditional gift exchange will also take place. Of course, the Legion needs to know how many people will attend. The holiday party will take the place of our regular december meeting. **Please see the "It's Party Time" article on page 2 for information on how to RSVP.**

Before you know it, 2024 will be here and it will be time to kick off Girls State interviews and our Americanism Essay Contest in our schools. Our Girls State interviews will be conducted on Sunday, February 25th, beginning at 1pm. Please plan to join us as we select our 2024 delegates.

We are going to try something new in 2024. At our October meeting, we voted to begin quarterly in-person meetings at the Post where we will also serve a light meal. We have a few new members who we've not been able to meet in person and we thought this would give us a chance to not only renew old friendships but get to know all our new members. Watch the January Legion Family newsletter for when our quarterly meetings will kick off.

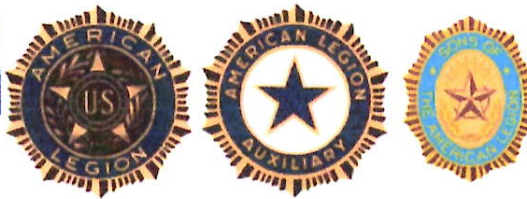
Hope to see everyone in-person for our projects and on Zoom for our meetings.

We welcome all Veteran spouses along with the mothers, sisters, grandmothers and granddaughters of Veterans who would like to actively support our military, our youth and our community through our community service projects. To become involved, please call Nell at 321.303.7445.

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COMMANDER'S MINUTE

Greetings fellow Legionnaires of Post 112:

I hope everyone had a Merry Christmas and healthy start to 2024. This past year was much easier than in the past and hope that goes for all. Christmas is a time to spend with family and friends as much as possible, so I hope that was able to happen for everyone. Life is a challenge at times, but we must keep the faith and hope for the best.

As I mentioned in my last note, we will continue with our "blended" meetings and hope more members feel comfortable enough to actually attend the meeting at the Post since we have made many good changes. Home Depot has done some "improvements" above and beyond what we have already done to improve the looks. By the time we have our meeting in January; hopefully all the work will be done, so stop in on a meeting night and see what else has been done. As the note in the newsletter suggests, we had some type of a light meal for our meeting nights that began in October. Let us know if this is something that would interest you.

We had our Annual Christmas Party/Dinner at Perkins again. Always a good night to be together and enjoy some friendship as well as great food. The Post and Auxiliary supported the VA Angel Tree program where we supply items in need for a Veteran family. As always, the Auxiliary ladies step up to assist. Thank You!

As far as future ceremonies/programs are concerned, we will be discussing these at the January meeting. February brings the Four Chaplains ceremony, which is a National recognition for the American Legion.

Talk to other Veterans about us. The Legion is going strong. *"Anyone who has served honorably in the US Armed Forces since December 7, 1941 is now eligible to join, including Active Duty"* so bring them to a meeting and check out our awesome Post.

Until next time, take care and God Bless.
For God and Country,
Jim Middlekauff
Commander, Post 112

Volume 16, Issue 4

Jan.—Feb. 2024

IMPORTANT NOTICE

To continue getting Post 112 family emails, please send your correct email address to Bob Colbert (bcolbert@usa.net) ASAP

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Happy
New Year



Our Bell Ringing Auxiliary—Nell Colbert



Yes—for the 2023-2024 program year, Florida Auxiliary Units are bell ringers in honor of our Department President,

Dee Bell, who's theme is "Bells in Service." We are still your Happenin' Auxiliary but we are ringing our bells in service to Veterans, Children and Youth, and our community!

There has been a lot going on since the last newsletter and there will be lots to do over the next couple of months. In early November we shopped for and delivered non-perishable items for the families at Eastbrook Elementary who participate in their weekend backpack food pantry program. We also shopped for our Christmas food



baskets that are given to the Lake Baldwin VAMC. We had a display table from which we gave out Poppies and small American flags to those veterans who attended Eastbrook's Veterans Day breakfast and program. After the program, we delivered the food for the backpack project. We also delivered our annual check to the teacher who uses Scholastic Books for her students so those young readers can begin or add to their own libraries at home. Our



that student to keep. At the end of the month, we assisted our Post with the

gift provides each student in the class one book per month for the entire school year for



shopping for their Giving Tree family after which we delivered our baskets to the VAMC.

What a Busy month!!

We wrapped up the year by attending the Legion Family Holiday party in early December.

At our November meeting, we held our annual planning session where we outlined our activities for 2024. Please see our meeting minutes for details.

One of the things we decided to do is to hold one meeting per quarter in-person at the Post. These meetings will also be available on Zoom for our out of the area members. Our first in-person meeting will be our February meeting where we will be judging our Americanism Essay Contest entries. **Since we will be serving**

a light dinner, you must RSVP to Nell at:

wpfl.ala112@gmail.com or call her at 321-303-7445 to let her know so we will have enough food on hand to serve everyone.

We are also recruiting candidates for our Girls State interviews that will be held at the Post on February 25th. Watch you email for more details.

Coming on January 20th is the 6th District ABC School—this is for all members and is a great way to learn more about the Auxiliary. The school will be held at Post 219 in Fruitland Park. A flyer will be emailed to all members with the registration information. Lunch will be served.

And last but not least, please welcome our newest member, Maria Santiago who lives in NJ. With maria's membership, we are at 92.31% of our goal of 26 members. **Please remember—if you have not sent in your check for \$45 for your 2024 dues, your membership has EXPIRED!**

Happy New Year!!

We welcome all Veteran spouses along with the mothers, sisters, grandmothers and granddaughters of Veterans who would like to actively support our military, our youth and our community through our community service projects. To become involved, please call Nell at 321.303.7445.

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COMMANDER'S MINUTE

Greetings fellow Legionnaires of Post 112:

It's that time again. We are continuing to do our best, despite some circumstances that has held us back. Life is a challenge at times, but we must keep the faith and hope for the best.

As I mentioned in my last note, we will continue with our "blended" meetings and hope for more members to feel comfortable to actually attend the meeting at the Post since we have made many good changes. The Home Depot has done some "improvements" above and beyond what we have already done to improve the looks. As the note suggests in the newsletter, we have had some type of a light snack for our meeting nights that began in October and will continue with our March meeting. Let us know if this is something that would interest you. We do need a head count so we have enough food on hand. Please contact the Adjutant before March 7th if you plan to attend.

As far as future ceremonies/programs, we will be discussing these at the March meeting. Our Four Chaplains ceremony had to be cancelled this year, so we will try again next year. This is a National recognition for the American Legion.

I hope everyone has a Happy Easter and hope to see you all soon.

Talk to other Veterans about us, the Legion is going strong. *"Anyone who has served honorably in the US Armed Forces since December 7, 1941 are now eligible to join, including Active Duty"* so bring them to a meeting and check out our awesome Post.

Until next time, take care and God Bless.

For God and Country, Jim Middlekauff
Commander, Post 112

Volume 16, Issue 5

March.—April. 2024

IMPORTANT NOTICE

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Our Happenin' Auxiliary—Nell Colbert

First, we want to welcome our newest member, Brynlee Skye, born on February 23rd. Her proud parents are SAL and Auxiliary members, Russell and Victoria Colbert. Brynlee joins big sister, Braelyn, and big brother, Landon, who are also members of our Legion family.

With Brynlee's new membership, our Unit is now at 100% of our goal! If you have a friend who is eligible to join our Auxiliary, please share our Zoom link with them so they can see what we're all about.



And, another first for our Unit—we successfully applied for a National Auxiliary Foundation grant (with lots of help from the Military Officers Association of America—MOAA) so we could partner with MOAA and their Veterans *Healing Through Expression* art show. The show was held at the Museum of Military History in Kissimmee on



February 11th and was a great success. During the appreciation luncheon, we were able to present the check we received from the National Foundation for \$2500 to MOAA to help them fund the art supplies needed for the art show.

Our February meeting was held in-person and on Zoom and those attending at the Post enjoyed subs from Firehouse before our meeting began. During the meeting, we judged our Americanism Essay contest entries received from our elementary schools. We also elected our nominating committee who was charged with developing a slate of officers for our 2024-2025 program year. If you would like to serve as an officer, please contact wpfl.ala112@gmail.com to let us know in which office you might like to serve. The nominating committee will meet after the March meeting (on Zoom) and the slate will be presented at our April meeting. Nominations from the floor will be accepted at the April meeting after which nominations are closed. Voting will take place at our May meeting, currently scheduled to be both in-person at the Post and on Zoom. Installation is targeted for our July meeting.

By the time you read this, our Girls State candidates will have been interviewed and our delegates and alternates selected. We had eight candidates: 2 from Haggerty, 3 from Trinity Prep, 2 from Winter



Park High School, and one who came from Winter Garden.

Looking forward to later this spring, it's almost time to begin presenting Scholastic Achievement Awards to our 5th grade students at the eight elementary schools we support. Because all the graduation ceremonies are held within the last few days of the school year at the exact same times and we have schools in both Orange and Seminole Counties, we will need extra help to make sure our schools are all covered. If you would like to help make these presentations, please let Nell know. There is a script already prepared and the schools always try to put us first on their programs so we can scoot out to cover the next school that day.



American Legion Auxiliary

Poppies are also coming in May. If you would like to help with a Poppy booth, please contact Marge as she will be setting the schedule.

We welcome all Veteran spouses along with the mothers, sisters, grandmothers and granddaughters of Veterans who would like to actively support our military, our youth and our community through our community service projects. To become involved, please call Nell at 321.303.7445.

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