

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

February 17, 2026

The February 2026 general meeting of the American Legion Auxiliary Unit 112 was called to order at 7:04pm by President Marge Berrios. The meeting was held via Zoom and opened according to ritual.

Members in attendance included:

Marge Berrios	Sara Hoefler
Terry Berrios-Guariglia	Maria Santiago
Nell Colbert	Debi Shannon
Karen Hoefler	

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. Debi Shannon moved (seconded by Terry Berrios-Guariglia) that the minutes be approved as written. Motion carried.

Nell Colbert gave the Finance Report. Debi Shannon moved (seconded by Sara Hoefler) that the Finance Report be filed for audit. Motion carried.

Nell Colbert shared items of correspondence received this month including:

- Department *The Florida Passionate Posts* newsletter
- Unit Membership Credit Report
- Letter from American Legion Child Well Being Foundation that included our ribbon for last year's 100% membership.

Bob Colbert reported on the Post Executive Committee meeting:

- Boys State selection will take place on 2/21 beginning at 2pm. The Post has seven candidates.
- The Legion birthday is 3/15. The Post is working on plans to hold an event beginning with coffee and donuts beginning at 10am followed by a flag retirement ceremony and BBQ or pizza lunch. The Auxiliary and SAL members are encouraged to attend.

Before moving into Committee reports, nell moved (seconded by Debi Shannon) that our Unit provide a couple dozen donuts for the morning during the Legion birthday celebration. Motion carried. Nell will pick up the donuts.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

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

- **Americanism:** Nell suggested that we either move the due date to earlier in February or require that the schools scan and email the essays. The essays from Dommerich were mailed on 1/30 but they still have not been received by the Unit.

Fortunately, the teacher is very pro-active and emailed the essays so we would have them for tonight's meeting.

- **Education:** Nell will be emailing out the information for the Scholastic Achievements in early March. As soon as we get names of the honorees and the dates for the school 5th grade graduation ceremonies, we will need to schedule the presenters for each school.
- **Girls State:** Marge reported that we currently have six candidates – one from Oviedo and five from Winter Park. There has been major confusion with the over-quota delegate process, and we still do not know if we will have a second delegate. Nell hand carried the paperwork to department as soon as the applications were available on the website. Marge is working with Paula to get things straightened out. The selection of our delegate(s) will be held on Sunday, 2/22 beginning at 2pm. We need to be at the Post by 1pm to set up the building. The question was raised about whether we want to have Zoom available for our out of state members. It was agreed that we would make Zoom available. Since the Post has a computer with their Zoom account already set up, we will use the legion's Zoom account and Nell will email the Zoom link for Sunday. Our Post Adjutant, Bob Colbert, noted that he has a contact at lake Highland Prep for Boys State. He will help develop this contact for our Girls State program.
- **Legislative:** Nell encouraged everyone to sign up for the Grassroots program if they haven't already.
- **Membership:** We are currently at 103%
- **Poppies:** We received our order and Marge verified that there were 250 in the box and that the poppies were nicer than the ones we received last year. Nell suggested that we investigate picking up our order at Department as the shipping cost (\$25) was the same as the cost for our 250 poppies, so we paid \$50 for 250 poppies. We could even consider ordering more poppies; shipping for up to 1000 poppies is still \$25.
- **Public Relations:** Our grant paperwork for the Rotary club was submitted in December; we are waiting to hear if we will receive their grant this year.

LEADERSHIP SEGMENT:

There was a recent Zoom webinar that dealt with annual reports and Impact forms. Nell shared the link to the recording of the webinar. Debi's leadership segment delved into the importance of the Impact forms and how important it is for every Unit member to submit their volunteer hours to Nell and Marge every month. Marge uses our monthly reports to complete the Unit's Impact Report as those Impact Reports from all over the county impact the funding received from the federal government for Veterans based on the dollar value of the volunteer work that we do.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

- Four Chaplains Ceremony – Everyone who attended agreed that the ceremony was very impressive. Debi did a great job portraying one of the Four Chaplains.

NEW BUSINESS:

- Nominating Committee – Our elections of our 2026-2027 officers will be held during our May Unit meeting as mandated by the Department and Unit Constitution and ByLaws. Debi will chair our Nominating Committee, and the committee will meet briefly after our March meeting to begin developing our proposed slate. The final slate will be presented at our April meeting so we can vote in May. Installation is usually held as a joint meeting in July.

- Americanism Essay Contest judging – We received six essays from Dommerich Elementary. After discussing each essay, it was agreed that some of the students may have used AI to draft their essay. We agreed that the essay written by Caroline M. will be our winner and will be sent to Department for the state contest.

ANNOUNCEMENTS AND REMINDERS:

- Send service hours to Marge and Nell. Please remember to include a brief description of what you did, not just the hours volunteered.
- 6th District Meeting is March 7th at Lady lake Post 347. Registration begins at 9:30am and the meeting begins at 10am.
- The 6th District ABC School (Auxiliary Basic Concepts) is March 14th at Post 286, Pinecastle. Registration begins at 9am and the training will start at 9:30am. This is a great opportunity to learn more about the Auxiliary.
- The 6th District Family Fun Day picnic to support Girls State and Boys State Transportation will be held on March 22 at Hickory Point Park in Tavares from 12noon until 5pm. Everyone is encouraged to attend.

Debi Shannon offered the Benediction, and Marge Berrios adjourned the meeting at 8:04pm.

Respectfully submitted



Nell Colbert
Secretary-Treasurer

Minutes approved _____

Nell Colbert, Secretary _____

Marge Berrios, President _____