

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

May 19, 2026

The May 2026 general meeting of the American Legion Auxiliary Unit 112 was called to order at 7:07pm by President Marge Berrios. The meeting was held via Zoom and opened according to ritual.

Members in attendance included:

Marge Berrios

Terry Berrios-Guariglia

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. 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 Passionate Posts* newsletter
- Information about filing Officers List for 2026-2027 online only

Bob Colbert reported on the Post Executive Committee meeting:

- The Post held its elections last week and Leslie Beltz will be the new Commander for 2026-2027.
- Installation is scheduled for July 14th and there will again be a joint ceremony with Post, SAL, and Auxiliary officers being installed at the same time.
- The 8/11 Post meeting will feature the Girls State and Boys State delegate updates.
- There was some discussion about shifting the Post meetings to the first Tuesday due to a meeting conflict the new Commander has with the 2nd Tuesday meeting. No final decision has been made.
- The new AED has been mounted by the front door.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

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

- **Americanism:** Nell will present the medal and certificate to our Essay Contest winner from Dommerich Elementary on 5/22.
- **Children and Youth:** Nell and Marge were joined by Department Leadership Chair, Penny Kanbara, when we presented two National Auxiliary Good Deed Awards to two Eagle Scouts from ScoutsBSA Troop 613. A third award may be presented via Zoom to our third recipient who lives in Ohio at his Eagle Court of Honor. Nell has also submitted a 4th Good Deed award nomination for a young

lady in ScoutsBSA Troop 4613 and is waiting to hear back from national. Nell also spoke with a couple of other Scoutmasters at the recent Central Florida Council Annual Banquet so we may get paperwork from those troops to submit additional nominations. Nell promoted our Tushies and Toes socks and underwear collection for elementary aged students at the Post meeting and asked Post members to purchase items during the sales tax holiday in August and bring items to the Post for August and September meetings.

- **Community Service:** We are getting service hours reports from only a small handful of our members.
- **Education:** Marge and Nell are handling the Scholastic Achievement Award presentations at our five elementary schools this year.
- **Girls State:** One of our alternates has had to withdraw due to the Celebration of Life for one of her family members who recently passed that will be held during Girls State. Marge reported that she is still waiting to hear if our second alternate has been picked up.
- **Legislative:** Nell encouraged everyone to sign up for the Grassroots Action Center. Just go to <https://www.voterve.net/AmericanLegion/Register> . Or you can go to the Department website at alafl.org and click on Programs. Then click on Member Outreach/Legislative and Other links. Then click on Grass Roots Action Center and it will take you to the website to register.
- **Membership:** We are just under 103%. Please remember our Membership Drive for 2027 starts July 1st and we need to be at 100% membership before 10/15/26 so we can be assured of qualifying for an over-quota delegate to the 2027 Girls State.
- **Poppies:** Marge discussed Poppies with the Post 243 Commander, and they will not need Poppies from us this year. We have no plans for a Poppy booth for Memorial Day.
- **Public Relations:** Nell reminded everyone about our website and Facebook page and group. Please like our page and follow our group.

LEADERSHIP SEGMENT:

Debi shared information about the Veteran History Project and suggested that some of our Legion members might like to be interviewed.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

- Election of Officers – Debi presented the proposed slate of officers for 2026-2027. The slate was approved by acclamation. Our officers for 2026-2027 will be:
 - President – Marge Berrios
 - Vice President – Terry Berrios-Guariglia
 - Secy-Treas – Nell Colbert
 - Chaplain – Debi Shannon
 - Sgt-at-Arms – Maria Santiago
- Troop 613 Court of Honor – Nell shared a picture of our Good deed Award presentation.

NEW BUSINESS:

- District Constitutional Conference Update – Nell, Mercedes, and Marge attended. Marge and Nell shared an update, noting that most District Chairs only received Year-End reports from seven units (out of 17.) We received a several certificates for our reporting efforts. Anita Hutchinson from Clermont Unit 55 was elected as our new District President.

- 2026-2027 Proposed Budget Review – We went over the draft budget for the next program year. Since we just purchased Poppies and have not used any of the ones we received, it was decided that we will not purchase Poppies for next year. Nell will remove the Poppy line items from the draft budget. Debi Shannon moved (seconded by Maria Santiago) to approve the 2026-2027 budget as amended. Motion carried.
- Election of Delegates and Alternates to Department Convention – Based on our membership, we have three delegates and three alternates. Our Standing Rules state that if they are available, our delegates are the Unit President, Unit Secy-Treas, and the Unit Chaplain. Mercedes indicated previously that she would be interested in attending Convention, so Mercedes was nominated and elected as our alternate. Nell will confirm Mercedes' availability for 6/11-13. Nell will also send out information asking if anyone else is interested in attending as a paying guest. Registration is \$10 per person, and the Unit pays the registration fee for our Delegates and Alternates. Guests need to send their check to the Unit before 6/1.

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.
- Our next meeting will be after convention on 6/16.

Debi Shannon offered the Benediction, and Marge Berrios adjourned the meeting at 8:02pm.

Respectfully submitted



Nell Colbert
Secretary-Treasurer

Minutes approved _____

Nell Colbert, Secretary _____

Marge Berrios, President _____