

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

August 18, 2026

The August 2026 general meeting of the American Legion Auxiliary Unit 112 was called to order at 7:03pm by President Marge Berrios. The meeting was held via Zoom and opened according to ritual.

Members in attendance included:

Marge Berrios

Nell Colbert

Debi Shannon

Terry Berrios-Guariglia

Maria Santiago

Guests in attendance were:

Leslie Beltz, Post 112 Commander

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.

Marge welcomed our new Post Commander, Leslie Beltz.

The minutes from the June and July meetings were emailed to all members. Debi Shannon moved (seconded by Terry Berrios-Guariglia) that the minutes for both meetings be approved as written. Motion carried.

Nell Colbert gave the Finance Report, reviewing the activity for both June and July. Debi Shannon moved (seconded by Terry Berrios-Guariglia) that the Finance Reports for June and July be filed for audit. Motion carried.

Nell Colbert shared items of correspondence received this month including:

- Department *M*A*S*H Situation Report* newsletter for August
- Two Unit Membership Credit Report (MCR Report) – April and May
- Receipt from the FL Dept of Revenue for our Quarterly Sales Tax filing
- Thank you letter from one of our Girls State delegates.

Leslie Beltz and Bob Colbert reported on the Post Executive Committee meeting and Leslie shared some of her goals for the Legion Family over the next year:

- Recruit new members.
- Make improvements/repairs as needed.
- Activities that will help our Legion family be better recognized in Winter Park like:
 - o Winter Park Celebration of veterans at Hanibal Square just before Veterans Day
 - o Winter Park Christmas Parade
 - o Wreaths Across America at Pineywood Cemetery on 12/19 starting at noon.
 - o Veterans History Project – interviews to be done at Post 112
 - o Fun gathering days at the Post on Saturdays with donuts and coffee.
 - o Quilts of Valor presentations
 - o Veteran Service Officer at the Post one Saturday each month
 - o Flag Retirement Ceremonies with ScoutsBSA, 4-H, DAR, and Sea Cadets – first one is 9/26 from 10am-2pm
 - o Post Holiday Party on 12/19 following Wreaths Across America

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

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

- **AEF:** Leslie has invited us to promote the Auxiliary Emergency Fund during the monthly Legion meetings.
- **Americanism:** Nell will be sending the essay contest information to the schools in September.
- **Children and Youth:** Nell contacted Eastbrook's clinic and they are thrilled that we want to do this project again this year. They need smaller sized underwear and larger sized socks this year. We need to coordinate our shopping trips for Tushies and Toes as well as Adopt a Teacher and the Thanksgiving food items we get for the Eastbrook food pantry backpack program.
- **Constitution and By-Laws:** Nell reported that we need to make a change to our Standing Rules to identify which Unit officer will be authorized to verify eligibility for new Auxiliary members.
- **Education:** In addition to our Scholastic Books project, Nell and Marge suggested that we add an Adopt a Teacher program to what we do.
- **Girls State:** Marge noted that all three of the girls we selected attended the August joint meeting with the Legion to share their experiences. One or two of the girls will go to Post 243 on 9/17 to update their membership.
- **Legislative:** Nell reminded everyone to sign up for the Grassroots Action Center so we can send emails to our legislators regarding issues supported by the Legion.
- **Membership:** We currently have 22 paid members. The National website has been updated so members who want to pay online can do so. Nell explained that the national website was not available for dues payment for longer than was anticipated.
- **Poppies:** Marge announced that the Tijuana Flats with whom we partnered in the past for Poppy distributions has closed so we need to develop new locations/ways to distribute Poppies.
- **Public Relations:** Nell is working on the Legion family newsletter and has been posting information to our Facebook page and group as well as the Legion's page and group. Nell also followed up with the Orange County East Rotary Club on the status of our grant application for 2026-2027 funding.
- **VA & R:** In the next month or so, we need to coordinate our shopping dates for the Holiday food baskets that we donate to the Giving Tree program at the Lake Baldwin VA.

LEADERSHIP SEGMENT:

Debi shared information about a new benefit being offered to Auxiliary members called "Hello By Grouper" and encouraged everyone to check out the program on the national website.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

- **Convention Update** – Marge and Nell shared information about Department Convention held in June, noting that the 2027 budget that was approved includes funding for a paid full-time Department Secretary and that the fee for each Girls State delegate remains the same for 2027.
- **Department Workshop Update** – Nell and Marge shared information from the workshop noting that the Department program chairs presented information about each Auxiliary program. Program Engagement Plans for each program will be on the Department website soon. The 2027 Girls State program will be held 6/3 – 6/11 and Patti Halliday is the 2027 Department Chair. Delegate registration is due by

12/31, and over-quota delegate registration is due by 1/31. Fall Conference will be held at the Caribe Royale resort 11/19-11/21. The fall 6th District meeting will be held on 9/12 at Post 63 in Winter Garden. Registration begins at 9am with the meeting starting at 9:30pm.

- Texas Roadhouse fundraiser – Nell reported that she has been unable to contact the fundraising person as the restaurant, but she will keep trying.
- Seminole County Veterans Luncheon – Nell explained what this luncheon is and how we might be able to be involved. Nell will continue to try to contact the organization who organizes this event about how we might be able to be involved.

NEW BUSINESS:

- Standing Rules change – Nell explained what the National Auxiliary NEC changed in the eligibility approval process for new Auxiliary applicants, noting that we need to decide which of our officers should be authorized to review eligibility paperwork for new applicants and add a statement to our Standing Rules. After a brief discussion, Debi Shannon moved (seconded by Terry Berrios-Guariglia) that the Secretary-Treasurer/Membership Chair and the Unit President be authorized to sign off on membership applications after reviewing the applicant's eligibility documentation. Motion carried. Nell will draft the new Standing Rule and will send it out to the membership.
- Adopt-a-Teacher – There was a brief discussion about establishing a budget for this project. Terry Berrios-Guariglia moved (seconded by Debi Shannon) that we allocate \$100 towards this new project. Motion carried.
- SmileAssociates/Amazon National partnership – Nell referred everyone to the August National Auxiliary magazine for information about this new fundraising opportunity for Auxiliary Units. Nell has set up our SmileAssociates link. If everyone who shops on Amazon uses the Unit link, our Unit will earn a percentage of the sales, deposited directly every quarter. Nell will email the link to all members and will promote the link in the upcoming Legion family newsletter and at the next Legion meeting.
- 6th District ABC School – This is a learning opportunity that is especially good for newer Auxiliary members because it explains how meetings are run, how to make motions, Unit Officers, and their duties, etc. The next ABC School is scheduled for 9/26 at Post 347 in Lady Lake.

ANNOUNCEMENTS AND REMINDERS:

- Email service hours at the end of each month to wpfl.ala112@gmail.com and copy Marge and Nell. Please remember to include a brief description of what you did, not just the hours volunteered.

Debi Shannon offered the Benediction, and Marge Berrios adjourned the meeting at 8:11pm.

Respectfully submitted



Nell Colbert
Secretary-Treasurer

Minutes approved _____

Nell Colbert, Secretary _____

Marge Berrios, President _____