

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

March 8, 2011

The March 2011 general meeting of the American Legion Auxiliary Unit 112 was called to order at 7:09pm by President, Aunita Padgett. Aunita offered the invocation and Johanna Langis led the Pledge of Allegiance. Due to special guests and the business at hand, Johanna Langis moved (seconded by Debi Shannon) to dispense with the recitation of the Preamble to the Constitution of the American Legion Auxiliary. Motion carried.

Members in attendance included:

Joan Baxter - guest

Nell Colbert

Johanna Langis

Aunita Padgett

Andrea Rodriguez - guest

Deb Shannon

Diane Anderson - guest

Nell confirmed that we have a quorum for this meeting. Aunita asked for permission to deviate from the printed agenda should the need arise and everyone agreed.

Aunita Padgett introduced our special guests: Diane Anderson, 6th District President, and Joan Baxter, prospective member.

Aunita Padgett reported that the minutes from the last meeting that were emailed to all members. Nell Colbert reported that the minutes had also been posted on the Unit's YahooGroups and that there were printed copies available for review. Johanna Langis moved (seconded by Debi Shannon) that the minutes be approved as written. Motion carried.

Nell Colbert gave the Treasurer's Report showing that we began the month with \$501.01, received income of \$150.04, which included a \$150 donation expressly for the purchase of our flag pole, stand and Eagle topper, and had expenses of \$37.50 for Poppies, leaving us with a closing balance of \$613.55 as of the end of the month. Nell reported that we have received no additional income and had no additional expenses since the first of the month. Nell reported that the Treasurer's Report was also emailed via the Unit's YahooGroups and was posted on the YahooGroups website. Johanna Langis moved (seconded by Debi Shannon) that the Treasurer's Report be approved as written and filed for audit. Motion carried.

Nell Colbert shared items of correspondence received this month including the letter from the State of Florida Department of revenue approving of our request to become a tax-exempt organization. Nell explained that all tax exempt purchases need to be run through our checking account as individuals personally purchasing goods for the unit cannot use the tax number and will still have to pay sales tax even though the unit might be reimbursing them for the items purchased.

Information from the Post's Executive Board meeting held last week was shared with the members including a report that since our last meeting a vehicle crashed into the fire hydrant and about thirty feet of the posts chain-link fence. Both the hydrant and the fence have been repaired.

LEADERSHIP SEGMENT:

Our leadership segment this evening was presented by Diane Anderson, our 6th District President and dealt with the new Department of Florida consolidated annual report form. Diane explained what the Department is looking for and reminded us that we need to send a copy of our

consolidated report to each of the District Chairs as well as to the Department Chairs. Diane reminded everyone that if we are seeking the different awards, we need to be very careful to abide by all of the narrative guidelines outlined in the Unit Guide like margins, line spacing, etc. Nell and Aunita will work together to make sure that our report is sent in on time.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

- **Membership:** Nell reported that we remain at fourteen paid members or 87% of our membership goal. We need two more members to reach 100%. Nell also reported that she has received a transfer application from Joan Baxter. Joan took a moment to introduce herself to the group. Johanna Langis moved (seconded by Debi Shannon) that we accept Joan as a new member in Unit 112. Motion carried. Welcome to Unit 112, Joan. Nell noted that since Joan has already paid her 2011 dues to her old unit, she will not count towards our 2011 membership goal.
- **National Security:** Marge Berrios was out of town for this meeting but Nell reminded everyone to bring in their clipped coupons for our coupon drive. Marge is dropping off coupons regularly at the Reserve Center.
- **Veterans Affairs and Rehab:** Aunita Padgett reminded everyone to bring comfort items each month for the collection box. Aunita also noted that since Liz has stopped participating, we need to drop her as co-chair for this committee.
- **Girls State:** Nell Colbert reported that we interviewed five fantastic young ladies on February 26th and had a difficult time narrowing the field to just two. Nell reported that the applications have been delivered to Jennifer Reeves at the Department and follow-up letters have been sent to both our delegate and our alternate, giving them copies of their applications and reminding them of the requirement to attend the orientation session. There was a brief discussion about the need for our Girls State Chair to attend the orientation. Debi will check her schedule to see if she is available to go and Aunita will contact Marge when Marge returns from vacation.
- **Legislative:** Aunita Padgett shared several responses that she has received from the legislators to whom she has sent letters and emails. Aunita will be sending out information periodically about legislation concerning Veterans Affairs about which we can write.

Nell Colbert next introduced Andrea Rodriguez, the wife of a soldier recently deployed to Afghanistan who presented information about her husband's unit and asked for our assistance. This unit has three hundred (300) soldiers and they have been deployed to a new base in Afghanistan at which the normal American facilities like a PX and Commissary have not yet been built. As a result, the soldiers have to purchase the simple toiletries like shaving cream, tooth paste, shampoo, etc. from the locals and they are being gouged. Andrea sends regular care packages but with the large number of soldiers, she is not able to supply all 300 men and women in the unit so she has asked for our help. Unit 112 committed to take on this project and Diane Anderson asked to share the project with not just the rest of the Auxiliary units in 6th District but to also share with the Departments National Security Chair to garner support for this military unit from other Auxiliary units in Florida. Unit 112 graciously accepted Diane's offer.

OLD BUSINESS:

Debi Shannon moved (seconded by Nell Colbert) to table until April the discussion of all old business items on the published agenda except for the Yard Sale and Friendly's. Motion carried.

- **Yard Sale** – Aunita Padgett reminded everyone that the Yard Sale is Saturday, March 19th and we need everyone's participation to help staff our booth during the day. We are also collecting goods to sell at our table as well as baked goods for the bake sale.
- **Friendly's** – Nell Colbert reported that our next date has been booked for April 20th.

NEW BUSINESS:

Nell Colbert (seconded by Johanna Langis) moved to table until April the discussion of all new business items on the agenda except for the Nominating Committee and the Constitution and By-Laws revision. Motion carried.

- Nominating Committee – It was agreed that Nell Colbert, Debi Shannon, Johanna Langis and Aunita Padgett will serve as our Nominating Committee for the 2011-2012 year. The slate should be presented at our April meeting with the election scheduled for May.
- Constitution and By-Laws – Nell Colbert reported that while our Constitution and By-Laws are not up for review this year as they were just approved last year, we do need to make a change to our Standing Rules. Currently our Standing Rules stipulate that checks to the Department for membership and quotas do not need a second signature. Nell reported that our recent check sent with our Poppy order was returned because it was missing a second signature, delaying our order. Nell suggested that we amend Item 5 in our Standing Rules to drop the identified items and change the item to read that checks written to the Department for any purpose require only one signature. Nell will prepare the updated Standing Rules so that it can be voted on and submitted before the Constitutional meeting in May.

OTHER BUSINESS:

Everyone contributed their loose change to the AEF piggy and Aunita reminded everyone about the Department Conference in June. See that Department of Florida website for additional information and to book reservations at the resort.

With no further business, Virginia offered the closing prayer and Aunita closed the meeting at 8:35pm.

Respectfully submitted



Nell Colbert
Secretary-Treasurer

Minutes approved _____

Nell Colbert, Secretary _____

Aunita Padgett, President _____