

Winter Park Memorial American Legion Auxiliary Unit 112 General Meeting Minutes

October 13, 2009

The October general meeting of the Winter Park Memorial American Legion Auxiliary Unit 112 was called to order at 7:05pm by President, Nancy Travers. Chaplain Aunita Padgett offered the invocation and Nancy led the Pledge of Allegiance. Nancy dispensed with the Preamble to the Constitution of the American Legion Auxiliary.

Members in attendance included:

Nell Colbert Aunita Padgett Marian Roberts Nancy Travers

Nell Colbert provided copies of the minutes from both the September general meeting and the October 3rd planning conference that were also emailed to all members as well as posted on the Unit's YahooGroups. Marian Roberts moved (seconded by Aunita Padgett) that the minutes for both meetings be approved as written. Motion carried.

Nell Colbert also provided copies of the Treasurer's Report that had also been emailed via the Unit's YahooGroups. As of September 30th, we have a balance of \$234.30. Marian Roberts moved (seconded by Aunita Padgett) that the Treasurer's Report be approved as written. Motion carried.

Nell Colbert shared items of correspondence received this month including information about the November Department Conference and the August and September issues of the Department Communiqué. Nell pointed out that the Communiqué is available on-line and suggested that all members look at this newsletter each month as it always contains important information everyone needs. The link to the Communiqué is:

http://www.alafl.org/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=72&Itemid=84

Information from the Post's Executive Board meeting held last week was shared with the members. Nell reported that the Post is very pleased with the overall progress our unit has made over the last 45 days, especially after the results of our planning conference was shared with the Post's leadership. Nell reported that the Post will be hosting a local reserve unit for a spaghetti luncheon sometime in either October or November. We have been asked to help the Post by donating spaghetti sauce for this event. This event will be a recruiting tool for both the Post and the Unit. The Post has also arranged to participate in a program with about 800 student veterans in early November at the Student Union at UCF. If we have someone available, we may also be able to recruit some new Auxiliary members. We were also informed that the 6th District Picnic will not be held at Post 112 this year as had been previously announced. Our blood drive was an item of discussion. It had been originally proposed that the blood drive be held on the last Saturday in March so that the Post could provide a free breakfast for those donating blood. The post also has its spring Yard Sale in March so also discussed was the idea of putting the blood drive on the same weekend as the Yard Sale as we might get more blood donors from the people coming to the Yard Sale and the Yard Sale might get more customers from those coming specifically to donate blood. We need to work with Jerry Dress to determine where our blood drive would fit best.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

- **Membership:** Nell reported that as of 10/1, we are at 86% of our membership goal. We need two more members to reach 100%.
- **Community Service:** Nell reported that our food drive is going well, with about 150 items in the collection boxes as of this date. Nell thanked Aunita for her help in putting out the boxes. Nell reported that she will assemble a project "How To" book for this project once it is complete. The booklet will contain samples of the donation letters used, the letter of explanation that went out to the stores where we requested floor space for our collection boxes as well as the contact information for the stores that were contacted and the procedures the stores require. Nell reminded everyone to please remember to bring some

non-perishable food items to the November meeting. There was a brief discussion about recycling. Nell reported that the cans collected through the Post are turned over to the Sea Cadets to be crushed and recycled. It was agreed that we would bring cans used by our families to the post on meeting nights so that they can benefit the Sea Cadet program.

- **Children and Youth:** Nell reminded everyone about the Halloween party on 10/31. We have committed to assisting the Post with the games. Nell, Nancy, Nita, Marian, Lillian and Johanna have committed to help. The party begins at 5pm and runs until 8pm. Nell noted that we will also be assisting the Post label and distribute Halloween coloring books to Eastbrook Elementary as soon as the coloring books are received from the Department.
- **Americanism:** Deb Shannon emailed information to Nell about the Pocket Flag project and Nell shared the information with the group. It looks like it will cost us about \$85 to get the flags and the baggies. Our only other expenses would be for the cost of the card stock to go in the baggies with the flags and the cost of shipping the flag kits.
- **Education:**
- **National Security:**
- **Veterans Affairs and Rehab:**
- **Poppy Distribution:** Nell shared that the cost of Poppies is \$75 per 1000 poppies and that they have to be ordered 90 days prior to our proposed distribution. Nell noted that 20% of the net profits are to be paid to the Department.
- **Constitution and By Laws:** There was a brief discussion about the need to revise our current Constitution and By Laws. Nell reported that the national dues and per capita fees are going up for 2010 and since our dues are specified in our Constitution and By Laws, we need to revise our documents so that we can officially increase our dues next year. Since the Department staff helped us get our documentation together when we first formed and we never received an electronic version of the documents, Nancy will contact Robin at the Department to get the Constitution and By Laws emailed to her and Nell as a Word document so that they can be edited more easily. Nancy, Nell and Marian will serve on the revision committee.
- **Public Relations:** Nell shared copies of print advertising that we have received for our projects. Tom Yost, the Post's Media Relations Specialist has submitted press releases for our recent projects along with the notices for the Post's Yard Sale. Our food drive has had PSA's on TV13 and in several local print media and our Meet and Greet Luncheon received written publicity in several publications. Nell reminded everyone to save anything that they receive and to make note of any radio or TV spots that they may see/hear as we need to document our PR efforts for our end of the year reports.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

- **Meet and Greet Luncheon** – Marian thanked Nell for her efforts in putting together the luncheon program, noting that everyone learned a lot about the Auxiliary and its programs. As a result of the luncheon, we added several new members.
- **Yard Sale** – Nancy reminded everyone that we are committed to help the Post with the Yard Sale on Saturday, 10/17. The Yard Sale runs from 8am until 3pm and is a fundraiser for the Unit as the Post will be splitting the proceeds generated by the sale of the items on the Post table.
- **Bake Sale** - Nancy reminded everyone that we have a bake sale fundraiser to run in conjunction with the Yard Sale. Everyone is asked to bring items to the bake sale with them on Saturday morning. If you cannot come on Saturday, please drop off your baked goods at the Post on Friday during the day. This is a fundraiser for the unit so we need to have everyone participate.
- **Halloween Party** – Nancy reminded everyone about the Halloween party on 10/31.
- **Holiday gift baskets** – There was a discussion about how this project would work. Nita volunteered to champion the activity. She will purchase two baskets and two \$25 gift cards from Winn Dixie and will bring these items to our November meeting. Nita will also contact the Reserve Center and ask the commander to select a family to receive one basket for

Thanksgiving and another for Christmas. We will pack the baskets during our November meeting using some of the food items collected through our food drive.

NEW BUSINESS:

- **September 6th District Meeting and Training** – Marian and Nell reported that this was a very worthwhile event with lots of great information. Nell and Marian encouraged everyone to attend the District meetings and training sessions when they are scheduled as that is how we will learn more about what we should be doing.
- **Budget** – Nell presented the proposed budget for 2009-2010. Aunita moved (seconded by Marian) that the budget be approved as presented. Motion carried.
- **BBQ Sauce Fundraiser** – Nell shared information she recently received about an American Legion endorsed fundraiser called H2H (Heroes to Hometowns) BBQ sauce. The proceeds from the sale of the sauce go towards a Legion program that provides funds for the renovation of homes of severely wounded soldiers. We would make 30% of the sales. Nell reported that the company that produces the sauce is sending us some samples that should arrive in time for the Yard Sale. If they arrive as promised, Nell will bring them to the Post. It was agreed that we would give this fundraiser a try since we need to raise about \$300 this year to meet our budget.
- **Unit Shirts** – Dyke Shannon provided a sample shirt for us to see along with pricing. It was decided that we will take orders for the shirts and that the shirts should sell for \$25 each. The shirts will be red and will have the Unit name and Auxiliary logo embroidered on them. Nell will send an email to the YahooGroup requesting that everyone send their ordering information to Nell before 10/20 so that the shirts can be received in time for distribution at our November meeting. Payment will be due at the November meeting.

It was decided that in light of the time, the rest of the new business should be tabled until next month.

OTHER BUSINESS:

Nancy again reminded everyone to please plan to attend the Yard Sale and bring items for the bake sale.

Nancy announced that beginning next month, we will begin collecting loose change each month to support the Auxiliary Emergency Fund. We are looking for a small pig shaped bank that we can use to collect these funds until we need to turn them over to the Department.

With no further business, Aunita offered the closing prayer and Nancy closed the meeting at 8:30pm.

Respectfully submitted



Nell Colbert
Secretary-Treasurer