

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

December 8, 2009

The December general meeting of the American Legion Auxiliary Unit 112 was called to order at 7pm by Vice President, Marian Roberts. Nell explained that Nancy would not be attending due to illness. Aunita Padgett offered the invocation and Marian led the Pledge of Allegiance. The group recited the Preamble to the Constitution of the American Legion Auxiliary.

Members in attendance included:

Nell Colbert

Liz Padgett

Aunita Padgett

Marian Roberts

Marian welcomed everyone and thanked them for attending.

Nell Colbert provided written copies of the minutes from the last meeting and reminded everyone that were emailed to all members right after last months meeting as well as being posted on the Unit's YahooGroups. Aunita Padgett moved (seconded by Liz Padgett) that the minutes be approved as written. Motion carried.

Nell Colbert also provided copies of the Treasurer's Report that had been emailed via the Unit's YahooGroups. Liz Padgett moved (seconded by Aunita Padgett) that the Treasurer's Report be approved as written. Motion carried. Nell noted that the expense item on the report showing a returned check and returned item fee charged by the bank was a bank error because a check deposited to another customer was accidentally charged back to our account when the check they deposited bounced. The bank has refunded the returned item fee and reversed the charge back.

Information from the Post's Executive Board meeting held last week was shared with the members. Nell announced that the Post is planning to have a Spring Festival on April 17<sup>th</sup> that will include food and games and will be open to the community. Proceeds from the event will go towards the Post's Boys State fund. There was no discussion at the Executive Board meeting as to how the Auxiliary might be involved. Nell also announced that the Post has agreed to allow us to bring the Blood Mobile to the Post's Yard Sale activity in March. The Post also asked if the unit would like to do a bake sale in conjunction with their upcoming DVD sale. There was a brief discussion about this proposal and it was decided that we would not participate this time as the revenue generated from the effort would not be commensurate with the amount of work it would take to produce the items and the very limited appeal this event would have.

Nell Colbert shared items of correspondence received this month including a very nice letter we received from the Principal at Eastbrook Elementary School thanking the unit for delivering the large fruit basket on Vets in the Classroom Day during National Education Week. Nell also shared the newsletter from the Goldenrod Chamber that acknowledged the certificate of appreciation that the unit presented to the Chamber for its support of our food drive last month.

### **COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

- **Membership:** Nell reported that we still need one more member for 2010 to reach our 100% goal. Nell noted that she is working with an Oviedo Post that does not have an Auxiliary unit to possibly recruit some of the wives of their members into our unit. Aunita mentioned that she also has a possible new member that could join our unit. Nell reminded everyone to continue to promote the Auxiliary in their activities outside of the American Legion.

- **Community Service:** Nell presented Marian and Aunita with thanks you patches from the Central Florida Council in recognition of their help with our food drive last month that benefited the Second Harvest Food Bank via the Boy Scout Scouting for Food project,
- **Children and Youth:** Nell reported that one of the Boy Scout units sponsored by the Post is doing a toy drive for Toys for Tots. We collected a few items during our meeting. Nell reminded everyone to bring their donations to the post before Friday and she will take them to the school.
- **Americanism:** There was a brief discussion about the Pocket Flag project that we proposed doing after the first of the year. In that our bake sale fundraiser did not generate as much as we budgeted, the group decided to put this project on hold until we can do another fundraiser to generate the funds we need.
- **Education:** There was a brief discussion regarding the Reading Rockets program and our proposed Give 10 to Education program. Nell reported on some information learned at the fall conference regarding the willingness of Wal-Mart and Target to support Auxiliary projects. Nell volunteered to draft letters to both organizations and Liz volunteered to speak with the manager at the Alafaya Wal-Mart. If Target will donate school supplies for the school supply drive and Wal-Mart makes a cash donation, we will have the funds available to purchase the materials for the Reading Rockets project proposed for January. Nell reminded everyone that in order for these projects to happen, we need a champion to contact donation locations for the Give 10 to Education project as well as delivering collection boxes. Nell emphasized that this is a team effort and everyone would help. It was noted that someone also needs to research the Reading Rockets program - Nell has the information. Aunita and Liz volunteered to help with the Give 10 to Education project but no one stepped up to champion either project so these were tabled until January's meeting.
- **National Security:** Aunita reported that the first of our holiday food gift baskets was delivered to a needy reserve family on November 18<sup>th</sup> and that the second gift basket will be delivered next week.
- **Veterans Affairs and Rehab:** There was a discussion about the efforts of some of our members who volunteer at the VA Clinic. Nell reminded everyone that if you volunteer, you need to keep track of your hours and turn them in so that we can put them on our annual report. Aunita mentioned that she regularly puts out flags at the local cemeteries for Veterans Day and for Memorial Day. We need to determine into which category this kind of project fits.
- **Poppy Distribution:** Nell reported that the Post has offered to help us with the May Poppy drive but we need someone to champion the sale so that booth locations can be set up around Memorial Day weekend.
- **Constitution and By Laws:** Our By-Laws committee will meet after the first of the year to work on revisions to the Constitution and By-Laws.
- **Public Relations:** Nell reminded the group that one of the Post members, Tom Yost, is helping us with Public Relations. We will need to get him information about the blood drive as soon as we have confirmed that the blood mobile can come to the Yard Sale.

#### **UNFINISHED BUSINESS:**

- **Yard Sale/Bake Sale** – Aunita and Liz reported that the bake sale did not do very well and neither did the Yard Sale. We made about \$15.00 on the baked goods because only two or three people brought items for the bake sale. We made only about \$7 from the Yard sale because most of the items that the Post had on its table did not sell.

- **Halloween party** –\_Aunita reported that we had a pretty good turn out for the party. The post provided snacks and goody bags for all of the children. Nell noted that the pictures have been posted on our Facebook group page.
- **Food Drive** –\_Nell reported that we collected about 600 pounds of food and the Boy Scouts really appreciated our help.
- **Fundraising** –\_There was a lengthy discussion about our fundraising efforts, including our bake sales and the BBQ sauce sale. The BBQ sauce sale has only sold one bottle largely because of its cost. The unit has an entire case of the sauce that was given to us so if we can sell the remaining bottles, we will make \$70.00. The pasta dinner fundraiser was discussed and Liz noted that sometimes Olive Garden will donate spaghetti, salad and bread sticks. It was also suggested that we consider having a raffle or door prize to draw people to the dinner. Nell suggested that we might consider partnering with some of the local restaurants to do Auxiliary nights. Both Chic Fil A and Friendly's restaurants allow civic organizations to set up special nights where they split the proceeds from meals purchased during a specific time period. Liz mentioned that a cake walk might also be a fun way to raise money for the unit. Further discussion was tabled until after the holidays.

### **NEW BUSINESS:**

- **Fruit Basket for Eastbrook** – Nell reported that she learned about National Education Week at the fall conference where one of the ideas was to provide a fruit basket for schools. Since we have begun to support Eastbrook Elementary, Nell donated the cost of a basket similar to the ones we used for the holiday food gift baskets and provided more than 100 pieces of fruit for the teachers and staff at the school. Nell shared the thank you letter we received from the Principal at the school.
- **Give 10 to Education** – We discussed how this project will be similar to the food drive and that who ever champions this project will need to contact potential drop off locations. Nell will provide a copy if the letter she sent out for the food drive to Liz. It was suggested that we consider getting smaller boxes from the dollar store to use as collection boxes. Nell has a few sheets of poster board left from the food drive that we can cut in half for the school supply drive box labels.
- **CERT Training** – Nell reported that one of the sessions at the fall conference dealt with how to organize a CERT training but with the Post calendar as full as it is in April, we may need to postpone this event until the fall. We will need a champion for this but Nell has the contact information for the Orange County group that sets up CERT training.
- **Golf Shirts** – Nell announced that we have received two invoices from D & D Enterprises for our golf shirts that were paid for by our members. Because we did not budget this expense, Nell reminded everyone that our By-Laws require that there be a motion and vote by the general membership to approve paying the invoices. Nell also explained that the vendor is willing to work with us on the three shirts that we couldn't use because they were too small. Marian Roberts moved (seconded by Aunita Padgett) that we pay in full the invoice for the second order of five shirts (three replacements and two additional larger size shirts) and that we make a partial payment on the first invoice, deducting the \$60.00 for the three shirts that were too small. Motion carried. It was noted that as soon as the three remaining shirts are sold, we will pay for them. Nell was directed to write a check to D & D Enterprises in the amount of \$211.50 for our shirts.

### **OTHER BUSINESS:**

Marian reminded everyone about the Post's Christmas party. The cost is \$17.00 per person and reservations need to be made by 12/12.

Nell again explained the purpose of the Auxiliary Emergency Fund and encouraged everyone to bring their loose change to meetings each month so that we can make a unit contribution. Nell mentioned that she recently saw an advertisement for a ceramic piggy bank at Bed Bath and beyond for approximately \$5.00. Marian Roberts moved (seconded by Liz Padgett) to authorize Nell to purchase a piggy bank for approximately \$5.00 in time for next month's meeting. We will begin our collection at the January meeting.

Nell reported that the Post has asked the Auxiliary to help with their Burgers and More fundraiser by providing sides for the monthly event. The only information available was that the sides should feed about 15 people and the Post would like to have items like baked beans, cole slaw, macaroni salad and potato salad. There was a brief discussion about this project because there was not a lot of information provided by the Post. The Post calendar indicated that the event this month is on the 12<sup>th</sup> but the information from Tom to Nancy indicated it had been moved to the 19<sup>th</sup>. Liz, Nita and Marian agreed to provide sides for the December event on the 19<sup>th</sup>. It was agreed that we will evaluate our continued participation in January.

Nell reminded everyone about the 6<sup>th</sup> District Meeting on Saturday, 12/12, in Sanford. It appears that none of our members attending the meeting will be available, especially if the Post's Burgers and More event is also on the 12<sup>th</sup>.

Aunita offered the Benediction and Marian adjourned the meeting at 8:45pm, again thanking everyone for their participation and great ideas.

Respectfully submitted

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Nell Colbert".

Nell Colbert  
Secretary-Treasurer