

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

February 9, 2010

The February 2010 general meeting of the American Legion Auxiliary Unit 112 was called to order at 7pm by President, Nancy Travers. Nancy offered the invocation, noting that Aunita's cornea transplant surgery took place today. Nancy also led the Pledge of Allegiance. The group dispensed with the recitation of the Preamble to the Constitution of the American Legion Auxiliary. Nancy welcomed 6th District President, Jill Lux, to our meeting.

Members in attendance included:

Nell Colbert
Liz Padgett

Nancy Travers
Jill Lux

Nell Colbert reported that since there was no official meeting last month due to low attendance, there were no minutes to approve.

Nell Colbert reported that the Treasurer's Reports for both January and February had been emailed via the Unit's YahooGroups and posted to the files section on the YahooGroup website. Nell reviewed the income and expenses for both months. Liz Padgett moved (seconded by Nancy Travers) 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 a thank you letter that we received from the Florida National Guard for the holiday food baskets that we provided for the two reserve families. Nell also read the Secretary's notes from this month's Department Communiqué.

Information from the Post's Executive Board meeting held last week was shared with the members. Nell reported that the Post is planning a Spring Fling picnic for April 17th. The cost will be \$5 per person and all proceeds will go to support our Sea Cadets. The Post is planning to have pony rides and other children's games.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

- **Membership:** Nell reported that we are now at 100% of our membership goal and that we have two applications in hand that are waiting on verification that the applicants "sponsoring" veteran is a member of the American Legion.
- **Community Service:** Nell reported that we currently have no service projects in progress.
- **Children and Youth:** Liz reported that she has contacted the manager at the Alafaya Trail Wal-Mart regarding our proposed school supply drive and that he has asked us to wait until March to work on the details.
- **Americanism:** There was a brief discussion about our proposed Pocket Flags project that we had scheduled to begin this month. Based on the current Treasurer's Report, it was suggested that we table this project until the 2010-2011 year after we have had the opportunity to raise the funds needed to purchase the flags and bags needed to complete the project. We will add this to the agenda for our next planning conference.
- **Education:** We also discussed the proposed Reading Rockets project and agreed that due to low funds, we will also move this project to the 2010-2011 year. This project will also be added to the agenda for the next planning conference.

- **National Security:** It was noted that our National Security project, the holiday gift baskets for the reserve families, was completed with the delivery of the last basket in mid-December.
- **Veterans Affairs and Rehab:** Nell asked everyone who currently volunteers at the VA Clinic to get their hours for July 1, 2009 through March 31, 2010 to her by our April meeting so that our annual report can be completed and sent in by 4/15.
- **Poppy Distribution:** There was some discussion as to how funds raised through the Poppy distribution can be used. The Department Unit Guide indicates that poppy funds can only be used to support the rehabilitation of Veterans honorably discharged after 4/6/1917 or for the welfare of families of veterans who were honorably discharged after 4/6/1917 or for the rehabilitation of hospitalized veterans who are awaiting discharge who require treatment in service hospitals. The Department Unit Guide indicates that poppy's must be ordered 90 days before the proposed sale date so we will need to get ours ordered by the end of February for our Memorial Day sale. Nancy Travers agreed to be our Poppy Chair for this year. She will get poppies ordered and secure locations at which we can distribute poppies.
- **Constitution and By Laws:** Nell reported that she has some proposed changes that will be shared later in the meeting when we do our first reading of the documents.
- **Public Relations:** Nell reported that Tom Yost has resigned from his Public Relations position in the post. Nell offered to pick up this role for our unit until such time as we can recruit another member to handle Public Relations for us.
- **Girls State:** Nell reported that she received an offer from one of our members whose company is willing to fund half of the cost to send a girl to Girls State this year. Unfortunately, because of the state of our current unit finances, we do not have funds available to meet even half of the Girls State cost.

OLD BUSINESS:

- **Blood Mobile:** Liz Padgett reported for Aunita on the proposed Blood Drive project noting that the blood mobile must be parked on pavement. The blood bank also requires fourteen guaranteed donors before they will commit to bring the unit out to a location. Nell also noted that the Post has changed its mind and really does not want the Blood Mobile on site during the yard sale. Further discussion about this project was tabled until next month where we will need to select a new date and make plans on how we would obtain the number of guaranteed donors required.
- **Constitution and By Laws:** Nell read the proposed changes to our current Constitution and By Laws, noting that the document requires that changes be read three times before being adopted and sent to the Department for final approval. The next reading of the document will take place at our March meeting and the final vote will be taken at the April meeting after the third reading. The revised documents are due at the May Constitutional meeting.
- **Fundraising:** Our discussions continued on possible ideas to raise funds for the unit since our recent bake sales have not generated the funds we need to do the projects we want to do. Jill Lux shared a successful event that her unit has used to raise funds – a “bake-less” bake sale where unit and post members are asked to donate the amount they would spend to purchase the materials needed to bake cookies, brownies or cakes for a “real” bake sale. Not only does this raise a good amount of money for the unit, the contributors do not actually have to bake anything nor does the unit have to have an outlet to sell the baked goods. It was agreed that we will conduct this fundraiser immediately. Jill will send her announcement to Nell this week. Another popular idea discussed was that of having an American Legion Auxiliary night at a local restaurant. There are several restaurants like

Friendly's and Chic Fil A that allow organizations to promote a "night" at their restaurant and the proceeds from a specified time period are split with the organization. Nell will get the information about this project from Friendly's so that we can discuss it further and set a date at next month's meeting.

NEW BUSINESS:

- **6th District Picnic:** Jill shared a flyer about the upcoming picnic that will take place on April 10th at Post 183 in Fern Park.
- **ABC School:** Nell reported that the ABC School held on 1/30 provided lots of great information. She shared some of the things she learned like the need to have the minutes signed by the unit President and Secretary after they are approved and that signed copies should be going to the President, Secretary and Treasurer for their records; that even if the Department newsletter is emailed to all unit members, the Department Secretary's notes must still be read at the unit meetings and that the President should ask for permission to deviate from the printed agenda should it become necessary at the beginning of every meeting. Jill announced that she is planning to schedule another ABC School in either Lady Lake or Fruitland Park as soon as possible. Jill is trying to coordinate dates and may try to schedule the school for a Sunday afternoon within the next 60 days. Jill encouraged everyone to attend.
- **6th District Meeting:** Jill reminded everyone about the next 6th District meeting on March 13th at Post 19 on Lee Road and encouraged everyone to attend.
- **6th District Bowling:** Jill also let everyone know about the upcoming district bowling event that will be held at Colonial Lanes on March 21st. The cost includes bowling and lunch.

OTHER BUSINESS:

Nell presented our new Auxiliary Emergency Fund piggy and passed it around for donations of loose change. Jill thanked us for supporting this very important effort and shared with us the plaque that 6th District won for being the top contributor to AEF at the fall conference. Jill reminded everyone that our collection should be turned in at the May Constitutional meeting. Due to the hour, it was agreed to table decorating our piggy until next month.

With no further business, Nancy offered the benediction and then closed the meeting at 8:45pm.

Respectfully submitted



Nell Colbert
Secretary-Treasurer

Minutes approved _____

Nell Colbert, Secretary _____

Nancy Travers, President _____