

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

November 8, 2011

The November general meeting of the American Legion Auxiliary Unit 112 was called to order at 7:05pm by President, Aunita Padgett. Johanna Langis moved (seconded by Marge Berrios) moved that we dispense with our formal opening. Motion carried.

Members in attendance included:

Marge Berrios

Johanna Langis

Debi Shannon

Nell Colbert

Aunita Padgett

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.

Nell Colbert reported that the minutes from the last meeting that were emailed to all members and posted on the Unit's YahooGroups. Printed copies were available for those needing them. Johanna Langis moved (seconded by Marge Berrios) that the minutes be approved as written. Motion carried.

Nell Colbert gave the Treasurer's Report showing that we began the month with \$685.72, received income of \$27.70 and had expenses of \$320.97, leaving us with a closing balance of \$392.45 as of the end of the month. Nell reported that we have received additional income totaling \$60.00 and had no additional expenses since the first of the month. Nell reported that the Treasurer's Report was emailed via the Unit's YahooGroups and was posted on the YahooGroups website. Printed copies were available for those needing them. Marge Berrios 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 a notice from Friendly's restaurant regarding their bankruptcy filing, the newest Our Town newsletter showing our meeting information and the mailing from the Department that contained information about the upcoming Fall Convention.

Aunita Padgett shared Information from the Post's Executive Committee meeting held last week noting last week that the Post approved payment of our funds for Girls State.

### **COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

- **Membership:** Nell reported that we received one new membership application from Andrea Rodriguez. Andrea's husband is deployed to Afghanistan and as soon as the Post can process her husband's application for Legion membership, we can process her application for membership in our unit. With Andrea's membership, we are at 13 paid members or 93% of our goal. We still have a few members who have yet to pay their 2012 dues. These 2011 members will be dropped as of January 1<sup>st</sup> if their dues are not received.
- **Community Service:** Nell Colbert reported that our food drive is doing well and drawing to a close. Most of the collection boxes have been picked up but the one in the Post, the one at the Sheriff's Office and the one at the Goldenrod Chamber of Commerce are still in place and will be picked up on Monday. We have scheduled Tuesday, November 15<sup>th</sup> as the date to sort and inventory the food drive collection. We will begin at 1pm at the Post. At

the same time, we will assemble the holiday food baskets that will be donated to needy Veteran families. It was noted that while some of our locations have performed very well, some boxes have not yielded as much as we've gotten from the same location in past years. It was also noted that we received some resistance from some of the store managers. It was suggested that we both back up our food drive so that it runs 10/1-10/31 and that we also send letters to corporate offices for Publix, Winn Dixie, Walgreens and CVS to request permission to place the boxes in their stores. Debi Shannon volunteered to research the addresses for these corporate offices. Our letters should go out in early June in order to get the requests processed in time for placement of the collection boxes on 10/1. It was noted that we should also send letters asking to place collection boxes for the school supply drive as well.

- **Children and Youth:** Aunita Padgett reported that she painted faces this past Saturday at the Goldenrod Festival and Nell Colbert reported that she took the Halloween coloring books along with flyers promoting the Post's Halloween party to Eastbrook Elementary on October 21<sup>st</sup>. Nell and Aunita assisted the Post with the Halloween party on 10/31.
- **Americanism:** Aunita Padgett reported that she put flags on Veterans graves at the cemetery on 11/7. There was a brief discussion about our planned Americanism Essay Contest. Marge Berrios offered to produce the letter for Johanna Langis that will be distributed to the schools when the Girls State materials are distributed in December.
- **Education:** Nell Colbert reported that she and Marge did the shopping for the books for the Reading Rockets project and that she assembled the packets with materials from the reading Rockets website and delivered them to Eastbrook Elementary on 10/21. Nell reminded everyone that American education Week is 11/14-18. We agreed that we will deliver platters for both Eastbrook and Cheney on Wednesday, 11/16. Both schools have about 100 staff members so we will provide only one basket/platter to each school that will hold both fruit and muffins so that we can stay within our budget.
- **National Security:** Marge Berrios reported that so far we have about \$350 worth of coupons for the base in Okinawa. Marge also noted that she found another outlet for our expired coupons (coupsfortroops.com) that can take coupons that are expired for up to six months. Since we have many, many coupons that cannot go to Okinawa, it was agreed that we should send the coupons that cannot be used in Okinawa to the coupsfortroops.com organization.
- **Veterans Affairs and Rehab:** Aunita Padgett reported that she has found a location that will let us put out a collection box for the VASH program and that this location may also welcome us for our 2012 school supply drive and our 2012 food drive. Nell Colbert reported that Eastbrook Elementary has invited us to attend their Veterans Day program on Friday, 11/11 beginning at 9am. Nell noted that Timber Lakes Elementary has requested Veterans to attend their program, also on Friday, to be honored and perhaps participate in their Vets in the Classroom program. Nell reported that she turned this request over to the Post Commander and Post Adjutant as soon as it was received.
- **Girls State:** Marge Berrios reported that she is updating the letter that Nell drafted last year and that we will take the packets to the schools on December 6<sup>th</sup>. It was agreed that those wanting to go should meet at the Post at 10am. There was also some discussion about perhaps expanding our schools to include Winter Springs High School since there is no Auxiliary Unit in their area. It was also suggested that we look at University High School as well since it is nearby.
- **Poppy Distribution:** Aunita Padgett and Nell Colbert reported that our first Poppy Drive for the season was held at the Goldenrod Festival for a couple of hours on Saturday, 11/5 but that it did not yield much in donations. Aunita reminded everyone that we have a booth scheduled for tomorrow at the Walgreens near Winter Park Hospital and another drive for

the Oviedo/Winter Springs area on Monday, 11/14. Our goal is to distribute the remaining poppies we have on hand for 2011.

- **Constitution and By Laws:** Nell Colbert reminded everyone that we agreed last month that we need to increase our dues to \$30 per year beginning with the 2012-2013 year in order to cover the dues increase passed by national this past summer. Nell will have the revised draft for approval at next month's meeting so that we can begin the process of getting them approved. Nell also reported that it was mentioned during a discussion with Robin Briere that units that allow any checks, including ones to the Department, to have only one signature, are no longer covered by their bond. Nell is trying to find this information in the Department's Constitution and By Laws to verify. If this is the case, we may want to consider removing the line in our Standing Rules that allows checks written to the Department to have only one signature.
- **Legislative:** Aunita reported that she is still sending emails and letters out to her legislators and encouraged everyone to be legislatively active. Nell noted that she had been cautioned about sending non-Legion endorsed items to the Auxiliary YahooGroup since the Legion and the Auxiliary are not political organizations even though our members are encouraged to contact legislators about current events. Rather than sending the information just to Nell, Aunita will now send the information she receives to everyone.
- **Leadership:** Nell Colbert reminded everyone that Mary Kelly Perkins is the instructor for the next ABC School that will be held on 12/3 at Winter Garden Post 63. Check-in begins at 9:30am and the school will begin at 10am. Nell also moved (seconded by Marge Berrios) that in light of the time, our scheduled Leadership training segment be delayed to another month. Motion carried.
- **Past President's Parley:** Aunita Padgett reminded everyone about our Tea party at the VA Nursing Home that is scheduled for Thursday. Anyone wanting to ride over together should meet at the Post at 10am. The Tea Party runs from 11am – 12noon.

#### **OLD BUSINESS:**

- Fundraiser brainstorming – tabled to January
- Financial Review Letter – Aunita Padgett still has the letter. It is missing a signature from one of the audit committee members. Aunita will contact Mayra to get the missing signature this week so we can file the letter with the 2010 books.

#### **NEW BUSINESS:**

- Committee Chair list – Aunita Padgett has the list in her President's Packet and will fill it out and mail it in to Department. We reviewed the current committee assignments and everyone agreed to stay in the same committee chair positions through June.
- Post/Auxiliary Holiday party – Aunita Padgett announced that the Post's annual Holiday party is scheduled for 12/16 at the Orlando Elks Club (same location as last year.) Nell Colbert pointed out the flyer in the November-december Post newsletter that everyone should have received either via email or USPS. Reservations are due not later than the December unit Meeting. Unit Members and their spouse/significant other pay \$17.
- Dept. of FL Fall Convention – Nell Colbert received the packet via UPSP from the Department. She posted the link to the Department site on the Facebook pages as well as scanned the packet and emailed it to everyone via the YahooGroups. The convention will be held at the Orlando Wyndham beginning at 1pm on Friday, November 18<sup>th</sup> and concluding with the church service on Sunday, November 20<sup>th</sup>. Nell reminded everyone to send in their hotel and Commander's/President's dinner reservations as quickly as possible so that you get the price breaks.

### **OTHER BUSINESS:**

- AEF Collection – Everyone placed their loose change and/or bills into our AEF piggy.
- Aunita Padgett shared some information passed on to us by the Post on different ways we can help Veterans. It seems that we are already doing most of the things suggested.
- Debi Shannon shared information from a workshop that she recently attended about ways to help children deal with all of the changes related to deployments, soldier homecomings, etc. The materials can be found on [www.sesameworkshop.org/tlc](http://www.sesameworkshop.org/tlc). It was suggested that we look into getting some of the packets to share with both Cheney and Eastbrook so that they can give them to the families of deployed soldiers.
- Nell Colbert reminded everyone that we have been asked to help judge the Post's Oratorical contest next month. Because of the length of time the speeches will take, we will have a much abbreviated meeting.

With no further business, Aunita Padgett closed the meeting at 8:30pm.

Respectfully submitted



Nell Colbert  
Secretary-Treasurer

Minutes approved \_\_\_\_\_

Nell Colbert, Secretary \_\_\_\_\_

Aunita Padgett, President \_\_\_\_\_