

Winter Park Memorial American Legion Auxiliary Unit 112 General Meeting Minutes

December 13, 2011

The December general meeting of the American Legion Auxiliary Unit 112 began as a joint session with Post 112 so that we could participate in the judging of their Oratorical contest participants. At the conclusion of the contest, President, Aunita Padgett called our meeting to order at 7:35pm. In that we had participated in the opening ceremony with the Post, it was agreed that we would forego our usual opening.

Members in attendance included:

Marge Berrios
Nell Colbert

Johanna Langis
Aunita Padgett

Jo Anne Russell
Deb Shannon

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. Debi Shannon 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 \$392.45, received income of \$483.02 and had expenses of \$202.23, leaving us with a closing balance of \$673.24 as of the end of the month. Nell reported that we have received additional income totaling about \$116 from the last Poppy booth and that nothing has been paid out since the first of the month. Nell reported that the Treasurer's Report was also emailed via the Unit's YahooGroups. Debi Shannon moved (seconded by Johanna Langis) 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: information about the Four Chaplain's service in February, the Goldenrod Chamber newsletter, the thank you note from Eastbrook's Principal for our National Education Week goody basket, our Girls State packet, a request from Cheney Elementary for financial support for their needy student families for the holiday and the notification from the Department of Agriculture that our Solicitor's Permit has been renewed.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

- **Membership:** Nell Colbert reported that Andrea Rodriguez's membership paperwork was returned by Department because they could not find her husband's Legion membership number. Nell is working this with the Post Adjutant to be sure Rod's application was, in fact submitted. As soon as we can get the ID#, we can submit her application again. We currently have twelve paid members for 2012 with one (Andrea) pending putting us at 87% of our membership goal. Nell also reported that she had a booth at the Goldenrod Chamber Festival on November 5th where we had membership information available in addition to Poppies.
- **Community Service:** Nell Colbert reported that our food drive went very well. Not only did we collect enough food to fill our two holiday food baskets for needy veteran families, we had 266 items to turn in at the fall conference for the Department food drive. Aunita Padgett noted that we have also assisted with the Post 112 Toys for Tots drive.
- **Children and Youth:** Aunita Padgett reported that she did face painting at the Goldenrod Chamber Festival.
- **Americanism:** Johanna Langis thanked Marge Berrios for assisting her with writing and printing the letters for the Americanism Essay Contest. The information was delivered by Johanna, Marge and Nell on December 6th to Eastbrook Elementary, Cheney Elementary and Tuskawilla Middle Schools. Marge revised the letters for the high schools and delivered them later that week to Lake Howell, Winter Park, Oviedo, and Winter Springs.

High Schools and also to Trinity Prep. The deadline for student submission is February 17th with pick-up of the essays scheduled for Monday, February 20th. Essays will be judged after the Girls State selection on February 25th. Johanna will also contact the schools to get contact information for the PTA President for each school so that she can contact the PTA's to get them to encourage participation. Nell Colbert suggested that since we are asking for entries from a number of schools and we only purchased one Essay medal from Emblem Sales, that we should consider getting additional medals so that we can award one to the graduating 5th, 8th and 12th grader from the schools from which we receive entries. Johanna Langis moved (seconded by Debi Shannon) that we purchase up to seven more Essay medals after February 20th depending upon the number of schools from which we receive entries. Motion carried.

- **Education:** Nell Colbert reported that we delivered huge gift baskets to Eastbrook and Cheney Elementary Schools on Wednesday, November 16th in recognition of National Education Week. Each basket contained an assortment of fresh fruit and muffins.
- **National Security:** Marge Berrios reported that we not have a complete set-up for our POW-MIA table. Marge will set this up before each meeting beginning next month. Marge also reported that she has several thousand dollars worth of coupons that will be shipped out this week.
- **Veterans Affairs and Rehab:** Marge Berrios shared some pictures from the Ride to Recovery rest stop at the Oviedo Post 283. Marge and Jo Anne Russell supported that location and Debi Shannon supported the Lake Mary location so Unit 112 was well represented. Nell Colbert reported that we delivered our first holiday food basket to a Veteran family in Sanford just before Thanksgiving. We have another family in Apopka who will receive the Christmas basket this weekend. Each basket weighs about 45-50 pounds and contains a \$25 gift card. Nell noted that we did spend about \$25 in unit funds to round out the food baskets this year.
- **Girls State:** Marge Berrios reported that she, Nell Colbert and Johanna Langis delivered the Girls State packets to our five high schools. Each school is being asked to select two young women to come to the Post on February 25th for interviews. Marge gave Nell the completed application for our Girls State delegate and Nell will mail the check to Department. Nell Colbert reported that the Auxiliary Google Voice phone number received a call from a Mom of a Lake Howell student who is interested in interviewing.
- **Poppy Distribution:** Aunita Padgett reported that our Poppy drive did much better this year than last time, noting that we collected about double what we did last year. We will need to order 2012 poppies in January.
- **Constitution and By Laws:** Nell Colbert reported that notification was sent to all members about our proposed changes to our Constitution and By-Laws being voted on tonight. Nell read the applicable sections from the By-Laws dealing with dues. Debi Shannon moved (seconded by Johanna Langis) that Section 1 be changed to reflect renewing member dues will go to \$30 beginning with the 2013 dues year and that Section 3 be changed to reflect that new member dues will go to \$35 beginning with the 2013 dues year. Motion carried. Nell also noted that she recently learned that if our checks do not have two signatures, our bond is voided. Nell suggested that we also change our standing rules to require two signatures on all checks, even those written to the Department. Debi Shannon moved (seconded by Marge Berrios) that Standing Rule #5 be changed to eliminate the words "except those written to the Department of Florida." Motion carried.
- **Legislative:** Aunita Padgett noted that there has been no new legislative activity.
- **Leadership:** Nell Colbert reported that she has submitted our mid-year report to the 6th District Leadership Chair.
- **Public Relations:** This position is currently vacant.
- **Past President's Parley:** Aunita Padgett reported that our tea at the VA Clinic for Veterans Day went very well. The ladies are most appreciative of our efforts to visit them. Our next tea is scheduled for Valentine's Day.

OLD BUSINESS:

- **Financial Review Letter** – Aunita Padgett is still working to get it signed.
- **Committee Chair List** – Aunita Padgett will fill out the form and send it to Diane Anderson.
- **Fall Conference Report** – Nell Colbert and Marge Berrios reported that the conference was very informative and very entertaining.
- **Post/Unit Holiday Party** – Nell Colbert reminded everyone that reservations are due tonight for Friday's event.

Aunita Padgett turned the meeting over to Marge Berrios as she needed to leave.

NEW BUSINESS:

- **Pocket Flags** – Nell Colbert reminded everyone that our pocket flag project is scheduled to be done in January and that if we are going to do this project at this time, the flags need to be ordered at a cost of about \$100.00. Nell recommended, however, that in light of our current fundraising challenges, we put off doing this project for now. Debi Shannon moved (seconded by Johanna Langis) that we table this project until our finances are more stable. Motion carried.

OTHER BUSINESS:

Nell Colbert shared a flyer she received from Andrea Rodriguez about Operation Giveback being held at UCF in May. It was decided that in light of the time, we would table further discussion on this event until our January meeting.

Everyone made their AEF contributions and Debi Shannon offered the benediction. Marge Berrios closed the meeting at 8:45pm.

Respectfully submitted



Nell Colbert
Secretary-Treasurer

Minutes approved _____

Nell Colbert, Secretary _____

Aunita Padgett, President _____