

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

September 8, 2015

The September general meeting and Annual Planning Conference of the American Legion Auxiliary Unit 112 was called to order at 7pm by President, Marge Berrios and opened according to ritual.

Members in attendance included:

Marge Berrios

Debi Shannon (via phone)

Nell Colbert

Wyvonne Smith

Aunita Padgett

Nell confirmed that we have a quorum for this meeting and Marge was granted permission to deviate from the printed agenda should the need arise.

Nell Colbert reported that the minutes from the last meeting were emailed to all members. Nell also noted that we did not approve the June meeting minutes last month. The minutes from both June and August have been posted on the Unit's YahooGroups site and placed on our unit website. Nell had hard copies of the minutes available at the meeting for review by those who had not received them via email. Aunita Padgett moved (seconded by Wyvonne Smith) that the June minutes be approved as written. Motion carried. Wyvonne Smith moved (seconded by Aunita Padgett) that the August minutes be approved as written. Motion carried.

Nell Colbert gave the Treasurer's Report and reported that the Treasurer's Report was emailed to all members and was posted on the YahooGroups site. Nell also made hard copies available at the meeting for review by those who had not received the Treasurer's Report via email. Aunita Padgett moved (seconded by Wyvonne Smith) that the Treasurer's Report be filed for audit. Motion carried.

Nell Colbert reported that the only item of correspondence received this month was the most recent issue of the Department Communiqué. *The Family Tree* newsletter is also available on the Department website.

Nell Colbert gave an update from the Post Executive Committee meeting noting that the Post is thinking about participating in both the Winter Park and Orlando Veterans Day parades but that the Orlando parade conflicts with the Department Fall Conference. The Post will also be participating in the Goldenrod Festival on 10/31 by having a membership recruiting table. Nell reminded everyone about the 112 Legion Family 1st Annual Membership BBQ on 9/26, the upcoming Yard Sale on 10/24, and the Post Halloween party on 10/31. The Post would like to have the Auxiliary help with both the Yard Sale and the Halloween party. Nell noted that the Unit has also committed to do the Halloween coloring activity at the Goldenrod Chamber Fall Festival and we can also put out Poppies along with recruiting new members alongside the Post and SAL.

PLANNING CONFERENCE:

Nell opened the planning conference by reviewing notes from the Department Workshop. We identified a number of projects that will be continued for 2015-2016 as well as a few new projects including:

- AEF: We agreed to continue to feed our piggy each month.
- Americanism Essay Contest: The topic this year is "How do we keep Lincoln's promise to our Veterans and their families?" It was recommended at the Department Workshop that the information for the essay contest be delivered to the schools early in the year and not later than early November. We also need to report anyone who flies the American flag at home.
- Cavalcade of Memories: It was suggested that we add "Past President Salute" pages to our History book. These pages would include an 8x10 picture of each past President (Nancy Travers and Aunita Padgett) along with a narrative about the past president, perhaps listing her personal information (family members, etc.) along with information about projects accomplished under her tenure.
- Children and Youth: We will continue to support the Post's events like the Halloween party and Easter Egg Hunt. It was suggested that we begin offering Good Deed Awards and/or Youth Hero Awards at our elementary schools. The awards would simply be certificates recognizing the youth doing the good deed or performing the heroic act.
- Community Service: Each member performs certain activities that fall under community service like church committees, Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts, etc. We also collect the pull tabs from aluminum cans that are donated to Ronald McDonald House. We did not identify an additional community service projects for the Unit this year.
- Constitution and By-Laws: We need to finish the revision on our documents to bring them in line with the national and department guiding documents.
- Education: We discussed the challenge we've had in getting backpacks donated this year and based on the information presented at the Department Workshop, we agreed to simply divide up the supplies we receive through donations, supplementing as needed, and give boxes of supplies to the schools for them to give to students in need. This would be our Give 10 to Education project. We decided to continue with our Reading Rockets project. Nell, Marge, and anyone else who would like to join the fun will meet at the Casselberry Books-A-Million on 9/28 at 10:30am to decide on the books to include in our packets. Nell noted that American Education Week is 11/16-11/20 and Teacher Appreciation Week is 5/2-5/6 2016. It was decided to continue our traditional continental breakfast baskets during American Education Week. Depending on funds availability, we may decide to recognize teachers again in May. We will also continue to collect Box Tops for Education and Campbell's soup can labels.
- Girls State: Nell reported that the cost this year will be \$350. Again it was strongly suggested that we put the information about Girls State out in early November.
- Leadership: We need a champion for leadership so that we can get back on track with this program by providing a number of leadership segments during the year to help our newer members learn about protocol, our programs, etc. Everyone was encouraged to complete the on-line Leadership course.

- Legislative: Everyone was encouraged to continue to send emails to our legislators to support legislation supported by the Legion. Aunita reminded everyone to please remember to send her copies of any responses received from legislators in response to our emails.
- Membership: Nell reported that this year our membership goal was set at 25 by national. We finished 2015 with 22. Units are being encouraged to hold membership drives away from their Post homes. If we can make our goal of 25 before 12/31/2015, we will receive \$100 plus a ribbon for our Unit flag from national. We need to get all of our membership renewals for 2016 paid as quickly as possible and we need to contact those members who have not renewed for 2015 yet to get them back to active status.
- National Security: We decided to continue to collect and clip coupons to be sent overseas.
- Past President's Parley: Our PPP project for this year will be the Christmas party for Veterans at the VA. Marge reported that we are on the VA calendar for Wednesday, 12/2 from 1:30pm – 3:30pm. There are about 25-40 veterans at the facility.
- Poppy: Aunita reported that she has set 11/13 and 11/14 at the Px. Nell noted that we can also have a donation tin at the Chamber Fall Festival on 10/31.
- Public Relations: We need a champion for this program to promote our Unit to the media. However, there are a number of things that we can do individually to promote the Auxiliary like wearing our red shirts when we are out in public; delivering Auxiliary brochures to libraries, doctors and dentists offices; and getting a subscription to the Auxiliary magazine for doctors' offices, libraries, etc.
- Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation: We will continue to distribute holiday food baskets to Veteran families in need. Another project that has been suggested is to make up "Buddy Baskets" that would be brought to the Department Fall Conference. The Buddy Basket is a laundry basket filled with cleaning supplies, dust pan and broom, two place settings, toilet paper, paper towels, etc. that would be given to homeless veterans transitioning to their own apartments.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

There were no committee reports given this month.

NEW BUSINESS:

Nell brought up the idea of providing additional recognition for the Eastbrook student who won our Essay contest last year and went on to win at the Department level. We received a certificate and medal for this young man that can be presented at the Veterans Day program this fall. Nell suggested that we consider awarding a \$25 savings bond for this student as this may result in us getting a few more entries for this year's contest. After a brief discussion, Wyvonne Smith moved (seconded by Aunita Padgett) that we award a \$25 savings bond to the winner of last year's essay contest.

REMINDERS:

Marge reminded everyone of the following important events:

- 9/12 6th District School of Instruction, Pinecastle Post 286

- 9/19 6th District meeting, Lady Lake Post 347
- 9/26 112 Legion Family Membership BBQ, Post 112

After everyone made their contributions to the AEF piggy bank, Wyvonne Smith offered the benediction and Marge Berrios adjourned the meeting at 8:54pm.

Respectfully submitted



Nell Colbert
Secretary-Treasurer

Minutes approved _____

Nell Colbert, Secretary _____

Marge Berrios, President _____