



Joe Maltese, *Commander* Joe Maltese, *Commander*

Frank Nichols, *Adjutant*

Craig Bernat, *1st Vice Commander* Steve Sullivan *2nd Vice-commander* Mike Montenara

Chaplain

Paul Arambula, *Finance Officer*, Chuck Benham *Sergeant-at-Arms* Barry Litsky, *Service*

Officer Chuck Benham, *Service Officer* Bob Sussan *Judge Advocate* Frank Nichols,

Historian

Executive Committee:

Alan Painter, *Past Commander* Mark Shelton

Karen Tracy

Bob Berlandi

Bob Sussan

American Legion Mandarin Fallen “Heroes” Post 372 General Assembly Minutes DEC 14, 2023

1. Commander Maltese opened the meeting at 1900hrs

1. Opening ceremonies: Salute, Prayer, Pledge, POW/MIA, Preamble

2. Members sick or in distress: Carl Zuber, Sam Hathy, Bill Weber, Mike Montenara, Bud German, E. Morgan,

3. Introduction of guests: Barbara O'connor, Carter. Past commander Dan Hemsall, Past commander Alan Painter.

4. Roll call conducted. (Sign-in sheet

attached) quorum achieved 15 members present 2 guests.

5. Alan Painter moved and Barry Litsky seconded approval of the November minutes as posted. Motion passed unanimously

6. Alan Painter moved and Barry Litsky seconded waiving the reading of the minutes of the December executive committee meeting. Motion passed unanimously

7. CORRESPONDENCE: Review of Northeast Florida Military Order of The World Wars Monthly meeting. Full report can be read in its entirety at WWW.NEFLMO250.COM.

8. OFFICER REPORTS

Commander spoke of wanting to add the Oratorical competition to our list of programs supported. Dan Hemsall had agreed to chair the committee. Dan will be looking for volunteers to help starting in January 2024.

1st Vice presented his membership report (attached) Motion made by Bob Berlandi and seconded by Alan Painter to approve five new members to the post, passed unanimously. Members read into minutes, New to Legion: Christian Lawrence Navy, Peter Cross Navy, Douglas Greenwood Navy. Transfer from post 0059 Marie Harnett Navy; Transfer from post 0233 Charles Carnaham Navy. 1st Vice Craig Bernat reports Post

membership as of Nov 30th 2023 at 75.42% full report attached to these minutes. 1st Vice and Sons Commander Craig Bernat reported Sons membership has 8 new members with 19 renewals for 108% of quota for period November 2023.

Finance officer presented the finance report. A motion to

accept the report subject to audit made by Craig Bernat and seconded by Karen Tracy passed unanimously.

Service Officer Litsky reported that he had 15 phone contacts over the past few months. No details given.

Boys State Committeeman Alan Painter reported that Chairman Snyder has everything in hand. An Alumni dinner has been planned for July 1st 2024. All Alumni members of Boys State will be notified of times and location of the event.

Committeeman Karen Tracy reported that she is still working on keeping the website updated. She will be updating the cover page on the post website.

Historian Frank Nichols reported the Brick program is up and running. big thanks to committee members, Chuck Benham, Dee Stuart, Alane Storde, June Crawford, for efforts supporting the roll out. Bricks can be ordered at the website <https://donate.brickmarkers.com/mfh>. A hard copy can also be printed to distribute to friends and family. All donations are tax deductible subject to IRS rules, and funds will go towards the building fund. There was a motion made by Craig Bernat and second by Barry Litsky to table discussion about processing electronic payments until more information is available. Member Frank Nichols stated he would look into it and report findings to the E-Committee.

9. Program and Committee Reports:

i) RIDERS: This weekend the Riders will provide escort for Wreaths across America.

ii) Sons of The American Legion: Sons continue to grow in number. They have already achieved 108% of their 2023-2024 membership goal. SAL found a home for a wheelchair. Tina needs help repairing a riding lawn mower. Commander suggests someone truck it over to his house for repair in a jiffy.

iii) AUDIT Committee: There are new rules pertaining to the conduct of audits that are in the new By-Laws which are being finalized and should be out soon. It was suggested by Craig Bernat and Paul Arambula that the post needs to hire an Accountant for this audit year

2023-2024. Commander Maltese assigned several personal to check with their contacts for the best price.

iv) BLOOD DRIVE: Don't forget to give credit to American Legion Post 372 when you donate blood. Also, mention to the 1st Vice for his tally on the CPR.

v) CANCELED STAMPS: Save your canceled stamps and forward to Comrade Litsky. He will send them off when He has a large enough collection.

vi) JROTC: We still have medals to give out. We need a chairperson for the program

vii) LAW & ORDER: Too early in the year for this

viii) Law Cadet: Too early for any information from National.

ix) SCHOOL MEDALS: Too early in the year for this

x) LEGION BASEBALL: Season kicks off Jan 1st with registrations

xi) AMERICANISM: Beaches Honor Guard is desperately in need of new members. See Commander for details.

10. OLD BUSINESS: **New Home Committees** – We still need a chairperson for the HR Committee. Bob Berlandi volunteered to chair the Exterior Design and Landscape Committee. The funding timeline is posted on line. We need to be looking for Grants and Donations.

A. Mugs by Alane posted on the weekly newsletter, possible other items to consider, coins, vehicle SE plates, hats, Christmas ornaments, for donations.

B. **Historian**: Keep sending pictures and highlights of activities to Frank Nichols(frankbank@gmail.com).

C. **Flag Retirement**. Charlie McFarland suggested that we have a designated POW/MIA parking spot under which we could bury retired flags.

D. **Commemorative Bricks:** There has been discussion about the Post selling commemorative bricks to be placed around our flag pole as a fundraiser. Chuck Benham has developed a form that people can fill out and make donations with help from Alane Strode, Dee Stuart, June Crawford, Frank Nichols. Website listed previously in these minutes.

E. Charter verification process Past Commander Alan Painter looking into this matter, and will report back to membership as information is received.

11. NEW BUSINESS: New home update. Building order released January 2024.

A. Fireside chat at June and Don Crawford house 1-21-24. Contact information posted on the weekly newsletter.

B. During The Department Commander's Visit, Commander Maltese met with Florida Department Commander Michael (Gambler) Raymond. at post 129 to give a post report. Also talked about a secession plan for post officers to avoid burnout. Gambler was treated to tour of USS Orleck Naval Museum.

C. Interior design review placement of pool table and proposed machines

D. Rotary dinner with Jim Snellen. Commander Maltese as speaker.

12. CLOSING CEREMONIES: There being no further business brought before the assembly, closing ceremonies were conducted and the meeting was adjourned at 2015 hrs.

Respectfully submitted by: Adjutant Frank Nichols.