

American Legion Auxiliary Mandarin Fallen Heroes Unit 372
General Meeting July 22, 2021

Meeting called to order by 1st Vice-President Michelle Maze at 7:01 p.m.

In attendance: Michelle Maze, Marilyn Painter, Robin Maltese, Janelle Hemsall, Caitlin Bailey, and Colette Dispinseri.

Opening Ceremonies

Roll Called: Quorum achieved

Marilyn Painter read the highlights of the previous general meeting minutes. Robin Maltese moved to accept the minutes as read and corrected, second by Janelle Hemsall. Approved by member vote.

Correspondence

Secretary Marilyn Painter shared several items of correspondence: a letter from Support Our Troops thanking our Unit for supporting their Troopons program with donations of coupons, the District 5 Installation and Meeting schedule (attached), and a message from 5th District Auxiliary President Annie Anderson introducing the themes for the year (also attached). She also shared a certificate awarded by the Department of Florida honoring our Unit for completion of obtaining the American Legion Auxiliary 100th Birthday Proclamation, which she will save for our eventual Historian but in the meantime scan and send to Caitlin Bailey to place on the website. Finally, she shared a certificate awarded to Past President Kathy Helmly by the 5th District for contributing to developing the leadership skills of District 5 members for Auxiliary year 2019-2020. Michelle Maze volunteered to personally deliver the certificate to Kathy Helmly.

Officer Reports

Treasurer: Michelle Maze provided the Treasurer's report, which is available upon request. She then shared a couple of bills Treasurer Judy Bernat has received, one a letter about District Presidents dues for 2021-2022 not to exceed \$20 per Unit and one an invoice from the Department of Florida for yearly expenses (quotas for Rehabilitation, Education, Girls State, and Sock due to Department of Florida, and

Bond Fee quota due to National). Because these expenses are not in our budget, we will need to vote on them, but we decided to table them for now so that Michelle and Judy can research them and not only pay them this year but also add them to the budget for next year. Also, Michelle Maze informed us of a generous donation by member Joy Goff, so the Secretary will send her a thank you note. Robin Maltese moved to accept the Treasurer's report, subject to audit, second by Caitlin Bailey. Approved by member vote.

1st Vice Report (includes membership): Michelle Maze reported our membership holding steady at 26 members. Our goal for this year is 33.

Chaplin: none

Executive Committee Report: none

Unfinished Business

Coupons/Troopons were not completed this month. We need to think about having a backup person/committee to follow through as needed. In this context, Michelle Maze reported that she will be attending the ABC School of Instruction this September and invited anyone who is interested to join her. Janelle Hemsall reported that she had attended last year and found it both interesting and helpful.

Our next movie night was discussed. Robin Maltese reported she had lots of volunteers respond to the email Caitlin had sent but is still waiting on the Elks to set the date, which is projected to be either November 6 or November 13, both Saturdays.

We also discussed creating poppy committee if this is going to be done twice a year, Veterans Day (November 11) and National Poppy Day (Friday before Memorial Day). Committee duties would include arranging for the location, setting up, taking down, manning the table, and decorating the table. Caitlin sent an email last week and so far two members, Robin Maltese and Sandra Smith, have volunteered.

New Business

We discussed making Foster Closet, which would fall under the Children and Youth category, our next box/drive. Caitlin Bailey reported that Foster Coset has been contacted and a volunteer form filled out listing her as our contact. We are waiting

on a follow-up email about what will be needed at drop off in October. Caitlin will keep us updated by email and will also submit an article to the Mandarin Newsliner. Foster Closet is a free resource for Northeast Florida's foster parents and relative, non-relative placements, and Independent Living Teens to access clothing, children's accessories, toys and children's furniture and more, to help take care of the foster children entrusted to them. Members are urged to learn more at the Foster Closet website: <https://www.fostercloset.org/>.

Announcements

Remember to use the new website to enter volunteer hours:

1. Go to the website: alpost372fl.org
2. At the top of the page click on the Auxiliary tab
3. On the right side of the page click on Auxiliary Volunteer Log
4. Fill out the log, the Program Supported is a drop down menu
5. Click Submit (the log then goes to the new email)
6. New email is auxunit372@alpost372fl.org NOTE: Our Gmail account is still active and used for communications.

Next general meeting will be August 26, 2021, at 7:00 p.m.

Meeting adjourned 7:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted, Marilyn Painter, Secretary