



# American Legion Mandarin Post 372

*Celebrating 100 Years of Service to Veterans*

## General Assembly Meeting Minutes September 12, 2019

Alan Painter, *Commander*  
\_\_\_\_\_, *Adjutant*  
Barry Litsky, 1<sup>st</sup> *Vice Commander*  
Craig Bernat, 2<sup>nd</sup> *Vice Commander*  
Wayne Lee, *Chaplain*  
Dan Hemsall, *Judge Advocate*  
Don Severns, *Finance Officer*  
Paul Arambula, *Sergeant-at-Arms*  
\_\_\_\_\_, *Historian*

Barry Litsky, *Service Officer*

### Executive Committee:

Dan Hemsall, *Past Commander*  
Franklin Hunt, *Past Commander*  
Jim Hughes  
Joe Maltese

Steve Sullivan

Frank Nichols

### Committees:

Audit, *Steve Sullivan*  
Americanism, *Dan Hemsall*  
Blood Drive, *Brian Lawn*  
Boys State, *Tom Schneider*  
Cancelled Stamps, *Marty Kaufman*  
Children & Youth, \_\_\_\_\_  
JROTC, *Martin Schwartz*  
Law & Order, *Barry Litsky*  
Membership, *Barry Litsky*  
Public Relations, \_\_\_\_\_  
Social Media, *Don Severns*  
Teacher of the Year, \_\_\_\_\_  
VA&R, *Service Officers*

The September 12, 2019 General Assembly of The American Legion Mandarin "Fallen Heroes" Post 372, Inc was held at the Mandarin/St. Johns Elks Lodge #2866 with 16 members present.

### Opening

The meeting was promptly called to order at 7:00 PM by Commander Painter and opening ceremonies were conducted.

### Guests

- Christina Mershell – UF Proton Therapy advocate
- Ron & Rita Robbs – Patriot Guard Riders
- **Representation**
- Joe Maltese – Representing the ALR Chapter 372 and the SAL Squadron 372.

### Quorum

The Sergeant At Arms presented the sign in roster to the Adjutant and it was determined that the Post's by-laws requirements for at least 7 members were present to have a quorum.

### Guest Speaker

The Commander invited Christina Mershell to speak to the General Assembly. Ms Mershell spoke about how Proton Therapy greatly reduces the risk of radiation damage to good tissue due to its significant targeting ability. She also talked about how insurance is now accepting it as a treatment for various forms of cancer. There was a lively question and answer period following her presentation indicating the information was well received.

Ron and Rita Robbs of the Patriot Guard Riders from American Legion Post 137 spoke about how the Patriot Guard started out as a response to the Westboro Baptist Church protesters. They are currently seeking donations to help with their Gold Star Children program. Gold Star children have lost one or both parents in the Global War on Terror since 9/11/01.

Commander will have on the executive committee agenda for finance review and recommendation to the Post.

## Guest Speaker continued

A tax deductible donation (Checks made out to Patriot Guard Riders) can be mailed to:

Ron Robbs (SRC)  
2042 Citra Ave  
Jacksonville, FL 32210

## Minutes

- The Commander reported that the August, 2019 minutes are posted online.
- Motion to suspend the reading of the minutes from the August General Assembly and approve them was made, seconded, and passed unanimously.
- Motion made, seconded, and approved to suspend reading of the September Executive Board meeting.

## Correspondence

- Nease JROTC High School requested a donation to help with their Drill meet. A \$100 was raised from those present. Adjutant will issue a check from the Post's checking account.

## Reading in of New or Transferring Members

1<sup>st</sup> Vice-Commander Litsky presented the below and recommended a motion to accept their application for membership of our Post.

<b>Name</b>	<b>Branch of ServiceWar Era</b>		<b>Info</b>
Wayne Hartkopf	Navy	Korea	Transfer from FL Post 400

Motion to approve new and transferring members was made, seconded, and passed unanimously.

## Officers' Reports

- **Commander Alan Painter**  
Attending the 5<sup>th</sup> District meeting this Sunday.
- **1<sup>st</sup> Vice-Commander Barry Litsky**  
Membership as reported at Department shows we are at 53.39% of our quota. Total renewed is 118 and our quota is 221. The next mile stone is Oct. 2<sup>nd</sup> where we need to be better than 55%.
- **2<sup>nd</sup> Vice-Commander Bernat**
  - Working diligently to find a new home.
  - Proposed a Membership rally on November 11th at Hagan Ace Hardware on San Jose Blvd.
  - Reminded everyone about the Italian Dinners.
  - Agreed to have the Post host the Dinner in November in order to reduce the book keeping effort due to the Early Bird Dinner.
- **Finance Officer Don Severns**  
Summary of August Finance report presented with the actual report available for review.  
Motion made, seconded, and passed to approve the report subject to audit.

- **Executive Jim Hughes**  
Reported that the Boys State Chair Tom Schneider has all the current information and is looking forward to the upcoming year.
- **Executive Jim Hughes**  
Reported that he had 3 contacts this month. The process of people leaving messages on the Post Phone and those messages being forwarded to the Service Officer is working well.
- **Executive Steve Sullivan**  
Reported that the constitution and by-laws effort to break out specific job tasks into operating procedures is still in work.

## **Program & Committee Reports**

**American Legion Riders Chapter 372** – Joe Maltese reported that membership is ahead of goal. Chapter 372 had 10 people on the recent Legacy Ride which was probably the largest contingent from any chapter in Florida.

**Sons of the American Legion Squadron 372** – Joe Maltese reported membership is 50% of goal which is on target with the district. Membership for dual members is only \$8.00 per year. 5 members have completed their first star in the 5 Star Program.

**JROTC** – Martin Schwartz and Mare Schwartz reported that they are looking again to working with Mandarin and Nease High School JROTC programs.

**Law and Order** – Barry Litsky reported that he has developed a District level plan that will coordinate the award efforts with the various Posts and needs to present it at a District meeting.

## **Business**

- Quilt Raffle – A quilt was donated to us courtesy of the Honeybee Quilters Guild and arranged by Auxiliary President Kathy Helmly. Commander stated the raffle is still in process and was on the front page of the Mandarin Newsliner.
- Elks need a new roof over the pavilion. The cost is estimated to be about \$3600. There is collection jar in the lounge.
- Italian dinner this month, 9/21 from 5 – 7 pm, and is hosted by the SAL this month.
- Website Ads – Business Sponsor get a business card add for 1 year is \$50. A booster ad is \$20 for 1 year.
- No takers for the Finance Officer position
- 5 Star Veterans donation program is in work as reported by Comrade Steve Sullivan.
- Membership is important to our Post. We have 30 comrades who did not renew for 2019 membership year for a variety of reasons.

## **Closing Ceremony**

- Commander announced upcoming meetings as posted on the website calendar.
- Closing ceremonies were conducted.
- The General Assembly adjourned at 8:09 pm.

*Don Severns*

Don Severns  
Finance Officer/Adjutant  
Post 372