

**Fallen Heroes Mandarin Post 372
General Membership Meeting
July 13, 2017**

The General Assembly meeting of American Legion Post 372 of July 13, 2017 was held at the Mandarin/St Johns Elks Lodge #2866.

The meeting was promptly called to order at 7 pm by Commander Painter.

Opening ceremonies were conducted.

Roll call of Officers was held and it was determined that a quorum was present.

The Adjutant read the minutes of the June 8, 2017 General Meeting.

A motion to approve the minutes as corrected was made and seconded.
The motion passed unanimously.

The Finance Report was read and is attached to these minutes.

Motion to approve Finance Report pending audit was made and seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Reading in of New or Transferring Members

The Adjutant reported that the following Veterans had applied for membership or requested to transfer to Post 372:

Kenny Lebel	Air Force	Persian Gulf	New
John P. Cully	Army	Vietnam	Transfer from Post 211 (Ohio)
Max Crocker	Air Force	Vietnam	Transfer from Post 400
Howard Stein	Air Force	Korea	Transfer from Post 400
Richard Tuten	Army	Vietnam	Transfer from Post 400
Bob Nay	Army	Vietnam	Transfer from Post 400
Steve Campos	Navy	LG/PN/WoT	New

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

Commander Painter appointed Dan Hempsall as Judge Advocate, Barry Litsky and Sheri Rodriguez as Service Officers, and Sheri Rodriguez as Adjutant.

Officer's Reports

The Commander reported about his experience at the Convention and how Post 372 can get more involved by hosting more Legion Programs such Law & Order and Teacher of the Year Awards. He also provided a summary of the Executive Board Meeting held on July 6, 2017.

The First Vice Commander provided an update on Post 372's membership and noted that we ended the year at 160.24% which put us in first place in the 5th District. Former Commander Myra Jowers was named District Commander of the Year for her hard work and dedication to Veterans and the American Legion.

The goal for this year is 117 but we need 118 to be eligible for the Post Excellence Award. He noted that he is working with the Project Stay Active list and has had one response. The list is hard to work because 163 do not have an email address listed and 116 have no phone number listed.

The Judge Advocate thanked everyone who participated in the Flag Day activities.

The Adjutant reported that she has processed all membership renewals she has received and estimates Post 372's membership percentage to be approximately 44%.

The Sergeant-at-Arms had no report.

The Chaplain had no report.

Service Officer Litsky reported that he will resume his office hours on Tuesdays from 4:30 – 6:00pm at the Mandarin/St. Johns Elks Lodge.

Service Officer Rodriguez stated that she is posting VA information on Facebook and will begin office hours once school is back in session.

The Commander thanked the Officers for their work on the Post's transition during the long process.

Unfinished Business

The First Vice Commander reported that Sunbiz has been successfully updated and that all bank accounts have been transferred to the new Post Officers. Finance Officer Comeaux is the primary on the accounts. The First Vice Commander and Adjutant are secondary on the accounts. The 990 was filed by former Adjutant, Carl Jowers and is due again approximately 5 ½ months after the end of the Legion's fiscal year. The First Vice filed the 8822B which reports the change of responsible party to the IRS.

The Judge Advocate reported that he is working on updating the By-Laws with the addition of the Auxiliary and an annual audit requirement. It was asked why the Auxiliary needed to be added if they are their own entity. The Adjutant stated that she will research.

The Commander noted that the Auxiliary needs to use our bank account to receive money and pay bills until their Charter is approved and they can set up their own accounts.

Motion to create a subaccount for the Auxiliary in the Post's finances was made and seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

The Adjutant showed a sample of a recruiting t-shirt for events and noted that she was going to get pricing for orders.

New Business

The First Vice Commander reported that there is interest in forming an SAL Squadron at Post 372. There are currently three to four interested.

The Commander suggested that a recruiting incentive program be created so that members who recruit members can win gift cards in a drawing. The Membership discussed an

incentive program and various awards and prizes and decided that the program would work as follows:

1. Draw one winner for a \$50 gift card from the pool of Legionnaires who recruit the most new members, with a minimum of five new members being recruited to be eligible.
2. The second award consists of two \$25 gift cards which will be given to two Legionnaires randomly drawn from the pool of eligible entries. To be eligible, a Legionnaire must recruit a minimum of one new member, each subsequent new member recruited earns an additional entry.
3. All drawings will be held quarterly.

A motion to create a recruiting incentive program as discussed was made and seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

The Commander reported that the Elks Lodge was in need of a new mower and asked of the Legion was interested in making a donation. He added that the Lodge and the Post 372 have a great arrangement where they only charge us \$10 a month for rent. After discussion, it was decided that a hat would be passed around rather than spend any of the Post's money since a reconciliation had not been done since the transition was finalized. The Membership raised \$206 for the mower with their personal donations.

For the Good of the American Legion

The Commander presented Recruiting Awards from National to Carl Eliason and Don Severns.

The Commander stated that the Post has an opportunity to raise money by staffing Oktoberfest. He explained the process and asked anyone interested to contact him.

Marty Kaufmann presented three thank you notes for the Post's cancelled letter donations. He reminded everyone that these stamps are for the wounded to work with and asked that cancelled stamps be given to him for mailing.

The Elks Lodge is holding Gyros for Heroes on Saturday from 11 to 6pm. Volunteers are needed.

The next General Membership meeting will be held on July 13, 2017.

Closing ceremonies were conducted.

The meeting adjourned at 8:19pm.

Sheri Rodriguez
Adjutant