



# American Legion Mandarin Post 372

*Celebrating 100 Years of Service to Veterans*

## **General Assembly Meeting Minutes** **February 14, 2019**

Alan Painter, *Commander*  
Sheri Rodriguez, *Adjutant*

Sheri Rodriguez, *Vice Commander*

Barry Litsky, *Vice Commander*

Dr. Buck O'Connor, *Chaplain*

Roy Moltisanti, *Judge Advocate*

Don Severn, *Finance Officer*

Paul Arambula, *Sergeant-at-Arms*

Charles Benham, *Historian*

Barry Litsky, *Service Officer*

Franklin Hunt, *Service Officer*

### **Executive Committee:**

Dan Hemsall, *Past Commander*

Franklin Hunt, *Past Commander*

Julian Carter

Jim Hughes

Steve Sullivan

### **Committees:**

Audit, *Steve Sullivan*

Americanism, *Dan Hemsall*

Blood Drive, *Brian Lawn*

Boys State, *Tom Schneider*

Cancelled Stamps, *Marty Kaufman*

Children & Youth, *Nicole Squair*

Law & Order, *Barry Litsky*

JROTC, *Martin Schwartz*

Oratorical, *Christopher Matthews*

Public Relations, *Sheri Rodriguez*

Social Media, *Don Severns*

Strategic Planning, *Jim Hughes*

Teacher of the Year, *Nicole Squair*

VA&R, *Service Officers*

The February 14, 2019 General Assembly of The American Legion Mandarin "Fallen Heroes" Post 372, Inc was held at the Mandarin/ St. Johns Elks Lodge #2866 with 12 members present.

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

The Charter was undraped for Comrade John D. Rodriguez, United States Marine.

The Charter was draped for Comrade Carl D. Dorr, United States Navy.

### **Guests**

President Kathy Helmly, American Legion Auxiliary Unit 372.

### **Roll Call of Officers**

Roll call of officers was held, and it was determined that a quorum was present. Excused absences were Adjutant Rodriguez, Sergeant-at-Arms Arambula, Executive Hemsall. Absent without notice was Executive Carter.

### **Minutes**

The Commander reported that the January 10, 2019 minutes are posted online.

Motion to suspend the reading of the minutes from the January 10, 2019 General Assembly and approve them as posted online was made, seconded, and passed unanimously.

### **Correspondence**

- Email regarding the proposal to rename the Jacksonville Veterans Arena.
- 5th District Picnic, Post 283 – Saturday, March 16, 2019
- NAS Jax Hiring Event – May4, 2019 10:00 am to 2:00 pm
- Receipt of American Legion National Commander Brett Reistad's autographed photo and letter from NEC Dennis Boland.

### **Reading in of New or Transferring Members**

<b>Name</b>	<b>Branch of Service</b>	<b>War Era</b>	<b>Eligibility</b>
Philip Hawley	United States Air Force	Vietnam	2019 Transfer Post 400
Bob Wolk	United States Navy	Vietnam	2019 Transfer Post 400
Roberto Ravago	United States Navy	Vietnam	2019 Transfer Post 400

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

## Guest Speaker

Post 372 member Thomas Dorr spoke about his Uncle Carl David Dorr who was killed during the Pearl Harbor attack. He shared his family experiences and remembrances of his Uncle. He described how his Uncles remains were identified through DNA. He also presented artifacts of his Uncle's life.

## Officers' Reports

**Commander Painter** - The Commander reported that the status of the negotiations for a facility has come to a realization that the costs to build-out a facility are estimated at \$30,000 with a requirement for a monthly revenue of \$3,000 to \$5,000. We are not in the position to make that commitment.

**Vice-Commander Litsky** – The Post's membership stands as follows:

- Post membership is at 100.54%
- 260 members per National with 191 renewed per Department
- Sons of the American Legion is at 133.33%
- American Legion Auxiliary is at 153.33%
- All Post entities are in 1<sup>st</sup> Place in the 5<sup>th</sup> District

## Finance Officer Severns

- January Balance report submitted. Motion made to approve pending audit made, seconded, and unanimously passed.
- Motorcycle Raffle Status was presented. We are at 30% of goal. Of the 286 letters we sent to other Florida Posts we've received 6 responses totaling \$1250. The finance Officer will be at the Tuesday office hours to accept sold tickets. An audit prior to the drawing must occur to assure all tickets sold are in the drawing.

## Program and Committee Reports

### Oratorical

The Commander stated we did not have a representative in the competition this year due to unforeseen circumstances. Northern Area Oratorical Competition is Saturday, Feb. 23

### Social Media

Chair Severns reminded everyone of our website, Facebook, Twitter and Instagram accounts. Additionally, he reported that we are now being searched for and found on Google.

### Cancelled Stamp Program

Chair Kauffman presented Thank You notes from the Stamps for the Wounded program. Chairman Kauffman then read a proposed resolution that requests the American Legion Department of Florida support the Lions Club's Stamps for the Wounded program by creating a Department of Florida Cancelled Stamp Program.

Motion to approve the resolution as read was made, seconded, and passed unanimously.

### Old Business

Additional discussion about the status of a future Post home included a smoking policy.

Motion to make our future Post Home a non-smoking facility with a designated smoking area was made, seconded, and passed unanimously.

Comrade Sullivan stated there were several pending items on the 2nd Quarter Audit that he will be working to resolve once the Adjutant is healthy.

Vice-Commander Litsky reminded everyone about the Membership Rally at Hagan Ace Hardware this Monday, February 18, 2019.

### **New Business**

The Commander discussed the upcoming elections for the 2019–2020 year and the current openings for Chaplain and Judge Advocate. Comrade Benham indicated he would be interested in the Sergeant-At-Arms position.

Comrade Kaufman stated he was concerned about the renaming of the Jacksonville Veterans Memorial Stadium. A vigorous discussion followed regarding the renaming process and various recommendation postulated.

Motion for the Post to write a letter against the renaming was made, seconded, and passed.

The Commander took an action to work with the Adjutant on the letter. A request was made to make the correspondence Renaming email available on the website.

Comrade Kauffman suggested the Post work to recruit active duty Military Chaplains. His past experience has shown this to be a dynamic way to build membership.

Commander announced upcoming meetings as posted on the website calendar. Closing ceremonies were conducted.

The General Assembly adjourned at 8:25 pm.

*Don Severns*

Don Severns  
Finance Officer