

American Legion Auxiliary Mandarin Fallen Heroes Unit 372
General Meeting June 24, 2021

Meeting called to order by President Reed Bailey at 7:00 p.m.

In attendance: Reed Bailey, Marilyn Painter, Judy Bernat, Robin Maltese, Caitlin Bailey, Sandra Smith, Lisa Doerler, 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 Judy Bernat. Approved by member vote.

Correspondence

None.

Officer Reports

Treasurer: Judy Bernat provided the Treasurer's report, which is available upon request. Robin Maltese moved to accept the Treasurer's report, second by Lisa Doerler. Approved by member vote.

1st Vice Report (includes membership): Reed Bailey reported we currently have 26 members. Our goal for this year is 33.

2nd Vice Report: absent

Chaplin: Robin Maltese reported Riders visited the Veteran Retirement Community, which was a great experience. She also requested prayers for a member having surgery and for the victims of today's collapse of a building in Miami and their families. She confirmed she has cards to use on behalf of our Unit.

Executive Committee Report: Reed Bailey reported that due to her traveling schedule, she will be unable to attend any more of our Unit meetings for the rest of 2021, though she can and will continue to fulfill all the other duties of President,

including other meetings at the Post and District level and making the agendas for the Unit meetings, which she will send to the Executive Committee ahead of time for input. 1st Vice President Michelle Maze will conduct the meetings in her absence.

Judy Bernat reminded us that we need to be thinking about what to do with the poppy funds we raised – \$133.00 – on National Poppy Day 2021. The funds must be used to help a veteran and may not be used for operating costs.

Unfinished Business

Coupons last month were \$2945.00

Tonight, immediately after the meeting, is the packing of our K-9 box. Caitlin Bailey will take pictures for Mandarin Newslines to increase our visibility in the community. Judy Bernat reported \$46 in donations towards the K-9 box and asked whether we want to use it towards shipping or towards purchasing additional items for the box. Last time, it cost around \$36 to ship the prior box to Tampa, plus the Support Our Troops program requests \$20 towards shipping to the Troops. Robin Maltese moved that we use the \$46 in donations towards shipping, Caitlin Bailey second. Approved by member vote.

Prospects for another movie night were discussed, including creating a committee. Robin Maltese volunteered to head the committee to plan another movie night for the fall, likely early November. We would like to include a basket to raffle off again. Reed Bailey asked Robin to email her about what she needs for the committee, including number of committee members, so that a single email can be sent requesting volunteers for our activities at the same time.

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 Bailey will send an email about both these committees and possibly coupons as well.

New Business

Officer installments will be July 8th, 7:00 p.m. Annie Anderson, our district president, will be there. Officers, please wear Auxiliary (or Riders) shirt, as appropriate.

New website home is alpost372fl.org. Go there to enter volunteer hours as follows:

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. Our new email is auxunit372@alpost372fl.org. (NOTE: our Gmail account is still active and used for communications. It is checked often as both Reed and Caitlin get alerts when there is a new email.)

Ideas for our next box were discussed. One idea is to look into Foster Closet, which would fall under the Children and Youth category, specifically “Improved conditions for all children.” 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. We discussed doing a 3-month collection window of consistently needed items such as diapers, wipes, and underwear. Members are urged to learn more at the Foster Closet website: <https://www.fostercloset.org/>. Caitlin Bailey will put together an email to gauge member response.

Announcements

Next general meeting will be July 22, 2021, at 7:00 p.m.

Meeting adjourned 7:53 p.m.

Respectfully submitted, Marilyn Painter, Secretary