



Joe Maltese, Commander
 Frank Nichols, Adjutant
 Craig Bernat, 1st Vice Commander
 Steve Sullivan 2nd Vice-commander
 Mike Montenara Chaplain
 Paul Arambula, Finance Officer,
 Chuck Benham Sergeant-at-Arms
 Barry Litsky, Service Officer
 Chuck Benham, Service Officer
 Bob Sussan Judge Advocate
 Frank Nichols, Historian
 Executive Committee:
 Alan Painter, Past Commander
 Mark Shelton
 Karen Tracy
 Bob Berlandi
 Bob Sussan

American Legion Mandarin Fallen "Heroes" Post 372 General Assembly Minutes Sept 14, 2023

1. Commander Maltese opened the meeting at 1900hrs
2. Opening ceremonies: Salute, Prayer, Pledge, POW/MIA, Preamble
3. Members sick or in distress: Carl Zuber, Sam Hathy, Frank Nichols.
4. Introduction of guests: Charlie McFarland (SAL), Mark Wilbanks (SAL)
5. Roll call conducted. (Sign-in sheet attached) quorum achieved
6. Chuck Benham moved and Barry Litsky seconded approval of the July minutes as posted. (No minutes for August due to officer installation) Motion passed unanimously
7. Dan Hemsall moved and Craig Bernat seconded waiving the reading of the minutes of the September executive committee meeting. Motion passed unanimously
8. CORRESPONDENCE: A letter from our Boys State candidate was read (attached) PUD instructions were received and passed on to the Commander; letter from 5th District TALARC committee about emergency help after hurricanes (attached); a letter from Past-Commander Alan Painter regarding the "Sacred Heart Veterans Day Concert" to be held on the evening of Friday, 10NOV2023 in Eagle Harbor, FL (attached)
9. OFFICER REPORTS

Commander spoke of wanting to add the Oratorical competition to our list of programs supported. Dan Hemsall had agreed to chair the committee. Dan will be looking for volunteers to help.

1st Vice presented his membership report (attached) Motion made by Chuck Benham and seconded by Karen Tracy to approve two new members passed unanimously.

Finance officer presented the finance report. A motion to accept the report subject to audit made by Barry Litsky and seconded

by Chuck Benham passed unanimously

Service Officer Litsky reported that he had several phone contacts over the past few months. No details given.

Boys State Committeeman Alan Painter reported that Chairman Snyder has everything in hand.

Committeeman Karen Tracy reported that she is still working on keeping the website updated.

10. Program and Committee Reports:

- i) RIDERS: September 9th Chapter 372 Charity ride raised over \$4,500 for PROJECT: VetRelief. Charlie McFarland, Alan Painter, and Judy & Craig Bernat were recognized for all of their help with the event. Post 372 had more riders in this year's American Legion Legacy Run than any other chapter in the 5th District.
- ii) Sons of The American Legion: Sons continue to grow in number. They have already achieved 60% of their 2023-2024 membership goal
- iii) AUDIT Committee: There are new rules pertaining to the conduct of audits that are in the new By-Laws which are being finalized and should be out soon.
- iv) BLOOD DRIVE: Don't forget to give credit to American Legion Post 372 when you donate blood. Also, mention to the 1st Vice for his tally on the CPR.
- v) CANCELLED STAMPS: Save your cancelled stamps and forward to Comrade Litsky. He will send them off when he has a large enough collection.
- vi) JROTC: We still have medals to give out. We need a chairperson for the program
- vii) LAW & ORDER: Too early in the year for this
- viii) SCHOOL MEDALS: Too early in the year for this
- ix) LEGION BASEBALL: Season is over
- x) AMERICANISM: The membership decided that we do not wish to participate in the Veterans Day Parade. Beaches

Honor Guard is desperately in need of new members. See Commander for details.

11. OLD BUSINESS: **New Home Committees** – We still need a chair person for the HR Committee. Bob Berlandi volunteered to chair the Exterior Design and Landscape Committee. The funding time line is attached. We need to be looking for Grants and Donations. **Historian:** Keep sending pictures and highlights of activities to Frank Nichols. **Early-bird Dinner:** The new deadline to renew your membership and receive a complimentary dinner is October 31st. Potential dates for the dinner or December 1st and Dec 8th. We are attempting to secure the Mandarin Garden Club on Loretto Road. A motion was made by Karen Tracy and seconded by Mike Montonera to spend \$500 on the dinner. Motion passed unanimously. **Flag Retirement.** Charlie McFarland suggested that we have a designated POW/MIA parking spot under which we could bury retired flags. **Commemorative Bricks:** There has been discussion about the Post selling commemorative bricks to be placed around our flag pole as a fund raiser. Chuck Benham is going to look into developing a form that people can fill out and make donations.
12. NEW BUSINESS: The Commander presented an **Award Letter and Plaque** to Barry Litsky for his years of work as our Adjutant and Service Officer. **FIRESIDE CHAT** will be at the Commander's house on Sept 23rd starting at 1430. It is a pool party so bring your towel and swimsuit if you like. All post events are to be listed on our website calendar at www.alpost372fl.org **A proposal** to present a plaque to the Williams Family YMCA in gratitude for them allowing us the use of their facility for our meetings was made. Karen Tracy moved that we spend up to \$100 on said plaque. Chuck Benham seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.
13. CLOSING CEREMONIES: There being no further business brought before the assembly, closing ceremonies were conducted and the meeting was adjourned at 2009hrs.

Respectfully submitted by: **2nd Vice-Commander Steve Sullivan** (adjutant Frank Nichols out on medical)