
**AMERICAN LEGION MANDARIN
"FALLEN HEROES" POST 372
General Assembly Minutes
9 November, 2023**

The meeting was called to order at 1900 hours.

1. Opening ceremonies were conducted.
2. Members sick or in distress: Carl Zuber, Frank Nichols, Bill Wilber, Bob and Marilyn Sussan
3. Guests: Allane Strode (Auxiliary), Mark Wilbanks (SAL)
4. Past Officers were recognized.
5. Roll call was conducted: Excused were Frank Nichols and Bob Sussan.
A quorum was met with 19 members present.
6. Guest speaker- Allane Strode spoke about visiting a local school with several members from the Auxiliary, Riders and the Post.
7. The Commander read the minutes from the October General Assembly meeting. There were no questions, comments or corrections. A motion to approve the minutes was made by K. Tracy and seconded by C. Bernat. The motion passed unanimously.
8. A motion to suspend the reading of the minutes of the November Executive Committee meeting was made by C. Bernat and seconded by B. Berlandi. The motion passes unanimously.
9. Correspondence: We received a property tax bill from the city. We are looking into the possibility of it being waived due to our tax exempt status.
10. Membership Chairman:
 - a) Two new members- Kevin and Judy Hesston
 - b) A motion to accept the new members was made by B. Litsky and seconded by B. Berlandi. The motion passed unanimously.
 - c) We have 149 members which is 62% of our goal of 240.
 - d) There was a discussion on raising our membership dues for next year to \$50 based on the increase by National. A motion to raise the dues was made by C. Bernat and seconded by K. Tracy. After discussion the motion passed 13 to 5.
11. Officer Reports:
 - a) Finance Officer Arambula submitted his October report. A motion to approve the report, subject to audit, was made by D. Hemsall and seconded by S. Sullivan. The motion passed unanimously. A copy of the finance report is attached.
 - b) Service Officers- Continue to help members. Barry Litsky will attend Annual Training during the Fall Convention.
 - c) Historian- Continue to submit photos and correspondence from any Post activities to the Historian, Frank Nichols.
12. Program and Committee Reports:
 - a) SAL- We are at 108% of goal
 - b) Canceled Stamp Program is going well. Save your canceled stamps and give them to Barry Litsky at the next general assembly meeting.
 - c) No other reports were submitted.

13. Old Business:

- a) New Home Update- The City Council voted 17 to 0 to approve both property zoning amendments. There was extensive discussion on the upcoming activities regarding the property. We are getting help from other Posts including 283 and 129. There will be engineers on site locating underground utilities. The final site plan is getting close to completion. Committee chairmen and members need to stay engaged and communicate.
- b) The Early Bird Dinner is Friday, 1 December. RSVP by Friday, 17 November if you plan to attend. The menu is; baked ziti, meatballs, Italian sausage, salad and garlic bread. Feel free to bring a desert to share.
- c) Post Fundraising- We need to find ways to identify grants and other sources of funding including donations.
- d) Flag retirement- We have a very large number of Flags that need to be retired. Several ideas are being considered. For now, hold on to any flags you have.
- e) The ALR summit is January 31st to February 4th in Orlando.
- f) The Fall Conference will be attended by Barry Litsky. The funding for this was budgeted.

14. New Business:

- a) There will not be a "Fireside Chat" in November.
 - b) The first reading of the new Constitution and By-Laws was postponed. We may have a December meeting for this purpose.
 - c) Steve Blackford gave an update and briefing on our current and future insurance needs.
 - d) Brian Rickert has been helping with the General Construction, Land and Building permitting.
 - e) The Auxiliary "Wall of Honor" ceremony will be Saturday, 11 November (Veterans Day) at the Windsor of Ortega retirement home beginning at 1100 hours.
 - f) There will be a patriotic concert at the Sacred Heart Church in Fleming Island. Proceeds from the concert will be donated to our Post.
 - g) Don't forget about fund raising ideas.
 - h) Commander Maltese has a detailed schedule of the Department Commanders visit in December. Check with Joe if you would like to attend one of the meetings.
 - i) All Post Events are listed on our website calendar alpost372fl.org.
15. Closing ceremonies were conducted and the meeting was adjourned at 2035.

Respectfully Submitted,
2nd Vice and acting Adjutant Steve Sullivan