



American Legion Post 372

Celebrating 100 Years of Serving Veterans, 1919 - 2019

General Membership Minutes January 10, 2018 Meeting

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

Barry Litsky, *Vice Commander*
Sheri Rodriguez, *Vice Commander*
Don Severns, *Finance Officer*
Dr. Buck O'Connor, *Chaplain*
Roy Moltisanti, *Judge Advocate*
Paul Arambula, *Sergeant-at-Arms*
Charles Benham, *Historian*
Franklin Hunt, *Service Officer*
Barry Litsky, *Service Officer*

Executive Committee:
Dan Hemsall, *Past Commander*
Julian Carter
Jim Hughes
Franklin Hunt
Steve Sullivan

The January 10, 2018 General Assembly meeting of The American Legion Post 372 was held at the Mandarin/St Johns Elks Lodge #2866 with 17 members present.

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

The Charter was draped for Comrade John D. Rodriguez, USMC.

Roll Call of Officers

Roll call of Officers was held, and it was determined that a quorum was present. Executive Board member Steve Sullivan was excused. Judge Advocate Roy Moltisanti and Executive Board member Franklin Hunt were absent.

Minutes

The Adjutant reported that the November 8, 2018 minutes are posted online.

Motion to suspend the reading of the minutes from the November 8, 2018 General Membership meeting and approve them as posted online was made, seconded and passed unanimously.

Motion to suspend the reading of the minutes from the January 3, 2018 Executive Board meeting was made, seconded and passed unanimously. The minutes were available for distribution.

The December General Assembly meeting was not held so there are no minutes.

Guests

President Kathy Helmly, American Legion Auxiliary Unit 372

President Helmly explained the Coups for Troops program and asked members to collect manufacturers coupons and bring them to General Assembly Meetings for collection. She added that Unit 372's membership is second in the state of Florida for their size. President Helmly reported that the 5th District Auxiliary would be holding their Auxiliary Basic Concepts (ABC) School of Instruction on January 26, 2019 at Post 316 beginning at 8:00am.

Executive Director Bruce Thompson, Vets 4 Vets of Northeast Florida

Mr. Thompson spoke about Vets 4 Vets and their mission of informing Veterans about policy changes, resources, and issues that impact them; connecting Veterans with organizations and programs that can assist them during times of need; uniting Veterans to build strong relationships and networks within our community; and organizing the voices of Veterans so that they are heard within our Community, State, and Nation.

He explained that Vets 4 Vets is run by volunteers and has no membership dues. He invited members to attend the Quarterly Meeting at the Jacksonville Veterans Memorial Arena on January 12, 2019 at 10:30am.

Correspondence

- Veterans Invade the Canyon Flyer – January 19, 2019
- 2019 First Coast Sporting Clays Classic Flyer – March 2, 2019
- How to File a VA Claim Flyer – January 18, 2019
- VA Disability Benefits Brief – January 14, 2019
- Clay County Veteran Services Free Food Distribution – February 26, 2019
- Christmas Card from The Department of Florida
- Christmas Card from Marie Conti, 2019-20 Candidate for Northern Area Commander
- Christmas Card from UPS (where we have a mailbox)
- 5th District 100th Anniversary Birthday Celebration Picnic Flyer – March 16, 2019
- OSHA 10 Safety Certifications and First Aid/CPR/AED Class Flyer – January 15-17, 2019

Reading in of New or Transferring Members

Name	Branch	Era	Eligibility Verified	Dues Paid
Dallas Clapsaddle	Marine Corps	Vietnam	Yes	Yes
Richard Denzio	Air Force	Vietnam	Yes	Yes
Carl Dorr	Navy	WWII	Yes	Yes
Charles Georgoudis	Coast Guard	Vietnam	Yes	Yes
James Hansen	Navy	Vietnam	Yes	Yes
Norman Miller	Coast Guard	Vietnam	Yes	Yes
Gerald Upson	Coast Guard	Vietnam	Yes	Yes
Joseph Winters	Army	Vietnam	Yes	Yes

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

Officers' Reports

The Commander reported that the Legion, Auxiliary, Sons of the American Legion would all have chili entries at the Mandarin Fall Festival and Chili Cook-off. He added that it is not too late to sign up to volunteer. Volunteers should be no later than 9am to help setup.

The Commander reported that 2019 is shaping up to be a great year and that good things are coming.

The Finance Officer read the Finance Report.

Motion to approve the Finance Report, subject to audit, was made, seconded, and passed unanimously.

The Finance Officer's Report is attached.

The Adjutant/Vice Commander's report is attached.

- Post 372 is currently 98.421%
- SAL is currently listed a 116.67%.
- The Auxiliary's membership is 100%

Program & Committee Reports

The Adjutant reported that Boys State interviews will be held at the end of February.

The Adjutant asked the membership if there was interest in seeing our Cancelled Stamp Program as a Department of Florida Program.

Motion to have the Adjutant write a Resolution to request that Post 372's Cancelled Stamp Program become a Department of Florida Program was made, seconded, and passed unanimously.

The Strategic Planning Committee is on hold until Post Home negotiations are complete.

Old Business

The letters to all the Legion posts about our fundraising efforts for a new Post and our Harley Davidson Raffle have been completed.

A discussion about the viability of a new Post Home on Old St. Augustine Road was held. Topics included cash flow, permits, inventory, and staffing. The Post is still in discussions with the owner, but we are not doing anything hasty because we want our Post Home to be successful. All decisions are Post matters and will be brought to General Assembly Meetings for a vote.

The First Quarter Audit is available online and the Second Quarter Audit will be scheduled when Comrade Sullivan returns.

The Adjutant presented the proposed changes to Post 372's Constitution and By-Laws.

Motion to approve the proposed changes to Post 372's Constitution and By-Laws as presented was made, seconded, and passed unanimously.

New Business

The Adjutant proposed that Post 372 pay the dues for Carl Dorr who was KIA on the USS Oklahoma so that the Post can Drape our Charter in his honor.

Motion to spend \$29 to pay membership dues for Carl Dorr was made, seconded, and passed unanimously.

The 5th District is holding a raffle for a Weber Grill and accessories valued at \$350. Each Post in the District has been tasked with purchasing 100 tickets at a cost of \$200. Proceeds of this raffle will cover the costs of the 5th District Picnic and 5th District Hospitality Suite at the Department Convention. We have budgeted \$150 for donations in support of these events so the Post would need to approve the additional cost of \$50.

Motion to spend \$50 on top of the budgeted \$150 to purchase 100 tickets from the 5th District Raffle in support of the 5th District Picnic and Hospitality Suite was made, seconded, and approved. There were two nays.

The Adjutant presented receipts totaling \$232.71 for Early Bird Dinner expenses.

Motion to reimburse \$232.71 to the Adjutant for Early Bird Dinner expenses was made, seconded, and passed unanimously.

It was noted that the Post does not own a gavel for meetings.

Motion to budget \$40.00 to purchase a gavel was made, seconded, and passed unanimously.

Past Commander Hemsall will purchase a gavel and present a receipt for reimbursement.

For the Good of the American Legion

Comrade Benham announced that there is a wheelchair construction project and that he will send an email to the membership with more information.

Announcements

Upcoming Events

- a. 5th District Meeting. Sunday, January 13, 2019 at 2:00pm
Post 401, 7405 Henry Smith Rd, Hilliard, FL 32046.
- b. American Legion Riders Chapter 372. Sunday, January 20, 2019 at 10:00am.
- c. Auxiliary Social Hour. Thursday, January 24, 2019 at 6:00pm.
- d. Auxiliary General Meeting. Thursday, January 24, 2019 at 7:00pm.
- e. Sons of the American Legion Social Hour. Thursday, January 24, 2019 at 6:00pm.
- f. Sons of the American Legion General Meeting. Thursday, January 24, 2019 at 7:00pm.
- g. Executive Board Meeting. Thursday, February 7, 2019 at 6:00pm.
- h. Post 372 Social Hour. Thursday, February 14, 2019 at 6:00pm.
- i. Post 372 General Assembly Meeting Thursday, February 14, 2019 at 7:00pm.

Closing ceremonies were conducted.

The meeting adjourned at 8:09pm.

Sheri Rodriguez

Sheri Rodriguez

Adjutant