



**American Legion
Fallen Heroes Mandarin Post #372
(904) 297-8344
www.alpost372fl.org**



March 13, 2025

General Assembly Meeting Minutes

A General Assembly meeting was convened at 1900.

The meeting was opened with Prayer conducted by Chaplain Mike Montenara. Opening ceremonies were conducted in accordance with American Legion traditions.

Commander requests names of any one sick or in Distress: George Herd, Carl Zuber, Jim Ramos, Chris Hamrick, Mike Montonera, Bob Sussan & wife, Becky Murphy, Katherine Nichols, Miguel Garcia, Bob German, Billy Deckers mother, Carlton, Daniel Hicks, Becky Murphy.

0 visitors are present. 15 members in attendance

Past Commander was Recognized; Dan Hemsail, Past Commander Alan Painter.

A roll call of officers was conducted. Quorum achieved.

A motion was made by Dan Hemsail and second by Barry Litsky to accept the minutes of the February General Assembly. The minutes were accepted.

A motion to waive the reading of the minutes of the February Executive Committee Meeting was offered by Mike Montenara and second by Dan Taszarek . The reading of the minutes was waived.

Correspondence: From YMCA invitation to attend YMCA Healthy Kids Day event, on April 26th 0900-1200. Several members volunteered to attend and bring healthy snacks. Karen Tracy stated she had the banner and information tote.

New and /or transferred members. 0 new and 3 transferred members. From post 400 David Trenholm. From Post 400 AD Steven Stewart, Jon Michael. A motion was made to approve membership of all candidate requests pending verification of DD214 by Mike Montenara 2nd by Steve Sullivan. All candidates were voted into the post pending verification of proper DD214.

Officer Reports

Commander nothing to report at this time

1st Vice Commander/Membership Dan Hemsail: reports, the membership report as of 2/28/25, 251 is our Department of Florida Goal. 206 renewals, 20- 400 transfers, 32- AD transfers, 20- PUFL, 7- new members, 285 Total members

2nd Vice Steve Sullivan reports the aluminum can recover program is in full swing. Any members with crushed aluminum cans (preferably crushed but not necessary) can bring them to any meeting for retrieval by Steve and he will turn them in for a cash donation to our Post building fund, when he has a truck load.

Finance Officer Paul Arambula provided the monthly financial report. A motion to accept the Finance Report pending audit was made by Karen Tracy and second by Barry Litsky, the report was accepted subject to audit.

Chaplain Mike Montenara: no report.

Judge Advocate: Bob Sussan absent excused no report.

Sergeant-At-Arms: Daniel Taszarek reports: He attended the 5th District training for future officers this past weekend.

Service Officer Barry Litsky nothing to report

Historian Frank Nichols, continue to send in photos and articles and/or photos about your Legion community projects for entry into the Post 372 History yearbook. Deadline for entry in This year's History yearbook April 31, 2025.

Commander Craig Bernat reports on the new property: One final easement approval has been received. Once the property records are posted at Jacksonville Property Appraiser office, St Johns Water Mgt. States we can proceed with clearing property. Clearing property is still in planning stages due to financial restraints.

Executive Committee member reports;

Mark Shelton no report

Alan Painter no report

Joe Maltese Absent excused no report

Barry Litsky reports: Cancelled stamp program, turn in your cancelled stamps to benefit homebound and other veterans.

Karen Tracy reports on post coin sales. Coins available at most meetings for \$15 each. Karen states she will post New Constitution and New By-Laws on the front page of the website. These were reviewed by members and approved at the February meeting. Karen also reminded members she asks for comments every month for the newsletter and website. No suggestions to update the website have been properly submitted.

Bob Sussan Absent Excused no report

Program & Committee Reports

Americanism: Dan Hemsail reports on the FlagPole and plaque ceremony at Florida Gun and Rod club this month. More information will be on the weekly newsblast.

Oratorical: Dan Hemsail no report

American Legion Riders; April meeting on the 20th is cancelled due to Easter Sunday. Annual ALR ride April 19, 2025, Rally at Monkey's Uncle tavern 0900 KSU 1015. All State Unity ride April 6th, 2025. July 5th is a Scavenger Hunt ride. More details later.

Sons of American Legion: 32 members goal 34 at 94.12%

Audit committee nothing to report.

Blood Drive Position is open nothing to report

Boys State Alan Painter: Post members Alan Painter, Joe Maltese, Barry Litsky, Frank Nichols conducted four interviews. We have one delegate, and two alternates for Boys State.

Canceled Stamp program: Nothing further to report

Children & Youth: Position open nothing to report

Law & Order awards: May 3th 2025 date for Law and Order Award presentation.

School Medals/ Teacher of the year Alan Painter; Reports: He will be sending out notices to schools this month.

Legion Baseball: Nothing to report

Veterans Affairs & Rehabilitation (VA&R) position open nothing to report

Service Officer: Barry Litsky reports: several contacts this month to help Veterans connect with proper departments for answers.

Old Business

New home update; Final easement has been obtained, waiting for deed to process.

Post Fundraising, bricks, mugs, aluminum cans. Coins. Corporate sponsorship Constitution and Bylaws will be posted on the homepage of the post website, approved at the March 13th 2025 meeting.

Volunteering at Jumbo shrimp games nothing to report.

Flagpole Dedication at Florida Tackle scheduled Saturday March 8th, 2025.

The ceremony was held at 1430. Dinner and music following.

Foundation update. Nothing to report

NFL Alumni Football and Cheerleaders Camp. Saturday June 14th 2025 from 8-12pm at Duval Charter School. Last year \$80 to sponsor kids, this year \$1000 from donations from all Post family donations. Our sponsorship goes towards underserved kids who can't afford to go. All Post family members contributed to the total amount. \$1000 sponsorship was approved. All Post families to be event sponsors to get our name on flyers. Set up is 0630-0830. Need assistance in traffic control, signs, and tents, check in kids, water and snacks handouts on the field. Event starts at 0800

Banking, we will be changing banks to Vystar after next elections. There are no fees to business and more locations. One being close to new post home headquarters.

Zeffy- New fundraising platform that is free to use. Post has been signed up and a link is on the website for donations.

Annual 990 filing, Post will need an accountant to prepare a 990 form for the Annual report with Sunbiz.

New Business:

Fireside chat at Commander's house Craig and Judy Bernat March 15th 1630. Ham BBQ sandwiches will be provided. BYOB and bring a dish to share.

All events are posted on the website calendar www.alpost372fl.org.

Post Fundraising. A thermometer fundraising gauge sign to be placed on property for \$345. Discussion approved the design of the new sign.

Cove Independent Living Center– Looking for us to visit monthly starting April 16th, 2025 1100. There will be baked goods and coffee. Interaction with veteran residents.

Post 372 fundraising cruise: Post 155 from Crystal River held a cruise event on Norwegian cruise line. "We were told that the cruise line donated back \$100 per stateroom to the post. Commander will look into this as a future event for our post.

Stark Post 56: The city of Stark plans to destroy and relocate the current Veterans memorial park to make way for low-income housing. Our Northern Area Commander requests we reach out to Stark city council in protest.

Also he requested we attend the City Council meeting March 18th at 1730. 209 North Thompson Street Starke Fl. To show support of not moving the park.

Storage Unit: The Elks have turned in their charter and sold the property. They donated all the folding tables and chairs to our post. All items that have been donated to our post are currently on trailers and stacked in member garages. That being said we need to rent a storage unit for all the items to be kept together. We have members who have agreed to fund the project monthly for as long as necessary. We have a quote of \$72 for a 10x10 unit.

Buzz TV Alan Painter and Commander will be doing a 5-minute interview for Buzz TV on March 27th 1350 at the San Marco location.

The April 7th meeting will be held as usual. Many of the post officers will be on the Unity Ride and held to other commitments.

Nominations of Officers for Legion year 2025-2026 starts today.

all current officers agree to stay in position unless other members wish to step up. One additional nomination was made for 3rd vice Commander: Paul Arambula nominated John Riddle. Mike Montanara second the motion. John accepted the nomination.

Commander asks if there is anything else for the good of the legion.

Karen Tracy stated she had the banner and membership material tote.

A member suggested we set up a table of information at the VA hospital.

Mark Shelton reminded everyone to donate to our post 372 team ALR for the unity ride. He stated the donation link is on the weekly newsblast and takes a donor directly to our team site. Our team goal is \$10000.

A prayer was conducted by Chaplain Mike Montenara. Closing ceremonies were conducted and the meeting was closed at 2008 hours.

Presented by Frank Nichols Post 372 Adjutant