Fallen Heroes Mandarin Post 372

General Membership Meeting

August 9, 2018

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The General Assembly meeting of American Legion Post 372 of August 9, 2018 was held at the Mandarin/St Johns Elks Lodge #2866 with 16 members present.

The meeting was promptly called to order at 7:00pm by Commander Painter.

Opening ceremonies were conducted.

The Commander recognized Past Commander Franklin Hunt and Auxiliary President Kathy Helmly.

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The Commander invited Auxiliary President Kathy Helmly to speak.

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President Helmly spoke about the Auxiliary's mission to support the American Legion and handed out a brochure for all the Legionnaire's to take home to their wives and daughters.

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Roll Call of Officers

Roll call of Officers was held, and it was determined that a quorum was present. Chaplain O’Connor and Executive Board member Dan Hempsall were excused.

Minutes

The July 12, 2018 minutes are posted online.

Motion to approve the minutes of the July 12, 2018 meeting as posted online was made and seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

The August 2, 2018 Executive Board minutes were distributed in lieu of reading them.

Correspondence

* Notice from The American Legion that Harry Lysinger has applied to become a Paid-Up-for-Life member.
* Letter from PROJECT: VetRelief thanking Post 372 for their donation.
* Notice from the IRS to check your withholding now to make sure you are deducting enough after the new tax law.
* American Legion Department of Florida 100th Anniversary Advertising opportunities.
* Letter from Boys State Delegate Preston Rose.
* Letter from Patriot Guard Riders soliciting donations for Snowball Express.
* Letter from Marsy’s Law for Florida looking for endorsement.
* Post 137’s Newsletter
* August’s Edition of the Department of Florida’s Legion Link.
* Invitation to attend NAS Jax 411th Hospital Center Family Day.
* Vets4Vets Quarterly Gathering of Veterans Flyer
* Certificate of Appreciation from Past Department Commander for supporting his charity, PROJECT: VetRelief.
* Certificate of Appreciation from PROJECT: VetRelief for supporting Florida’s Active Duty, Veterans, and their immediate family members.
* Note from Ashley and Franz Gilbert along with a $450 donation. Their son, Franz, had such an inspirational time that his parents donated the funds to send another boy to Boys State.

Reading in of New or Transferring Members

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

Officers’ Reports

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The Finance Officer read the Finance Report.

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

The Finance Officer read the Proposed Budget for 2018-19.

Motion to approve the 2018-19 Budget was made and seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

The Finance Officer reported that the transition from Vystar to Fifth Third Bank is still in progress. The Legion’s accounts have been opened, but the Sons of the American Legion, American Legion Riders, and the American Legion Auxiliary still need to open their accounts.

The Finance Officer reported that many insurance companies will not issue Director’s and Officer’s Insurance unless they have the General Liability policy as well. He noted that he is waiting for a quote from our current General Liability insurer.

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The Commander noted that he is excited in the direction the Post is going. With the successful formation of the Sons of the American Legion, American Legion Riders, and the American Legion Auxiliary, we are a family now. The Commander’s report is attached.

Vice Commander Rodriguez reported that 87 members have renewed leaving 140 members currently not renewed. Post 372 needs to be at 55% by September 5th and we are currently at 45.789%, leaving the Post 18 members short. She explained the new Adjutant’s Challenge. For every 10 new members you recruit, you will be entered into a $500 cash drawing, paid by the Adjutant. You are also eligible for the Post’s recruiting incentive program. New members can only be counted for one quarter and transferring members do not count.

Service Officer Litsky reported that he had three contacts this month.

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Service Officer Hunt reported that he had four contacts this month.

Program & Committee Reports

Audit Chair Sullivan reported that the Post’s 4th Quarter Audit was held on September 26, 2018 based on the Post’s Audit Checklist and the Constitution and By-Laws. No discrepancies were found.

The American Legion Riders are planning to host their next Poker Run on Sunday, October 28th. It will begin at the Lodge and go to Post 202 in Keystone Heights, Post 250 in Middleburg, VFW Post 1988 in Green Cove Springs, and end at Post 37 in St. Augustine.

PROJECT: VetRelief Chair Rodriguez reported that the 5th District donated $5,829.67, with Post 372 donating $2,210.62 of that amount. The total amount raised by Posts in Florida for the Department Commander’s Challenge was $104,457.70.

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Old Business

The upcoming Harley Davidson was discussed. A 2005 Harley Davidson Heritage Softail has been purchased and tickets are available to sell. We printed 1,250 tickets and need more than the eight members that sold the tickets for the gun raffle to participate for this to be successful. Tickets are $20 each. See the Finance Officer for tickets. A tri-fold document has been created to explain why we are having this raffle and why tickets should be purchased.

New Business

The Adjutant reported that she received a call about a Veteran who needs emergency dental care. The VA gave him antibiotics and pain killers but will not pull the tooth. He is in such pain that he is thinking about pulling the tooth himself. She noted that she had scheduled an appointment for him at Ivory dental for the following Monday. A basket was passed and $171 was raised by members to help pay the bill.

The Commander noted that the Post needs to get more involved in helping Veterans in the area. He asked if anyone was interested in helping with yard work for Veterans who are unable to do it themselves. An article will go out in the newsletter looking for Veterans who need help and volunteers will be notified.

The Post will begin Steak Nights at the Elks Lodge on September 22, 2018 at 6:00pm. The Adjutant stated she would donate the potatoes for this dinner. At this time, the Post will host one steak night per month and schedule more if there is interest. The Post is advertising it as a social outing for Legion members to get together outside meeting times.

For the Good of the American Legion

Announcements

There is a new Post Volunteer Tracking Form available to track volunteer activities. It is available on the website and will also be available at every meeting

The Volunteer Opportunity Form is also available online and at every meeting. If you are interested in volunteering on a Post Program or Committee, please fill it out and return it to the Adjutant

Upcoming Events

5th District Meeting, Sunday, August 12, 2018 at 2:00pm. Post 316, 1127 Atlantic Boulevard Atlantic Beach, FL 32233. All are welcome to attend.

Membership Rally, Hagan Ace Hardware, September 3rd from 11am – 2pm. We need volunteers and food donations.

Executive Board meeting, Thursday, September 6th at 6pm at Edward Jones Office, 2443 San Jose Blvd #104, Jacksonville, FL 32223.

Vets4Vets Quarterly Meeting, Saturday, September 8th. Veterans Memorial Arena, 300 A Phillip Randolph Blvd, Jacksonville, FL 32202

10:30 – 11:00 Coffee, Networking, & Exhibitors

11:00am – 12:15pm – Speakers

12:15 – 1:00pm Free Lunch, Networking, & Exhibitors

Post 372 will be an Exhibitor

5th District Meeting, Sunday, September 9, 2018 at 2:00pm. Post 88, 3662 Spring Park Road, Jacksonville, FL 32207. All are welcome to attend.

Next General meeting, Thursday, September 13th at 7:00pm, Social Hour at 6:00pm.

The Commander presented Certificates of Appreciation to the following for all their hard work during 2017-18.

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Barry Litsky

Carl Eliason

Chuck Benham

Don Severns

Franklin Hunt

George Comeaux

Jim Hughes

Paul Arambula

Roy Moltisanti

Michael Soluski

Steve Sullivan

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The following members were not present to accept their Certificates of Appreciation:

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Arthur Bides

Brian Lawn

Dan Hempsall

Don Crawford

June Crawford

Dr. Buck O’Connor

Gerald Geddings

Franklin Nichols

Joe Maltese

Joy Goff

Mere Schwartz

Martin Schwartz

Marty Kaufman

Ray Balaguer

Tom Schneider

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The Commander named Adjutant Sheri Rodriguez Post 372 Legionnaire of the Year.

Closing ceremonies were conducted.

The meeting adjourned at 8:46pm.

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Sheri Rodriguez

Sheri Rodriguez

Adjutant