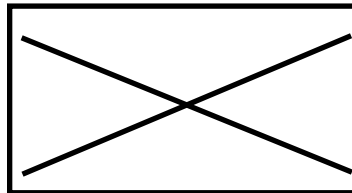


Dues will be
1st Year - \$35.00
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VFW Auxiliary Post #1347

Fifteen VFW Auxiliary members were present when the group met on January 7th at the Vet's Club.

The meeting was opened according to Ritual with Chaplain Lyanne Kelly giving the Opening Prayer and Patriotic Instructor Melinda Klein leading the Pledge of Allegiance. President Lori Skala called the meeting to order.

The December meeting minutes were approved as presented. There was a Thank You from NWHCS-Grand Island for treats and Christmas cards that were given to the residents.

The Treasurer's report was given and filed to audit.

Hospital Committee Chair Billie Herron reported that State VFW and Auxiliary officers were in attendance on December 10th for a Christmas Party for residents at NWHCS – Grand Island. Treats were cupcakes and juices. Christmas Cards were presented from the State Officers, the 1347 Post and Auxiliary and from local schools. The Auxiliary will host Bingo on January 18th.

Veterans and Family Support Committee Chair Melinda Klein and Youth Committee Co-chair Sherry Jewett said that while the group was small for the Christmas Party for Vet's Club and Military family members on December 14th, everyone had a good time.

Buddy Poppy Committee Chair Lyanne Kelly says she has found more of the fabric Buddy Poppies. They will be used for another project this year.

Historian and Media Chair Billie Herron continues to post on Facebook. This month she included information about the Christmas parties and the Wreaths Across America event on December 14th at the Nebraska Veterans Cemetery here in Grand Island.

Kathy Leschinsky says that everyone is doing lots of volunteering in the community and she has forwarded reports of the Outreach Committee.

The Wreaths Across America was held at the Nebraska Veterans Cemetery at the corner of Capital Avenue and Webb Road on Saturday, December 14th at 11:00 AM. Due to construction at the cemetery parking was limited but many people turned out for the program and to help lay wreaths. Many comments were received about the proceedings.

The Christmas Tree at Stuhr Museum for the Festival of Trees has been taken down. We will need to be thinking of a theme for doing a tree in December 2025!

The updated "Standing Rules" were reviewed.

JT Rein and Grace Watson were announced as winners of Voice of Democracy and Patriots Pen local contest. They will be presenting their entries at other VFW and Auxiliary meetings.

The District 11 VFW and Auxiliary meeting will be held in Ord on Sunday, January 19th beginning at 2:00 PM.

The Nebraska Mid-Winter VFW and Auxiliary event will be in Lincoln. Friday, January 31st, will be a banquet to honor the Voice of Democracy and Patriots Pen winners. Saturday, February 1st will be the Business meetings for the Posts and Auxiliary members in attendance.

An announcement was made concerning the Banners that are being displayed along Webb Road. Approval has been received to display more Military Recognition Banners along other streets and applications are now being accepted. Holly Klimek is the contact person.

New volunteers for helping with Bingo at NWHCS-Grand Island will be mentored as to the procedure for filling positions while assisting the residents at the monthly Bingo activities. Bingo is held on the third Saturday of each month beginning at 1:30 PM with assisting residents to the Recreation room.

The Flag Program was presented to two schools in December with assistance from the Honor Guard.

President Lori Skala showed a "Memory Book" project that can be done with pictures from last years calendars to be given to Memory Care facilities in the area.

The Charter was Draped in memory of our member Joyce Christensen and Past Department President Sue Ann Busing.

Audit of the Books was conducted and approved.

Chaplain Lyanne Kelly gave the Closing Prayer

The February meeting will be held on Tuesday, February 4th at 1:00 PM with those wishing to gather for lunch meeting at Noon at the Vet's Club.

Secretary
Cathy McKown

VFW Post #1347

The meeting of VFW Post 1347 was conducted January 7th, 2025. With 9 members present. Opening ceremonies were conducted by Commander Larson, and Chaplin Pebeck. Roll Call: 4 Officers present and 3 absent.

Minutes were approved as read.

Financial Report was read.

Motion was made by comrade Catron and seconded by comrade Halverson to accept the December financial report. Motion carried.

1. Membership Report

a. Membership stands at 354 with a goal of 366 for 96.72%. 12 more to go to get to 102%.

2. Service Officer Report

a. Comrade McAhren was absent

b. Comrade Pointe advised that the State was holding up the progress of the

Caroline Tower for the Cemetery.

3. Hospital Report

a. The VFW Auxiliary and a few VFW members helped for the Christmas

Party.

4. Youth Report

a. Comrade Klimek reported waiting on GIPS Foundation for results, should happen in February.

5. Board Report

a. Minimum wage raised to \$13.50 per hour January 1st.

b. American Legion post 53 will be posting pictures in the United room on the northwest wall.

c. Flag Fund \$518.15

6. VOD/Patriot Pen

a. Jameson Rein won the district competition and moved onto the National competition.

We Recognized the National Home.

7. Unfinished Business.

a. Quartermaster Bartz requested clarification on the funds for the VFW of NE raffle tickets. Discussion was had. Quartermaster Bartz will be getting with State Commander for clarification.

b. Quartermaster Bartz needs a Membership card filled out by Joseph DeLeon. Joseph is not in the VFW system. Comrade Callihan was going to try and get ahold of him.

c. Quartermaster Bartz ask for permission to stock different items in the cabinet. Permission granted but not needed!

8. New Business.

a. Chaplin PeBeck commented that we had great participation to lay out all the Wreaths despite horrible weather conditions.

b. Wreaths will be removed January 18th at 10:00 am.

c. Commander Larson handed passed \$30.00 to Quartermaster Bartz from the sale of 2 POW stocking hats.

d. We Received a Thank You from VOD winner Grace Watson.

9. Communications.

a. 14th Annual Veterans Bowling Tournament in Columbus is coming up.

Commander Larson has the sign-up sheet if anyone is interested.

b. We received a letter from GISH post prom requesting a donation. We had decided in the past to donate \$100.00.

c. Banner sales update. At the time of this meeting there are only 8 banners left to sell. Attaboy to Hollie Klimek and Caitlin Bartz for all their hard work on this.

d. January 31st there is a Veterans Conference at the State capital where Veterans can talk directly to the Governor and or your Legislator. Honor Guard is talking about attending.

Comrade in distress.

a. Comrade Luft had Extensive rotator cuff surgery. Commander Larson updated us on his well-being since William didn't call or text any of us back.

Closing Ceremony was conducted.

Next meeting. February 4th at 1930 hrs.

Respectably submitted,
Quartermaster, Tim Bartz

American Legion Auxiliary Unit #53

January 8, 2025

The American Legion Auxiliary Unit #53 meeting was called to order by President Carmen Larson at 6:30 p.m., January 8, 2025. POW/MIA Chair placement was conducted by Sergeant-at-Arms Pam Sinsel. Vice-President Loretta Palensky offered the opening prayer. Ten members recited the Pledge of Allegiance and the Preamble to the ALA Constitution.

The November minutes were approved as read. There was no December meeting. A pot luck was held instead.

Loretta motioned that the Treasurer's Report be approved, and Jolene seconded the motion. Motion carried. Loretta motioned and Billie seconded that the ALA repay the SAL \$92.50 for our share of the drink tickets from the Christmas pot luck. Motion carried. Charlie gave a recap of the 2024 income and expenditures.

Membership Report: Barb has called those members who haven't yet paid their 2025 dues. 33 members haven't paid.

Historian/Webmaster Report: Amber has kept the Facebook page current.

Members may submit new photos to her.

Communications: Carmen emailed the District 6 newsletter to members.

WOMEN OF SERVICE

The January recipient of a \$50 gift certificate was Vicki Cyboron. Congratulations!

OLD BUSINESS:

Members volunteered to help with Bingo in January and February.

687 were served at the Veterans' Day Breakfast. All went well, and the high school helpers from Central Catholic and Northwest High School did an excellent job!

Even though only 20 children attended the Children's Christmas Party, everyone had fun, and there are supplies left for next year.

Gifts for Yanks went well. They had a full house for Bingo and all enjoyed the prizes and gifts.

VA Gift Shop Days was also successful, and Local 4 News was there to share the day with a wide audience.

Wreaths Across America had a good turnout. Each grave received a wreath. Picking up the wreaths will be held on January 18 at 10:00 a.m. Wear gloves.

NEW BUSINESS:

Applications for Girls' State are due March 1. Interviews for local candidates will be held February 23. Amber will contact the history and government teachers at the local high schools to encourage junior girls to apply.

Mid-Year Convention will be held in Norfolk on January 17-19. On January 18, there will be a joint session and then separate sessions for training.

Bingo will be held at the VA Hospital on January 18. All ALA members are welcome to help out. Be there at 1:00.

The District 6 Spring meeting will be held in Grand Island. We are responsible for making dessert and for the sign-in table. More details will be given later.

Tracking sheets will be collected in February.

Veterans' Day at the Races will be on Saturday, February 22. Loretta motioned and Amber seconded that the ALA sponsor a race. Motion carried.

POW/MIA Closing was conducted by Pam Sinsel.

Being no further business, Charlie motioned and Billie seconded that the meeting be adjourned. Motion carried.

The next meeting will be held on February 5, 2025 at 6:30 p.m. in Memorial Hall at the United Veterans Club.

Submitted by
Lisa Hunnicutt, Recording Secretary

American Legion Post #53

January 14, 2025

The meeting was called to order by Commander Rapp at 1930 hours. Opening ceremonies were conducted. Roll Call: 9 members present, 4 officers present, 1 absent, Zero excused.

Meeting Minutes: December Meeting Minutes stand as read.

Finance Report: Richard Catron moved to accept the December Finance Report & Jim Brettmann seconded the motion; passed.

Committee Reports:

Children & Youth: Pac 107 Derby car judging to be held on 1/18/2025, boys State is Scheduled for April 6th, 2025

Membership: 2025 membership Post 53 76.460% Goal is 531 current total is 406, District 6 at 76.05%

Americanism: Flying the American Flag

Activities: SAL Nut Feed March 1st, 2025 District 6 Convention is March 8th, 2025 here at the UVC

POW/MIA: None

Athletic: None

UVC Board Report: It is available at the UVC office.

Service Officer: The Service Officer is working on the acquisition of the 26 acres north of the cemetery for future expansion.

Sick Call: None

Comrades in Distress: None

Old Business: None

New Business: Northwest Trap Team Sponsorship Donation after discussion Richard Catron motioned to donate \$100.00 seconded by 1st Vice Ponte, motion passed. The Department Mid-Winter Conference is scheduled for January 17-19 in Norfolk, NE. The quarterly VA Volunteers report, the elevator at the hospital is still under repairs and must use the west entrance. Discussion about the upcoming Valentine Meal motion was made by Ron Hitch to donate \$50.00 seconded by Ron Callihan motion passed. Ron Callihan brought up the Veterans Day at the Races at Fonner Park after discussion Ron Hitch motioned to give \$95.00 for the Banner rather than buy a blanket seconded by Richard Catron motion passed.

Good of the Post: None.

There being no further business, closing ceremonies were conducted and the meeting was adjourned at 2026 hours. The next meeting will be on February 11, 2025, at 1930 hours.

Respectfully submitted
David Morrison, Adjutant

Sons of the American Legion Post #53

Regular meeting of the Sons of the American Legion was held January 7, 2025 at 6:30 pm. 19 members were present.

Minutes and Treasurer's report were presented and approved.

The second reminder membership notices have been sent out. 64 to go for 100%.

March 1, 2025 is the 30th year for the Son's Mountain Oyster Feed. 5:00 pm to 8:00 pm. Karaoke to follow.

Polo Shirts available \$20. T-Shirts \$15. See Paul.

District 6 Conference is in Grand Island March 8, 2025.

United Veterans Club at the races is April 6, 2025. More information to follow.

Dennis has been keeping the Bingo hopping at the VA Hospital. Over 40 participants have been playing Bingo and eating cookies.

Scholarship Applications have been distributed and will be taken to Grand Island High Schools.

If anyone knows Kent Leth's address or phone number please get a hold of Paul Barker.

Meeting adjourned at 7:35 pm

Next meeting February 5, 2025 at 6:00 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Paul Barker, Adjutant

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