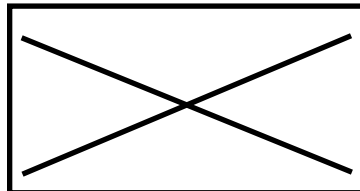


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## VFW Auxiliary Post #1347

November Meeting

Sixteen members and two guests were in attendance when the Hall County VFWA 1347 met at the Vet's Club on Election Day. 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.

We "Welcome" transfer member Deb Orlando to the Hall County VFWA from York. Minutes of the October meeting were approved as presented. Correspondence was received from NWHCS – Grand Island for supplies received, and snacks served after a Ukelele program was presented. The Treasurer's report was given and filed to Audit.

The guests were introduced. District 11 Auxiliary Secretary Sherree Brown was visiting on behalf of District 11 officers to conduct the yearly inspection. VFW Post 1347 Commander John Larson came to meet the Auxiliary members and learn about the activities the Auxiliary does at NWHCS – Grand Island and in the community.

Americanism Chair Jean Seely reported that the Flag Program had been given at Seedling Mile School with 80 students in attendance. The program is also scheduled to be presented to a Foster Grandparents group, residents at NWHCS – Grand Island, Heritage at Sagewood and Tabitha. Members of the Honor Guard also demonstrate the correct folding of the Flag and the meaning of the folds.

The Hospital report for the residents at NWHCS – Grand Island showed 14 attending the Ukelele program. Ten residents went to the Crane Trust to help clean the Butterfly Garden and learn more about the Cranes that visit every year. The Flag Program will be presented on November 9 followed by Bingo with help from the Sons of American Legion and Riders. Bingo will be on our regular visit on the third Saturday of the month. This month that will be on November 16.

The State VFW Christmas Party will be held at NWHCS – Grand Island on December 10 at 7:00 PM. Christmas cards will be prepared for the residents at our December meeting.

The Historian and Media report by Billie Herron shows that pictures of the Ukelele program, the Flag Program and Wreaths Across America Fund Raiser Car Show have been posted to Facebook.

Veterans and Family Support Committee Chair Melinda Klein gave information about the Christmas Party for Vet's Club members families will be December 7 from 2:00 to 4:00 PM. Anyone wishing to help should arrive by 12:30. The party will be jointly hosted by the American Legion Auxiliary and the VFW Auxiliary. And, of course Santa and Mrs. Claus will be in attendance along with several activities being planned.

Buddy Poppy Chair Lyanne Kelly has sent reports. More activities are being planned. More Buddy Poppies have been ordered.

Youth Committee Co-Chair Sue Hailicka says items have been purchased for distribution at the Christmas Party. About 175 students from Grand Island Senior High have made cards and posters to be given to Veterans.

Our membership is at 195 with 11 memberships needed to meet last years numbers. Membership dues price goes up on January 1 so now would be a good time to become a member of the Grand Island VFW Auxiliary.

Final plans are being made for the Wreaths Across America program that will be held on December 14 at 11:00 AM. Laying of the Wreaths will follow the program.

The new VFWA tablecloth has been purchased and was already used at the Wreaths Across America Fund Raiser Car Show.

Anyone wishing to help decorate the VFWA Christmas Tree at the Stuhr Museum Festival of Trees should meet at the museum on Tuesday, November 19 at 2:00 PM. Just tell the gatehouse attendant that you are there to decorate a Christmas tree. An Open House for those displaying a tree will be on December 19 from 5 to 7 PM. Everyone is encouraged to vote for the VFW Auxiliary tree for Viewers Choice as the winner will be announced at the Open House and receive a cash prize.

Members are encouraged to help at the Veteran's Day Breakfast at the Vet's Club on Veterans Day. Serving will be from 6:00 to 10:30 AM.

There will be a Veteran's Day Parade in Kearney at 11:00 AM. Anyone wishing to participate should join the line-up at Zion Church.

LaVonne Catron, the Treasurer, says that we will go through the expenses listing so that everyone knows what our financial status is. Suggestions will be discussed for how to increase our treasury. All members are encouraged to attend and learn about the activities and needs of the Auxiliary.

The Closing Prayer was given by Chaplain Lyanne Kelly.

The December Hall County VFW Auxiliary 1347 will be held at the Vet's Club on the 3rd at 1:00 PM. Those wishing to eat together before the meeting will meet at Noon.

Secretary  
Cathy McKown

## VFW Post #1347

The meeting of VFW Post 1347 was conducted November 5th, 2024.

With 11 members present. Opening ceremonies were conducted by Commander Larson, and Comrade Callihan whom sat in for 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 October financial report. Motion carried.

1. Membership Report
  - a. Membership stands at 344 with a goal of 366 for 95.98% {up 4 members}
2. Service Officer Report
  - a. Comrade McAhren reported cemetery completion date of April 2025 still on tract.
  - b. Comrade Pointe was attending City Board meeting regarding the 26.2 acres of land just north of the cemetery. Hall County was transferring ownership to the City of Grand Island in hopes that the city would lease to the Veterans Park for future expansion of the Cemetery.
3. Hospital Report
  - a. Comrade Hitch brought up Billie Harington a member of our VFW Auxiliary also on the DAVS committee is requesting funding for the VFW Auxiliary. Nov 9th the Auxiliary is providing sliders, donuts, beverages for the 3rd and 4th floor at the VA. Fund will be split between the VFW, VFW Auxiliary, American Legion, Sons of the American Legion, and the American Legion Riders.
  - b. A motion was made by Comrade Hitch and seconded by Comrade Halverson to provide our share of funding. Amount to be determined by our next meeting. Motion carried.
  - c. Comrade Mayven {DAVS rep} stated that December 10th 19:00 hours there is the State VFW Christmas party planned at the VA. He requested it was put on the UVC calendar. The VFW Auxiliary is handling most of this. Also requesting help with moving and assisting Veterans.

4. Youth Report

a. Comrade Klimek reported to the GIPS foundation. Paperwork was submitted to the Executive director for GIPS. He was informed we wanted to be a part of the selection committee.

b. VFW Auxiliary attended Flag Day at Seedling Mile school along with Comrade Hitch and Comrade Callihan.

5. Board Report

a. Flag poles up November 7th at 15:45 hours, GI wrestlers are putting the poles up. Flags up November 9th, 10:00 hours. Volunteers needed. Flags down not determined.

b. Container for the collections of goods that are needed for the Grand Island VA.

c. Walls will be painted in the Club and Liberty Room.

6. VOD/Patriot Pen

a. Essays that were due on Oct 31st. VOD essays were received on October 30th. 22 entries total. 2 from Central Catholic, 20 from St Paul

b. Patriot Pen 2 entries. 1 from Westridge and 1 from Barb

c. Need to get judges together to read essays.

d. Comrade Klimek made a motion for the 2 essays advancing to district for VOD receive \$100.00 and the Patriot Pen chosen to advance receive \$25.00. Comrade Callihan seconded. Motion carried.

We Recognized the National Home.

6. New Business.

a. Commander Larson was given \$94.00 from Poppy Sales. Money turned over to Quartermaster Bartz.

b. National Home has an Amazon wish list if any of you are interested in donating.

c. Commander Larson attended the VFW auxiliary meeting.

d. Chaplin Pebeck wanted permission to Volunteer at the residence clinic. To spend some one-on-one time with the Veterans. Jody Johnson there at the Vets hospital is the coordinator for such activities.

e. Raffle tickets from the State Commander for replacing the signage and the awning at the State VFW Headquarters. We got awarded 50 tickets total to sell. Tickets are \$10 a piece or 5 tickets for \$40.00. Prizes are listed below

1. \$500.00 voucher to the Ravenna Meat Locker.

2. Freedom Quilt.

3. God Bless America Sign.

4. Traeger pellet grille.

5. Barn quilt and 3-yard gnomes.

f. Operation Timmy Tank Has been approved, and now we are on a waiting list for up to 3 years.

g. December 7th the VFW Auxiliary is putting on a children's Christmas Party.

h. Commander Larson made a motion to share our portion of the Honor Guard Steak supper with the American Legion and one other... seconded by Comrade Halverson. Motion carried.

i. VFW calendars have arrived and are for sale. 20 calendars \$20.00 each. We must sell. Drawing January 10th. Comrade Catron will take the leftover calendars after this evening to sell at Bingo and the Club.

Good of the Order. Veterans Day Breakfast will be served at the UVC free for Veterans. \$6.00 for the public. November 11.

Closing Ceremony was conducted.

Respectably submitted,  
Quartermaster, Tim Bartz

## American Legion Post #53

November 12, 2024

The meeting was called to order by Commander Rapp at 1930 hours. Opening ceremonies were conducted.

Roll Call: 11 members present, Nine officers present, One absent, Zero excused. Meeting Minutes: October Meeting Minutes stand as read.

Finance Report: Richard Catron moved to accept the October Finance Report & Bob Lathen seconded the motion; passed.

Committee Reports:  
Children & Youth: None

Membership: 2025 membership Post 53 47.646% Goal is 531 current total is 253, District 6 at 37.899%

Americanism: Flying the American Flag  
Activities: None

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: Commander Rapp is talking with Grand Island Senior High about the Boys State Program. December 9th will be the VA Hospital shopping day for the patients a request was made for financial assistance from the VA Volunteers. Richard Catron motioned to donate \$100.00, seconded by Ron Hitch motion passed. December 3rd is Gifts for Yanks will be held on the 2nd floor at 0930. The Executive Committee voted and approved a \$40.00 donation to the VA Hospital for Veterans Day meal for the 3rd and 4th floor patients. District 6 will be holding it's convention on March 8, 2025 in the UVC. UVC will be closed December 23, 24 and 25 and December 30 and 31 and January 1. Commander Rapp's singing group La Camerata Madrigal Singers will be performing in the Memorial Hall on November 30 and December 1. Tickets can be purchased at the Stuhr Museum or by calling 308-385-5316 x 206 meal and performance is \$40.00. The Honor Guard holiday meal was discussed with CMDR Rapp motioning to pay 1/3 the cost seconded by Ron Hitch 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 December 10, 2024, 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 November 6, 2024 at 6:30pm. 26 members were present.

Minutes and Treasurer's report were presented and approved.

Veteran's Breakfast is November 11, 2024. 6:00 am to 10:30 am. Discussed.

Gun raffle drawing will be November 11, 2024. 10:00 am

March 1, 2025 is the 30th year for the Son's Mountain Oyster Feed.

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

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

December 4th Meeting will be our annual pot luck meal with American Legion Auxiliary.

Christmas Tree lighting will be at 6:00 pm.

December is the Son's month for hamburger nights. We will not be open for hamburgers on December 24th but we will be doing hamburgers December 31.

Meeting adjourned at 7:35 pm

Next meeting December 4, 2024 at 6:00 pm.

Respectfully submitted,  
Paul Barker, Adjutant

## American Legion Auxiliary Unit #53

November 6, 2024

The American Legion Auxiliary Unit #53 meeting was called to order by President Carmen Larson at 6:30 p.m., November 6, 2024. POW/MIA Chair placement was conducted.

Co-Chaplain Liz Cline offered the opening prayer. Fifteen members recited the Pledge of Allegiance and the Preamble to the ALA Constitution.

The October minutes were approved as corrected.

Billie motioned that the Treasurer's Report be approved, and Linda seconded the motion. Motion carried. No new bills were presented.

Membership Report: Barb sent out 8 membership cards today with several more to mail.

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. Dues must be paid by January 1, 2025 if members want in on the benefits of membership. Girls' State will be held June 1-7, 2025 in Lincoln. A thank you note from Nancy Klimek was read.

WOMEN OF SERVICE

The November recipient of a \$50 gift certificate to Wusabi is Avis Pike. Congratulations! OLD BUSINESS:

Members volunteered to help with Bingo in November and December.

Members should arrive at the UVC on Sunday, November 10 at 5:00 p.m. to set up for the Veteran's Day Breakfast and should arrive at 5:30 a.m. on Monday, November 11 to work the breakfast. Four members of the Central Catholic Student Council and 4 members of the Northwest FCCLA will help serve.

The Children's Christmas Party will be held on Saturday, December 7 in Memorial Hall from 2 p.m.-4 p.m. Several local businesses are contributing to the event. The event is open to children of veterans and active-duty military including the National Guard and Veterans from Central Community College. There will be games, story time, cookies, and a visit from Santa.

Members of the ALA and VFWA should arrive a little before 12:30 p.m. to help set up.

The ALA will be contributing \$25 for Dollar Days Cookies.

NEW BUSINESS:  
The Sons and ALA Christmas Potluck and lighting of the Christmas Tree will be held at the UVC on December 4th at 6 p.m.

The District 6 Spring meeting will be held in March in Grand Island. More details will be shared later.

Tracking sheets for May 2024 through December 2024 are due at the January 2025 meeting. Tracking sheets for January 2025 through April 2025 will be due at the May 2025 meeting.

There will be no business meeting in December due to the Christmas Potluck. Members are asked to bring a donation for the Food Pantry at the Veterans Hospital. A donation box will be available at the UVC.

Avis motioned and Ronda seconded that the ALA donate \$40 to the slider meal at the Veterans Hospital on November 9. Motion carried.

POW/MIA Closing was conducted.

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

The next business meeting will be held on January 8, 2025 at 6:30 p.m. in Memorial Hall at the United Veterans Club.

Submitted by  
Lisa Hunnicutt, Recording Secretary

## AMERICAN LEGION RIDERS

October 15, 2024

Meeting called to order by Commander Dan Willets. Opening prayer by Chaplain Cory Steinacher.

Resolution 288 for the POW/MIA empty chair ceremony performed by SGT at Arms Todd Sinsel.

All in attendance recited the Pledge of Allegiance and the ALR Chapter 53 Preamble. Roll call completed by Secretary Pam Sinsel. Sixteen Chapter members were present.

September meeting minutes read by Secretary Pam Sinsel. Accepted as read.

September finance report read by Financial Officer Avis Pike. Motion to approve, Pam Sinsel. Second, Todd Sinsel. Motion carried.

Membership officer Mike Frank reminded members to make sure they have paid their other membership dues to the American Legion, American Legion Auxiliary or Sons of the American Legion.

Commander Dan Willets said several thank yous: To everyone that helped at the sloppy joe feed after the Hall County Warriors Memorial dedication. To everyone that helped Adeline Woods unload her Eagle Scout flag retirement box at All Faiths Funeral Home. To David, Todd & Kent for helping at the flag retirement ceremony on Saturday October 12th.

After discussion, Rich Catron motioned to approve a \$170 donation to Wreaths Across America for the purchase of 15 wreaths. Second, John Arias. Motion carried.

Commander Dan Willets discussed the possibility of setting up a local scholarship fund. Several members were asked to bring back information from other American Legion groups that currently have scholarships in place. Further discussion at the next meeting and a committee will be set up.

After discussion, Todd Sinsel motioned to approve \$600 of the \$1,190.20 raised at the Hall County Warriors Memorial sloppy joe lunch be gifted back to the Hall County Warriors Memorial for their maintenance fund. Second, Rich Catron. Motion carried. Todd will find out when their next meeting is so the check can be presented to them.

David Morrison shared on Facebook a list of items the GI VA Medical Center needs. Todd will approach the UVC officers to get approval to set up a box or tote for donations.

Please follow the American Legion District 6 Family Facebook page for district news and events.

John Arias stated it is important to attend District events.

John Arias is asking for the Chapter's input in organizing a POW/MIA poker run beginning in 2025. The 3rd Friday in September is POW/MIA Day. The ride will be the next day.

Avis Pike motioned to adjourn the meeting. Second, Todd Sinsel. Motion carried. Closing prayer by Chaplain Cory Steinacher. SGT at Arms Todd Sinsel retired the POW/MIA chair covering. Meeting adjourned by Commander Dan Willets.

Secretary,  
Pamela Sinsel

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