



Dues will be

1st Year - \$35.00 (this includes door card)

for a Social Membership

VFW Auxiliary Post #1347

Twelve members were present when the June meeting of the Hall County VFW Auxiliary was opened according to Ritual with Chaplain Lyanne Kelly giving the Opening Prayer, Patriotic Instructor Melinda Klein leading the Pledge of Allegiance and President Lori Skala calling the meeting to order.

There were no guests or applications for membership.

The minutes of the May meeting were approved as presented. Thank You notes from NWI-HCS - Grand Island for greeting cards, Bingo time with snacks, food items for the pantry and donuts for Patient Experience Week were read.

The Treasurer's report was given. There were no bills. The report was filed to audit.

Hospital Committee Chair Billie Herron reported that Bingo will be held on Saturday. June 21st, with volunteers arriving at 1:30 to help bring residents to the Rec Room for Bingo. Treats will be furnished.

While the weather was not nice, 150 to 200 were in attendance when the Memorial Day Service was moved to Memorial Hall. Buddy Poppies were distributed. Lunch was also available at the Club

President Lori Skala and American Legion President Carmen Larson met to review the applications entered for the Tom Wilcox Nursing Scholarship. Winner information will be announced at a later time

Supplies for the Wreaths Across America Fund Raiser Car Show were discussed. There are some entry forms but more will need to be printed. The Car Show will be held at the Vet's Club on October 11th.

Billie Herron made a motion that was approved to donate \$100.00 to the Vet's Club for use to purchase new flags for Memorial Park. There are three hundred seventy-six flags when on display.

Since the Vet's Club is no longer sponsoring the Flower Bed, the American Legion Auxiliary and the VFW Auxiliary will be maintaining the bed. New flowers were purchased and the bed has been upgraded for easier care.

Women Veterans from the area will be honored at the Hargis House on June 13th from 1:00 to 3:00 PM. There are over 100 women veterans in the Grand Island area. Women's military items will be on display and light refreshments will be served after some of the women discuss what they did while serving in the Military.

There will be a Pollinator Event at the Crane Trust at the Alda I-80 Interchange on June 20th and 21st. Volunteers are asked to help with serving guest and being available to do craft projects pertaining to Pollinators. Hours will be 2:00 to 6:00 PM on Friday and 10:00 AM to 2:00 PM on Saturday. Everyone is welcome to attend.

There will be a School of Instruction for VFW and VFWA members on Saturday, June 28th at the Kearney VFW. Hours are from 9:00 AM to 3:00 PM. Anyone wishing to carpool should contact Lori Skala.

Everyone is asked to save calendars or similar pictures that can be used to make more "Memory Books" for use at local care facilities.

The Charter was Draped in Memory of Mary Sears, Past National President.

The July meeting of the Hall County VFW Auxiliary will be held at the Vet's Club at 1:00 PM with anyone wishing to gather for lunch and social time at 11:30 AM on July 1st.

> Secretary Cathy McKown

American Legion Auxiliary Unit #53 June 4 2025

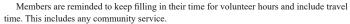
The American Legion Auxiliary Unit #53 meeting was called to order by President Carmen Larson at 6:30 p.m., June 4, 2025. POW/MIA Chair placement was conducted by Sergeant-at-Arms Pam Sinsel. Co-Chaplain Liz Cline offered the opening prayer. Eleven members recited the Pledge of Allegiance and the Preamble to the ALA Constitution.

The May minutes were approved as read.

Avis motioned that the Treasurer's Report be approved, and Loretta seconded the motion. Motion carried. Charlie presented a new bill of \$59.00 for the Girls' State snacks. Kayleen motioned and Liz seconded that Charlie be paid \$59.00. Motion carried.

Membership Report: 8 (not 7 as previously reported in the minutes) members haven't paid their 2025 dues.

Historian/Webmaster Report: Members may continue to submit new photos and information to be shared on Facebook to Amber.



Communications: Avis, Liz, Charlie, Loretta, and Carmen will attend District Convention. Attendees are reminded to take their membership card. The cost is \$10 per attendee.

VAVS ACTIVITIES

Volunteers are needed to take Veterans outside or on some outings. Contact Jody for more information.

Liz and Carmen walked the 2K in support of VAVS.

There are no VAVS activities in June.

WOMEN OF SERVICE

The June recipient of a \$50 gift certificate was Roseanne Allen. Congratulations!

OLD BUSINESS:

Members volunteered to help with Bingo in June.

Thank you to Charlie for delivering the Girls' State snacks and bags to Lincoln. Thank you to Charlie for placing the gravesite markers on Memorial Day.

NEW BUSINESS:

There are two recipients of the Tom Wilcox scholarship this year. \$1,500 will be split between the two

The 100th Anniversary Banquet of the VFW will be held on June 7th. Any help from ALA members between 6 p.m.- 7 p.m is welcomed.

Kayleen motioned and Avis seconded that the ALA cover half of the cost for plants in the

flower bed this year. The amount will be \$52.62. The VFWA will cover the other half of the cost. Avis seconded the motion. Motion carried

Thank you to Charlie and Loretta for decorating the planters in Memorial Park. Kayleen motioned that the ALA donate \$100 to the flag fund this year. This will help

purchase flags for Memorial Park. Diane seconded the motion. Motion carried. POW/MIA Closing was conducted by Pam Sinsel.

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

The next meeting will be held on July 2, 2025, at 6:30 p.m. in Memorial Hall at the United Veterans Club

> Submitted by Lisa Hunnicutt, Recording Secretary

VFW Post #1347

The meeting of VFW Post 1347 was conducted June 3, 2025. With 9 members present. Opening ceremonies were conducted by Commander Larson, and Chaplin Callihan.

Roll Call: 4 Officers present and 2 absent and 1 excused.

Minutes were approved as read.

Financial Report was read

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

Ethan Mellies from Aurora, NE, In troop 19 here in GI, is working on his Eagle Scout project. His goal is to build a new Aluminum Can shed for the United Veterans Club. Ethan is currently collecting money and materials for his project, so far he has raised \$520.00. Total budget would be \$4000.00. Starting the project in about 2 weeks. The shed will be 10'x12' and 8 foot tall.

Membership Report

a. Membership stands at 378 with a goal at 366 for 103.27%.

Service Officer Report

a. IHOP will be serving Veterans for free, from 5 pm-10 pm Monday nights though the month of June Limit one menu item per Veteran

b. Don Shuda has been very busy.

Hospital Report & Youth Report

a None

Board Report

a. Hall County is paying for replacing the concrete on the east side of the Memorial Wall

b. HCWM and the Hall County Veterans Park will be hosting a Military Vehicle Show & Display June 21-22. Free Will Donation

c. Been trimming a lot of trees.

d. We are having a bit of a problem with having enough flags for the park.



Heritage at Sagewood Assisted Living | Memory Support Livina Better 1920 Sagewood Ave, Grand Island, NE 308-398-8005

- e. The flags will be left up until July 8th, 2025. Coming down at 1700 hrs. on July 8th
- f. In the process of repairing the bad spots on the roof of the UVC.
- g. The state cemetery will be using the UVC parking lot for the dedication

h. We have a young gentleman working on becoming an Eagle Scout, He is going to build a new Can Shed.

VOD/Patriot Pen

- a. Nothing New.
- We Recognized the National Home.

Unfinished Business.

a. 100th anniversary this coming Saturday June 7th . Looking for volunteers Friday afternoon to help setup. Saturday's agenda is 4:00 finish setup, 5:00-6:00 social hour, 6:00 Supper. Followed up with a few words from Commander Larson. Food will be \$10.00 a plate. b. June 21-22 Military Vehicle display.

New Business.

a. Parking for the New State Cemetery is a problem. We don't want it to be our problem. It was discussed that the use of the UVC parking lot is and will not be free for public use

b. Post 1347 candidate for Law Enforcement Officer of the Year Logan Luft, William Luft's son, Logan was Awarded Law Enforcement Officer of the Year.

c. Comrade Luft was also attending the State Convention on our behalf.

A motion was made by Comrade Halverson and seconded by comrade Catron to donate \$200.00 to Ethan Mellies for his Eagle Scout project. Motion carried

Communications & Comrade in distress

a None

Good of the Order.

a. Discussion was had about flags and expense and how long they should fly. Closing Ceremony was conducted. Next meeting. July 1st at 1930 hrs.

Respectably submitted.

Ouartermaster, Tim Bartz

AMERICAN LEGION RIDERS May 20, 2025

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. Seventeen Chapter members were present.

April meeting minutes read by Secretary Pam Sinsel. Accepted as read. April finance report read by Financial Officer Avis Pike. Motion to approve, Pam Sinsel.

Sign-up for the VFW 100th Anniversary event was discussed. If you can help, they need

Pam Sinsel requested reimbursement for the 2 Freedom and Independence Ride banners

A thank you card along with a picture was received from the Hall County Livestock As-

that needed replaced this year. The cost was \$412.98 less \$100 for Copycat's banner sponsor-

ship. Motion to approve reimbursement, John Arias, Second, Rich Catron, Motion carried.

sociation/Fonner Park for our sponsorship of a race during the UVC day at the races.

The Department of Nebraska Annual Convention is June 26th – 29th in Columbus.

Dan Willets discussed a fishing with first responders youth event that Renee Ekhoff

brought to his attention. After discussion, Jon McShane motioned to approve a \$250 donation

Nominations for officers were held. Rich Catron motioned to approve the same officers

John Arias discussed the national recognition of MIAs and POWs is the 3rd Friday of Sep-

John Arias brought to the Chapter's attention a Harley Davidson program, Let's Ride Chal-

tember. He would like the Chapter's help in organizing a ride recognizing Nebraska MIA and

lenge - Ride for Heroes. HD has partnered with The American Legion to contribute up to \$1

POWs on the next day, Saturday, September 20th. Further discussion at the June meeting.

currently holding positions retain their positions if they agree. Second, Jon Monk. After dis-

cussion, motion carried. Final nominations and voting will be held at the June meeting.

Second, Todd Sinsel, Motion carried,

people from 4:00 – 8:00 pm Saturday June 7th at the UVC.

to the event. Second, John Arias. Motion carried.

million to the American Legion

Contact Avis Pike to get your tickets.

The Chapter welcomed new members Johny Cruz and Ruben Bradley. The gun for our rifle raffle has been purchased. Raffle tickets are available to start selling KRAMER'S Auto Parts & Iron Co., Inc 3405 North Highway 281 Grand Island, NE 68803 24 Hour Wrecker Service We Carry Used Car Parts Buyers of Scrap Iron & Metals Lisa Bartz (308) 384-1116 Fax (308) 384-0328 Sales Representative



Pam Sinsel motioned to adjourn the meeting. Second, David Morrison. 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

Sons of the American Legion Post #53

Regular meeting of the Sons of the American Legion was held June 4, 2025, at 6:30 pm. 21 members were present

Minutes and Treasurer's report were presented and approved.

26 to go for 100% membership for 2025.

Election of Officers: White ballot nomination made for all current officers. No other nominations received. Motion passed unanimously.

Park Flags will remain up until July 13, 2025, 5:00 pm. This will cover Flag Day, Fourth of July, and the Dedication Ceremony for the Nebraska Veterans Cemetery at Grand Island.

The Dedication Ceremony for the Nebraska Veterans Cemetery at Grand Island is Saturday July 12th, 2025, at 10:00 am. Luncheon following dedication at the United Veterans Club. Free will donation

We had a very good turn out for the Memorial Day Service even though the weather forced us inside. Also, a good turnout at the UVC luncheon.

Approved a \$200.00 donation for the new recycling shed for an Eagle Scout project. Approved all of the Sons charitable donations for the year.

Meeting adjourned at 7:29 pm. Next meeting July 9, 2025 at 6: 30 pm because of the Holiday

> Respectfully submitted Paul Barker Adjutant

American Legion Post #53

June 10, 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, 0 absent, 2 excused. Meeting Minutes: May Meeting Minutes stand as read.

Finance Report: Richard Catron moved to accept the May Finance Report & Jim Brettmann seconded the motion; Motion carried

Committee Reports:

Children & Youth: None

Membership: 2025 membership Post 53 87.382% Goal is 531 current total is 464 Americanism: Flying the American Flag

Activities, POW/MIA and Athletic: None

UVC Board Report: The sidewalk along the brick wall north of the west park entrance has

been approved

Service Officer: The Service Officer under went knee surgery and is currently working from home

Sick Call and Comrades in Distress: None

Old Business: Department Convention will be held June 26-29, 2025, in Columbus, NE. Junior Law is scheduled for June 23-26, 2025.

New Business: Guest speaker Ethan Mellies and his Father Brian Mellies were present to discuss fund raising for his Eagle Scout project of building a new can shed for the UVC. Much of the materials have been donated bay local businesses. He continues to collect material and donations. Currently people wishing to donate and would like a charitable tax deduction are asked to write the check to the UVC for a tax deduction receipt. Motion was raised by Glen Palensky to donate \$300.00 to this project seconded by Rich Catron after brief discussion, Motion carried. Discussion was brought up about nominations for Scout of the Year, Teacher of the Year, Fire/EMS of the Year and Law Enforcement of the Year. This was tabled to December time frame since these nominations start with the new year.

Good of the Post: None.

There being no further business, closing ceremonies were conducted and the meeting was adjourned at 2000 hours. The next meeting will be on July 8, 2025, at 1930 hours.

Respectfully submitted David Morrison, Adjutant

