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**VFW Auxiliary Post #1347**

Fourteen members and VFW Post Commander John Larsen were present when President Lori Skala called the May 5th meeting of the Hall County VFW Auxiliary 1347 to order according to Ritual at the Vet’s Club. Opening Prayer was given by Chaplain Lyanne Kelly followed by Patriotic Instructor Melinda Klein leading the Pledge of Allegiance.

Commander Larsen was introduced and he gave information and announcements about upcoming activities of the Post and Auxiliary working together. The Post members will now be a “White Hat” organization. The VFW Day of Service will be Saturday, May 17 starting at Noon. He gave a report about the Viet Nam Veterans Celebration that was held and about fund raising being done for the Warriors Memorial. John also verified that the Auxiliary would be assisting with the Buddy Poppy program at Memorial Park on Memorial Day.

Minutes of the April meeting were approved as presented. Thank You notes were received from NWHCS-Grand Island for the Easter Bunny treat bags and assisting with Bingo. The Treasurers report was given and placed on file for audit. There were no bills presented.

Because we are between the 2024/25 and 2025/26 fiscal years most committees reported that all year end reports had been submitted. Hospital Committee Chair Billie Herron did have information about activities with residents at the Medical Center. Bingo will be hosted on May 17 with volunteers helping to bring residents to the Rec Room beginning at 1:30. Residents of 4th Floor will be volunteering at the Crane Trust and the Trust Greenhouse.

For Historian and Media Billie reported that she had posted to Facebook about the Viet Nam Celebration.

The Wreaths Across America committee says that the Program Book ad has been paid for and will be working on details for the Fund Raiser Car Show to be held in October.

Two members attended the District 11 VFW and Auxiliary meeting in Ord. A report was given with elections being held and installation of new officers.

Past President Jean Seely presided for the Installation of Officers of the Hall County VFW Auxiliary 1347. These officers will assume their positions in July.

Announcements included the date for the Opening Ceremony of the New Grand Island Veterans Cemetery. The program will be at 10:00 AM on July 12 with lunch available at the Vet’s Club following the program. Veterans Day at the State Fair will again be on Labor Day with a program in the Event Center at 10:00 AM. The Auxiliary will be hosting an information table during the morning. The Veterans Parade will be in the afternoon beginning at 1:30. Anyone wishing to volunteer at the State Fair is to attend a training session either August 7 or 9 at 6:00 PM. Volunteers for the Memorial Day activities are to arrive at 9:00 AM.

There were questions about the procedures for replacing tattered American Flags in the community. Sizes and prices of flags will be looked into so that flags can be ordered and replacements distributed.

Information was given that any Veteran and eligible spouse or family member will need to update their Department of Defense ID card with a Real ID if they have not already done so. This is different than the Real ID drivers license.

A large quantity of greeting cards were donated to be taken to the NWHCS-Grand Island. Volunteers took bags of the cards home to match cards with envelopes before taking them for use by our Veterans.

The Auxiliary will meet June 3 at the Vet’s Club at 1:00 PM. Lunch will be available for those wishing to gather at 11:30 for some social time.

*Secretary  
Cathy McKown*

**American Legion Auxiliary Unit #53**  
May 7, 2025

The American Legion Auxiliary Unit #53 meeting was called to order by President Carmen Larson at 6:30 p.m., May 7, 2025. POW/MIA Chair placement was conducted by Sergeant-at-Arms Pam Sinsel. Co-Chaplain Liz Cline offered the opening prayer. Thirteen members recited the Pledge of Allegiance and the Preamble to the ALA Constitution.

The April minutes were approved as read.

Pam motioned that the Treasurer’s Report be approved, and Liz seconded the motion. Motion carried. Charlie presented two new bills: \$88.00 for the Easter Eggs and \$40.00 for the bunny suit. Amber motioned and Diane seconded that Charlie be paid \$128.00 for these expenses. Motion carried.

Membership Report: 7 members haven’t paid their 2025 dues. A reminder was given than members must pay their membership for 3 consecutive years to qualify for benefits.

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

Members are reminded to keep filling in their time for volunteer hours and include travel time. This includes any community service.

Communications: President Carmen Larson read the Department Convention Call. It will be held June 26-29 in Columbus at the Quality Inn. The main days are June 27-29, and the registration fee is \$10.00. The National President will be in attendance.

**VAVS ACTIVITIES**

Volunteers are needed to take Veterans outside or on some outings, Monday-Friday, 8:00-4:00, this summer. High school kids ages 15+ can help. Contact Jody for more information. Members were given a list of food pantry items needed.

After a brief discussion of community service needs, Avis motioned that \$50.00 be given to the food pantry every-other-month while continuing to recognize women of service with a \$50.00 gift certificate on the opposite months beginning July 1st. Ronda seconded the motion. Motion carried. Charlie will do the food pantry shopping for July. In June, members should bring food pantry items to donate. Make sure to know the amount donated.

**WOMEN OF SERVICE**

The May recipient of a \$50 gift certificate was Amber O’Reilly. Congratulations!

**OLD BUSINESS:**

Members volunteered to help with Bingo in May and June.

Thank you to those who helped stuff Easter Eggs for the VAVS activity, and to Carmen, Kayleen, and Liz for serving cookies at the VA Hospital.

39 kids attended the Easter Egg Hunt and enjoyed the activities, treats and gift bags. The owner of The Costume Shop in Hastings has donated a bunny suit to the ALA to show her appreciation for our long-time patronage since she will be retiring before next year. Thank you!

**NEW BUSINESS:**

Mercy Meals, part of the Orphan Grain Train, will be holding a city-wide meal packaging event on May 31st. The goal is to fill a semi. Two-hour time slots will be available for volunteers. Let Carmen know if you are interested.

Girls’ State asked for several items from local units. Charlie motioned and Pam seconded that the ALA do not give additional funding except for the snack for a “town” already agreed upon. Motion carried. If individual members would like to donate plastic sacks to make sleeping mats, Charlie will take them to Lincoln when she delivers the snacks.

Congratulations to the following members elected to office: Carmen Larson, President; Loretta Palensky, Vice-President; Lisa Hunnicutt, Secretary; Charlette Becker, Treasurer; Barb Brettman, Membership; Liz Cline/Avis Pike, Co-Chap-lains; Amber O’Reilly, Girls’ State Coordinator; Pam Sinsel, Sergeant at Arms; Amber O’Reilly, Historian/Webmaster

They will begin their terms on July 1, 2025.

POW/MIA Closing was conducted by Pam Sinsel.

Being no further business, Avis motioned and Charlie seconded that the meet-ing be adjourned. Motion carried. The next meeting will be held on June 4, 2025 at 6:30 p.m. in Memorial Hall at the United Veterans Club.

*Submitted by  
Lisa Hunnicutt, Recording Secretary*



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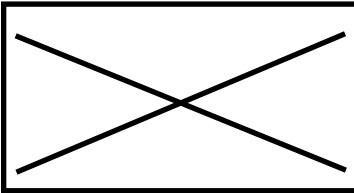
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Minutes were approved as read.  
Financial Report was read.  
Motion was made by comrade Catron and seconded by comrade Pointe to ac-cept the April financial report. Motion carried.  
Membership Report  
Membership stands at 376 with a goal at 366 for 102.73%.  
Service Officer Report  
Comrade McAhren reported business as usual.  
A lot of people are showing interest in the cemetery.  
Hospital Report - None.  
Youth Report

GIPS Foundation awarded Allison Schimmer from Grand Island Senior High as winner for VFW Post 1347

**Board Report**

Board looking forward to the KENO funding from the county.  
VFW 100th anniversary is June 7th. Social hour, Food, Short Program.  
Mowing and Water season has begun.  
Considering raising prices on Food and Drinks.

To receive a discounted room at the UVC you must have been a member of the American Legion and/or the Veterans of Foreign Wars for at least one year.

Day of Service. Park clean-up is May 17th 10:00-12:00.

Flag Fund. \$1091.15

VOD/Patriot Pen - Nothing New.

We Recognized the National Home.

Unfinished Business.

Reminder for our Day of Service. May 17th, please bring your shovels, brooms, yard tools etc.

June 7th is our 100th Anniversary

Military Vehicle display is not set in stone but looking like June 20th. This will be a fund raiser for the Vietnam memorial.

New Business.

State Commander Ken Yount presented Commander Larson with the 100th anniversary of VFW Post 1347 certificate from Commander Liphardt.

Gary Quandt spent 50 hours onto of the courthouse to Honor the 50th an-niversary of the end of the Vietnam War, and Honor those who served. It was also a fund raiser for the Vietnam Memorial.

Dan Naranjo donated a Jeep with the proceeds going toward the Vietnam memorial.

Commander Larson attended the VFW Aux. meeting. They are super active as normal with Bingo at the VA Hospital, Easter, Poppy Display, and helping with flag folding.

New Verified Identification Card (i.e. Driver’s License) If you need info contact Commander Larson.

Commander Larson presented Comrade Klimek a VFW hat in appreciation for his efforts on VOD/Patriot Pen and the youth program.

Discussion was had on Legacy Memberships.

A motion was made by Quartermaster Bartz and seconded by comrade Schlichter to donate \$200.00 to the VFW Auxiliary in thanks for their help and continued support. Motion carried.

Communications - None.

Comrade in distress.

Comrade Schrit was seen out and about, but on oxygen.

Good of the Order.

Comrade Hitch reported the 12 VFW members of the Color Guard reported 1810 hours for funerals. Also reporting other activities i.e. State Fair Parade, Post-ing of colors for different events in the community for a total of 2182 total hours. Deadline is April 30th for submission of hours for their competition in Division 2. Results of the winning Divisions will be announced at the State Convention.

State Commander Yount advised that our Post has made All State after we complete our Day of Service, and the after-action form, a social media post #VF-WFams, and an email to National VFW We have meant all requirements for All American for our Post.

Post 1347 is one of 14 Posts in the state to achieve All State.

Closing Ceremony was conducted. Next meeting will be June 3rd at 1930 hrs.

*Respectably submitted,  
Quartermaster, Tim Bartz*

**Sons of the American Legion Post #53**  
Regular meeting of the Sons of the American Legion was held May 7, 2025, at 6:30 pm. 18 members were present.

Minutes and Treasurer’s report were presented and approved.  
Memberships are due. Please renew. 28 to go for 100%.  
Hall County Veterans Memorial Park clean-up is May 17, 2025, 10:00 am to 12:00 High noon. Everyone invited.

Election of Officers discussed. White ballot nomination made for all current officers. Nominations can be made in May and June with election in June.  
Discussed Annual Awards Program. August 23, 2025, 2:00 pm.

Trevor Larson received an Community Service Award for Boy Scout Troop 119 from the Daughters of the American Revolution.

Discussed Memorial Day preparation. Flag poles up May 19, 2025, 5:00 pm and flags up May 22, 2025, 5:00 pm. May 26, 2025, Memorial Day set-up begins at 8:00 am.

May 25, 2025, there is a free will offering breakfast at the Saint Paul Legion Cl ub.

Meeting adjourned at 7:24 pm.  
Next meeting June 4, 2025, at 6:30 pm.

*Respectfully submitted.  
Paul Barker, Adjutant*

**American Legion Post #53**  
May 13, 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: April Meeting Minutes stand as read.

Finance Report: Richard Catron moved to accept the April Finance Report & Ron Callihan seconded the motion; Carried

Committee Reports:

Children & Youth: None

Membership: 2025 membership Post 53 87.194% Goal is 531 current total is 463

Americanism: Flying the American Flag

Activities: None

POW/MIA: Jim Brettmann spoke that 4 more remains have been found 3 from World War 2 and 1 from Korea and that they are undergoing the identification process

Athletic: None

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

Service Officer: The Service Officer is very busy, service officer committee budget meeting Thursday afternoon

Sick Call: None

Comrades in Distress: None

Old Business: Reminder that the flag poles will be put up on 5/17/25 at 1545 hours by the GISH wrestlers, flags will go up 5/22/25 at 1700 hours

New Business: The American Legion Memorial Highway signs will go up on US Highway 281 mile marker 218. CMDR Rapp motioned to pay the yearly flag donation of \$300.00 seconded by Bob Lathen: carried. Department Convention will be June 26-29 2025, in Columbus. Nominations were opened Rich Catron motioned for a white ballot, seconded by Jim Brettmann motion carried.

Good of the Post: None.

There being no further business, closing ceremonies were conducted and the meeting was adjourned at 2010 hours. The next meeting will be on June 10, 2025, at 1930 hours.

*Respectfully submitted  
David Morrison, Adjutant*

