





Dues will be 1st Year - \$35.00 (this includes door card) for a Social Membership

VFW Auxiliary Post #1347

Sixteen members and 3 guests were present when the VFW Auxiliary 1347 met at the Vet's Club for their August meeting. The meeting was held according to Ritual beginning with the Opening Prayer by Chaplain Lyanne Kelly followed by Patriotic Instructor Mindy Klein leading the Pledge of Allegiance. President Lori Skala called the meeting to Order.

Two applications were approved for membership. Connie Lutz is a Life member that transferred from Kearney and Gary Quandt joined under his father.

The July minutes were approved as presented. Thank You notes were from NWIHCS- Grand Island for cake, bingo with snacks and cucumber and onion salad. Tatiana Reyes sent a Thank You for the Tom Wilcox Nursing Scholarship

The Treasurer's report was given with no bill presented. The report was filed to

Guest VFW Post Commander John Larson talked about upcoming events with the American Legion, Military Recognition Day at the Races and Veteran's Day at

The Hospital Committee Chair Billie Herron reported that Bingo will be on August 16th. Volunteers are to arrive by 1:30 PM to assist residents to the Rec

Membership Chair La Vonne Catron has updated the membership list and found that 16 members have passed that we had not been contacted about. The Charter was Draped at the end of the meeting in Honor of these members. Our membership is at 211 at the end of the 2024/2025 fiscal year.

Historian/Media Chair Billie Herron continues to post to Facebook. She requested for members to submit pictures taken during the State Fair.

Information was given that there are approximately 15 Veterans to be interred when burials begin in September at the Nebraska Veterans Cemetery in Grand

The Nebraska VFWA Newsletter is now only available on the Website. Everyone is encouraged to check out the information found there.

Motions were approved to update some of the Standing Rules of the Organiza-

Volunteers planning to help with Veterans Day activities at the State Fair are to attend an Orientation on either Tuesday or Thursday at 6:00 pm. There will be a Resource Table with information about the VFW Auxiliary before and during the Veterans Day Program in the Event Center. Other volunteers will be assisting during the Parade.

Fund Raisers are being discussed and planned to help raise funds for a Warriors Memorial to be added to the Memorial Park. More information will be given as events are announced. Many ideas are being worked on.

Mike Ponte talked about Military Recognition Day at the Fonner Park Races next spring. There would be an option of purchasing a blanket or a banner to be presented to a race winner. The matter was tabled for further discussion.

District 11 VFW Auxiliary Secretary Sheree Brown was in attendance to inspect the 1347 Auxiliary organization. Ord VFW Auxiliary President Cheryl Mc-Donald attended to see how another Auxiliary in the District holds their meetings. She is new to her position of Auxiliary President.

A donation of canceled postage stamps was distributed for members to help trim so they can be sent to Military organizations. The Auxiliary also accepts pop can tabs, Best Choice bar codes and brown (amber) prescription bottles with the labels removed. These items are forwarded to other organizations for their use. You may contact any VFW Auxiliary member to donate these items.

September 2 will be the next meeting of the Hall County VFW Auxiliary 1347 at 1:00 PM at the Vet's Club Lunch will be available at 11:30 AM for those wishing to dine together.

Secretary Cathy McKown

AMERICAN LEGION RIDERS

August 19, 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

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

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

July finance report read by Financial Officer Avis Pike. Motion to approve, Rich Catron. Second, Todd Sinsel. Motion carried.

Dan Willets and John Arias updated the Chapter on the September 20th POW/MIA ride. ceremony and meal. The 3 ride stops are set. John is working on the evening ceremony. The committee is working on other details.

Dan Willets discussed there were 130 gun raffle tickets that went unsold for our raffle. That is \$1,300 in missed income for the Chapter.

Dan Willets proposed an update to the American Legion Riders of Grand Island, Nebraska Chapter 53 Constitution and Bylaws. The current officer titles of Commander and Vice Commander are not acceptable titles according to the National American Legion Riders Bylaws. The titles should be changed to Director and Assistant Director. Jon Monk motioned to approve the change. Second, Avis Pike. Motion carried.

Avis Pike requested reimbursement for an order she paid for from The Flag & Emblem store. Rich Catron motioned to approve the Chapter reimburse the \$105.29 Avis paid out of pocket. Second, Jon Monk. Motion carried.

Avis Pike motioned to approve we gift \$250 to the American Legion Auxiliary for their help at the Freedom & Independence Ride dinner. After further discussion, Avis amended her motion to \$500. Second, Jon Monk. Motion carried.

Dan Willets was contacted by an Iowa District Commander of a Flags for Vets program they do. They are having a ride on September 6, 2025. Dan will attend and bring back information on the program.

Jon Monk relayed that Howard City was appreciative of our attendance in the Boelus Day

Todd Sinsel motioned to adjourn the meeting. Second, John Arias. 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 Sinsei

American Legion Auxiliary Unit #53

August 6, 2025

President Carmen Larson welcomed the honored guests and members to the American Legion Auxiliary Unit #53 Tea at 6:30 p.m., August 6, 2025. POW/MIA Chair placement was conducted by Vice-President Loretta Palensky. Co-Chaplain Liz Cline offered the opening prayer. Members and guests recited the Pledge of Allegiance and the Preamble to the ALA Constitution.

President Carmen Larson recognized those receiving longevity membership awards. Though not all honorees attended, the following were recognized for their continued membership. Twenty-year certificate honorees were Patricia Foster and Janice Powers. Thirty-year certificate honorees were Jennifer Howard, Pamela Ballard-Roberts, and Angela Raymond. Forty-year pin honorees were Catherine Lynch and Arleen Kamper. Fifty-year pin honoree was Paige Cline. Sixty-year pin honoree was Verna Arnall. Thank you, ladies, for your years of membership and support of the American Legion Auxiliary Unit #53.

Three of the four girls that attended Girls' State in June were also present at the tea. Girls' State Coordinator Amber O'Reilly introduced the girls who then gave a summary of their activities at Girls' State. Those in attendance were Grace Watson, Makenzie Clausen, and Laura Blake. Daniela Cortes was unable to attend the tea. The girls not only learned about state, county, and local government, but they also made life-long friends, and had an unforgettable experience. Thank you, ladies, for representing Grand Island well.

POW/MIA Closing was conducted by Loretta Palensky.

Refreshments were served and a time for fellowship was held.

The next regular meeting will be held on September 3, 2025, at 6:30 p.m. in Memorial Hall at the United Veterans Club.

> Submitted by Lisa Hunnicutt, Recording Secretary



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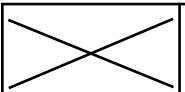
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VFW Post #1347

The meeting of VFW Post 1347 was conducted August 5th, 2025. With 10 members present.

Opening ceremonies were conducted by Commander Larson, and Comrade Callihan whom filled in for Chaplin PeBeck

Roll Call: 5 Officers present and 2 absent.

Minutes were approved as read.

Financial Report was read. Motion was made by comrade Catron and seconded by comrade Niemann to accept the July financial report. Motion carried.

Membership stands at 320 with a goal at 377 for 84.88%.

Membership Report Service Officer Report

Randy Lonowski has all the paperwork in hand and is ready for applications. Hospital Report - None.

Youth Report - Nothing New.

Board Report

The car show and Cemetery Dedication went well.

There will be a meeting of all units on September 3, 2025, at 1830 hrs to discuss Children & Youth.

New Can Shed has been set. The old shed has been removed.

Info for the Veterans Day at the Horse Races information needs turned in by November 1, 2025.

Flags were inventoried after they were taking down. 184 Flags are needing replacement before we can do a full display.

The Display Tank should be here in September.

The Concrete Pad for the Tank was donated by Brian Rassmussen from Bigsby Concrete.

Flag Fund is at \$638.32.

VOD/Patriot Pen - Nothing New.

We Recognized the National Home.

Unfinished Rusiness - None

New Business.

We need volunteers to man the VFW booth at the State Fair.

A Meeting was called last week with all the Officers from the supporting Boards of the UVC by the HCWM team to discuss having an Auction and raffle the night of the Sons of the American Legion Nut Fry in March. With all boards working together to try and make a significant amount of money for the Vietnam Veterans Memorial. Collecting donations currently.

Veterans Day at the Horse Races were discuss. Prices are not set yet. We need a hard number for tickets.

Quartermaster Bartz handed out applications for Scout of the Year. Teacher of the Year. And Honor Guard.

A Motion was made by comrade Pointe and seconded Commander Larson by to participate in the Veterans Day at the Horse Races. Motion Carried.

A Motion was made by comrade Pointe and seconded by comrade Luft to purchase a banner for the VFW post 1347. Motion Carried. Communications.

We received a Thank You card from Ethan Mellies for our donation to the can shed for his Eagle Scout project.

We also received a Thank you letter from Tim Haley for our help with financial assistance in getting his sons car to Oregan. Tim also donated \$75.00 back to

Comrade in distress.

Verne Hill and Rodger Schleicher are both doing well.

Good of the Order.

Review of Reporting of Volunteer Hours.

Comrade Halverson and Commander Larson helped with a Golf Tournament at Centura Hills to benefit the Flag Fund.

Closing Ceremony was conducted. Next meeting, Sept. 2nd at 1930 hrs.

Respectably submitted, Ouartermaster. Tim Bartz

American Legion Post #53 August 12, 2025

The meeting was called to order by Commander Rapp at 1930 hours.

Opening ceremonies were conducted. Roll Call: 10 members present, 4 officers present, 0 absent, 0 excused.

Meeting Minutes: July Meeting Minutes stand as read.

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

Committee Reports:

Children & Youth: CMDR Rapp spoke of the joint Legion meeting on September 3, 2025 at 1830 hours for a children's program which should last no more than

Membership: 2025 membership Post 53 89.266% Goal is 531 current total is

Americanism: Flying the American Flag

Activities: None

POW/MIA: Jim Brettmann spoke of the return of Erwin Schopp a World War II Army POW in the Philippines after the fall of Bataan

Athletic: None

UVC Board Report: The new can shed is now in place and the old one removed. The Tank is currently in the movement and cleanup phase and currently planned to arrive in the park sometime in September. The sidewalk along the west wall has been replaced. \$16,000.00 has been received for the flag fund from a grant CMDR Rapp wrote there are a few things he needs to work out with the grantor before those funds can be used.

Service Officer: The Cemetery Dedication went well and the service office is currently in discussions about a flag flying in front of the Administration building at the cemetery.

Sick Call: None

Comrades in Distress: None

Old Business: None

New Business: Rich Catron motioned \$2,000.00 be donated to the local American Legion Baseball team, seconded by Ron Callihan motion carried, Ron Callihan motioned to get baseball caps back in the club for members that want them to purchase after discussion and a starting fund of \$500.00 the motion was seconded by John Arias and Adjuntant David Morrison to approach businesses for a bid motion carried. The POW/MIA program is scheduled for September 20, 2025 at 1700 with a meal cost of \$10.00.

Good of the Post: None.

There being no further business, closing ceremonies were conducted and the meeting was adjourned at 2015 hours. The next meeting will be on September 3, 2025, at 1830 hours for the special youth program and all normal meetings to

> Respectfully submitted David Morrison, Adjutant

Sons of the American Legion Post #53

Regular meeting of the Sons of the American Legion was held August 6, 2025 at 6:30 pm. 14 members were present.

Minutes and Treasurer's report were presented and approved.

July 1, 2025 started our new membership year.

Fonner Park would like to have the list of organizations by November 1, 2025 that will participate in Veterans Day. As soon as we have cost and the date, we will contact organizations.

September 13, 2025 2:00 pm is Son's award banquet. Hamburgers, cheeseburgers, hotdogs, coleslaw and chips.

September 3, 2025 6:30 pm American Legion and Auxiliaries will meet for approximately a half hour prior to our regular meeting.

Sun Heat golf tournament was a great success. Very organized and everyone had fun.

Meeting adjourned at 7:15 pm.

Next meeting September 3, 2025 at 6: 30 pm.

Respectfully submitted. Paul Barker Adjutant

