American Legion Post 129 General Meeting Oct 5, 2023

Commander Joe Maichle called the meeting to order at 1900 and conducted the opening ceremony.

**Draping of the Charter**: Not this month

**Chaplain** Brian Hancher

Adjutant David Tarnowski conducted roll call of officers and certified a quorum was established. Roll call sheet attached.

Commander Maichle recognized Post 129 past and present commanders and department officers.

**Guest**: Ron Whittington – Talked about upcoming sponsors and future goals. 2022 donations summary. He started looking early for sponsors for Here Tomorrow and Challenge 22. Looking to talk to Jax Chamber to put up a booth on November 9 at the Hyatt Downtown. He also got together with Jim to putting the word out on Auxillary Craft Show, Honor Guard, the ALR, and 80th Anniversary. Get the story about both Boys and Girls State made Nation.

Here Tomorrow – Nancy and Marial Acosta. They hired two more Peer and thanked us for our support. Jim Wineland presented them with the 2nd $30,000 check.

Cherl Altman – Presented post with a Challenge 22 Plaque for 2022-23. $15,000 was raised. On October 14th at Fleet Landing, she is putting on a fund raiser for Pediatric Cancer. It is a dinner murder mystery raising money for Dreams Come True to give kids and parents a Christmas.

**Reading of the minutes**: Minutes from October 5th E Board were read, 2nd and passed. Minutes from last month’s General Membership Meeting from September have been posted on the Web site. 2nd and passed.

**Commander’s Note:** As of September 28th, 2023, the post stands at 54.48% for membership renewal which is 3rd in the district. We have renewed 395 members as of that date with 7 awaiting to be processed which will bring to 55%. Our next goal was 55% by October 12th. Early Bird is over and now membership is back to $45.

Congratulations to SAL and Jacksonville Volunteer Lifeguards for putting on a great Oyster Roast last Saturday. From all the reports I received, it was a success for them and the post.

As you all know, we were broken into for a second time. This time they came through the front door. The police came again and dusted fingerprints and watched the video. It shows the person coming across the parking lot checking out the two cars left in the lot. Forced open the front door hitting the Pull Tab machine, he even went into the kitchen to check the alarm status, and attempted broking into the Queen of Diamonds machines with negative results, he exited out the front door.

**Finance Report**: Was read by Jim Wineland and is posted in the hallway.

 Second and passed subject to Audit.

**House Committee Report**: The committee called to order at 1830 hours on 10/05/2023. All members present. Guests, Bar Manager Brandy, Joe Maichle, Jim Wineland, Jeff Durdin. Brandy presented the club report as follows.

Machines:

Pull Tabs August Profits: $841.00

Lotto: $313.08

Bingo: Liberty $3,048.08, Freedom $16,926.10, Fish $18,039.00

Inventory was completed on 10/03, looks good.

Fire Marshall stated he would not shut us down during the upgrade of the fire alarm system. We will be getting another bid for the system on 10/06/2023.

After the burglary earlier in the month, the lock on the front door was upgraded to Steel and a guard put over the gap. Loss from the Pull Tabs was minimal. The machine has been emptied at every shift change since the last loss. The machine was repaired by Phil. The Queen of Diamonds machine was also damaged also. It will be repaired, parts on order.

The Alarm System has tripped 26 times since 2017 causing the police to ignore ours. The police will now respond all the time.

The Oyster Roast was a great success. We learned because of this event. The permit will be updated to allow us to serve alcohol outside during these events. To decrease the crowd around the bar area, Beer Stations will be set up around.

A request for volunteers to perform cleanup the front of the post will be called for.

No Disciplinary matters. The new cleaning company will be taking over soon.

2nd and passed.

**1st Vice Membership**: New 5 and Transfer 2. Second and Passed

**2nd Vice Kitchen Report**: No report

**3rd Vice**: 1st Vice read it.

**4th Vice:**  No report

**Chaplain**: Two weeks ago, I did a celebration of life

**SAL:** We gave $1000 to the murder mystery dinner. $3000 to JBLSC. We raised over $700 from the generator raffle. The Oyster roast raised over $1800 not including the JBLSC. Altogether we raised over $7000 for JBLSC.

**Service Officer:** He served 8 people with the one that stood him up last week. If anyone needs help, please call him.

**ALR:**  No report

**Baseball:**  No report

**Boys State:**  No Report

**Honor Guard**: We did 5 services last month and a presentation. We still need people to join.

**Old Business**: No

**New Business:** Jeff Durdin – Motion for $1000 for Dreams Come True. 2nd and passed.

Mike Smith – He heard that Wreaths Across America are short 3000 wreaths. Motion for $5000 for the wreaths cost $17. 2nd and passed.

Motion for $500 to Park Wood Heights School to buy bicycles. 2nd and passed.

Jim Wineland – Challenge 22 will be March 24; we are going to make it post supported. Challenge 22 in the morning and a oysters roast in the evening or afternoon. Al Yarlee has a source for oysters. These events bring people in, and we show our presents in the community. It brought in new members. It will take the whole post to pull this off. We have 200 within 10 miles of our post office. We are no longer the old post with just smoking and drinking. The younger members are stepping up showing what we can do for the community. Members of Post 400 are considered new members when they join an active post. This could get us a 20% increase in membership.

Jim – Governors Motorcycle Safety Program, the American Legion Riders of Florida was selected out of the three. This money goes to billboards, bumper stickers, and more. This will highlight both motorcycle safety and new members.

**Correspondence**: No

**Good of the Legion**: Cleaning up the front of the post. October 21 10 a.m. volunteers will be needed for beautification.

Danny – Master Sargent Daugherty at Junior ROTC and he will be holding a Flag Folding demonstration on Veteran Day at the post office.

He set up a Flag Presentation for the district meeting. Motion for $200 donation for Junior ROTC. 2nd and passed.

Terry Stickles – When very busy there needs to be a second bartender. Smoke is making its way to the non-smoking side through the kitchen because the kitchen doors are left open. The doors should remain closed or turn on the hood vent to draw the smoke out. The bathrooms smell like a smoke pit too. Most of the bands are on the smoking side while we get Karaoke. Yet, there are very few people listening to the band. Bring the bands to the none smoking side. The Commander – you cannot remove the smell from the people. Terry, close the kitchen doors or turn on the vent.

**Meeting adjourned** 2030 hours

David Tarnowski Adjutant Joe Maichles