



S.A.L. General Membership Meeting Minutes - November 16, 2016

On November 16, 2016 the monthly meeting of the Sons of the American Legion Veterans memorial Squadron 347 was held at 7:00PM in the Post 347 Hall.

Membership cards were checked at the door by the Assistant Sergeant-at-Arms Mike Shebel. There were 26 members in attendance including 7 new members to be inducted at this meeting. 12 Officers were in attendance: Bill Preston, Gary Bishop, George Worton, Deano Mosingo, Mike Shebel, Jack Dirga, Bill Gray, Bob O'Neal, Danny Adams, Cory Meloni, Richard Duncan, and Butch Stroud. Absent were Adjutant Doug White and new Treasurer Tom Laicha (Since last meeting Bill Spriet resigned as Treasurer).

Commander Bill Preston opened the meeting at 7:00PM. An opening prayer by Chaplain Jack Dirga was followed by the Pledge of Allegiance and a moment of silence for our fallen comrades and Veterans. The POW/MIA Empty Chair ceremony by Sergeant-at Arms Deano Mosingo and the reciting of the SAL Preamble to the National Constitution by the members closed out the meeting introduction.

First Vice Commander Gary Bishop made a motion to accept the minutes of the October General membership meeting as emailed to the members and posted on the meeting room door; motion was seconded by 2nd Vice Commander George Worton. The motion was Approved.

There was no Treasurer's Report due to the fact that the position is in transition since the recent resignation of Bill Spriet.

Special Olympics Chairman Cory Meloni discussed the sale of owls "Give a Hoot" fundraiser for the Florida Special Olympics. The goal is to sell 50 @\$20 (cost is \$10) for a total profit of \$500 to be donated to Special Olympics. So far, 28 have been sold. Discussion followed about additional ways to sell. One of the plans is to set up a table on 11/29 at the Hall during the Auxiliary's sale event.

Gary Blanchard discussed the "Flags for Fallen Veterans" program. On January 20th and 22nd, 2017 the flags in storage will be refurbished for placement. The date for flag placement is 5/28/17, and flag removal is 6/2/17. More information on this program will be available after December 1st. Gary also reminded the members that any used laptop computers that are donated will be refurbished and given to returning Veterans in transition. Please contact Gary for more details <dixied39@embarqmail.com>.

Commander Bill Preston discussed the Day to Honor Veterans.

George Worton discussed the Activities and Volunteers:

- The Crab Race was successful.
- The Halloween Dance was successful, thanks to Richard Duncan.
- Valentines' Dance in February: Tickets will go on sale starting next month.
- Kitchen help: Call for volunteers for Monday and Thursday one time per month;
 - Woodie thanked for Thursdays.
 - George in charge of Mondays.
- Early Bird Dinner is December 18th, from 2 PM to 5 PM for those members who have renewed, joined, or transferred by November 11th. Guests may also attend for \$5.



Gary Bishop gave a membership update:

- 476 renewals - 90.8%.
- 53 New or Transfers year to date.
- 19 New this month.

Gary made a motion to accept the new members; seconded by Danny Adams. Members voted Approval. Seven of the new members were in attendance and were recognized and spoke to the meeting: Robert Glowatski, Kirk Hanson, David Callies, Thomas Linn, Ernest Norris, Edward Finkle, and Reid Burke.

Commander Bill Preston thanked Gary Bishop for achieving 90.8%, which he said is unprecedented for this time of the year.

Jack Dirga spoke of those who have died this year, and that Ben Kisielica is sick.

NEW BUSINESS:

There will be an audit of the Squadron's finance records.

Banking: We are in the process of changing from Citizens First Bank to BB&T Bank. At the present time there are accounts in both banks.

Buses for trips: New member Ed Finkle, who is the Business Development Manager for Yankee Trails, volunteered to help the Squadron get buses for trips such as fundraisers. One potential trip he mentioned is to the WWII Museum in New Orleans.

** Nicholas Watke, from the JROTC at Weirsdale High School, was killed last weekend when hit by a car while on his motorcycle. The speaker scheduled for tonight did not arrive. Commander Bill Preston will follow up with the school.

Sergeant at Arms Deano Mosingo retired the POW/MIA chair cover and Chaplain Jack Dirga gave a closing prayer.

Commander Bill Preston adjourned the meeting at 7:48 PM

Yours in God and Country,
Doug White, Adjutant
Bob O'Neal, Assistant Adjutant