



S. A. L. General Membership Meeting Minutes

On December 16, 2015, the monthly meeting of the Sons of the American Legion Veterans Memorial Squadron 347 was held at 6:30 pm in Post 347 Hall.

The Adjutant checked membership cards at the door for those in attendance. There were 34 members in attendance including 6 potential new members and 8 members from the Executive Committee.

The colors were posted and the American Flag was saluted. Sergeant at Arms Deano Mosingo put the POW-MIA Flag in place, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance. Chaplain Jack Dirga gave the opening prayer. Everyone then stood in silence for our fallen comrades and Veterans followed with the reading of the Preamble. Immediate Past Commander Richard Duncan, Financial Officer Bill Spriet, and Members at Large Art Hodge & George Worton were the only Executive Committee Members with excused absences.

Our Guest VIP, Post Commander Terry Briggs addressed the membership. Commander Briggs received an award at the convention that he presented to SAL Commander Butch Stroud. The award is recognition for the 100% membership goal being reached by the American Legion Family at Post 347.

Commander Briggs then announced that the National Vice-Commander requested to come to Post 347 on January 14th 2016 (a Thursday). The itinerary currently shows that he will arrive at Post 347 at 1730hrs. SAL 347 is invited to meet the National Vice-Commander.

Commander Briggs announced that the Flags for Fallen Veterans project will be at the Bushnell National Cemetery on Sunday May 29th 2016 and volunteers are needed to assist in placing flags on fallen veterans graves. Volunteers are also needed to assist in removing the flags on Thursday June 2nd. Details on this project are available via the website www.flagsforfallenvets.com and sign-ups for volunteers are also being taken at the front desk at our post. There will also be a workshop at our post for the purpose of repairing or remounting flags on new wood posts for fallen veterans.

The minutes from the General Membership Meeting held on November 18, 2015 and from the Executive Committee Meeting held on December 2, 2015 were emailed to the membership and posted at the door prior to this meeting for the membership to review. There were no corrections to the minutes. Bill Preston made a motion to accept the minutes as posted from the General Membership Meeting. Motion seconded by Jack Dirga. Motion carried.

Jack Dirga made a motion to accept the minutes from the Executive Committee Meeting. Motion seconded by Mike Hicks. Motion carried.

Finance Officer Spriet was absent. Adjutant Standfest read his finance report. Jack Dirga made a motion to accept the report as read. The motion was seconded by Deano Mosingo and the motion carried.

Old Business & Committee Reports—

Bill Preston announced that the standing rule committee has completed its work and he has submitted a copy to the adjutant. He will bring the finished product in front of the Executive Committee at the next Executive Committee meeting.

Bill also announced that the Americanism Committee has study material available for the first part of the 5 Star/10 Ideals Program. He will have this material available after the meeting for anyone interested in taking the exam.

Mike Hicks made an announcement on the Valentine's Dance Committee that he chairs. Mike informed us that tickets for the dance to be held on February 14th are \$15 and will be printed on Monday. As has happened in the past, all of the profits will go the Honor Flight. Posters will be displayed after January 1st. Tickets will be available at the front desk of the post and also in the lounge. Mike will have the flyers printed in the Daily Sun and also the online Village News. Patrina is the entertainer. There is a cash bar and those attending the dance can bring their own snacks. Mike needs 6 or 8 volunteers to set up, tear down and also to work the day of the dance.

First Vice Commander Gary Bishop that the New Member Orientation Committee is still working on completing the finished product for new member orientations.

Second Vice Commander Gary Blanchard announced that the project he is working on with the Coalition for Florida Veterans is still helping veterans with drawing up resumes and presenting those veterans in need with rebuilt laptop computers. He also is still working with SAL volunteers with serving coffee & donuts to veterans at the VA facility on SR-42.

Membership Report

First Vice Commander Gary Bishop announced that our membership report shows our squadron at 88% as of November 17th. However, another transmittal was sent in on December 3rd that has not yet been processed. Once processed, our membership level will be at 94%. Adjutant Standfest prepared another transmittal on December 16th. Once the check is cut and mailed in with this transmittal, the membership level will be at 98.65%.

Special Event

Danny Adams updated us on the Arts & Crafts show that will be held in the post main hall on Saturday December 19th. The event is sold out with 17 vendors. He had to turn away 7 vendors that wanted tables. He still needs 2 or 3 volunteers for Saturday at 3pm for tear down, and one more at 9am. Help is also needed for setup and is planned for Friday at 1730hrs.

New Members

First Vice Commander Gary Bishop read the names of 11 potential new members. The eleven names were Richard Chapman, Larry Strasdin, Joe Rzepecki, Stephen (Duff) Smith, Daniel Babb, James Babb, Robert Babb, John McNicol, Harry McLeod, Mike Shebel and Tom Slackter. Cory Meloni made a motion to accept the new members, seconded by Danny Adams. Motion passed. The six new members present (Chapman, Strasdin, Rzepecki, Smith, McNicol & Slackter) introduced themselves and met with First Vice Commander Gary Bishop after the meeting.

Chaplain Report

Chaplain Jack Dirga mentioned the death of one of our scholarship recipients, the death of a member (he will provide the name to the adjutant to remove from the membership roles) and that Past Commander Duncan is in the hospital. He has mailed cards from the SAL to all of these families.

New Business

First Vice Commander Gary Bishop spoke about the email he sent out regarding organizing volunteer activities. Gary presented this to the Executive Committee on December 2nd where it was well received. Gary explained that he is looking for leaders for all of our regularly occurring projects. The leader would not have to be at the event he is the leader of, but would be responsible for obtaining volunteers for the project he is leading. Joe Francis suggested that this be linked to the website that he and Doug White are updating. Joe also suggested that it is important to have the email contacts list updated so that most (if not all) members are aware of this.

Correspondence

None.

Good of the SAL

None.

The meeting was properly closed at 7:30pm with prayer given by Chaplain Jack Dirga, retirement of the POW-MIA flag by Sgt at Arms Deano Mosingo and salute of the flag.

Yours in God and Country

Timothy Standfest, Adjutant