



## **S. A. L. General Membership Meeting Minutes**

**On April 20, 2016, 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 Member at Large checked membership cards at the door for those in attendance. There were 35 members in attendance including 2 potential new members and 10 members from the Executive Committee. Member at large Art Hodge and Finance Officer Bill Spriet were not present with an excused absences. There were two distinguished guests, Bernie Wildrick (Special Olympics Committee Chair) and Phil Hearlson (Past Commander Post 347).**

**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. Commander Stroud conducted the meeting.**

**Our guest, Bernie Wildrick, the chair of the Special Olympics Committee accepted our donation of \$2005 for Special Olympics. The plaque will be presented at the SAL Convention in June 2016.**

**The minutes from the General Membership Meeting held on March 16, 2016 and from the Executive Committee Meeting held on April 6, 2016 were emailed to the membership prior to this meeting for the membership to review. There were no corrections to the minutes. Jack Dirga made a motion to accept the minutes from the General Membership meeting and Barry MacFarlane seconded it. The motion carried. George Worton made a motion to accept the minutes from the Executive Committee Meeting, it was seconded by Jack Dirga and the motion carried.**

**Adjutant Standfest read the Financial Report in Finance Officer Bill Spriet's absence. Gary Bishop made a motion to accept the report, seconded by Deano Mosingo. The motion carried.**

**Old Business—**

**Second Vice Commander Gary Blanchard announced that 106,000 refurbished flags will be placed at veterans headstones on Memorial Day weekend. He thanked those who have volunteered to refurbish flags and those who will help setup and take down the flags. He provided a schedule of the dates for the Flags for Fallen Veterans program for 2016. He**

also thanked all the volunteers who helped in the set up and tear down for Ed Scheubrooks' party.

Commander Stroud announced that we had seven participants in the 40 & 8 golf outing. Our squadron owes \$25 per participant in the golf outing as reimbursement money to each squadron member who participated in the golf outing.

Sick Call – Chaplain Jack Dirga asked the members to keep Colleen Shaut in their thoughts and prayers.

Committee Reports – Bill Gray gave an update from the Scholarship Committee. He informed the membership that all of the applications have been evaluated and that the next step is the interviews. In 7 to 10 days, a determination will be made on award recipients.

Bill Preston requested that members take the test in the 5 Star/10 Ideals Program. He then announced that he will make a donation of 25 cents per member on the membership roles of Squadron 347 as of May 1<sup>st</sup> 2016 to the National Endowment Fund (the NEF is a fund of the American Legion). Bill requested that our squadron match his 25 cents per member donation. He also announced that Detachment Assistant Adjutant Jim Roberts has requested a 50 cent per member (on the membership roles of Squadron 347 as of May 1<sup>st</sup> 2016) to the National Emergency Relief Fund. Bill made a motion to make these donations, seconded by Richard Duncan. Motion carried.

New Business – Joe Francis announced that our website is now accessible by clicking the SAL button at [www.florida-legion.com](http://www.florida-legion.com)

New members – We had seven potential new members whose applications were reviewed and qualified as members. Their membership applications have been checked and all have met the requirements to be members. Joseph Apichella and Hayden Daughtry (2 years old) were the two new members present and were introduced. The other potential new members are James VanMiddlesworth, Frank Giglio, Gregory Stine, James Price and Steven MacLean. The names were read by First Vice Commander Gary Bishop. Cory Meloni made a motion to accept the new members. Seconded by Gary Blanchard. Motion carried. The new members will meet with Second Vice Commander Blanchard who will brief them on membership expectations and present them with a new member's packet.

Correspondence – Adjutant Standfest has received two letters of thanks from the Department of Veterans Affairs Voluntary Services thanking us for sponsoring coffee and donuts on February 24<sup>th</sup> and on March 23<sup>rd</sup>. Our Membership Statement was also received from the Detachment of Florida. It show that our squadron is at 113.93% of our membership goal as of March 26<sup>th</sup> 2016.

Nominating Committee – Steve Peterson made the announcement of all the nominees for all of the offices for next year. They are Bill Preston and Danny Adams for Commander,

**Gary Blanchard and Gary Bishop for First Vice Commander, George Worton for Second Vice Commander, Bill Spriet for Financial Officer, Jack Dirga for Chaplain, Bill Gray for Historian, Deano Mosingo for Sergeant at Arms and Richard Duncan & Cory Meloni for Member at Large. There were no other nominations from the floor. The nominations are closed. An email will be sent out informing the membership of voting at the next general membership meeting.**

**Other Business – Tom Soeder is running for Detachment Historian and requested our unanimous endorsement. Motion was made by George Worton and seconded by Richard Duncan. Motion passed.**

**The meeting was properly closed at 7:04pm 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**