



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

**On February 17, 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 First Vice Commander checked membership cards at the door for those in attendance. There were 38 members in attendance including 14 potential new members and 9 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. Bill Spriet and Tim Standfest were excused absent. Commander Stroud conducted the meeting.**

**The minutes from the General Membership Meeting held on January 20, 2015 and from the Executive Committee Meeting held on February 3, 2016 were emailed to the membership prior to this meeting for the membership to review. There were no corrections to the minutes but Richard Duncan raised some questions concerning the pay for the entertainment for the Valentines Dance and additional discussion and clarification by Billy Preston was offered. Additional discussion will be held at a later E-Board meeting when more information is available. Bill Grey made a motion to accept the minutes from the Executive Board meeting and Billy Preston seconded, the motion carried. First Vice Commander Bishop made a motion to accept the minutes from the General Membership Meeting, it was seconded and the motion carried.**

**Finance Officer Spriet was excused and had hurt his back so we did not have a reading of the finance report.**

**Chaplain Jack Dirga shared that the Squadron past Sergeant at Arms, Norm Anderson's wife has suffered a stroke and Jack will get a card to send to the family.**

**Old Business & Committee Reports—**

**There were no reports from the Second Vice Commander Gary Blanchard or First Vice Commander Bishop.**

**Correspondence –We had received a letter from Clermont post asking for donations to help them meet new building zoning requirements that their insurance may not cover. At the E-Board meeting we had decided to wait until they had worked through the legal**

issues before we would send any money. It was suggested that we send a letter informing them that we received their request and our intention to let the legal issues play out. Habitat for Humanity sent a letter thanking us for the \$2000 donation for the Veterans housing program.

Bill Grey has been in contact with the High School at Belleview regarding inclusion for the scholarship program and he will provide details at the next E-Board meeting.

Tom Soeder shared that the Bob Colbert from Post #186 and past 6<sup>th</sup> District Commander passed and a funeral would be held Friday for anyone interested. Second, the Eastern Area ball is coming up in Titusville and tickets are still available.

New Members- There were 14 new members and First Vice Bishop commented that the Post restriction for members only on Tuesday night was having a positive effect. He read the names of 14 potential new members. Their membership applications have been checked and all have met the requirements to be members. First Vice Bishop made a motion to accept the new members and Commander Stroud seconded, the motion was carried. The new members introduced themselves and one member from last month did so as well (Chuck Stenley, Benjamin Riles, William Supitilov, Giovanni Carillo, John Kane, Mark Adams, Ray Williams, Bruce Sadari, Frank Sadari, John Lawrence, Mike Cranston, Fred Bandolin, Bernard Harcheck, and Alan Benway). Butch welcomed the new members to the Squadron. They will meet with First Vice Bishop and Second Vice Blanchard after the meeting who will brief them on membership expectations and present them with a new member's packet.

Tom Soeder announced that the Squadron had surpassed 100% membership and was to be congratulated.

Joe Francis announced that he and Doug White have the new website up and running, and they asked everyone to review what they have done and make suggestions as to content.

New Business –Billy Preston outlined the Five Star program, Ten Ideal program. The first unit is Patriotism and is ready for study and testing. Past Department Commander Mark Gilbert is the independent judge for the testing phase and he spoke about the program's 5 parts with a goal of a 70% score.

Good of the SAL – Billy Preston announced that we had received a coin for the second year of participation in the Legacy Foundation in the 5-year program.

Billy Preston asked to approach the Commander to present the Squadron the Sixth District Team Membership Award for achieving the goals of the Detachment. Squadron #347 is over 100% and well ahead on our target.

**First Vice Blanchard asked for people to volunteer for Saturday night April 16 to break down and set up from the retirement dinner.**

**Richard Duncan addressed the meeting to request new members check into volunteer needs for the various Burger night, Italian night, and Football day events.**

**Commander Stroud advised that some cards are ready for new members and the balance will be available in the next few days.**

**The meeting was properly closed at 7:00pm 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**

**George Worton, Adjutant**