

S.A.L. General Membership Meeting Minutes – July 2016

On July 20, 2016 the monthly meeting of the Sons of the American Legion Veterans Memorial Squadron 347 was held at 6:30 PM in the Post 347 Hall.

Assistant Sgt at Arms Mike Shebel checked membership cards at the door. There were 20 members, including 5 new members, in attendance plus three guests receiving checks from the squadron. Legion Liaison Len Biedermam attended. 11 Officers were in attendance; Deano Mosingo, Bill Spriet, and Doug White were not present with excused absences.

Commander Bill Preston opened the meeting at 6:30 PM. Assistant Sgt at Arms Mike Shebel performed the POW/MIA Chair Ceremony. The Pledge of Allegiance was followed by a moment of silence for our fallen comrades and Veterans, and the reciting of the Preamble to the national Constitution by the members. Ben Kisielica gave the opening prayer.

Checks were presented to representatives of three organizations:

- 1) American Legion Post 347 \$2000.00-accepted by Post Commander Tim Tierney.
- 2) Combat Veterans to Careers \$1000.00-accepted by President & CEO David Booth.
- 3) Boys and Girls Club \$1000.00-accepted by President Mel Aikley.

Each was photographed with past Commander Butch Stroud, who presented the checks.

Judge Advocate Danny Adams gave a presentation outlining how meetings should be conducted to preserve order and make sure that members are properly recognized and allowed to speak without interruption:

- 1) Members with hat on or Veterans are to salute the flag; non-Veterans place right hand over heart.
- 2) Salute the flag and the Commander when approaching the podium.
- 3) Procedure to be recognized to speak:
 - a) Raise hand and wait to be recognized by the Commander,
 - b) Stand, salute the Commander, state your name, and state your business,
 - c) To make a motion, follow steps a&b and state your purpose and your motion.

The minutes of the June 15, 2016 General Membership Meeting were read by Assistant Adjutant Bob O'Neal. Gary Blanchard moved that the minutes be approved; seconded by Cori Meloni. The motion carried. The minutes of the July 6, 2016 Executive Committee were approved; motion by George Worton and seconded by Richard Duncan.

Commander Bill Preston reported sick call.

Correspondence received was presented by Assistant Adjutant Bob O'Neal:

- 1) Post 347 28th Annual Golf Tournament to benefit C.O.T.A. will be held Friday, September 30th, at Mallory Hill Country Club. The Post's request for hole sponsors will be referred to the Executive Committee for consideration.
- 2) Project: Vet Relief, a program of the American Legion Department of Florida, is holding their 3rd Annual Charity Golf Tournament Friday, September 16, 2016, at the Orange County National Golf Club in Orlando. Those interested in playing should contact Jennifer Cooper at (407) 270-9204 by September 1st.

Flyers for these two events were posted on the entrance door.

The Finance Report was posted on the door. There was no report in the absence of Finance officer Bill Spriet.

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1st Vice Commander Gary Bishop reported that the 2017 “Early Bird” registration is at 195 (35%), which is ahead of last year at this time. There were 10 new members this past month. Five of the new members were in attendance and were presented their membership cards. They are: Bernard Patterson, Jack Kowalczyk, Christopher Douglas, Jim Douglas (a dual member), and Carlos Olaguer.

2nd Vice Commander George Worton spoke about upcoming events and the need for volunteers. The Squadron, based on membership size, is entitled to 53 delegates to The National Convention. In addition to those already going, George moved that Richard Duncan be approved as a delegate. Seconded by Cori Meloni and approved by the members.

2nd Vice Commander Worton thanked the past officers for their service and asked that they help the new officers with the transition to their new positions.

New business:

- 1) A new recorder was purchased to assist the Adjutant in the recording of meeting minutes.
- 2) Lapel pins, to recognize years of service were discussed, including cost. This will be referred to the Executive Committee for resolution.
- 3) The plaque to be presented to Richard Duncan, past Commander, has not arrived yet.
- 4) House Committee-Butch Stroud, non-voting member.
- 5) George Worton placed 1st in the District 6 History Yearbook Award. The Squadron History Book also won 1st Place at the National.
- 6) Commander Bill Preston called for more volunteers for the kitchen on Mondays and Thursdays.
- 7) 1st Vice Commander Gary Bishop reported the Detachment Awards to Squadron 347:
 - Winner-History Year Book.
 - Largest % increase in membership for Squadrons 101/1000 members.
 - Mark Most Americanism Award.
 - 1st Runner-up Children & Youth.
 - 2nd Runner-up Squadron Report.
 - 2016 Special Olympics Plaque.
- 8) Gary Blanchard showed new shirts for officers (\$35) and members (25). *After the meeting was adjourned, Gary took orders for shirts.

The meeting was properly close at 7:32PM with a closing prayer by Ben Kisielica, and retirement of the POW/MIA flag by Assistant Sgt at Arms Mike Shebel.

Yours in God and Country,
Bob O’Neal, Assistant Adjutant