



## **S.A.L. General Membership Meeting Minutes – August 2016**

On August 17, 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 30 members, including 1 new member, in attendance, plus two guests receiving checks from the squadron. Legion Liaison Len Biedermam attended. 11 Officers were in attendance; Deano Mosingo, Bill Spriet, and Jack Dirga 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.

Adjutant Doug White made a motion to accept the minutes from the July General Membership meeting as emailed to membership, and posted on the meeting room door; motion seconded by Corey Meloni. Discussion followed: Judge Advocate Danny Adams requested the minutes be amended to include the discussion regarding the request for a ruling about the sponsorship of the Legion's upcoming golf outing. The Commander agreed the July minutes will be amended as requested. Vote to accept the July minutes as amended was Approved.

Commander made a motion to fund the sponsorship of the Legion golf outing; motion seconded by Corey Meloni. Discussion ensued: Commander requested of Judge Advocate if the general membership voted to sponsor the Legion golf outing, does the Executive Board have to also vote to provide the sponsorship? Judge Advocate answered yes, the Exec Board must approve the sponsorship, even if the General Membership has already voted to support it. After discussion of signage publicizing the sponsorship it was determined the signage would state "Legion Family" and not specifically the Sons. Vote to accept the motion was Approved.

A donation check was presented to representatives of the Villages Honor Flight, Inc. A \$2,500 check was accepted by Peter Tetrault, Chairman of Fundraising for the Villages Honor Flight organization. Mr. Tetrault thanked the Sons for their continued support. To date, the Sons Squadron 347 has donated a total of \$9,500 to Villages Honor Flight. The organization has taken 700 Veterans to see the various monuments in Washington, DC. This year's donation will pay for 5 additional Veterans to go on the trip. Mr. Tetrault also reached out to our membership to request if anyone would be interested to volunteer their time to support the honor flight trips in any way. If anyone is interested, please visit the Villages Honor Flight volunteer web page for more information <<http://www.villageshonorflight.org/volunteers/wheredoistart.htm>>.



Commander called for a 5 minute break in the Membership Meeting in order for the members of the Executive Board to hold a brief special meeting to vote on funding for the golf outing sponsorship. When the Membership Meeting was resumed, a motion was made by Bill Gray to fund a Silver Sponsorship for this year's Legion golf tournament to benefit C.O.T.A.; seconded by Richard Duncan. The motion was Accepted.

Past Commander Butch Stroud presented a Lifetime Membership Award from Sons Squadron 347 to past Commander Richard Duncan.

1<sup>st</sup> Vice Commander Gary Bishop reported on membership progress. Since July 1, 2016 a total of 283 membership renewals/new memberships have been submitted to the Florida Detachment. There are 8 new-member applicants since the last General Membership Meeting. Gary Bishop made a motion to accept the 8 new member applicants into the Sons Squadron; seconded by Corey Meloni. The motion was Approved.

Commander requested the Adjutant to read a summary of the Finance report. After being read, a motion was made by Richard Duncan to accept the Finance report; seconded by Danny Adams. Motion was Accepted.

Commander Bill Preston reported the passing of Bill Fuller, Sergeant-at-Arms for the Florida Sons Detachment. A sympathy card is available to be signed by members.

Correspondence received was presented by Adjutant Doug White:

- 1) Letter of thanks from Sandy Nicometo.
- 2) Letter of thanks from Department of Veterans Affairs representative Nicky Adams for our sponsorship of an awards luncheon for summer youth volunteers.

New business:

- 1) Danny Adams discussed the start time for future General Membership Meetings. In order to help accommodate our many employed members, and to return to the official start time written in our By-Laws, it has been decided to start future meetings at 7:00PM. This was the start time up until a few years ago, explained Past Commander Richard Duncan, when the 6:30PM time was initiated on a trial basis. An email will be sent to the general membership to announce the return to the 7:00PM start time.
- 8) Gary Blanchard reiterated that new shirts are available for officers (\$35) and members (\$25).

The meeting was properly close at 7:24PM with a closing prayer by Chaplain Ben Kisielica, and retirement of the POW/MIA flag by Assistant Sgt at Arms Mike Shebel.

Yours in God and Country,  
Doug White, Adjutant