



S. A. L. General Membership Meeting Minutes

On November 18, 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 20 members in attendance including 2 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, Judge Advocate Charlie McGlone, and Member at Large Art Hodge were the only Executive Committee Members absent as all were all sick and not present.

The minutes from the General Membership Meeting held on October 21, 2015 and from the Executive Committee Meeting held on November 4, 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. Member at Large George Worton made a motion to accept the minutes as posted from the General Membership Meeting. Motion seconded by Steve Peterson. Motion carried.

1st Vice Commander Gary Bishop made a motion to accept the minutes as posted from the Executive Committee Meeting. Motion seconded by Bill Preston. Motion carried. Finance Officer Spriet presented the finance report. Danny Adams made a motion to accept the report as read. The motion was seconded by Gary Bishop and the motion carried.

Old Business & Committee Reports--

Second Vice Commander Gary Blanchard thanked all who helped with the Harvest Dance and the Halloween Dance.

Past Commander Duncan was absent and unable to update the membership on the progress of the committee he chairs that is working on a standing rule regarding how our voting for officers at conventions will be handled in the future. Committee member Bill Preston announced that this committee will be finished with its assignment for the next Executive Committee Meeting.

1st Vice Commander Gary Bishop announced the New Member Orientation Committee that he & Gary Blanchard & Ron Ryan serve on will bring their work to the Executive

Committee for approval.

Bill Preston announced that if anyone has interest in working on the 5 Star/10 Ideals project to see him. He has a report in progress.

Commander Stroud reminded members that the next District 6 meeting will be held at Post 347 at 9am on Saturday December 5th.

Commander Stroud reminded members to contact the adjutant with any changes in their email addresses so they can continue to receive the minutes via email.

New Business—

Chaplain Jack Dirga announced that one of the recipients of our college scholarship awards was killed when he was run over by a car. The recipient was from the Lake Weir HS and was awarded \$2000. The college (Florida Southern College) returned the unused portion of the scholarship award (\$1000). Bill Gray (a member of the scholarship committee) announced that since the unused portion of the scholarship award was returned, he was instructed by Commander Stroud to award the returned portion of \$1000 to the runner up at the same high school.

Commander Stroud announced that Gerry Beauchamp resigned because of health issues & that he appointed Gary Bishop to the position of 1st Vice Commander. Since Gary's position of Member at Large was then vacated, he also appointed George Worton to the position of Member at Large. These appointments were approved at the Executive Committee meeting. Joe Francis questioned the appointments and that the appointments might have to be approved by the general membership. Commander Stroud said that our charter states that vacancies on the Executive Committee are to be filled as soon as possible and that only one election per year will be held. Bill Preston expressed that the squadron is governed by the constitution & bylaws; not the charter. Bill Preston wanted to address Joe's concern. He made a motion to approve the appointments that were made. The motion was seconded by Steve Peterson. The motion was carried.

Danny Adams asked for volunteers to set up & tear down for the Arts & Crafts show that will be held on December 19th. He has 15 vendors (one has not yet paid the vendor fee) and has space for a maximum of 17 vendors. He also needs volunteers to help with the 50/50, and for the raffle that will be held. Sloppy Joes will be sold from 10am to 2pm. Commander Stroud announced that Gary Blanchard is in charge of coordinating the volunteers serving coffee & donuts at the VA facility on SR-42. Any potential volunteers are to contact Gary Blanchard.

George Worton reminded the members that he and Tom Soeder are refurbishing old laptop computers and donating them to veterans in need of a laptop. Gary Blanchard then announced that some veterans who attend the workshop that the coalition is holding on November 21st could probably use these refurbished laptops because the coalition will be assisting veterans with drawing up resumes during the upcoming workshop.

Correspondence-

The adjutant announced that we received a letter from the Florida Southern College regarding the death of one of our scholarship award recipients along with a \$100 check, a letter of thanks from the American Legion Child Welfare Foundation for our \$1000 donation, a letter of thanks from the VA Medical Center for our serving of coffee &

donuts on October 28th, and that we received notification that our squadron has reached 80.45% of our membership goal as of October 24th and that per the latest posting of the website, we have 88.31% of our membership goal as of today.

New Members-

1st Vice Commander Gary Bishop read the names of six new members whose applications have been approved. Bill Preston made a motion to accept the new members. The motion was seconded by George Worton. The motion was carried. New members Jim Emmons & Rick Dahlgren introduced themselves. A new member from last month, Mark Amsden introduced himself. Gary will give the new members an orientation after the meeting.

Good of the SAL—

District Vice-Commander Bill Preston had received the following awards at the Detachment Fall Conference and he presented these to Commander Stroud. The 100% Squadron Award for 2014-2015 and an award for reaching 50% of our 2015-2016 membership goal by November 14th 2015. Bill also had an award from the Child Welfare Foundation informing us that our squadron is a winner in the Children First Gift Club for amount of cumulative donations during the contribution year.

George Worton was also at the convention in Orlando. He made an announcement that a \$1000 accidental death life insurance policy is available to members of the SAL at no cost. The same policy is worth a \$5000 benefit if the member dies while conducting legion business. The policy is available via the internet at www.thelit.com at no cost to the member and there is no need to renew the policy as long as the member stays as an active member.

Joe Francis noted that our website is out of date and needs to be made current. He made a suggestion that our website be updated by the same person who works on the legion's website. He also suggested that we review our constitution & bylaws since they were last updated in November 2013. Gary Bishop & Bill Preston announced that the constitution and bylaws are not yet outdated, and that we still have time to update them.

Gary Blanchard reminded members to see him if anyone wants a new SAL shirt.

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