



## **S. A. L. Minutes**

**On July 15, 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 19 members in attendance including two potential new members and 9 members from the Executive Committee.**

**The colors were posted and the American Flag was saluted. Commander Stroud had the Acting Sergeant at Arms (Art Hodge) put the POW-MIA Flag in place, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance. Second Vice Commander Gary Blanchard gave the opening prayer. Then everybody stood in silence for our fallen comrades and Veterans followed with the reading of the Preamble and the Executive Board Roll Call. Chaplain Jack Dirga, Sgt at Arms Deano Mosingo & Finance Officer Bill Spriet were the only officers not present.**

**The adjutant read the minutes from the General Membership Meeting held on June 17, 2015. Second Vice Commander Blanchard made a minor correction to the minutes. Art Hodge made a motion to accept the minutes as amended. Motion was seconded by 1<sup>st</sup> Vice Commander Gerry Beauchamp. Motion carried.**

**The adjutant read the minutes from the July 1, 2015 Executive Board Meeting. Second Vice Commander Gary Blanchard made a motion to accept the minutes as read, seconded by Richard Duncan. Motion carried.**

**The adjutant read the finance report as presented by and in the absence of the Finance Officer. Richard Duncan made a motion to accept the minutes as read. Seconded by Gary Bishop. Motion carried.**

### **New Business-**

**New Members - First Vice Commander Gerry Beauchamp read the names of eight potential new members (Wayne Gorlich, Don Groth, Rodney Nicholson, Allan Baldwin, Richard Gessler, Leslie Bristow, Michael Opsasnick & Eldon Sear) whose applications have been verified & approved. Two potential new members were present (Allan Baldwin & Wayne Gorlich). Bill Preston made a motion to accept the new members, seconded by Richard Duncan. Motion carried. The two new members who were present were presented their membership cards.**

**Second Vice Commander Gary Blanchard announced that he is taking orders for shirts at the prices of \$25 for sizes S-XL, \$27 for size XXL & \$30 for sizes XXXL and above. He also announced that there will be a veteran's career workshop held at our post hosted by the Coalition for Florida's Veterans on July 18<sup>th</sup>. Different businesses and**

organizations will be at the workshop to conduct interviews with 15 recently discharged veterans.

Bill Preston spoke to the membership about the Legacy Fund and the plaque our squadron was presented with. He told the membership that we have completed one year of a five year project in raising money for the Legacy Fund. He requested donations from individual members for the Legacy Fund. Richard Duncan made a motion to make the proposed donation made at the Executive Board meeting. Seconded by Art Hodge. Motion carried.

Bill Preston then spoke about the Americanism Committee that he is chairing. He is planning a training session for all of the committees that fall under Americanism (Scholarships, Oratorical, etc). His goal is to have help in making successful Americanism reporting and working toward the 5 Star/10 Ideals award.

Commander Stroud announced that on August 3<sup>rd</sup> from noon to 1:30pm, there will be an awards ceremony for youth volunteers (this falls under Americanism) and that our squadron will be donating the pizza & soda pop for this ceremony.

Commander Stroud announced that the Members at Large need to have more volunteers for help in the kitchen during our regular fundraisers.

Commander Stroud announced that we need at least four volunteers to go to the VA facility on SR-42 once per month to serve coffee and donuts from 7am to 11am. The dates will be announced. No date has been set at this time. It will be coordinated with the times that the auxiliary serves coffee and donuts at the VA facility. Bob O'Neal, Richard Duncan, Craig Bradley and Gary Blanchard all volunteered for this project. Commander Stroud will contact these volunteers regarding the dates & times for this project.

Commander Stroud announced that 10 to 15 volunteers are still needed for the golf outing to be held on September 25<sup>th</sup> at Mallory. The volunteers will be working the golf outing in various areas such as: setup, tear down, beer cart, lunch & dinner preparation, etc. Volunteers for finding sponsors is also needed.

Past Commander Duncan came to the podium and presented the squadron awards. The awards are trophies for the Charles McEvelly memorial for highest percentage of membership award, the Don Halliday memorial Trophy for 1<sup>st</sup> runner up, Largest increase in membership in the 101-500 member category, and the Mark Mast Americanism Memorial second runner up. Also, the certificates were presented. The District Commander's Award for achieving the first squadron in the district for obtaining the 100% goal in membership, the Building Bridges for reaching the 100% goal in membership, and the squadron plaque from the Special Olympics. Past Commander Duncan presented Foreman's Award pins & certificates and the

**Building Bridges pins & certificates to Bill Preston, George Worton (absent), Tim Standfest, Butch Stroud, & Richard Duncan.**

**Correspondence—The adjutant announced that the only correspondence received was our membership goal being set at 445 members.**

**Good of the SAL—Gary Blanchard requested transfers papers for some members who potentially wish to transfer to our squadron.**

**Sick Call & Relief—None reported.**

**The Acting Sergeant at Arms (Art Hodge) removed and retired the POW-MIA Flag.**

**Gary Blanchard gave the closing prayer.**

**Meeting closed at 7:30pm.**

**Yours in God and Country**

**Timothy Standfest, Adjutant**