



S. A. L. Minutes of Executive Committee

On May 4, 2016, an Executive Committee meeting of the Sons of the American Legion Squadron 347 was held at 1730hrs in the Post 347 Conference Room.

The meeting was properly called to order with a prayer (given by Second Vice Commander Gary Blanchard in the absence of Chaplain Jack Dirga), a moment of silence for our fallen comrades & missing Veterans, saluting the flag and the Pledge of Allegiance.

Members in attendance were Butch Stroud, Gary Blanchard, Gary Bishop, Bill Spriet, Charlie McGlone, Bill Preston, Tim Standfest, Art Hodge, George Worton & Richard Duncan. Legion Liaison Len Biederman was also present along with our other guests Mel Ackles, Hugh Brown and Bill Gray.

New Business – Mel Ackles introduced Hugh Brown from the Boys & Girls Clubs of Lake & Sumter Counties (Lady Lake Unit). Mr Brown explained that the Boys & Girls Clubs has programs and activities for latchkey kids in Marion, Lake & Sumter Counties. They charge members dues, but will never deny a kid membership in their organization because of financial needs. They currently have a lot of their activities at the First Baptist Church and are looking into putting up a facility of their own. At this time, they are planning summer programs which are scheduled to start June 15th, and they have no transportation for the kids. He is looking to buy a 78 passenger bus for this purpose and is estimating that there will be a cost of about \$8000. They currently have drivers on the payroll and also need to take on costs of insurance, maintenance of the bus, etc. Mr Brown in looking for any kind of a financial donation for this organization that will assist in the purchase of this bus and asked us to consider his organization as we make our year end donations. Mr Brown and Mr Ackles were then excused for the meeting.

Old Business - Commander Stroud announced that the name of the organization that Colleen Shaut supported & called her favorite charity and which the SAL347 is considering making a donation to in her memory to is called The ARC of Sunrise Central Florida (www.sunriseARC.org). There was discussion on how much money to donate to this organization. George

Worton will visit the ARC of Sunrise charity, find out what is needed at this organization, and then will report back to SAL 347. Bill Preston made a motion to donate \$300 toward whatever the organization is in need of. Seconded by Gary Bishop. Motion carried.

Art Hodge spoke about the scholarship awards for Lake Weir and Belleview High Schools. He announced that after the interview process, the scholarship committee decided that all of the applicants are worthy of an award. Among the reasons they feel this way is because all of the candidates expressed a desire to want to “give back to the community”. The committee (Art Hodge, George Worton and Bill Gray) had a difficult time deciding which candidates should receive the awards. As a committee, they requested another \$1000 be earmarked for scholarships. Bill Preston made a motion to earmark an additional \$1000 for scholarships and to have the scholarship committee award the money however they (as a committee) see fit (i.e. as two \$500 scholarships, as one \$1000 scholarship, etc). The motion was seconded by Gary Bishop. The motion carried.

Financial Officer Bill Spriet briefed the Executive Committee on the dollar amounts we are donating to various charities last year and led a discussion on how much money we can potentially donate by the end of this fiscal year.

Second Vice commander Gary Blanchard thanked those who participated in the refurbishment of the flags for the Flags for Fallen Veterans project.

Commander Butch Stroud recognized and thanked the members (especially the SAL 347 members Craig Bradley & Bernie Hachar who helped clean the floors in the kitchen and for moving the fryers and the stoves out of the way so the floors could be cleaned. Note: The company that was hired to move the fryers and the stoves did not arrive. These volunteers moved the fryers and stoves out and put them back after the cleaning. These members also participated in cleaning the floors.

The meeting was properly closed with prayer and a salute to the flag at 1810 hrs.

**Yours in God and Country
Timothy Standfest, Adjutant**