



S.A.L. EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE SUMMARY – February 1, 2017

The monthly Executive Committee meeting of the Sons of the American Legion Squadron 347 was held Wednesday, February 1, 2017, in the Post 347 Conference Room. There being a quorum of 11 present, the meeting was properly called to order by Commander Bill Preston at 5:45 PM. The meeting was opened with a prayer by Chaplain Jack Dirga, and the Pledge of Allegiance.

Officers present were, Bill Preston, George Worton, Deano Mosingo, Danny Adams, Jack Dirga, Bill Gray, Doug White, Mike Shebel, Cory Meloni, Richard Duncan, and Butch Stroud. Legion Liaison Len Biederman also attended. On excused absence was Gary Bishop. Post.

Old Business: There was no old business to discuss.

New Business:

Adjutant gave a brief update on membership. At this time, with transmittal #23, the Squadron is at 104% membership compared to last year. Discussion ensued about how to encourage non-renewers from both 2016 and 2015 to consider renewing. It was decided that the first step would be to send an email directed at non-renewers to encourage them to renew. The Adjutant will send such a message within the next two weeks. After that we may decide to directly call non-renewers to ask them to renew.

Commander Preston relayed that the Sons' State Commander has expressed concern about statewide renewal numbers. He thanked Squadron #347 for bringing in renewals so quickly, which is helping what otherwise would have been a much more disappointing membership status.

Special Olympics Coordinator Cory Meloni gave an update on owl and pin sales. To date there are about 20 owls remaining. We purchased mini-Valentine chocolate heart boxes to enhance the owl as a "Valentine's Owl" to help sales over the next 2 weeks. The Commander and 2nd Vice Commander George Worton will go out with Cory to local Publix markets to solicit sales next week. Pin sales are very poor so far, so they need to be sold at more events and other opportunities. The Adjutant will include information about the S.O. pins in an upcoming email blast.

Finance Officer Danny Adams gave an update:

- During the Post's financial audit it was discovered that the Sons had not filed required state sales tax reports in the last 2-3 months. Danny will be submitting the back-due reports ASAP, but expects to potentially be fined some amount for the transgression. Also, our state sales tax license expired 12/31/16 and Danny will be submitting the forms required to renew that. The license gives us permission to sell stuff, whether taxed or not.
- The financial audit is proceeding and so far no monetary discrepancies have been found. The Post wants The Sons to continue with the improvements we have been instituting regarding money handling, backup for expenditures and revenues, such as keeping meal receipts and matching those to revenues. Len Biederman relayed that The Post is about to introduce a Point-of-Sale system that we can utilize to help with tracking of meal ordering and revenues.
- The Post finance Officer expressed the importance of ALL Sons' Officers and members to support the agreed upon financial policies and procedures set down by the Executive



Committee and the Finance Officer. These policies and procedures will be documented by the Finance Officer so it is clear what they are.

- Finance Officer reminded the Committee that he is in the office most Mondays and Wednesdays to cut checks and other tasks required of Officers and members.

Commander discussed the guest speaker for March is a Habitat for Humanities representative, probably Danielle Stroud. We will be presenting the with a donation check at the March 15th meeting. A motion was made by Richard Duncan to approve a \$2,500 donation for Habitat for Humanities of Lake/Sumter Counties; seconded by Bill Gray. The motion was Approved.

Commander reminded the Committee of the Detachment Commander's Homecoming being held at The Post on April 22nd. The event is in honor of Legion Department Commander Joseph Magee and Sons' Detachment Commander Steve Gordon. Commander Preston is encouraging Sons' Officers to attend. Tickets will be \$30/person and will go on sale soon. Several Officers discussed an appropriate gift that the Squadron could present to our Detachment Cmdr Gordon. A motion was made by Danny Adams to donate \$200 to Special Olympics in Cmdr Gordon's name and present him with a plaque; seconded by George Worton. Motion was Approved.

Commander updated the Committee on the progress with the building of the sword case. Doug White passed around some photos of the box. It is very close to completion and has cost so far about \$200 in materials. A motion was made by Danny Adams to reimburse Doug for up to \$250 for those materials; seconded by Jack Dirga. Motion was Approved.

Commander provided an update on the freezer purchase. He has researched commercial financing and the Adjutant will submit an application online by next week. A motion was made by Danny Adams to request that The Post provide a 12-month interest-free loan to The Sons instead of us using commercial financing; seconded by Richard Duncan. Motion was Approved.

Commander noted that a small change has been made in the kitchen process. All food ordering for Sons' use will be done by George Worton and Bill Preston. Also, our pizza crusts will be supplied by the Sam's Club restaurant. Butch Stroud stated that he will order these each week and pick them up prior to Thursday afternoon.

Danny Adams mentioned that the issue of the camera for the Crab Race has probably been resolved. He purchased some used security cameras, similar to the one he uses for bingo. Doug White will procure the appropriate cable and power supply.

Commander brought up the request from Pat Richter, the Post's Hall manager, to provide as many reservation dates for the Hall for 2018 so she can start to build a calendar for the year. After some discussion about our planned events it was decided to request the following dates:

- For Valentine's Dance we will request Friday, 2/9/18, and as an alternate date, Friday 2/16/18.
- For the Halloween Dance we will request Wednesday 10/31/18, *witch* is Halloween night.
- For the Crab Races we will request the following Mondays: 1/15/18, 3/12/18, and 9/24/18.

Adjutant relayed correspondence as follows:

- Patti Fabiani of the Gainesville Fisher House sent a letter of thanks for our \$2,500 donation made in January. She also sent a beautiful plaque, which will be placed in the Hall.

Commander reminded the Committee that at the February 15th meeting we will have a special presentation of colors by the Lake Weir High School Junior ROTC color guard. We will be presenting the JROTC Command Sergeant Major Michael Kelsen our donation of 9 parade



swords (8 Cavalry and 1 Officer replica sword). We'll also be presenting a custom-made wooden carrying case for the swords that is dedicated in the honor of Nicholas Watke, the JROTC cadet leader who was killed in a tragic accident in November. Commander has requested that everyone wear your dress white shirt and dark slacks for that meeting.

Commander discussed the need for a Nominating Committee to handle the upcoming Officer elections. Len Biederman stated that for The Legion the Nominating Committee's main function is to educate prospective nominees about duties each position is typically responsible for and about how much time is required to do a good job in each role. The Commander recommended that past Commanders be in this Committee since they have the most knowledge of all the positions and can advise and guide prospective nominees accordingly. It was noted that anyone serving on the Committee cannot run for a position. Past Commander Butch Stroud agreed to chair this Committee. The Adjutant will include a notice in the next email blast that nominations will be accepted at the February 15th meeting and to contact Butch for any details or questions in advance of the meeting.

There being no further business, the Chaplain said a closing prayer, the flag was saluted, and the meeting was adjourned by the Commander at 7:07 PM.

Yours in God and Country,
Doug White
Adjutant