



S.A.L. EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE SUMMARY – February 7, 2018

The monthly Executive Committee meeting of the Sons of the American Legion Squadron #347 was held Wednesday, February 7, 2018, in the Post #347 Conference Room. There being a quorum of 8 present, the meeting was properly called to order by Commander George Worton at 5:30 PM. The meeting was opened with a prayer by Chaplain Jack Dirga, and the Pledge of Allegiance. 8 Officers present were: Cmdr George Worton, Paul Pitts, Gary Blanchard, Danny Adams, Jack Dirga, Doug White, David Callies, and Gary Bishop. Also in attendance was: Post liaison Len Biederman and District 6 Commander Richard Duncan. Absent were: David Booth, Cory Meloni, Mike Shebel, and Mel Cirullo.

Old Business: There was no old business to discuss.

New Business:

Commander Worton temporarily relinquished the gavel to 1st Vice Cmdr Paul Pitts to discuss event money management.

- The Cmdr brought up the issue of event money management and asked Finance Officer Danny Adams to discuss his ideas. Danny and others (ie, Paul Pitts) felt the money counting process for event closeout was too cumbersome and fraught with errors. To minimize these problems Danny suggested we no longer require the event coordinator to count or record the monies at the close of an event. He and others felt it was sufficient to simply place all the monies (separating out any tip or raffle monies) into a pouch with the event name and date listed and deposit that in the double safe located in the back of the kitchen. The Finance Officer will then be responsible for counting and recording the monies collected, comparing with the meal or ticket receipts for the evening, and making the appropriate deposits, etc.
- Dave Callies motioned to use this new procedure going forward; seconded by George Worton. Motion was Approved.

1st Vice Cmdr Paul Pitts returned the gavel to Commander Worton to resume the regular meeting.

Cmdr Worton noted that we had a record Monday Burger night on Feb 5 with over \$1,300 sold - that's a whole lot of flippin' and fryin'!! Congratulations to the kitchen volunteers for a great night.

Valentines Dance tickets are still being sold for the event being held this Friday, Feb 9. Sales are light, but enough to make for a profitable event.

After the January Hermit Crab Race event it was decided to cancel the previously planned March event. The Adjutant will be sending a letter to the race organizer formally cancelling this March event. Now we would like to find a replacement activity. Options are limited at this time and only include a possible casino night, potentially run jointly with the Combat Veterans to Careers (CVC) organization. A decision on the replacement activity, and whether it can occur on March 12th, will be made by Feb 16th.

Cmdr Worton discussed guest speakers for upcoming General Membership meetings. The Big Brother/Sisters organization wants to give a talk. Also, a local Cancer Survivors Group wants to speak. Our sponsored Boy Scout Troop #244 will present colors at our February monthly meeting on 2/21 and maybe do a brief talk.

Cmdr Worton discussed ways we can help out when an officer has to be absent for an extended period of time. Some officers have pre-assigned assistants such as the Adjutant and the Chaplain who can fill-in when necessary, others do not. The By-Laws give guidance on how a missing officer should be replaced, so that is how we will proceed when required. For instance, at this time we need a replacement Member-at-Large and the Commander has the authority to appoint someone with Executive Cmte approval.

Cmdr Worton discussed the JROTC Ball to be held at Lake Weir HS on March 17th. We will provide two entrees this year; one will be baked rigatoni, and the other is TBD. Several volunteers will be needed for the event so contact George at 410-382-0473 if you are available to help out from about 3 PM – 9 PM.

Immediate Past Cmdr Gary Bishop strongly suggested we start sending out our donation checks and not wait until June like we always seem to do. Finance Officer Adams responded that we can do some portion of our planned donations, but our bank account cannot support doing all of them yet.



Gary Blanchard discussed that the CVC organization is planning to lobby the NFL to get them to ban the practice of taking a knee during the national anthem. Gary further stated that since the American Legion has a long history of teaching and supporting flag etiquette it makes sense for our organization to join with the CVC in their lobbying efforts. After much discussion, it was decided that The Sons would not take any independent action, but would follow the lead of the Post leadership. Gary was referred to the Post Commander to present his proposal.

Finance Officer Adams gave a brief finance report:

- January 2018 was the highest revenue month so far this fiscal year; however our Cost of Goods Sold (COGS) is running in the high 60% range. Getting COGS under control has been a concern for a long time and the issue was supposed to have been examined by a new COGS Cmte, but they have not yet met. Danny will convene this committee by mid-March.
- The bank account as of 2/6/18 was at \$16,639.
- The 1/25/18 Hermit Crab Race event netted ~\$800 (not including the cost of food).

1st Vice Cmdr Pitts said the membership just crossed the 100% threshold and now sits at 603, which is 102% of our Detachment goal. About 75 members from 2017 have not yet renewed for 2018, but we've had 88 new members and 10 inbound transferees that have made up for the difference. In comparison, last year we had about 45 members who did not renew. Our officers have been calling the list of 75 non-renewers to see why they have not yet done so.

1st Vice Cmdr Pitts motioned to appoint Immediate Past Commander Gary Bishop as the chairman of the 2018-2019 officer nominating committee; seconded by Danny Adams. Motion was Approved. Gary then introduced an officer nomination form to be used by anyone to nominate someone for office. The nominator and the nominee sign the form and then pass it in to Gary for inclusion on the ballot. **A copy of the form is attached to these minutes for anyone's use.**

1st Vice Cmdr Pitts recommended we re-write our membership form and renewal letter to indicate the mailing address is the one you want to receive your membership card at (normally mailed between 7/1 and 12/31). This will be done.

District 6 Cmdr Duncan was recognized and reported that our District had been on the top of the state in terms of % of renewals. We recently dropped to 2nd place by a few tenths of a percent. He is working with all of District 6 Squadrons to get the percentage higher. (NOTE that the 2/8/18 Detachment membership report showed District 6 back on top by a few tenths of a percent, and that report is still missing 20 renewals from our Squadron not yet included in the count).

Commander Worton temporarily relinquished the gavel to 1st Vice Cmdr Paul Pitts to make a motion to approve a letter of recommendation for Richard Duncan's re-election as District 6 Commander for the 2018-2019 year; seconded by Jack Dirga. Several Executive Cmte members spoke in favor of the motion, noting Richard's success so far this year as District 6 Cmdr and that he has made a great effort to visit all the Squadrons and has helped us get to a leadership position in membership percentage. Motion was Approved.

District 6 Cmdr Duncan was recognized to encourage the committee to approve a letter of recommendation for George Worton's re-election as District 6 1st Vice Commander. Gary Bishop so moved, seconded by Danny Adams. Motion was Approved.

Adjutant Doug White brought up the issue of the 2018-2019 membership dues increase. The Executive Cmte and the General Membership both voted to approve the proposed increase in dues to \$30 for regular members, \$12 for dual members, and \$12 for juvenile members (under 19). The question is, what other body needs to approve of the increase before it can be enacted? District 6 Cmdr Richard Duncan asked this question of Ed Sheubrooks, the Detachment's Judge Advocate. Ed said that no Department approval is required to move forward with a Squadron's dues increase. Consequently, the Executive Cmte has agreed to move forward with the proposed dues increase starting with the July 1, 2018 membership drive.

Jack Dirga reported sick call. Our own 2nd Vice Cmdr David Booth has been hospitalized with a serious case of the flu. A get well card will be sent to him. Also, Post Finance Officer Ken DiMello's wife passed away last week after a long battle with illness. A sympathy card will be sent to him and his family.



There being no further business, the Chaplain said a closing prayer, the flag was saluted, and the meeting was adjourned by the Commander at 6:43 PM.

Yours in God and Country,
Doug White
Adjutant

Officer Nomination Form

2018/2019 Ballot

The Sons of the American Legion

Squadron #347, Lady Lake, FL

I, _____, nominate the following individual, _____, for the position of _____.

Signed: _____

Member #: _____; Date: _____

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I, _____, accept and consent to the nomination as stated above.

Signed: _____

Member #: _____; Date: _____