



S.A.L. EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE SUMMARY – July 5, 2017

The monthly Executive Committee meeting of the Sons of the American Legion Squadron #347 was held Wednesday, July 5, 2017, 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 Asst Chaplain Ben Kisielica, and the Pledge of Allegiance. 9 Officers present (and 1 who arrived late) were: George Worton, David Booth (late), Gary Blanchard, Danny Adams, Cory Meloni, Doug White, Bill Gray, David Callies, and Gary Bishop. Also in attendance were Past Cmdr Richard Duncan, Asst Chaplain Ben Kisielica, Asst Adjutant Bob O'Neal, Thursday Chef Angelo Speziale, and Post Liaison Len Biederman. Absent were Paul Pitts, Jack Dirga, and Mike Shebel.

Old Business: There was no old business to discuss.

New Business:

Commander George Worton formally appointed incoming Adjutant to be Doug White and incoming Judge Advocate to be Mike Shebel for 2017-2018.

Past Commander Gary Bishop gave an update on membership. We sent in our first transmittal for the 2017-2018 year yesterday. The transmittal included 35 renewals, 14 new members, and 3 transfer members for a total of 52, or 8.8% of our new goal of 588 paid 2018 members. Thanks to EVERY member of our Squadron's leadership team for joining together and renewing memberships for 2018 in this first transmittal. Richard Duncan asks if we should offer a discount if members renew before 11/11. Others felt it was unnecessary to offer a discount, and we should focus our efforts on renewals similar to last year.

Cmdr Worton went through the most critical committees for the upcoming year and determined a chairman, if possible:

- House Cmte – Gary Bishop. Gary 1st action is to follow-up with the Post on our reserved hall dates to make sure they are locked-in. There is a rumor that some hall reservations have been unilaterally canceled by the Post.
- VA&R Cmte – Gary Blanchard. It was noted that Gary received the VA&R Detachment Volunteer of the Year award at the Detachment convention last week. We're all very proud of his excellent work with Veterans and his dedication to the many causes both our Squadron and other organizations in the area support.
- Kitchen – Monday's leader will continue to be Virge Woodie. Thursday will be split between Angelo Speziale, George Worton, and Ernie Moretti. Sunday NFL season leader is an OPEN position, so if anyone is interested in that, please contact George Worton at 410-382-0473.
- Scholarship Cmte – Bill Gray. Bill is looking for at least 2 members to assist him. There will be a focused effort to get more applicants, and possibly expand the number of schools we consider applicants from.
- Children & Youth Cmte – Matthew Duncan. Special Olympics is once again the Detachment's lead project for 2017-2018.
- Membership Cmte – Paul Pitts. Paul will be setting up an initiation ceremony probably in October. He'll be mailing out a welcome letter to all new members.
- Nominating Cmte – Needs a Chairman, but will probably be one of our past Commanders.
- Volunteer Cmte – Paul Pitts. Adjutant has a list of all members who have indicated an interest in volunteering, so they will be contacted when volunteers are needed. The welcome letter includes a plea for volunteers. There will be sign-up sheets at the Membership Mtgs for members to volunteer for specific committees or events.
- Events Cmte – David Booth. Dave will be managing event leaders for the dances and crab races during the year. He will also be exploring additional events for socializing and raising money. Also, the Post has shown interest in holding multiple social events during the year that all Post Family groups could work on together.



- Budget Cmte – Danny Adams. The cmte created a budget (our first one since being an organization!) for 2017-2018. Each month our financial results will be checked against the budget.
- Americanism Cmte – Needs a Chairman.
- JROTC Liaison – Doug White and Gary Blanchard volunteered to jointly lead this new effort. We will create a relationship with area High Schools that have a JROTC program. We have already sponsored Lake Weir's JROTC, and there are several other programs in the area, including Leesburg HS's Air Force JROTC program, and some others as well.

Gary Bishop says the 150 flags we loaned to mark the Veteran's graves at Lady Lake Cemetery have not been returned yet. George Worton will check with the person we loaned them to.

Finance report from Danny Adams:

- June's net income was negative \$2,374 due to several yearly donations hitting the monthly account in June. Checking acct balance for June 30, 2017 was \$2,377.
- Danny presented the 2017-2018 Squadron budget proposal.

Gary Bishop motioned to limit the submission of expense reimbursements to no later than 14 days past the date the expense was incurred; seconded by Danny Adams. Discussion: 1) Some felt 14 days was too short and a better time limit would be 21 or 30 days. Motion was Approved.

Richard Duncan asks if we will conduct an audit at the end of this year similar to last year's audit. Gary Bishop discussed this with Post Finance Officer Ken DeMello and Ken said he does recommend another audit for this year. Len Biederman suggested we may consider an audit again. Issue is open for further consideration.

Gary Blanchard motioned to present a small plaque with value of about \$15 to the Summerfield Wal-Mart for their continued support of our VA&R program by selling us heavily discounted donuts for our monthly free donut day at The Villages VA Clinic; seconded by Gary Bishop. Motion was Approved.

Dave Booth asks what recognition is given for members who recruit new members to join. Answer: The National Sons Organization offers an SAL membership pin for the recruitment of five new members during the year. Also, the Blue Brigade award recognizes the recruitment of 30 or more new members in a year with a special jacket.

Gary Bishop and Dave Callies displayed a Sons' tee shirt and hat they recently designed. They will take orders for these at the next Membership Mtg. Expected cost for the shirt, with member's name, is about \$15. The hat will cost \$20.

Gary Bishop suggested that when food is provided for sale at future hall events, it should be limited to a single type of burger and a bag of chips. Others disagreed with being so restrictive, but maybe just somewhat restrictive. The issue will be decided by the event leader along with the Monday kitchen leader.

Our Officer Installation Ceremony is being held this Saturday, July 8th. Detachment Commander Bernie Wildrick is expected to be in attendance. For further information about the Installation contact George Worton at 410-382-0473.

There being no further business, the Chaplain said a closing prayer, the flag was saluted, and the meeting was adjourned by the Commander at 6:55 PM.

Yours in God and Country,
Doug White
Adjutant