



S.A.L. EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING SUMMARY – September 7, 2016

The monthly Executive Committee meeting of the Sons of the American Legion Squadron 347 was held at 5:30PM, Wednesday, September 7, 2016, in the Post 347 Conference Room. There being a quorum of 9 present, the meeting was properly called to order by Commander Bill Preston at 5:30PM. The meeting was opened with a prayer by Ben Kisielica, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

Officers present were Bill Preston, Gary Bishop, George Worton, Bill Spriet, Doug White, Danny Adams, Richard Duncan, Corey Meloni, Ben Kisielica, and Butch Stroud. Absent were Jack Dirga, Bill Gray, and Deano Mosingo.

Commander Bill Preston introduced a guest speaker, Command Sergeant Major Michael Kelsen (retired 2014). Mr. Kelsen is the head instructor for the Lake Weir High School Junior ROTC program. He described the JROTC program at Weir HS and that it has grown from ~100 students in 2003 to now having over 270 students. The program provides instruction on the development of better citizens by teaching skills in leadership, citizenship, life success, geography, and wellness. The students perform many volunteer services as well, including honor guard when requested by a community organization. Mr. Kelsen explained that his JROTC unit is in dire need of external funding to support various aspects of the program. In particular, he is seeking to procure a small closed trailer (5'x8') to transport the unit's drill team to competitive and community events. Commander Bill Preston requested Mr. Kelsen to provide a wish list of items with a priority for each so that the Squadron can discuss in what ways we could support his program. 1st Vice Commander Gary Bishop suggested the JROTC's honor guard might present the colors at our January general membership meeting (1/18/17). Mr. Kelsen said they would like to do that, and he agreed to the request. More information on the JROTC program at Lake Weir HS can be found at <http://www.marionschools.net/domain/5406>.

Old Business: There was no old business to discuss.

New Business:

2nd Vice Commander George Worton discussed the Arc Sunrise program and said they are holding a fund-raising carnival at their location (35201 Radio Road, Leesburg) this Friday, Sept 9th from 10AM-2PM. George said they could use some more volunteers. Commander Bill Preston volunteered and said anyone else who was interested can meet him at the Legion Hall at 9:30AM Friday. Dress for volunteers should be the blue shirt or the stars & stripes shirt.

Gary Blanchard discussed the upcoming crab race fund-raising event being held Sept 26th from 9AM-5PM at the Legion Hall. A ticket to the event includes a seat at one of the tables and one crab race coupon. Additional crab race coupons will be sold at the event. Currently the event will have food available for sale from part, or all, of the regular Monday hamburger menu. The Commander is looking into whether an additional food item, crab cakes, could be offered. There will be seating for up to 240 people and there will be 4-5 races. Intermediate races will win non-cash prizes. The final race will win a portion of the event proceeds, not yet determined. The race operator is charging \$250 to put on the event, which is half his normal fee. The kitchen will have 4 additional volunteers over a normal Monday night. If you are interested in volunteering, please contact Gary Blanchard or Gary Bishop.

Commander requested guest Angelo Speziale to discuss his idea for a salad bar. Angelo said the improved salad they have been serving for the last 2 months has gone over very well. Many people are buying just the salad for \$2. He feels that they could charge \$4-5 for a salad



bar and sell many more individual salads. Also, adding \$1-2 to the regular meal price would allow those customers to use the salad bar instead of getting a prepared salad. He presented a proposed 6' salad bar that would allow 1 large pan for mixed greens, 9 small pans for fixings, and 4 salad dressing containers. He estimated the bar would cost \$1,000-1,500. Question arose about where to store the salad bar while not in-use. Butch Stroud will present the storage question to the Legion house committee on Sept 12th. It's possible we could store it in our conference room. A motion to purchase the salad bar including the shelf, contingent on a majority membership vote, was made by Danny Adams and seconded by Gary Bishop. The motion passed.

Commander discussed the process for handling meal order tickets if salad bar was purchased with a meal. He suggested using a meal ticket with a copy; one for the customer and one for the kitchen. Angelo suggested using the same ticket we use today and have the customer hold the ticket while they get and eat their salad and then hand-in the ticket at the time they want the meal prepared and delivered.

1st Vice Commander Gary Bishop says the renewal/new/transfer count is currently at 318, which is 61%. He suggested a reminder post card be sent out in early October. Commander says he believes that SAL National is to be sending out a national mailing to all members in mid-October to remind them to renew their membership. It was agreed to hold off on post cards for now. Adjutant Doug White will send a reminder email in early October to those not yet renewed.

Judge Advocate Danny Adams says he would like to review any mailings (email or postal) to the membership that have possible mis-statements in them. He also says that the Standing Rules are in the process of being re-written and will come up for a vote in a future meeting.

Member-at-Large Richard Duncan asks if a financial audit has been completed recently. Treasurer Bill Spriet says about 2 years ago he was asked to provide financial data to the Legion Finance office; which he provided at the time with no response or further questions. Judge Advocate Danny Adams confirmed the By-Laws Article 8, Section 3 requires an annual audit of the ledger in June be performed by an Audit Committee. Past Commander Butch Stroud says his team reconciled finances in May 2016. It's not clear if this reconciliation is considered an audit.

Commander discussed he was invited to a food demonstration by Sysco. He is considering changing the supplier for bacon and pasta sauce. He will involve Angelo in any possible changes. Angelo's objective is to find a pasta sauce that is good enough to not require any doctoring, as this would greatly improve consistency and customer satisfaction.

There being no further business, the Chaplain said a closing prayer, the flag was saluted, and the meeting was adjourned by Commander Bill Preston at 7:09PM.

Yours in God and Country,
Doug White
Adjutant