



S.A.L. EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE SUMMARY – October 4, 2017

The monthly Executive Committee meeting of the Sons of the American Legion Squadron #347 was held Wednesday, October 4, 2017, in the Post #347 Conference Room. There being a quorum of 7 present, the meeting was properly called to order by Commander George Worton at 5:40 PM. The meeting was opened with a prayer by Acting Chaplain Gary Blanchard, and the Pledge of Allegiance. 8 Officers present were: George Worton, Paul Pitts, Gary Blanchard, Danny Adams, Cory Meloni, Doug White, Mike Shebel. Also in attendance were: Past Cmdr Richard Duncan and Post Commander Al Varrone. Absent were David Booth, Jack Dirga, Bill Gray, David Callies, and Gary Bishop.

Old Business: There was no old business to discuss.

New Business:

Post Commander Al Varrone was recognized for a brief discussion:

- Regarding The Post's liability insurance policy; accidents or injuries that happen to Post Family members (Legion, Auxiliary, Sons, Riders) on the property are exempt from law suits. This is because members are considered as residents, and residents cannot sue themselves. Only incidents involving guests or outsiders on the property are subject to law suits.
- Cmdr Worton says he remembers talk of a free personal liability insurance policy that The Legion offers to members that covers them during Post activities, but he was not sure if this actually exists. He will explore it.

Commander Worton informed the Committee that Member-at-Large Bill Gray has decided to resign from his position effective immediately for personal reasons. He will continue to assist with the Scholarship Cmte. Cmdr Worton will be asking member Mel Cirullo tomorrow to take over the Member-at-Large position. The Executive Committee, in their advice and consent role, voted on the potential appointment. Mel Cirullo was Approved unanimously.

Cmdr Worton says The Post leadership is holding discussions tomorrow (10/5) whether or not they will discontinue subscribing to the Comcast Cable NFL Sports Package. It is possible, as a protest to the recent behavior of NFL players and Management, that this may happen. If so, it will end The Sons' meal service on NFL Sundays, which we have estimated to earn us ~\$3,500 net income during the year. The question for The Sons is how would we replace that income so as not to negatively impact our donations to Veterans and community causes? It's possible we might get permission to sell food to the Sunday afternoon dance group, which meets at 5 PM most Sundays. The group is rather small, only about 30-40 people, so this may not be a big enough activity to warrant opening the kitchen for. Doug White proposed expanding the "lottery board" idea that earned significant profit for the Crab Race. It might be possible to have a continuous lottery board selling a limit of 75-100 tickets for \$10 each during our events (Sunday, Monday, and Thursday meals at least). Once the tickets are all sold, a winner is selected, and a new lottery board is established immediately, etc. Danny Adams felt this might encroach too much on the Auxiliary's lottery boards for sale during the year, even at our own events. This idea was tabled for now.

Cmdr Worton says he wants to hold an initiation ceremony for the past 2-3 years of new members. The current plan is for a ceremony 1-2 hours prior to the October General Membership meeting that may include food. Details will be decided in the next few days and communicated to those qualifying new members via electronic invitation. The ceremony would include a saber arch provided by the Lake Weir JROTC, using the parade swords we provided them last year; we would also hear a talk by JROTC members how this gift has helped them during parade and drill competitions, etc. We also have a DVD to show that describes the history and service of The Sons of The American Legion.

Regarding special guests for future General Membership meetings, two ideas have surfaced:

- Paul Pitts says the Manager of the Bushnell National Cemetery is interested to speak about the history and operation of the cemetery.
- Danny Adams says representatives from Lady Lake Boy Scout Troop #244 would like to speak to us about the work they do in the community and how our donation helps them continue supporting the scout's activities. The scout's color guard would also present colors at the meeting.



Cmdr Worton is going to schedule officers volunteering for the 5th week meal services that occur about 8 months during the year. It's always hard to secure volunteers for this 'extra' week and it's a good opportunity for officers who don't normally work meal service to pitch in and help out. The Adjutant will create a sign-up sheet for officers to indicate when they would like to volunteer.

Cmdr Worton is concerned that volunteer hours are not being captured completely, especially for those members who don't regularly attend the monthly meeting and record their hours on the sign-up sheet. We do an estimate of kitchen volunteer hours for the annual report, backed up by recorded information, so that may not be as big an issue. We need to do better at recording outside volunteer hours, such as church activities, youth volunteering (sports, tutoring, etc), blood donations, etc.

Cmdr Worton wants us to give small gifts at the Christmas season (week of 12/18) at The Fisher House in Gainesville, and the VA hospital next door. We will procure the gifts locally, some from donations, and wrap them at the end of our November General Membership meeting.

District 6 Commander Richard Duncan provided a schedule of Special Olympics events in our area that require volunteer help. Adjutant will distribute this schedule. Members can sign-up as Class B day-of-event volunteers using the online calendar:

<https://www.cervistech.com/acts/webreg/eventwebreglist.php?org_id=0197&event_category_id=17>.

Danny Adams says The Legion is a sponsor of the MS Walk event to be held March 24, 2018 at The Villages Polo Grounds. We'll need volunteers for the event. More information can be found at the website <http://main.nationalmssociety.org/site/TR/Walk/FLCWalkEvents?pg=entry&fr_id=29631>.

1st Vice Cmdr Pitts gave an update on membership. The current 2018 renewals stand at 351, or 60% of our goal. There has been a significant upturn in renewals since the mailing we did last month and we are now catching up to the renewal rate of last year. If the pace stays the same as in September, then we should be at 100% by the end of 2018.

Danny Adams gave a brief financial summary for September:

- Checking acct balance as of 10/3/18 is \$7,254.
- Crab Race Event earned a net of \$1,978.
- September net income was \$3,261, which is very good considering we lost several meal nights due to the hurricane.
- Danny asked if we owe the Crab Race operator an additional \$250, based on his contract. Danny produced a copy of the contract, which states that, after the event is completed, if the races were "sold out", the operator will receive a bonus of \$250, for a total fee of \$500 (the initial \$250 was paid up front several months ago). It should be noted that, per Gary Blanchard, the crab race operator's normal fee is \$500 with a \$250 sell-out bonus; he cuts his upfront fee in half for us to help out our Veterans causes. Danny motioned to pay the \$250 bonus; seconded by Doug White. Discussion: 1) For the next races we need to clarify what "sold out" actually means, and properly track the counts. Motion was Approved.
- Danny emphasized we need tight controls over the sale and collection of ticket monies for the Halloween Dance. He will go over this with Richard Duncan when the ticket pouches are setup.

Adjutant Doug White summarized recent correspondence. 1) Rcvd thank you letter from The Villages VA Clinic for our monthly donation of donuts for Veterans; 2) Rcvd a thank you note from the Univ of Florida for the \$2,000 scholarship we donated to one of their students, Hayli Parks. Hayli spoke at one our General Membership meetings; 3) Rcvd two thank you letters from USA Cares, one for our \$400 2015-16 donation and one for our \$500 2016-17 donation.

There being no further business, the Acting Chaplain Gary Blanchard said a closing prayer, the flag was saluted, and the meeting was adjourned by the Commander at 6:35 PM.

Yours in God and Country,
Doug White
Adjutant