



## S.A.L. EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE SUMMARY – November 1, 2017

The monthly Executive Committee meeting of the Sons of the American Legion Squadron #347 was held Wednesday, November 1, 2017, in the Post #347 Conference Room. There being a quorum of 9 present, the meeting was properly called to order by Commander George Worton at 5:45 PM. The meeting was opened with a prayer by Chaplain Jack Dirga, and the Pledge of Allegiance. 9 Officers present were: George Worton, Paul Pitts, Gary Blanchard, Danny Adams, Jack Dirga, Doug White, Mike Shebel, David Callies, and Gary Bishop. Also in attendance was: Past Cmdr Richard Duncan. Absent were David Booth, Cory Meloni, and Mel Cirullo.

Old Business: There was no old business to discuss.

New Business:

1<sup>st</sup> Vice Cmdr Pitts gave an update on membership. The current 2018 renewals stand at 441, or 75% of our goal. We are now caught up to the renewal rate of last year. If the pace stays the same as in October, then we will be at 100% by the end of 2018.

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. Danny Adams motioned to allocate all 'tip' donations through December 2017 for these gifts; seconded by Paul Pitts. After some discussion, Danny amended the motion to allocate up to \$150 from our savings account toward these gifts; seconded by Jack Dirga. Motion was Approved.

Cmdr Worton discussed three possible social trips the Squadron could endorse: 1) St Augustine day trip; 2) Mt Dora/Eustis steam train excursion; 3) Multi-day trip to New Orleans to visit the large WWII museum there. The Adjutant will do an email survey to see if there what level of interest there is in these options.

Cmdr Worton brought up the fact the office printer is increasingly problematic, especially on larger print jobs. Paul Pitts motioned to allocate up to \$500 to purchase a replacement printer; seconded by Gary Bishop. Motion was Approved.

Finance Officer Danny Adams brought up that the finance laptop is obsolete and very slow while operating the QuickBooks application. Jack Dirga motioned to allocate up to \$500 to purchase a replacement desktop computer; seconded by Gary Blanchard. Discussion surrounded the fact that Black Friday is approaching and both the computer and the printer could probably be purchased at a discount during this period. Motion was Approved.

Cmdr Worton discussed the urns-for-indigent-Veterans project. The Villages woodshop has been making these urns and donating them for over three years. So far they have made ~350 of them. They have been using a group in Tampa to distribute them for appropriate deceased Veterans. The woodshop wants to increase to amount being given out, thinking probably correctly that not enough in-need Veteran families are being found, compared to how many Veterans in Florida are passing away each month (~400). They want us to help them distribute the urns they make. We agree to research the issue and will likely begin a trial in our 3-county area in the upcoming months.

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. The goal is to raise \$3,000 for the cause.

More information can be found at the website

<[http://main.nationalmssociety.org/site/TR/Walk/FLCWalkEvents?pg=entry&fr\\_id=29631](http://main.nationalmssociety.org/site/TR/Walk/FLCWalkEvents?pg=entry&fr_id=29631)>.

Richard Duncan noted that Matthew Duncan's Congressional interview for his Air Force Academy application is being held soon. He wants everyone to know his grandson's application is proceeding along positively so far.

It was noted that member Joe Urso's son-in-law has been promoted to Commander and is now in charge of a US Navy ship. Congratulations to him and we thank him for his service!

There being no further business, the Chaplain said a closing prayer, the flag was saluted, and the meeting was adjourned by the Commander at 6:38 PM.



Yours in God and Country,  
Doug White  
Adjutant