



## **S.A.L. EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE SUMMARY – November 7, 2018**

An Executive Committee meeting of the Sons of the American Legion Squadron #347 was called by Commander Danny Adams, Jr on Wednesday, November 7, 2018, in the Post #347 Hall. Adjutant White took the roll call. There being a quorum of 9 present, the meeting was properly called to order by Commander Adams at 6:30 PM. The meeting was opened with a salute to the flag, a prayer by Chaplain Ben Kisielica, and the Pledge of Allegiance. 9 Officers present were: Danny Adams, John Gorsuch, Angelo Speziale, George Worton, Ben Kisielica, Bob O'Neal, Doug White, Charlie McGlone, and David Callies. Note – the 1<sup>st</sup> Vice Cmdr position remains vacant as of September 17, 2018. Absent was: Mike Shebel (excused). Also attending was: Len Biederman-Post Liaison and Bernie Harchar-Volunteer Coordinator.

### Committee Reports:

Membership: Acting Chairman is Doug White.

Adjutant White stated that so far we have processed 421 renewals and new applications equal to 64.6% of our 2018-19 baseline of 652. This includes 48 New Members. It is expected that by 11/11/18, the cutoff for Early Bird renewal, that we'll have about 450.

Finance Report: George Worton did not have a report completed yet but Cmdr Adams stated we have about \$11,000 total in cash and band deposits, not accounting for Casino night cash. There was no report yet on the results of the 10/29/18 Casino Night.

Events: Chairman is John Gorsuch. Wreaths Across America is a Post #347 Family event, led by The Sons, and is scheduled for December 15, 2018. John Gorsuch will be the Master of Ceremonies on the podium. Cmdr Adams will present the Army wreath. Need volunteers the week prior to off-load the 112 wreaths from the truck; date TBD. The week prior to the event, the Boy Scouts will be marking all of the veteran headstones where the wreaths are to be placed.

Children & Youth: Chairman is Richard Duncan. No report.

JROTC Report: Chairman is Doug White.

Doug received commitments from Lake Weir JROTC leaders for the following items:

- Lake Weir JROTC Honor Guard will present colors for the December 19<sup>th</sup> General Membership meeting. At that time we will present them their donation check from last fiscal year.
- Lake Weir JROTC will provide 20-25 cadet volunteers for the April Golf Tournament.
- Lake Weir JROTC may not be able to supply marching color guard for the March 2019 MS Walk, depending on the exact date. If it is March 23<sup>rd</sup> that might be a problem, since it is the end of spring break. Once the exact date is known, Doug will revisit this with the instructors.

Legislative: Chairman is Mike Shebel but in his absence Cmdr Adams gave an update.

At the fall conference it was announced there will be a Legion By-Laws change that will need to be incorporated into our Squadron By-Laws. It has to do with how the jury is selected during a hearing of charges against a member. Charlie McGlone asked, "What is meant by 'charges'"? Cmdr Adams answered by stating any member can bring a complaint against another member to the Post Judge Advocate. The JA will then determine if formal charges are warranted against the member.

Kitchen: Joint Chairmen are John Gorsuch and Dave Callies.

Kitchen ordering will be handled solely by George Worton for the time being. Kitchen coordinators will contact George about how much they need of what items. One shipment per week, on Fridays, is expected from our supplier.



Bernie Harchar says it is getting harder and harder to guarantee enough kitchen volunteers. He wondered if we can do a better job of orienting new members to how important volunteering is to the health of our organization. He proposes that new members must pick-up their card in-person and attend an orientation session. Len Biederman felt this was OK, as long as we don't require a member to volunteer. Len will confirm that requiring attendance at an orientation session is OK.

Cmdr Adams will lead a meeting of impacted members, including the kitchen coordinators and Bernie to work out a procedure to better manage volunteers.

Angelo Speziale went to a local food show and has a few ideas he will share with the kitchen staff.

House Cmte: Chairman is Angelo Speziale. The issue of service dogs in the Post has come up and is being debated. Rules will be developed and communicated soon.

MS Society Project: Chairman is George Worton.

David Callies has started to solicit MS donations at the door to the Queen of Hearts drawing. The Dine-to-Donate event at Texas Roadhouse is scheduled for Monday, November 26<sup>th</sup> from 3:00 PM to 9:30 PM. We will have a tent outside and need volunteers to man it. We can solicit for members and sell a 50/50 raffle. Diners MUST have a coupon in-hand before they drive into the parking lot and present it to the server in order for the donation to occur. The coupon is posted on our event website <[http://florida-legion.com/sons\\_events](http://florida-legion.com/sons_events)>.

Adjutant White read correspondence: A thank you letter from the American Legion Child Welfare Foundation for our \$1,800 donation (this was part of the proceeds from the C&Y Golf Tournament). Doug also summarized a letter from our member Carmen DiQuollo. Carmen works closely with the Southeastern Guide Dogs PAWS Program. PAWS provides service dogs exclusively for Veterans. He was hoping we would consider including this program in our donation plan for our next fiscal year. It costs as much as \$60,000 to provide a service dog, so a donation in any amount would be much appreciated.

#### Open Issues:

2nd Vice Cmdr John Gorsuch resigned his position, accepted by Cmdr Adams. Cmdr Adams then handed over the gavel to Finance Officer George Worton. Cmdr Adams motioned to appoint John Gorsuch to the open position of 1<sup>st</sup> Vice Cmdr; seconded by David Callies. The motion was Approved, with one nay vote. The gavel was returned to Cmdr Adams.

It was noted that now we have an opening for 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice Cmdr. A ninety day clock starts now (expires 2/5/2019) allowing the Cmdr to appoint a replacement, or else a nomination and membership voting process kicks-in.

Cmdr Adams noted that we are still missing Chairmen for several committees including VA&R, Americanism, and Community Service. He stated we have a candidate for Scholarship Chairman and will bring him forward at the next meeting.

#### New Business:

Cmdr Adams reminded all that we have NO November General Membership meeting due to conflicts with the Thanksgiving holiday. Also, we have no Sunday Bar Bingo on 11/11/18, due to other Post activities in the kitchen taking precedence.

Cmdr Adams reminded all that a Celebration of Life ceremony honoring Jack Dirga is scheduled for 1:30 PM this Saturday, Nov 10<sup>th</sup>. The Auxiliary is cooking a meal for the ceremony and is charging Jack's wife up to \$500. Danny suggested we raise money through Exec Cmte member donation at tonight's meeting. We collected \$140 tonight, plus \$70 that was left over from Exec Cmte member donations last month for the Children's Halloween Party gifts. Charlie McGlone motioned to approve up to \$400 additional funds from the Sons' budget to cover the difference; seconded by Danny Adams. The motion was Approved.



George Worton brought up that we have not been giving away donuts at the Villages VA Clinic for a few months. George has arranged to start this up again beginning next Wednesday. We need a few on-going volunteers to maintain this important project. The commitment is every 2<sup>nd</sup> Wednesday from 7 AM to 11 AM. George is researching donut supplier options; either to keep using the Summerfield Walmart or switch to Sam's Club. Our budget is \$65 per month for the single day commitment.

For the Good of the Squadron:

Adjutant Doug White brought up what are we doing for our Early Birders? There is no longer a Post lunch for them, instead the Post proposes raffling off a number of restaurant gift cards. They want The Sons to provide 10-20 gift cards to include Sons' members in the raffle. Angelo suggests that we have a spaghetti lunch just for Sons early birders; at a cost of under \$2 per person. Doug estimates if he sent an invite to the ~450 early birders that you can expect about 100 to show up. So the gift cards would cost us about \$300 while the spaghetti dinner would cost us about \$200. Cmdr Adams will discuss with the Post what flexibility we have as one family member to do our own luncheon.

Angelo suggests we change our practice of seating new members by themselves when they come for their first meeting. Instead, he thinks we should intermingle our new members amongst our existing members. This idea was immediately accepted and at our next meeting we will implement this new policy.

Adjutant will publicize that the November Membership meeting is canceled due to conflicts with the Thanksgiving holiday.

There being no further business, the meeting was properly closed with a salute to the flag and a closing prayer, and was gaveled closed at 7:52 PM.

Yours in God and Country,  
Doug White  
Adjutant