



S.A.L. EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE SUMMARY – December 5, 2018

An Executive Committee meeting of the Sons of the American Legion Squadron #347 was called by Commander Danny Adams, Jr on Wednesday, December 5, 2018, in the Post #347 Hall. Adjutant White took the roll call. There being a quorum of 11 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 Kiselica, and the Pledge of Allegiance. 11 Officers present were: Danny Adams, John Gorsuch, Angelo Speziale, George Worton, Ben Kiselica, Bob O'Neal, Doug White, Mike Shebel, Charlie McGlone, and David Callies. Note – the 2nd Vice Cmdr position remains vacant as of November 7, 2018. Absent was: Nobody! Also attending was: Al Varrone-Post Commander, Len Biederman-Post Liaison, and Richard Duncan-District 6 Commander.

Committee Reports:

Membership: Acting Chairman is Doug White.

Adjutant White stated that so far we have processed 497 renewals and new applications equal to 76.2% of our 2018-19 baseline of 652. This includes 68 New Members. It is expected that by 12/19/18 that we'll have about 560. It was noted that National SAL did NOT send any renewal mailers this year, which probably depressed our renewal rate. Existing member renewals are ~13% behind the last two years pace; but new members are ahead by 20% so far, and by mid-December new members will be ahead by about 68%. It was suggested that we send a mailer letter to remaining non-renewers in January; and this will be done. The cost will be about \$50.

Events: Acting Chairman is John Gorsuch. No new information. It was suggested that we hold some type of event on Friday, February 15th, which is currently open in the hall calendar.

Finance Report: George Worton did not have a report completed yet.

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

JROTC Report: Chairman is Doug White. Lake Weir JROTC Honor Guard will present colors for the December 19th General Membership meeting. At that time we will present them their donation check from last fiscal year. Cmdr Varrone suggested we ask Eddie to announce our meeting at the Dec 18th Queen of Hearts night to encourage attendance.

Legislative: Chairman is Mike Shebel. No report.

House Cmte: Chairman is Angelo Speziale. No report.

MS Society Project: Chairman is George Worton. David Callies will solicit MS donations at the door to the Queen of Hearts drawing on Dec 11th. The Dine-to-Donate event at Texas Roadhouse was somewhat successful with donations reaching about \$300 between revenue sharing and the 50/50 raffle. We can do this monthly if we want. George suggested that each time we do it we should designate and publicize a specific target for the proceeds (Fisher House, MS Project, etc).



Other Issues:

Cmdr Adams and Cmdr Varrone noted that any ex-member who has been banned from the Legion or Sons is not allowed to come into the building.

Cmdr Adams stated there may be a candidate for the open 2nd Vice Cmdr position; more details to come.

Cmdr Adams relayed that the Leesburg 124th Army National Guard unit returned last week from deployment. He believes there is a need by many of the soldier's families for financial and other support. Cmdr Varrone noted that the Post recently reached out to this unit and they have a new Commander who has not been willing to come forward and share the needs of his soldiers. 1st Vice Cmdr John Gorsuch will continue to reach out and hopefully find out what help we might provide.

Sympathy/Sick Call: It was very sad to learn that Harry Hodge, one of our dedicated long-time kitchen volunteers passed away on November 12th. Our thoughts and prayers go out to the Hodge family, several of whom are Sons or Legion members. Chaplain will send a sympathy card which officers signed tonight. Also, member Tom Cruz had serious surgery recently and the Chaplain will send him a Get Well card.

George Worton shared that the Special Olympics annual State Bowling Championship is being held in Orlando on Friday/Saturday, Dec 7-8. Volunteers are needed. Adjutant will send out an email blast.

The Post's food basket program, run by the Auxiliary, needs some funding from The Sons. John Gorsuch motioned to donate \$750 to this program; seconded by Mike Shebel. The motion was Approved.

Post Cmdr Varrone spoke on several items:

- The National Legion Commander is visiting Post #347 on February 2, 2019 for a reception & dinner.
- The Rider's Legacy Run committee has not yet finalized their decision to start at Post #347. It is likely this will happen, but the decision is still a month or so away.
- The Post served 230 Thanksgiving dinners to members who had no family to celebrate with. They also donated most of the left-over food to a local Wildwood homeless shelter.
- Cmdr Varrone met with Congressman Webster's office staff regarding the impending push by The Legion National organization to get a resolution in Congress to open up the eligibility dates for Legion membership. The Legion will begin pushing this hard in January and all year as part of its 100 year anniversary initiatives.

Member-at-Large David Callies noted that the Special Olympics annual Equestrian Championship is March 22-23, 2019. They need a lot of volunteers and hopefully some of our members are willing to help out. The website is <<https://specialolympicsflorida.org/compete/competitions/equestrian-sports-championships>>. Anyone interested can contact David at 920-716-4899.

David also brought up the question if we are planning to give small gifts to the VA Hospital in Gainesville this year. There was general agreement that we should do this. We'll purchase the gifts and wrapping paper, etc. and wrap everything after our Dec 19th General meeting. The visit will be shortly thereafter, TBD. David motioned to fund up to \$250 for the gifts/supplies; seconded by George Worton. The motion was Approved.

Len Biederman says that he checked with the Post Judge Advocate and it is OK if we require new members to pick up their new cards at a General meeting and participate in a brief orientation about



what our organization does and what volunteering opportunities exist, as long as we don't require members to volunteer. We will also change our practice of seating new members by themselves when they come for their first meeting. Instead, we'll intermingle our new members amongst our existing members.

For the Good of the Squadron:

Richard Duncan announced that Post 80 in St. Cloud is holding an Organizational training class for anyone who is interested. The class will be on January 19, 2019. Contact Richard for details at [<yoyouno2@gmail.com>](mailto:yoyouno2@gmail.com).

There being no further business, the meeting was properly closed with a salute to the flag and a closing prayer, and was gavelled closed at 7:45 PM.

Yours in God and Country,
Doug White
Adjutant



S.A.L. SPECIAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING SUMMARY – December 19, 2018

A special executive Committee meeting of the Sons of the American Legion Squadron #347 was called by Commander Adams on Wednesday December 19, 2018 in the Post #347 hall to discuss officer vacancies.

The meeting was properly called to order at 6:15 PM by the Commander with a hand salute to the flag followed by the invocation by Chaplain Ben Kisielica. A quorum of nine officers was present: Danny Adams, John Gorsuch, George Worton, Ben Kisielica, Bob O'Neal, Doug White, Mike Shebel, David Callies, and Charlie McGlone. Angelo Speziale was absent, recovering from surgery.

Commander Adams requested the endorsement of Tony Watkins to be appointed as 2nd Vice Commander, which is currently a vacant position. All officers present Approved.

Commander Adams will officially resign from the position of Squadron Commander at the December 19, 2018 General Meeting, effective December 22, 2018. Nominations for a new Squadron Commander will be requested from the floor during the December 19, 2018 General Meeting. Current 1st Vice Cmdr John Gorsuch will be one of the nominees. Danny Adams spoke on behalf of Angelo Speziale, who is absent due to medical reasons. Angelo wished to express caution about electing John Gorsuch to the Commander position. He felt that John's military background might cause him to be overly authoritarian. David Callies motioned to endorse John Gorsuch as the new Squadron Commander; seconded by George Worton. The motion was Approved.

There being no further business, the meeting was properly closed with a salute to the flag and a closing prayer at 6:30 PM.

Yours in God and Country
Doug White
Adjutant