



S.A.L. General Membership Meeting Minutes – December 19, 2018

On Wednesday December 19, 2018 the monthly membership meeting of the Sons of the American Legion Veterans Memorial Squadron #347 was held in the Post #347 Hall. Membership cards were checked at the door by acting Sgt-at-Arms Bob O'Neal. The Sgt-at-Arms reported 19 members in attendance, including 10 officers. Officers in attendance: Danny Adams, John Gorsuch, Tony Watkins (new 2nd Vice Cmdr), George Worton, Ben Kiselica, Bob O'Neal, Doug White, Mike Shebel, Charlie McGlone, and David Callies. Absent was: Angelo Speziale. There were 20 guests in attendance, including 9 JROTC and 9 applicants. Distinguished guests in attendance were: Richard Duncan-District 6 Commander and Al Varrone-Post #347 Commander.

Commander Danny Adams opened the meeting at 7:01 PM with a salute to the flag and an opening prayer by Chaplain Kiselica. A moment of silence for our fallen comrades and veterans was followed by the POW/MIA empty chair ceremony by Acting Sgt-at-Arms O'Neal, which was followed by the Pledge of Allegiance and the reciting by the members of the SAL Preamble to the National Constitution.

The Lake Weir HS JROTC Honor Guard presented the colors. Cmdr Adams asked the Sgt-at-Arms to escort JROTC members Carlos Lopez, Darin Rosales, and Elena Lee to the podium where he presented them with a donation of \$500. This cash donation was in addition to our in-kind donation of food for their March Ball. Instructor Lopez thanked the Commander and the membership for their continued support.

Meeting minutes: Adjutant Doug White read a synopsis of the October Membership Meeting and the December Executive Cmte Meeting. Adjutant Doug White motioned that the minutes of the October Membership Meeting and the December Executive Cmte Meeting be accepted as posted on the meeting room door and posted on our website <http://florida-legion.com/sons_meetings>; seconded by Paul Pitts. Motion was Approved.

Committee Reports:

Membership: 1st Vice Cmdr John Gorsuch. The current renewal/new number is 548, or 84% of our 652 baseline; this includes 79 new members and 7 transfers. There remains 188 members to renew. 38 New member applicants are: Mark Avner, Brad Cost, Justin Croshier, Milton Cruz, Carl Hansen, Michael Harris, *Robert Hoffman, *Lyman Huff, Adam Kochanowski, Eric Kochanowski, Harrison Kochanowski, Jackson Kochanowski, Mark Kochanowski, Tyler Kochanowski, John Krainert, *Keith Magnan, Christopher Michaels, Michael Michaud, *James Moeller, Dennis Moll, George Monaco, Charles Montgomery, Martin Morra, Kenneth Musil, Louis Nicharot, John Pagani, *Michael Palisca, *Duane Roemmich, Don Romeo, Alfred Schmitz, William Shelton, *John Siegel, *William Sweeney, Gary Tunison, Richard Welsh, Jerry Westman, David Woodruff, and Marion Zahn; 2 Transfer applicant are: Michael Ostuni and Randall Pierce. Adjutant Doug White motioned to accept these applicants as members; seconded by Paul Pitts. The motioned was Approved. 8 applicants were present (*) and each spoke briefly. Cmdr Adams noted that the rate of renewals has now slipped below that of the previous two years. He promoted the goal of being the largest Squadron in Florida by having each member recruit at least one new/transfer member.

Events Cmte: New 2nd Vice Cmdr Tony Watkins. No report.

Finance Report: Finance Officer George Worton gave the November finance report:

- November 2018 Finance Summary:
 - Total income = \$11,811
 - Net Income = \$5,615
 - Bank Accts & Cash-on-hand as of 12/18/18 = \$11,788



- George noted that Monday kitchen revenue has been running ~\$1,000 recently!
- Motion to approve the Finance Report by David Callies; seconded by John Gorsuch. Motion was Approved.

C&Y Cmte:- Chairman Richard Duncan reminded us of the C&Y Golf Tournament scheduled for Saturday April 27, 2019 at 1:00PM (shotgun start) at Harbor Hills Golf Club. Dinner will follow at the American Legion Post #347 Hall. Details are on our website <http://florida-legion.com/sons_events>. Gifts from local restaurants and merchants are needed as raffle prizes, if you can solicit for gifts please contact Richard at 352-391-7957.

JROTC Cmte: Chairman Doug White had no report.

Legislative Cmte: Judge Advocate Mike Shebel had no report.

Correspondence: Adjutant Doug White read the only correspondence received; a thank you letter from Marty Dirga for the Celebration of Life Ceremony held at The Post and she included a \$200 donation to The Squadron. Doug also noted there were 10 Sons winners of the Early Bird raffle; each received a \$25 gift card.

House Cmte: Post Cmdr Varrone gave some input in the absence of Angelo:

- After some controversy about smokers from the hall it was decided that the new location for hall visitors to smoke will be in the parking lot by the flag poles; the law says it must be more than 25' from the door.
- The exterior doors to all restrooms have been permanently removed. This will eliminate people getting hit by opening doors. The inner doors, of course, will remain in place.
- Bob Johnson, Post Adjutant, is ailing from a recent heart event; he is recovering OK so far.
- The Legion National Commander will visit Post #347 on 2/2/19. This is the 17th visit to our Post by an incumbent Legion Cmdr!
- Homecoming for Florida Legion State Officers will be at our Post on April 13, 2019.
- The Riders Legacy Run 2019 kickoff may be at our Post, but the decision is still open.
- Night at the Races event is January 19th and tickets are on sale now for \$5. This buys you unlimited beer and hot dogs and admission to the race event!
- The group Recreation will be performing 2 shows at The Post on January 21st. Volunteers can get a free ticket, ask at the front office.
- The Queen of Hearts pot is running ~\$330,000.

For the Good of the Squadron:

Richard Duncan motioned to approve donating \$750 to the food basket program run by The Auxiliary; seconded by John Gorsuch. The motion was Approved.

Cmdr Adams announced that we are giving small gifts to ailing Veterans at the Gainesville VA Hospital, Nursing Home, and Fisher House. We'll wrap these gifts after the meeting with help from our members. John Gorsuch motioned to spend up to \$250 for the gifts and supplies; seconded by Paul Pitts. The motion was Approved. Anyone interested in helping hand-out the gifts tomorrow please meet in the Post parking lot at 8AM. George Worton, while buying some of the gifts, was asked by a customer what they are for. The customer, and one other bystander, donated \$25 for the cause! Richard Duncan described how he was moved by the experience when he helped out in years past. George also noted that The Fisher House is interested in us cooking lunch or dinner for guests once each month using their spectacular outdoor kitchen. We can do this ONLY if we have volunteers, but so far we have not had enough people to do this. If you are interested please contact George at 410-382-0473.



Richard Duncan said he needs volunteers on 12/26 at 10AM to help pick-up the 115 wreaths from Lady Lake Cemetery that were placed last week during the Wreaths Across America ceremony.

George Worton reminded any members who wants to volunteer for kitchen duty or any other event should speak with an officer or contact Bernie Harchar, our volunteer coordinator, at 440-724-2137.

Commander Adams announced that he must resign the position of Commander effective December 22, 2018 due to personal reasons. He is moving up north and cannot continue as Cmdr. He asked that Post Cmdr Varrone be escorted to the podium where he formally resigned and thanked Cmdr Varrone and everyone else for helping him in the role of Squadron Commander. Cmdr Varrone also thanked Danny for all he has done for The Post, including his work with The Squadron and his work running Thursday bingo every week!

Cmdr Adams asked three times if there was any member interested in being nominated for the position of Squadron Commander. No one stepped forward. Danny nominated current 1st Vice Cmdr John Gorsuch as a candidate for Squadron Commander. There being only one candidate, Adjutant Doug White cast one vote for John Gorsuch to be the new Squadron Commander, effective December 22, 2018.

There being no further business, the meeting was properly adjourned at 8:10 PM with a closing prayer by Chaplain Kisielica and the retirement of the POW/MIA empty chair by Acting Sgt-at-Arms O'Neal.

Yours in God and Country,
Doug White
Adjutant