



American Legion
Alpharetta Post 201, Inc.

PO Box 314
Alpharetta, GA 30009

MINUTES
Executive Committee Meeting
April 14, 2015

The meeting was called to order at 7 PM by committee chair *Past Commander Marty Farrell*. All Post officers and committee members were present. Guests included Legionnaires *Lisa Dernovish, Mike Giglio, Ed Holben* and *Bob Quinn*. SAL Squadron 201 Commander *Derek Garmon* was also present.

Chairman Farrell asked if there were any guest presentations. There were four:

Ed Holben – told of his recent conversations with the Boy Scouts of America (BSA) about setting up a relationship with them and possibly a troop sponsored by the Post. He gave an overview of the BSA's national and local structure and said we are in the Milton scouting district. He cited his 25 years of experience in scouting's adult leadership and told how sponsorship worked, mentioning a Venture Troop of older scouts (over 18 y.o.), possibly a marksman ship unit. He will get further info from the BSA district roundtable this Thursday night. Both Commander Byrd and JA Turner endorsed the proposal strongly. After a brief discussion of the Post's history with scouting a motion was made and passed unanimously that a firm proposal be brought back for action.

Mike Giglio – gave an overview and status update of the recently begun "Visits to Vets" (V2V) program. Six vets who are alone in a nursing home environment were visited last week and four are scheduled this week. He is scouting locations closer to our area to make it easier for visitors. He asked if the post wished to formalize the program and he will bring details to a general meeting for endorsement. A strong positive discussion ensued.

Derek Garmon – Gave details of Dept. of Georgia Legion golf tournament slated for June. A motion was made and passed to contribute our customary \$100 in support of the tournament. He also told of measures the SAL squadron was taking to boost sagging membership which is now up to 76% of goal. He told of pressure from higher levels to spend SAL funds to buy memberships which he is resisting. He also volunteered to help with room assignments, etc. at the upcoming department convention.

Bob Quinn – said he would be out of the loop for a period of time for health treatments but wanted to update the committee on progress with the running and walking clubs. He said he has approved routes from the city of Alpharetta, sponsors, and there will be no cost to the Post. Kickoff is tentatively planned for the first week in May and meets are set for Wednesdays to not



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conflict with other events. He also mentioned that he has found a community service person to work on upgrades and maintenance of the back deck. His plan was referred to the House Committee. Then on behalf of himself and his wife, he presented the Post with an enlarged and enhanced mounted and framed photo composite reproduction of historic 1908 & 1909 meetings that inspired our now renowned Old Soldiers Day. Commander Byrd accepted the gift on behalf of the membership.

Reports

House Committee – *SVC Shannon Gott* reported that there wasn't a quorum so a formal meeting was not held. He did say that an action item was the repair of the outdoor Post 201 marquee sign. It needs some TLC, bulbs, etc. and he estimated that \$250 would get it taken care of. A motion was made and passed to appropriate NTE \$250 for repairs.

PC Byrd – The commander gave a further update on "Roy Bingo", a form of 50/50 brought up at a meeting in January. The SAL and ALA have expressed an interest in participating and the Sheriff's Department will be consulted on the proprieties of the endeavor. More details will be forthcoming. He also said that the Dept. of Georgia acting on behalf of National HQ wanted personal data on RVN vets, data that may fall under the Privacy Act. The data would be used for certificates honoring their service. He said we will publicize the program and RVN vets can decide whether or not they wish to personally provide the data to National.

Executive Committeeman Jay Coleman – Stated that our financial situation was disturbingly low. He spoke of the need for some creative thinking to boost revenue and reduce expenses. He mentioned that we have a lot of valuable land that might be a source of funds. Our cell tower project is on hold due to a local moratorium on their construction.

Finance Officer Fred Swyters - told of the recent installation of Wi-Fi at the concession stand. It will be used by the "Square" iPad charge/debit card system now being put in place. The "Square" system will charge approx. 2.5% per transaction but should boost revenue due to increased business. He also said that baseball was off to a slow start due to the weather. He also detailed new procedures for team payments to the Post – 50% before they start and the other 50% midway during the season. He also distributed a sheet showing projected revenue at the upgraded concession stand. Wiring for the security camera system has begun. The cameras should be in place in two weeks. He also urged everyone to get their convention deposit and fees in ASAP.



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Executive Committee Member Bob Shafer – made a motion to change regular monthly meeting times to 6:30 PM for the fellowship meal and 7:30 PM for the meeting. Discussion was held about convenience to those who work and commute and the motion was defeated – 3 FOR – 5 AGAINST.

Judge Advocate Charles Turner – said that a credentials committee needs to be established prior to the election in May to verify the status and standing of each candidate for office. The commander appointed him chair of the committee.

He was critical of the apparent lack of activity of one of the Legion's premiere programs – Boys State. The deadline is upon us and we know nothing of what if anything is being done. He made a motion to reduce our candidates from 16 to 10. This will reduce our financial commitment at this critical time. Motion passed. It was made evident that the program needs leadership at the Post level.

He said that it looked like our scholarship program might be in trouble also. There have been no updates on program status and applications had to be mailed to the chairperson's residence due to his absence from the Post.

JA Turner said that he had previously asked if one had to be a Legionnaire to chair a Legion committee. The commander said he researched the bylaws at all levels – National, State and Post – and could find no such requirement.

Junior Vice Commander Dennis Turner & Committeeman Herb Roderick – No reports

Adjutant – Adjutant Esker reported that membership stood at 790 or 102% of goal. He also said that the Consolidated Annual Report was due May 25th as are the various committee reports.

Fred Swyters said that there would be a rib eye steak dinner for Post 201 on Sunday, May 3rd at 2 PM. A sign-up sheet will be provided.

There being no further business the meeting adjourned at 8:00 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Pete Esker', written over a horizontal line.

Pete Esker, Adjutant